



Photo Courtesy Orange School District

One of the students who visited the Wee Tea Party at Orange High School reviews a student's teapot creation.

# Children enjoy Wee Tea Party inside Orange High School

## *Young students learn about creating ceramics*

Although it was the end of the school year, for several young students it was their first day of high school.

Megan Amelia, Orange High School's ceramics teacher, presented two tea parties for students in kindergarteners at Heywood Avenue School and pre-school students attending Norjenes Day Care. The students were invited to enjoy refreshments and become teapot judges at Amelia's first Wee Tea Party.

The teas, on June 20 and 21, began as Amelia's students welcomed their guests in front of Orange High. Each guest was presented with a tiara or top hat for the young princesses and princes. Students were escorted to the ceramics room for refreshments and viewing teapots made by Amelia's students. The children's charge was to judge the teapots and select their three favorites.

Amelia said she had her students create teapots based on their interests and their imagination. Teapots were designed as a baseball, a giraffe, a running shoe, board games and a monkey. All met the criteria of a teapot: handle, spout and cover or lid.

The highlight for the Heywood students was guessing what each design represented and

singing, "I'm A Little Teapot," after learning how the teapots were made. The pre-school students were inquisitive and asked many questions about the teapot designs. They enjoyed listening to the teapot creators and were delighted when they got a chance to color their own teapots.

The young visitors went from table to table, evaluated, then selected their three favorite teapots. Their hosts assisted them in this task. Amelia said she believed the Wee Tea Party created a wonderful memory for the children and may have sparked an interest in art. She added the students took to their tasks well; they clearly articulated their thoughts and shared their perspectives.

The Orange High students, said Amelia, enjoyed hosting the event and discussing the evolution of their teapot designs. She noted how one student discussed how his teapot was meant to be another color but came out differently after being "fired" in the kiln.

School officials said Amelia also engaged the children by explaining the assignment her students had to fulfill and told them the criteria for each teapot. She thanked the children for their assistance and said their help was important in determining the best teapots.