

Essential Learning... *In the Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

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Now Available: *High Quality Education in the Arts: A Handbook for Parents*

First making its debut at Regional Arts Education Day on October 13, *High Quality Education in the Arts: A Handbook for Parents* is now available to the public. Designed as a tool for parents, the handbook serves as a guide for appropriate expectations for student learning in the arts at all levels. It provides examples as to how the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities might be implemented in a school's curriculum and to help parents assess the degree to which the school provides high quality arts programming for students. Additionally, there is an enclosed slip sheet that provides information about how parents can support, improve, and advocate for a school's art program.

This handbook, one tool among many to reach out to parents, is a critical step in educating everyone about arts education and its vital role in the lives of students. It is our sincere hope that you will find many uses for the handbook in conversations with parents, administrators, and other educators. We invite you share your stories with us, as we look to what our next steps should be in providing tools to support the field.

Within the Allegheny, Washington, Fayette, and Greene Counties, up to fifty copies may be requested for only the cost of shipping and handling. Other geographic regions, and additional copies by local organizations, may receive copies for a nominal fee. All requests must be made in writing, via email (info@artsedcollaborative.org) or standard mail (425 Sixth Ave, Suite 2650, Pittsburgh, PA 15219). To view excerpts from the Parent Handbook, visit <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/parent.html>.



AEC Completes Bi-Annual Survey

In early May arts educators in the region received an email from us with a link to the 2008 bi-annual professional development survey. The AEC uses this surveying to better understand what arts educators identify as areas of need in ongoing professional development. Utilizing Survey Monkey, an online service, data was collected from May 23, 2008 through June 15, 2008. The link to the survey was provided to 1,300 arts educators in Allegheny, Washington, Fayette, and Greene Counties, 153 responses were received, an 11.7% return rate.

From the information gathered, the following are a couple of the recommendations regarding future practices and opportunities to serve the arts education community:

- Incorporate technology as a part of every professional development opportunity.
- Provide professional development opportunities around interdisciplinary learning, while being cognizant of the barriers that exist in being able to implement this kind of instruction.

As the AEC moves forward with strategic planning, it is our goal to incorporate the recommendations as seen appropriate by AEC leadership. To view a copy of the full report, visit <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/documents/ProDevReport2008.pdf>.

Integrating Dance and Movement in Elementary Physical Education



Michele de la Reza of Attack Theatre leads a session on dance and movement with educators from the region. Photo Credit: Charles LeClaire

As outlined in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities, dance education is a kinesthetic art form that satisfies the human need to respond to life experiences through movement of the physical being.¹ Simply stated, dance is one of the most immediately accessible forms of art that our students can experience – with the only requirement being the ability to move. As educational interpreters, we are charged with the deconstruction and appropriate delivery of how dance will best benefit our classrooms. The question that many of us face is what does the appropriate delivery look like and who can assist us in the process?

Physical education prepares our students for living healthier lives through an active decision-making process. By integrating dance into this decision-making process through elementary physical education programs, students create a stable foundation for developmental improvements in critical thinking and analysis, cooperation and teamwork, self-expression and self-esteem, problem solving, cultural awareness, and emotional communication. The Arts Education Collaborative has recognized the growing need to provide school districts with adequate opportunities to integrate dance and movement into their physical education programs.

On Tuesday, December 9th from 8 am till 2:30 pm, the Arts Education Collaborative and Attack Theatre are proud to present elementary physical education teachers the opportunity to experience ways in which dance can benefit their classroom.

This participatory engagement will be a daylong professional development workshop with a focus on a regional initiative to strengthen and enhance physical education programs. This workshop has proven to enable physical education teachers to actively engage in strategies that can directly be taken into the classroom, become familiar with regional resources to support their efforts, and assess their own future learning needs.

Under the artistic direction of Peter Kope and Michele de la Reza, Attack Theatre has been making personal, accessible and collaborative dance-based performances with “ninja-like intensity” (Pittsburgh Tribune Review) for more than a decade. They combine modern dance, original live music, multimedia, and interdisciplinary art forms to present work in traditional and nontraditional spaces both nationally and internationally. Attack Theatre also conducts residencies in contemporary dance, creative movement and aesthetic education in universities, primary and secondary schools, arts festivals, and community centers. The company’s outreach programs focus on demystifying the artistic process and building community. Peter and Michele are teaching professors of dance at Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Music, where Attack Theatre is the dance company in residence. For more information on Attack Theatre, visit www.attacktheatre.com.



Photo Credit: Charles LeClaire

Space for the workshop is limited and participants are eligible to receive 5.5 hours of ACT 48 credit. Registration is \$65 which includes all materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Forms must be received by December 1, 2008. For more information and to download the registration form, visit <http://artsedcollaborative.org/documents/OpportunityAlert.pdf>.

¹Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2002) PA Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities.

