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January 2010

Issue 1

A+ Headlines

"ARTS AS INSTRUMENT: AN ARTS INTEGRATION WORKSHOP"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO ATTEND! February 13 in Oklahoma City & February 27 in the Tulsa area, 1:00-3:30pm ... Explore the flexibility of the alphabet as a tool to stimulate creativity and reflective thought. These familiar characters will reveal, illuminate, magnify, and connect ideas! This workshop will enliven and enhance ANY CURRICULUM AND APPLY TO EVERY GRADE LEVEL. Be prepared to - Approach with Zeal! Oklahoma City location: City Arts Center, 3000 General Pershing Blvd. Tulsa area location: Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow, 3100 E. New Orleans, Broken Arrow. Cost: \$30 per person. FREE to OK A+ Network Members. Limited availability. [Click here for more information](#). To register, [click here](#).

IS YOUR SCHOOL INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN A+ SCHOOL? SIGN UP TODAY FOR PRE-INSTITUTE 2! January 26 in Oklahoma City OR January 28 in Tulsa ... For more information and to register online, [click here](#). Questions call (405) 974-3779. [Click here for more information on A+ Schools and application process](#).

DAVINCI INSTITUTE NOMINATIONS DUE JANUARY 25... One of our original founders, the DaVinci Institute - Oklahoma's Creativity Think Tank, wants to recognize a deserving A+ educator. The DaVinci Institute is a unique partnership of leaders in higher education across the state whose goal is to nurture the arts, sciences, humanities, and education in Oklahoma as these fields undergo transformations in the twenty-first century. The work that educators do is vital to this process; now is the time to acknowledge creative and innovative "A+" work. To do this, the DaVinci Institute is announcing its first-ever DaVinci A+ Teacher Award, a \$1000 prize to a teacher in an Oklahoma A+ School.

Full-time teachers working in an Oklahoma A+ School are eligible for this award. There are two pieces to the application; first [the Principal Nomination Form](#) and second [a Teacher Statement from the Nominee](#). The deadline for submission is January 25, 2010, at 5:00pm. The application is an interactive Adobe file which you can access from our website, <http://www.aplusok.org>. If you or your nominee would like to submit any supplemental materials, such as videos, audio recordings, examples of lessons, workshops presented, please submit these to the A+ office on a DVD or CD (no paper, please!) by the Jan. 25 deadline. We are delighted to have this opportunity to recognize an A+ teacher through the DaVinci Institute's prestigious award.

COMING SOON ... Application for San Francisco Symphony's Keeping Score 2010. Join the A+ teachers who have studied music with world class professionals in San Francisco. More information and applications will be sent to all A+ Principals and Coordinators next week.

Quick Links

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small arts



"Backpacking Across Europe" integrates social studies, writing, art, and presentation skills, while focusing on various aspects of European countries. This collaborative lesson provides a jumping-off point for application in a wide range of grade levels. [click here](#)

Kid Links

Check out these amazing websites:

www.ArtForSmallHands.com

<http://www.artsonia.com>

<http://kidsciencechallenge.com/>

Join Our Mailing List!

Creative Classrooms

"PRIDE" BRINGS DEL CITY ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Like most students in A+ schools, the kids at Del City Elementary enjoy an active day of math, social studies, science, reading, and the arts. But when the bell rings at 3:15, their day is far from over, and the fun is just beginning. After a healthy snack, a quick recess, and a chance to finish some homework, PRIDE begins.



"Panthers Rally In Developmental Enrichment" was the vision of Del City Elementary Principal, Ruth Kizer, who wanted something exceptional and "far-reaching" for their after-school program. She wrote a five-year grant and created it, with PRIDE.



For nearly one third of the Del El community, this after-school program is an enriching, integral part of their school day, and it involves a seven-day rotation which incorporates fourteen different classes. From archery to cooking, math enrichment to drama, robotics to storytelling, the classes are varied and engaging.



The small classes of eight to ten students provide each learner time to experience a subject more deeply, receive one-on-one help from the instructor, and to try something that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to explore. Aside from being a great way to enrich each student's learning, Principal Kizer said that PRIDE has really brought the Del El community together and given teachers the opportunity to become acquainted with students from other grade levels.

ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE

Our newest research is due to be published in 2010. In this five-volume report, A+ Researchers have identified three drivers of successful engagement in the network -- Principal Leadership, Faculty Engagement, and Professional Development. The illustration below shows the potential overlap and alignment of these three drivers. The greater the coherence and alignment of these three pieces, the greater the degree of transformative power within the school. When any of the drivers is not aligned or less present in the school, there is less potential for the great results described in our research. Where can you affect the extent of a driver and its alignment within your school?

