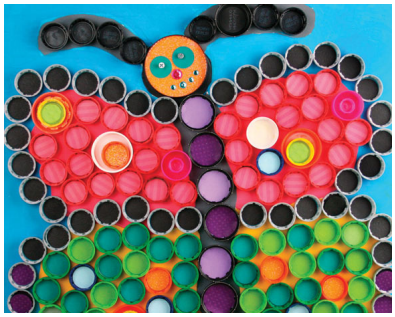

Bottle cap art collages are fun projects.

Register now for Saturday kids' class

By RACHEL COLEMAN • Leader & Times For many school children, Saturday morning is a time to catch up on sleep. This week, though, students from first to sixth grade can do something a little more creative — and colorful. Kids' Art Day, sponsored by the Kylix Art Club at Seward County Community College-ATS, gives children a chance to experiment, express their personal take on the world, and carry the art that results in the process back home with them. With four one-hour blocks split by a bring-your-own lunch break, the day is designed to offer projects the "everyone can enjoy," said SCCC-ATS art instructor Susan Copas. "I try to make it fun and achievable, so that a first-grade student can complete the projects, but they won't be boring for sixth-graders."

To that end, Copas and her college students have designed four art projects for the day-campers:

• Japanese origami (paper-folding) and brush painting. • Found object collage, using recycled bottle caps to create images. • Painting, "probably tempera, and probably something related to Thanksgiving," Copas said. "I'm still talking it through with my students."

• Art exploration project based on the work of glass artist Dale Chihuly. "I'm still working out the details on that, but it will involve coffee filters and melted wax and three-dimensional shapes that can be hung up like a mobile," Copas said.

In all the projects, Copas said, one emphasis is "do-ability," the idea that art can be a part of

everyday life, without requiring fancy supplies.

“We want kids to see anyone can do art,” she said. “This is a way to show kids they can do art at home. They can build on some of these ideas.”

The art day is also a way to build the program at SCCC-ATS. Copas puts her art club members to work, on the assumption that teaching is a way of learning. It’s also a way to collect funding for the club. Along with a few auctions throughout the year, Kids Art Day is the main method for Kylix to raise money for an art trip in the spring.

“My art students run the day, with groups of 10 kids working at each station,” Copas said. “It can get crowded in the studio, and noisy, but it’s a lot of fun.”

At noon, the students stop to eat their sack lunches. The art club provides a beverage for each child. Then it’s on to the next station, where each student will complete projects that go home for a family art display.

Cost for Kylix Kids Art Day is $15 per child, and pre-registration is preferred.

“It’s fine to pay the day of the club, but we need to prepare supplies,” Copas said. “We generally limit participation to 40 students, so parents should get their kids signed up soon.”

For more information or to register for Kids Art Day, call Copas at 417-1453, or email her at susan.copas@sccc.edu.