Restructuring No Child Left Behind: More of the Same and Leaving All Children Behind



by Sarah Tambucci, Ph.D.
Director, AEC

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings recently announced final regulations to strengthen and clarify No Child Left Behind (NCLB), focusing on improved accountability and transparency, uniform and disaggregated graduation rates and improved parental notification for Supplemental Education Services including public school choice.

In an October 28, 2008 press release, the Secretary claims that "(NCLB) is working. More kids are learning reading and math and nearly one million more students have learned basic math skills." We learn that the new regulations reflect lessons learned and build on work that states have made with their assessment and accountability systems. And, oh yes, we have a major national problem with an increasing high school drop out rate and need to gather more data in order to better define and count the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma. Did I read that right?

We have a national report card that declares more students are learning math. That's good. However, we continue to have an unprecedented number of students who fail to graduate from our high schools at a time when a minimum requirement to avoid poverty is a high school diploma. I'm confused.

Students give up when they are not being successful. They get disillusioned, lose interest, and throw up their hands and move on. While NCLB did focus national attention on education, with the new regulations designed to strengthen and clarify, we are still ignoring a continuing issue. Children and youth, don't all come in the same size and shape with the same abilities and talents. Yet we continue to select from the menu of all possible things we can teach and learn, the never-ending emphasis on defining student success by measuring math and reading.

We have screamed, advocated, and politicked. Respected citizens from all sectors of society are voicing increased concern that our children are not prepared to identify and solve our ever-increasing societal problems. Yet, we continue to believe and behave as if the way we are educating our youth and the choices we are making are the right ones. When will we learn? Perhaps we will have to wait for the next reauthorization of NCLB and more lessons learned before we respond to what students are telling us by their actions – it isn't working and I'm out of here.

Understanding Professional Development

by Dr. Bille Rondinelli, Assistant Superintendent, Pine-Richland School District

The Professional Development Committee of the Arts Education Collaborative is proud to release the Professional Development Report 2008. The report provides an exemplary data resource for schools and arts and culture organizations to reflect upon information that will impact the design of meaningful professional development for arts educators.

The committee wishes to gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Heinz endowments; The Grable Foundation; Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation; Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency; the AEC Executive Director, Dr. Sarah Tambucci; the AEC Staff, and the Professional Development Committee for their ongoing commitment to exceptional professional development opportunities in partnership with the AEC and the arts and culture organizations.

Margaret Mead said, "We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet." While that statement continues to be increasingly poignant, we must analyze it and look at the real essential question. "What constitutes a child's education?" In author Daniel Pink's March 15, 2007 keynote address to the Regional Arts Education Day participants heard Pink make the case that, "Arts education is valuable to make the whole person."

The AEC plays a critical role in providing high-quality professional development and partnership opportunities for the arts education community. The Professional Development Report 2008 provides insights and recommendations that will support and encourage continuing professional growth. It is through that growth process that educators will impact children and enable them to flourish.

It has been a privilege to serve on a committee and engage in an organization with those who share the passion, understand the global implications, and support the AEC work.

Please submit your Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Dana at: castod@artsedcollaborative.org
Due to limited space, submissions will run on a first come, first serve basis.

Opportunities & Events

Carnegie Museum of Art

What: Artist's Lecture: Barry McGee

Where: Carnegie Mellon University, McConomy Auditorium

When: November 18, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Barry McGee's vivid and playful installation in *Life on Mars* brings the San Francisco streets to Carnegie Museum of Art. Combining the iconography of urban youth culture with techniques of formal art-making, McGee's work employs discarded objects and motorized figures alongside portraits, paintings, and framed photographs. Receive 2 Act 48 credits for participation and reflection. Admission is free and no registration required.

The Mattress Factory

What: Evening for Educators

Where: The Mattress Factory

When: November 19, 4:00 to 6:30

Receive a sneak preview of our newest show, *PREDRIVE: After Technology* with tours by our Museum Educators. Enjoy light refreshments and an opportunity for conversation with Mattress Factory staff. RSVP requested: education@mattress.org or 412-231-3169. Act 48 available.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

What: Community Engagement Concert

Where: East Liberty Presbyterian Church

When: November 24, 7 pm

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will present a Community Engagement Concert at East Liberty Presbyterian Church on Monday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. PSO Resident Conductor Daniel Meyer will conduct; the concert will include performances by PSO violinist Lorien Hart as well as the Rogers CAPA Choir. All ticket proceeds from the concert will stay in the East Liberty Area Community, benefiting the instrumental music programs at Rogers CAPA Middle School, Dilworth Traditional Academy and Hope Academy of the Music and the Arts. Tickets for adults are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets are \$5 for seniors aged 60+ and students 18 and under. To purchase tickets, call 412.361.5662.