The greater the level of engagement in the OAS process, the more effectively A+ brings about sustainable school change.

(This area indicates the degree of transform-mindedness within a school.)



All Around A+

CONGRATULATIONS "LIFE CHANGE BALLROOM" WINNERS!! ... Three A+ Schools were the top winners at last month's citywide "Life Change Ballroom" dance competition, held at Rose State Theatre! Congratulations to MARK TWAIN for becoming the new 1st Place Championship team! Millwood Fine Arts Academy took 2nd Place, and Western Village Academy placed 3rd.

THE STANLEY F. HUPFELD ACADEMY AT WESTERN VILLAGE ... INTEGRIS President and CEO, Stanley F. Hupfeld, established the partnership between INTEGRIS and Western Village Academy. His vision and commitment have resulted in extraordinary changes in the opportunities for the school and surrounding community. Because WVA is so close to Mr. Hupfeld's heart, the INTEGRIS Board of Directors honored Mr. Hupfeld at a dinner on December 4, 2009, by renaming the school as The Stanley F. Hupfeld Academy at Western Village. This is further recognition of the INTEGRIS commitment to WVA and a wonderful acknowledgment of a fine man who has done so much for the WVA children, the community, and staff!



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.

ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE REGISTRATION

DEADLINE JANUARY 15, Workshop February 25 ... The Oklahoma Council for Social Studies in association with the Foundation for Teaching Economics is proud to sponsor this professional development opportunity to the educators of Oklahoma! The workshop offers information and classroom-ready lessons that help students build a foundation for understanding contemporary world events and issues impacting international trade. This program supplies teachers with powerful tools for critical thinking that brings clarity to Oklahoma's students of the social studies. Cost: \$25. Resources & lunch included. Certificate of 6 hours of professional development. [Click for detailed information and registration form.](#)

OCIC WINTER CONFERENCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY ... Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs and Alan November will be presenting a two-day institute on "Curriculum 21- intensive and interactive curriculum planning for students of the twenty-first century," January 25-26, 2010, in the Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center located at 737 South Meridian in Oklahoma City. [Click for more information.](#)

IT'S A GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CAKE CONTEST ... The non-edible cakes are due January 29th. If you have any questions, please email Jan McClaren at jmclclaren@mountvernon.org. [Click for contest rules.](#)

THE OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH MARTHA WASHINGTON, February 5, 2009 ... Come enjoy an evening with our nation's first First Lady at the Oklahoma History Center. Through a special partnership with George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Garden the Oklahoma History Center is proud to offer an evening with Martha Washington on February 5, 2009. The History Center will open its doors at 6:00 PM, and the program will begin at 7:00. Seating is first come and reservations are not required. This program is free and open to the public. For more information contact Jason Harris at jharris@okhistory.org or by phone at (405) 522-0785

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN ... The 2010 State Superintendent's Social Studies & Fine Arts Conference is now accepting registrations. Charting New Passages Conference (for Preschool through Grade 12 educators) - Saturday, February 6, 2010, Southmoore High School, 2901 South Santa Fe, Moore, Oklahoma 73160. The full conference program will be posted soon! Exhibitors on site!

Conference registration is FREE! Registration is open online on the SDE Web site

<http://www.sde.state.ok.us/Services/Conference>

Conference information (map, tentative agenda, poster, e-Postcard, etc.)

<http://www.sde.state.ok.us/Curriculum/CurriculumDiv/SocialStudies/default.html> Contact

Glen Henry, Director of Arts in Education,

Glen_Henry@sde.state.ok.us Kelly_Curtright@sde.state.ok.us Kelly_Curtright@sde.state.ok.us, (405) 522-3523 with any questions regarding the conference.

DEADLINE TO ENTER DRAWING FOR DOLLARS - FEBRUARY 12, Winner

Notification: February 19, 2010, & Award Presentation at the Capitol: March 2, 2010 ...

Enter your students in the "DRAWING FOR DOLLARS" art contest, and they could win a \$500 savings bond! The competition is conducted in two grade-level categories: K-2 and 3-5. To be entered in the contest, each student is responsible for drawing an economic or money management concept. Drawings will be judged on accuracy as well as artistic merit.

Teachers, you can win a cash prize if your student's poster is selected. For more information, visit www.econisok.org. or contact David Russell at drussell15@uco.edu. [Click for contest categories](#)

NETWORK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

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