



February 2010

Issue 2

"ARTS AS INSTRUMENTAL: AN A+ ARTS INTEGRATION WORKSHOP" February 13 in Oklahoma City & February 27 in Tulsa, 1:00 - 3:30pm ...an opportunity to experience A+ Professional Development in a dynamic workshop.

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!

OKC location: City Arts Center, 3000 General Pershing Blvd. 73107
Tulsa location: Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow, 3100 E. New Orleans, Broken Arrow, 74014

Cost: \$30 per person (includes free book). Free to Network Members. Limited Availability. Click [here](#) for more information. To register, click [here](#).

KEEPING SCORE EDUCATION 2010-2011 - 01.25.2010

Keeping Score Education offers teachers at all levels opportunities to learn about classical music and its connections to the core curriculum, and resources and lesson plans to help teachers integrate music into their classrooms. The unique qualities of classical music-its ability to express the grandest ideas as well as the most subtle emotions-offer teachers a powerful tool with which to enhance student learning throughout the curriculum.

Currently *Keeping Score* Education is partnering with school districts in Fresno, Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties in California; in Flagstaff, Arizona; and with the **Oklahoma A+ Schools** to provide intensive teacher training. Beginning with a Summer Institute in Oklahoma and continuing at Davies Symphony Hall, teachers in the Professional Development program work with a variety of arts educators and orchestral musicians to design and implement integrated lesson plans.

Applications and Information for faculty in Oklahoma A+ Schools:

[Keeping Score Application 2010-11.pdf](#)

[Keeping Score Application 2010-11.doc](#)

[Tip Sheet for Application to Keeping Score \(Highly Recommended\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions 2010-11](#)

Applications and supporting documentation are due in the A+ office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 26, 2010.

All Around A+

OKLAHOMA A+ SCHOOLS WELCOMES NEW OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, TYLER WELDON

Quick Links

[About A+](#)
[A+ Calendar](#)
[A+ Resources and Links](#)
[Contact A+](#)

smA+rts



Based on "Theme in English B" by Langston Hughes
1/2010

A+ AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Does A+ work in secondary classes? You bet!
Learn how Jill Slay,
Dove Science Academy English teacher,
integrated arts into Langston Hughes poetry.
Thank you, Jill, for sharing your lesson with
the Oklahoma A+ Network.
The Harlem Renaissance Experience
Jill Slay, Dove Science Academy
[click here](#)





Dear Colleagues,

I am very excited to join the Oklahoma A+ Schools team of professionals as Operations Director for the organization. As an educator and former Oklahoma resident, I am particularly excited to again become part of such an important and rich community.

In the short time I have been on board with OK A+ I have seen and deeply appreciate the contribution this community of professionals makes to our vision of education for all children -- Education that Expands the Imagination and Stimulates Creative Living.

Over the years I have come to believe that education can be improved within a framework that recognizes the importance of the developmental process, the cumulative impact of educational experiences, and the importance of opportunities, transitions and continuing education. I am building a deeper understanding of the importance of doing education differently, and I believe the whole school reform effort supported by the A+ Essentials (TM) embraces this philosophy - particularly through the rich integration of the arts.

Unfortunately, recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results found that only 57 percent of eighth graders attended schools where music instruction was offered at least three or four times a week and only 47 percent attended schools where visual arts were offered that often. I share the A+ sense of urgency that art in education become the norm for all children, not the exception.

The Obama administration is offering new life to the expectation of serious and radical education reform, and in a recent speech, Secretary Duncan said the following about the importance of art in education. "The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively. These qualities can be especially important in improving learning among students from economically disadvantaged circumstances." (Link to: U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan Reinforces Importance of the Arts in Schools - Click [here](#))

I suggest that the qualities Secretary Duncan mentions are important to improving learning outcomes and creative living for ALL students, and I look forward to making a contribution to that end through my work with A+ Schools.

Sincerely,
Tyler Weldon

"We need not look upon art as qualitatively apart from the rest of life. Instead we need to see it as a refinement, a clarification and an intensification of those qualities of everyday experience that we normally call complete. ~ Philip W. Jackson, 1998

[Tyler Weldon Bio](#)

Creative Classrooms

MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY - CREATING STUDENT LEADERS THROUGH VISUAL ART ... by Genie Reiman

Mark Twain Elementary in Tulsa has a wonderful Service Learning project that allows 4th and 5th grade students to promote visual art while providing service to their community. They are known as the Arts Ambassadors and are part of the school's Youth Action Council.

Kid Links Check out these amazing websites:

www.ArtForSmallHands.com

<http://www.artsonia.com>

<http://kidsciencechallenge.com/>

Teacher Links

CLOSING THE LEARNING GAP
... an article printed in the NY Times

[Click here](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



According to Beth Howard, Mark Twain's visual art teacher and mentor of the Arts Ambassadors, "The goal of Art Ambassadors is to create student leaders, promote civic engagement, serve the local community, and enrich academic learning through visual art. Art ambassadors focus on meeting a specific community need. In the past the student ambassadors have enriched their school environment and a local housing project with murals.



