

Journeys students to present Dia de los Muertos program

By Jason Suder Jackson Hole Daily | Posted: Monday, November 17, 2014 4:30 am

The Snake River Brew Pub will host a one-night event with Journey's School Spanish students showing off their art skills.

Upstairs at the Brew Pub tonight, students from Shoshana Kobrin's ninth- and 10-grade Spanish classes will show off their artistic approach to Dia de los Muertos, the Mexican celebration of the dead.

The holiday honors lost loved ones with special homemade foods left at graves and celebration of the lives lived rather than mourning their loss. Skulls made of sugar are decorated with brightly colored icing, masks are worn, paper-mache flowers are made and all types of song and dance ring out into the street.

Kobrin's class also wrote stories about someone or something they loved and lost.

"At this age," Kobrin said, "It's a lot of pets."

The stories reflected a typical day in the life of the deceased. Students decorated masks in the traditionally brightly-colored style and posed for self-portraits while wearing their creation. Using a photo editing program, students converted the color photo into black and white then changed just the mask back into color. It is called "The Schindler's List effect," after the black-and-white movie of the same name, which showed only minor details, like a little girl's dress, in color.

After finishing the portrait, students recorded themselves reading their essays, which were then embedded into a QR code so attendants at the art opening could use a smartphone to scan the code and listen to each student talk about their piece while it is being presented.

"They put it all together," Kobrin said.

From 5:30-6 p.m. while patrons nosh on snacks Kobrin will bring, students will sing an a capella version of Jay Althouse's "Cantar" and a tune from Buena Vista Social Club.

There is no extra credit involved.

"The students coming and performing is all on their own time," Kobrin said. "They're literally and figuratively rock stars."

The event will run from 5-7 p.m. at the Brew Pub and is free of charge.