Waddell students Gina Decanini, McKelvey Courtney-Collins, Olivia Casey, Catarina Casey and Arden Courtney-Collins sell lemonade and baked goods to help fund art and music programs that have been impacted by budget cuts at their school. The girls saddened by the cuts to their favorite programs and explained that having arts at the school helps them relax and have fun when frustrated by their studies.

(Photo by Patte Wood)

**LemonAID For The Arts**

By Patte Wood
Staff Reporter

Three Waddell third graders got together with their sisters to sell Lemonade to aid in funding music and art at their school on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 29th through 31st at Hopkins Green.

When interviewed, Gina Decanini, McKelvey Courtney-Collins, Caterina Casey, and sisters, kindergarteners Olivia Casey and Arden Courtney-Collins explained that were saddened by the fact that the music and art teachers at Waddell have been reduced to half-time due to budget cuts.
"I never thought it would happen," said Gina and credited McKelvey and Caterina with the idea.

McKelvey said that she likes to make pictures that capture the world around us and especially likes singing in the chorus. Gina says she especially likes coloring and blending colors and Caterina says she wants to be an actor or arts person when she grows up. All three girls said that being able to draw, paint, or sing helps them relax after doing frustrating math problems and they said that having a time to be creative helps a lot. "When you paint or sing you can put your feelings into one big thing," they said.

Olivia says that she likes to draw and write books about happenings in school and Arden said she likes to draw the trees and birds outside.

Of their favorite artists the girls said they enjoyed singing music from Leroy Anderson and Charles Ives in a recent performance and they like Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa and looking at other famous paintings.

Helped by mom Ann Courtney, the girls are planning another fundraiser in the following weeks.