The mural themes have depicted a variety of social issues. The student ambassadors then use the murals as visual examples to teach younger students about the principles and elements of design, literacy, illustration, and character development."



This school year the Ambassadors designed and painted a special Rain Forest mural at the Tulsa Zoo, on the side of the new Jaguar Junction ice cream shop. This project allowed the students to integrate their knowledge of the rain forest with designing and painting a mural. The mural was unveiled in a dedication ceremony on Nov. 2, 2009, when the Ambassadors were introduced by Miss Oklahoma Taylor Treat, whose platform is engaging students in service learning.



Essential Evidence

A summary of findings from seven separate national academic studies revealed that the arts:

- 1) Reach students in ways that they are not otherwise being reached;
- 2) Connect students to themselves and each other;
- 3) Transform the environment for learning;
- 4) Provide learning opportunities for the adults in the lives of young people;
- 5) Provide new challenges for those students already considered successful;
- 6) Connect learning experiences to the world of real work;
- 7) Enable young people to have direct involvement with the arts and artists;
- 8) Require significant staff development; and
- 9) Support extended engagement in the artistic process.

Source: Champions



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.

GREAT DEPRESSION ART EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH MAY 11 - "Revisiting the New Deal: Government Patronage and the Fine Arts, 1933-1943" exhibit will run through May 11 at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. This exhibit surveys the large collection of painting, sculpture, and prints that the museum acquired between 1935-43. For additional information, please visit the museum's website: www.ou.edu/fjjma.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY, FEBRUARY 10 ... Issues of International Trade, Sponsored by OCSS. The Oklahoma Council for Social Studies, in association with the Foundation for Teaching Economics, is proud to sponsor a professional development opportunity for the educators of Oklahoma, on Thursday, February 10, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm, in the Francis Tuttle

Career Tech Center, 12777 N. Rockwell Ave., Oklahoma City. This exceptional workshop offers information and classroom-ready lessons that will help students build a foundation for understanding contemporary world events and issues impacting international trade.

OKLAHOMA CITY MUSEUM OF ART OFFERING A TEACHER WORKSHOP, FEBRUARY 11 ... The workshop offers an in-depth study of a special exhibition by New York-based artist Jason Peter titled *Anti.Gravity.Material.Light*. You'll hear background information from guest speakers and participate in a hands-on activity developed by art educators that you can take back to your classroom and share with students. Educators will receive a full-color resource guide, complete with lesson plans aligned with PASS skills, and a staff development certificate for their participation. Class will take place Thursday, February 11, 5-8 pm. Cost: \$10 (materials & boxed meal provided). Maximum enrollment is 40 participants. View classes online at www.okcmoa.com or call (405) 236-3100 x 213.

APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 12 ... The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC offers a Museum Teacher Fellowship, which is excellent - and well-funded. It is for experienced Holocaust educators; so, to be eligible; you must be a secondary teacher (7-12) with at least 5 years experience in teaching about the Holocaust. The program runs from July 11-16. Click [here](#) for details.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR OKSDE MASTER TEACHERS PROJECT FOR 2010-2011 ARE DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 ... The Master Teachers Project is a plan of professional development for Oklahoma public school teachers to meet the goals of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The professional development plan is a train-the-trainer model designed to develop a cadre of teacher trainers in six regions of the state (Northwest, Southwest, Northeast, Southeast, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa). The 2010 application is now available on the Master Teachers page of the State Department of Education web site at www.sde.state.ok.us. The application and information will also be mailed to school superintendents. Application deadline is Friday, February 12, 2010. Selection and notification will be completed by March 2010. For more information contact Dr. Jennifer Watson, (405) 351-3361; Jennifer.Watson@sde.state.ok.us.

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 [here](#) for contest categories.

2010 GILDER LEHRMAN APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15 ... Applications are now open for the 2010 Gilder Lehrman Summer Seminars in American History. K-12 history, social studies and English teachers are invited to apply to the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#). Taught by renowned historians on college campuses in the US and the UK, these one-week seminars give educators the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of topics in American history-while gaining practical resources and strategies to take back to their classrooms. For a list of all thirty-nine seminars, information about full and partial fellowships, graduate credit, and to apply online click [here](#). Limited space.

FULBRIGHT AWARDS IN TEACHING PROGRAM. APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 15 ... The Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching program recognizes and encourages excellence in teaching in the U.S. and abroad. The program sends highly accomplished primary and secondary teachers from the U.S. abroad and brings international teachers to the U.S for a three-to-six-month-long program. To learn more about the program click [here](#).

PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY CONFERENCE WORKSHOP, FEBRUARY 18 ... Workshops from the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education are being offered on February 18. This conference will focus on understanding the issues surrounding leasing and mortgage agreements, as well as touch on other housing topics, such as predatory lending. Conference presentations and activities will be structured specifically to support teachers in educating students about Standard 10 of the Passport to Personal Financial Literacy standards. To register click [here](#).