The Frick Art & Historical Center

What: Lecture: Connoisseurship and Sixteenth-Century Italian Drawings

Where: The Frick Art & Historical Center

When: December 3, 7 pm

Hear Dr. Diane De Grazia, noted author and former painting curator at the Cleveland Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art discuss how an artist's work may be traced to establish where, when, and by whom it was created. Using the works in the Frick's newest exhibition, *From Michelangelo to Annibale Carracci: A Century of Italian Drawings* from the Prado, Dr. De Grazia guides you in the regional and individual styles of these artists. Act 48 credit available. Special AEC teacher price: Only \$5 for teacher and one guest!

Attack Theatre

What: Movement/Dance Workshop

Where: Attack Theatre

When: December 9, 8 am - 2:30 pm

In partnership with Attack Theatre, the Arts Education Collaborative is pleased to announce a day-long professional development workshop schedule for December 9, 2008 hosted at Attack Theatre studios. The workshop – "Incorporating Movement/Dance into the Elementary Physical Education Curriculum" – has proven to enable physical education teachers to actively engage in strategies that can directly be taken into the classroom, become familiar with regional resources to support their efforts, and assess their own future learning needs. Cost of registration is \$65. For more information and a registration form, visit: <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/calendar.html>.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

What: End of Year High School Blow Out

Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center

It's time to try glass making! You have one more chance this year to take a one-day workshop with your friends. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY!

- Flameworking 101 Sunday, Dec. 7
- Fuze-a-poolooza Saturday, Dec. 13
- Hot Glass Blowout Sunday, Dec. 14

Register online at <http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org/classes/High-School-classes/classes-Detail.aspx> or call/email Sam at saml@pittsburghglasscenter.org or 412-365-2145 ext. 208.

Opportunities & Events (Cont.)

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

What: Adult and Educator Workshops

Date: Fall 2008

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild is offering Fall 2008 courses for adults and educators that include ceramics for all skill levels, figure drawing in our design studio, digital video making, the future of photography using a GigaPan robot, and a special two part short course exploring traditional photo processes! All classes accommodate beginners to advanced students. Class sizes are limited. Advance registration is required. For more information, visit: http://www.manchesterguild.org/va/professional_development.htm or call 412-322-1773 Ext. 302.

Artist-In-Residence Program at Acadia National Park

Deadline: January 15, 2009

The Artist-In-Residence Program offers professional writers, composers, and all visual and performing artists the opportunity to pursue their particular art form while surrounded by the inspiring landscape of the park. In the spring and fall, the park provides housing to participants for two-week to four-week periods. No additional stipend is available. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee for applying to the residency. For more information, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/acad/supportyourpark/artistinresidence.htm>.

The Studio for Contemporary Craft

What: Teacher Workshop: *The Narrative Ceramic Figure: Form and Surface*

Where: The Society for Contemporary Craft

When: January 19, 9 am to 4 pm

Teachers rediscover their own creativity as they work with internationally recognized ceramic artist Matt Nolen. In the morning, build a portrait head using slab construction from soft pattern pieces. In the afternoon explore the use of slip, stain and underglaze to address surface development. Nolen also provides tips for adapting his techniques to the classroom. Seven Act 48 Credits will be awarded for this workshop. To register: call 412-261-7003 X 25.

Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program

Deadline: February 2009

Recognizing that such teachers often lack the time and resources to reconnect with the artistic processes they teach, the Program provides grants of up to \$5,500 to enable selected teachers to make art with professionals in their disciplines and stay current with new practices and resources. A complementary grant of \$1,500 is awarded to each Fellow's school to support related post-Fellowship activities. The program offers teachers the opportunity to immerse themselves in their own creative work, interact with other professional artists, and stay current with new practices. For more information, visit http://www.surdna.org/programs/programs_show.htm?doc_id=326426&attrib_id=12040.

Pittsburgh CLO

What: *The Incredibly Innovative Innovators of Pittsburgh*

When: January-May 2009

This show has been extended due to popular demand! Let Pittsburgh CLO's Gallery of Heroes help fulfill your PA State Educational Standards in the Arts & Humanities; Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening; and History. Explore Pittsburgh's brilliant past, present and future with this fully-staged in-school contemporary musical. We invite your class to meet the local men and women who have helped change the world, including Rachel Carson, George Westinghouse and Jonas Salk. Call 412-325-6459 or visit pittsburghCLO.org.

Prime Stage Theatre

What: 2008-2009 Season Student Matinees

Where: The New Hazlett Theater

Prime Stage Theatre will once again offer its popular student matinee performances during the 2008-2009 school year. All performances will be held at The New Hazlett Theater on Pittsburgh's North Side (6 Allegheny Square, East, Pittsburgh, 15212) and ticket prices are \$8 each. Each production will have three student matinee performances which will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10:00 a.m. For more information on the matinees, visit www.primestage.com.

Sarah Tambucci, Ph.D.: Director
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