

Sanders County Ledger  
And The Paradise Center Present

**April Keiscome**  
Noxon School  
Spotlight on the Arts – March 2023



Interviewed by Karen Thorson

*“Spotlight on the Arts” by The Paradise Center honors and encourages students in the arts by highlighting their talent and acknowledging the support they receive through their schools and teachers.*

Whether a quote from William Shakespeare, Leonardo Da Vinci, or the philosopher Cicero – no one really knows – “The eyes are a window to the soul” would resonate with April Keiscome, a 14-year-old eighth grader at Noxon School. Keiscome, like most artists, has a favorite subject for her art – in her case eyes. She works both in

sketching with pencil/pen and, beginning in the sixth grade, painting with acrylics. She feels eyes reveal emotion – seriousness, sadness, joy, surprise – and that is what she captures in her work. Her art teacher, Jessica Novak, says that regardless of her subject matter preferences, Keiscome jumps into every project/assignment and produces amazing results. That is the sign of a true artist.

In her younger years, Keiscome began drawing as soon as she learned to write. Her early artworks were detailed stick people, sometimes saying something in a “speech bubble.” She has evolved from those early efforts to producing stunning images that pull a viewer into her work. In addition to the intrigue that her artwork represents, she produces pieces in a variety of sizes which increases the viewer’s interest. Sometimes she goes beyond realistic depictions to altered imagery and emotionally-charged color. The images associated with this article range from two or three inches in height and width to considerably larger pieces. Keiscome currently has artwork in the county-wide student *Art on the Walls* show at Clark Fork Valley Hospital in Plains.

Like many young artists, Keiscome has family involved in art. Her 16-year-old sister produces graphic art and offers inspiration for striving to improve and expand as an artist. Also, like many artists, Keiscome often titles her work based on how it makes her feel – What are those eyes communicating?

In a philosophical approach, Keiscome would say to someone interested in attempting art, “Try it. What bad can happen?” Regarding her own work, although now she may accompany eyes with only a curved line for a nose or mouth, she plans to expand efforts from “eyes only” to full facial images. She says she will definitely keep art in her life, maybe going into it as a career.

Keiscome is looking forward to her high school years when she can expand artistic mediums and continue to sharpen her skills. The artistic maturity reflected in her work will surely lead her to amazing creations.