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December 2009

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... Wishing you a Merry Christmas & happy, creative & successful New Year!!!

We're growing again! A+ Schools is excited to announce that we'll be accepting up to five new schools into our network for the school year 2010-2011.



Freedom Elementary students present their "Synonym Song" to schools exploring application to the network.

Schools around the state are currently exploring Oklahoma A+ Schools with an eye toward application to the network. Teams of school principals, faculty members, and interested district and community members attended Pre-Institute meetings at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics in OKC (Dec. 2) and Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow (Dec. 3). They participated in A+ experiential activities, learned about A+ philosophy, services, and opportunities, and heard directly from people in A+ schools. A+ school coordinators Kari Monholland (Millwood Ninth Grade Academy) and Alison Harris (Western Village Academy, OKC) visited the Pre-Institute at OSSM to share their A+ stories, while Principal Nancy Turlington (Freedom Elementary, Sapulpa) brought students and a parent to NSU-BA to demonstrate A+ learning in

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A+ News Flash

Dec. 10, 2009

KOKH Fox 25 in Oklahoma City showcased Harding Fine Arts Academy on the Dec. 9 newscast, in conjunction with the final fall episode of "Glee." Principal Sherry Rowan and students Dexter Lee and Karen Martinez were featured. [Click here to check it out!](#)

s m A+ r t s



Central Fine Arts Academy's Presidential Collage Lesson

[click here](#)

Kid Links

Check out these amazing websites:

action!

Pre-Institute 2 meetings are scheduled for January 26, 27, and 28 at sites in OKC and the Tulsa area.

Do you know of a school that should explore our services? Have them explore the link below. Do you want to know more about [joining the Oklahoma A+ Schools network](#) joining the Oklahoma A+ Schools network, but didn't attend Pre-Institute 1? Call us. (405) 974-3779

Creative Classrooms

Jenny Chambers, principal at [Central Fine Arts Academy](#) in Sand Springs, was happy to let us know that her school received the NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals) [Sharing the Dream Grant](#) announced this past September. The \$3000.00 they received helps to fund their Family Art Club Events (FACE). These evening events bring entire families into the school to expand the parents' knowledge of A+, the arts, and what is going on in their children's classrooms.



Jenny explains, "Last year we began by having two Family Art Club Events (FACE) in the spring. We had the families come in and participate in an art project with the entire family helping. The first event was held in February, so the project was a short lesson on presidents, with everyone making collages of Lincoln, Washington, or Obama. We served dinner and displayed the collages in the cafeteria, and families received a plastic container filled with art supplies to take home. The second FACE was held later in the spring, and the art project was an oil pastel picture in the Georgia O'Keefe style. Families received oil pastels and drawing paper to add to their home art box. We had over 150 families at the second event. This year we will host four FACE meetings, and we are expanding our offerings, too. It should be great! We are excited that this grant will allow us to continue to send art supplies home with the families."

<http://www.artsonia.com>

<http://kidsciencechallenge.com/>

Join Our Mailing List!



Here is the lesson from their most recent evening on Thursday, Nov. 19. It focuses on the A+ Essentials of Multiple Intelligences and Arts. [Click here](#) to view "A Colorful Vocabulary" lesson plan and details. How could you adopt or adapt this for your classroom or practice? How could you use technology in your classroom with this lesson plan?

All Around A+

DaVinci A+ Teacher Award Attention Oklahoma A+ School Principals

We have an exciting opportunity to announce for the Oklahoma A+ Schools network. The DaVinci Institute is announcing its first-ever DaVinci A+ Teacher Award, a \$1000 prize to a teacher in an Oklahoma A+ School. The deadline for submission is January 25, 2010, at 5:00 pm. Click on the following link for more information.

[Click and scroll down to access forms](#)

Congratulations and good luck!



Congratulations!!! A+ School Superintendent and Principal Chris Brewster, from Santa Fe South Charter Schools, was presented with the distinguished Milken award in November, 2009. In recognition of his role in education, Chris received a \$25,000 award. Among the criteria for the selection of Milken Educators were many indicators that describe Chris to the core: exceptional educational talent, exemplary accomplishments, model of excellence for the profession, and engaging, inspiring, and motivational leadership. Santa Fe South High School was recently featured in the Inca Production program, "Recreating America." This film can be viewed by [clicking on the link at www.oeta.tv](http://www.oeta.tv) in the featured video section on the home page.

Congratulations to Chris and Santa Fe South High School!
The Oklahoma A+ Schools Network is proud of you!



Threads of Life Art Exhibit ... Oklahoma A+ Schools in partnership with the University of Central Oklahoma and the Project Management Class of Southern Nazarene University invites you to view the

Threads of Life Art Exhibit. The exhibit features the artwork of students who attend A+ schools and others whose teachers attended statewide conferences. The exhibit has been extended to December 14th and can be seen daily 9AM - 10PM at the University of Central Oklahoma, Donna Nigh Gallery, 3rd Floor Hallway, Nigh University Center in Edmond, OK. Artwork was provided by students & A+ Fellows at: Briarwood Elementary (Moore), Grimes Elementary (Tulsa), Grissom Elementary (Tulsa), Linwood Elementary (OKC), Little Red Schoolhouse (OKC), Quail Creek Elementary (OKC), Roosa Elementary (Claremore), Santa Fe South High School (OKC), Wiley Post Elementary (Putnam City, OKC), and Wilson Elementary (Bartlesville).

The voices of Millwood Arts Academy

students filled the airwaves as they performed live, on the air, November 2nd, at the KCSC studios on the campus of UCO during the fall fund drive. Thank you for sharing your beautiful voices with us!!

Making a Visual Difference ... Art Ambassadors, Family, Service Learning Supporters, and Friends of Mark Twain Elementary, Tulsa, gathered at the Tulsa Zoo on November 2 for a mural dedication. The mural was created by Mark Twain Elementary's Art Ambassadors & Miss Oklahoma, Taylor Treat. The Art Ambassadors is a Fine Arts Service Learning group that utilizes expressive media (such as drawing, painting, poetry, dance, etc.) to promote community involvement, community service, and community leadership while learning real-life academic skills that meet national education standards. The group is made up of 4th and 5th grade students from Mark Twain Elementary School and students who have graduated and returned to mentor. Art Ambassadors is led by Beth Howard, Mark Twain art teacher and A+ Coordinator.

[Click here to view dedication pictures](#)



Oklahoma A+ Staff & Secondary Principals Receive a Special

Treat ... November 2nd proved to be an extra special day when Paul Kelley, Founder and Headmaster of Monkseaton High School, took time from his US Education Tour to visit and have lunch with Oklahoma A+ staff and secondary principals. Mr. Kelley is Head of [Monkseaton High School](#) in the UK and CEO of the country's first Trust School, a charity whose partners include Microsoft, numerous universities, and the government. Monkseaton works to introduce educational innovation, and Mr. Kelley is leading new fundamental research in learning that has received world-wide recognition.



Get Connected

Oklahoma A+ Schools cultivates creativity across its network and wants to invite you to get active through the arts, education and your community.

Not in an OK A+ School, but would like to learn more? Click [here](#) to find out how to join the OK A+ Schools network.

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