FEBRUARY 2010 SCHEDULE FOR InvestEd:

When: Saturday, February 20, 9:30-4:30 (lunch provided)
Location: Schusterman Center, 4502 E. 41 St., Tulsa, 74135
When: Saturday, February 27
Location: High Plains Tech Center
Bldg. One Academic Center, Room 3E35
(3rd floor / E hall / room 35)
3921 34th St., Woodward 73801

Contact: Jo Ann Murray, Project Director, jmurray@ou.edu, (405) 325-6882. Web site: www.investedok.org

MARCH

APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 1 ... 2010 Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute completed applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2010. Applications are now available for Oklahoma fifth-grade teachers interested in receiving a fellowship to attend the 2010 Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute, June 8 - 15, in the restored capital city of 18th-century Virginia. Each fellowship recipient will receive an all-expense paid trip to Williamsburg, as well as a \$300 stipend for classroom materials. Applications are available at the Oklahoma Foundation website, www.ofe.org. For further assistance, please call (405) 236-0006.

OASCD SPRING CONFERENCE FEATURING AWARD WINNING AUTHOR DR. LYNELL BURMARK'S, MARCH 2 ... Dr. Lynell Burmark, author of *Visual Literacy: Learn to See, See to Learn* will provide practical strategies for dramatically increasing comprehension and learning for all students preparing them for the visual world in which they live and work. Click for more information. Register online at www.oascd.org. Contact Wayne Beam at beam.oascd@cox.net with event questions.

APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 2 ... 2010 NEH Summer Seminar in England: Interpretations of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. Dr. Gerard M. Koot, Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, will offer a five-week National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for School Teachers and for prospective teachers in graduate school. The seminar for 16 participants will be held at the University of Nottingham and at the Institute for Historical Research in London from June 27 to July 30, 2010. NEH will provide a \$3,900 stipend to cover accommodations, most meals, weekly field trips in England and about \$900 toward international travel expenses. Applications are due March 2, 2010. For further information contact gkoot@umassd.edu or visit www.umassd.edu or call (508) 999-8301.

MARCH 2010 SCHEDULE FOR InvestEd

When: March 6
Location: Francis Tuttle Tech Center
Main Bldg. - room 103
Rockwell Campus
12777 N. Rockwell Ave.
OKC 73142-2789

Jo Ann Murray, Project Director, mail to: jmurray@ou.edu, (405) 325-6882. Web site: www.investedok.org

NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 15 ... The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence is seeking nominations for its Oklahoma Award for Outstanding Achievement in Alternative Education. A \$5,000 award will be presented to a public school alternative education program in recognition of its effectiveness and impact on student learning. Nominees must be public school programs in Oklahoma and must have been in operation for at least three full years. The recipient will be chosen by an independent selection committee.

Nomination forms are available online at www.ofe.org and must be postmarked on or before March 15, 2010. For more information, visit the foundation's Web site at www.ofe.org or call (405) 236-0006.

GEOFFREY CANADA, 2010 BROCK PRIZE LAUREATE, TO SPEAK AT THE OSU-TULSA CAMPUS MARCH 25, 2010, 4:00 pm ... The Colleges of Education at OSU, OU, and UT are sponsoring the "Brock Symposium on Excellence in Education" at the OSU-Tulsa campus on March 25. Canada is the "educator" author who has worked to help urban children escape violence and poverty through the Harlem Children's Zone, a non-profit community-based organization he founded and has served as President and CEO for nearly 20 years." *60 Minutes* featured the Harlem Children Zone on a recent broadcast. Click [here](#) for additional information and Schedule of Events. Contact Holly Blakey at 405-744-8933.

APRIL

AUTHOR GREG MORTENSON TO LECTURE APRIL 22 ... To mark its 100th anniversary, the OU College of Engineering is hosting a free public lecture at 10 a.m. featuring Greg Mortenson, best-selling author of *Three Cups of Tea*. Over the past 16 years, Mortenson and his nonprofit organization Central Asia Institute (CAI) have worked to promote peace through education by establishing more than 130 schools - most of them for girls - in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

PENNIES FOR PEACE ... In conjunction with Mortenson's visit to Oklahoma, schools, and youth organizations are encouraged to begin their own Pennies for Peace campaigns. Pennies for Peace is a service-learning program sponsored by the Central Asia Institute and designed to broaden students' cultural horizons while teaching them about their capacities as philanthropists - one penny at a time. To register your school or organization, visit www.penniesforpeace.org. The web site includes a K-12 curriculum, linked to standards with an assessment tool; an implementation guide; fact sheets; printable maps, postcards, stickers & poster components; remarkable videos that open the world of Pennies for Peace; and much more! For additional information, please contact Mary Francis, co-chair of Pennies for Peace-Oklahoma, at mary.francis111@gmail.com or (405) 474-0695.

NETWORK

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH

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