Bringing Art and Technology into the Spanish Classes at Acalanes

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By Diane Claytor



One of the 35 replica paintings by Spanish-speaking artists, along with its QR codes, recently on display at the Acalanes High School library Photo Diane Claytor

School turned into a mini art gallery for several weeks recently, thanks to the work of the Spanish 3 students and their innovative teachers. A walk around the library gave visitors the opportunity to view replicas of 35 paintings by worldrenowned Spanish-speaking artists such as Picasso, Dali, Diego Rivera, Diego Velazequez and Frida Kahlo. dents gathered their data, they wrote "We wanted to reinvigorate the art a paragraph, which was graded by unit we typically do in Spanish 3 and their teacher. The students recorded teach the material in a new way," explained Spanish teacher Heidi Skvarna.

She and her colleagues, Elizabeth Gough and Monika Voellm, came up with the idea of incorporat-

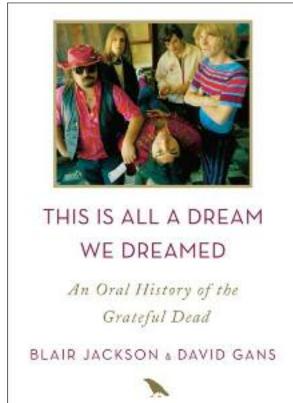
he library at Acalanes High idea of using technology to learn more about specific painters and their works. In the old days, before the surge of technology, this research would have been done using the encyclopedia," she laughingly noted.

The students were assigned specific artists and paintings to research and given certain websites to visit for their information. Once the stutheir paragraph, in Spanish, of course, using an app on their iPads. The recording was then uploaded to YouTube. Using another app, students were able to insert an image of the painting, create a website and ing technology to create an art generate a QR (quick response) code gallery. "There's really no one place – a square barcode that is readable we could see an entire collection of by imaging devices, such as a cam-Spanish artists like this," Skvarna era, using a QR code reader app. continued, "so we developed the Other students, teachers or visitors

Sharing the Dream They Dreamed

Authors of an oral history of the Grateful Dead speak at LLLC

By Lou Fancher



t takes a virtual orchestra of recommended among them. voices to tell the epic, 50-year history of the Grateful Dead. Sto- discover fresh territory to explore ries about the legendary band and the perfect, comprehensive, have been told in books, autobi- near-3D-like coverage provided ographies, anthologies, documen- by "This is All a Dream We taries, television specials, Dreamed: An Oral history of the fanzines and periodicals, by Grateful Dead" (Flatiron Books), word-of-mouth and are once by Bay Area archivists and auagain delivered by this anniver- thors Blair Jackson and David sary year's spate of authors and Gans. books tackling the hefty beast -David Browne's "So Many read from their new book at 7 Roads;" drummer Bill Kreutz- p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at the mann's memoir, "Deal;" and Lafayette Library and Learning "The Complete Annotated Grate- Center. ful Dead Lyrics" are just three

So it's a distinct pleasure to

The authors will discuss and

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could walk around the library, using their smart phone or iPad with a QR reader app, and focus it on the QR code that would take them to each student's website, where they could hear the student talking about the artist and painting being viewed, as if they were in a real museum being guided by a docent.

According to Skvarna, the students loved this assignment. "It was super fun, super successful," she stated. "It was an out-of-the-box assignment that allowed students to delve into the curriculum in a richer, real way. It was a team effort and it's projects like these that excite both the teachers and our students."



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