



May 2010



SAVE THE DATE!!

OK A+ STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

August 21, 2010

REGISTER TODAY!

A+ Principals & Coordinators, if your school qualifies for free registrations, you will be getting an e-mail this week with your discount code.

Our sincere apology goes out to Darnaby Elementary School. The article, "OK A+ SCHOOLS VISITS THE CAPITOL" should have read *Darnaby Elementary School, Union Public Schools in Tulsa.

OK A+ SCHOOLS VISITS THE CAPITOL ... This year's OK A+ Schools Celebration at the state capitol was a huge success. On May 12, OK A+ schools from around the state, legislators, and guests gathered in the rotunda of the state capitol to officially and proudly welcome five new schools to the OK A+ network, bringing the total to 65 schools.

- * Darnaby Elementary School, *Union Public Schools (PS) in Tulsa*, Principal Tom Carson
- * Deer Creek Elementary, Deer Creek PS, Principal Bettina Kates
- * Hinton Middle School, Hinton PS, Principal Cheryl Garrison
- * Kaiser Elementary, Oklahoma City PS, Principal Pam Mustain
- * Locust Grove Elementary, Locust Grove PS, Principal Lacie Davenport

Issue 5

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s m A+ r t s LESSON

Lesson 1:
CLAYMATION:
VERSATILE & FUN ...
The Pueblo Clay Story Tellers is a fun and creative way that Madison Elementary in Norman has been teaching 4th grade social studies, visual art & culture. What is culture? How can we respect and appreciate cultures different from our own? [Click](#) to learn more about the Pueblo Clay Story Tellers.

Lesson 2:
Women of the Oklahoma Legislature oral history project. Lessons designed for grades 4-6 and 7-9. [Click](#) for downloadable lesson plans, poster, and much more.



The Strings Club, Dove Science Academy Elementary School, OKC

The celebration began with entertainment provided by the Strings Club, Dove Science Academy Elementary School, OKC, directed by Jennifer Bounds. The Strings Club played selections ranging from American classics to Beethoven. Thank you, Ms. Bounds, for sharing your talented performers at our celebration. **Bravo!**



Dr. Bill Radke

Guest Speakers for the celebration included University of Central Oklahoma Provost and Vice President Dr. William J. Radke, Dr. Michael Raiber, University of Oklahoma, and Glen Henry, Arts in Education Director, Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Dr. Radke addressed the role of higher education in generating the research and its potential to impact teacher preparation across the state. Dr. Raiber, Principal Investigator for the OK A+ Research Team, spoke on the importance of the research to school improvement, the process, and the journey itself.

In addition, A+ Schools proudly introduced the newly published 5-year, 5-volume research report.

Thank you to our guest speakers, legislators, and A+ network supporters for taking time from your busy schedules to be part of our annual celebration!

[Click](#) to see more pictures of the celebration.

KIRKPATRICK FAMILY FUND

IT'S NEW. IT'S EXCITING. IT'S ON THE MOVE. IT'S A+ ON WHEELS ... OK A+ Schools is excited to announce our newest project, "A+ on Wheels." Thanks to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, OK A+ Schools has developed nine kits of supplies and equipment to support various art forms for A+ schools to enjoy and incorporate into classroom instruction. [Click](#) to learn more about A+ On Wheels. Those attending Statewide Conference, August 21, 2010, will have the first opportunity to sign up for a kit to be placed on loan in their school.

All Around A+

OK A+ SCHOOLS, SANTA FE SOUTH CHARTER SCHOOLS, RECEIVE FUNDS! The bands at Santa Fe South Charter Schools in Oklahoma City are anxiously awaiting a truckload of new instruments and equipment that will provide a much-needed boost to their music library. The band director, Mr. Scott Filleman, applied for a \$51,000 grant funded by the Hot Topic Foundation in February after one of his students discovered the

Kid Links

Check out these amazing websites

[New Link!!!
meetthegreens.org](#)

[ArtForSmallHands.com](#)

[artsonia.com](#)

[kidsciencechallenge.com](#)

Educator Links

[Music Lessons Build Brainpower](#)

[We Have Met the Enemy and He Is PowerPoint](#)

[Alternate Path for Teachers Gain Grounds](#)

[Morals Class Is Starting; Please Pass the Popcorn](#)

[Can the Right Kinds of Play Teach Self-Control?](#)

[What Makes a Great Teacher](#)

[Building a Better Teacher Room for Debate: Do School Libraries Need Books?](#)

[School Adds Weeding to Reading and Writing](#)

Experiential Learning

OK A+ SCHOOL, SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY, SELECTED BY 4-H ... OKC's Sequoyah Elementary School will be 4-H's first pilot site for 4-H Green Friends Gardening After-School Clubs. [Click](#) to read more.

CONGRATULATIONS HOWE MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND A+ FACULTY TAMMY PARKS for placing 1st & 2nd at the 2010 KC3 Kids *Creating Community Content Contest*. [Visit](#) the 2010 KC3 website to learn more about the contest and to see the winning entries. Great job, you make A+ proud! Tammy Parks has also been appointed to the Oklahoma Technology Administrators Board. Congratulations!!

OK A+ SCHOOLS *LETTERS TO BEETHOVEN* WINNERS RECOGNIZED BY TULSA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ... Winners of the *Letters to Beethoven* contest were recently recognized with a full page insert in the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra program. Please take a moment to view the [insert](#) of the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra program for the night the students attended.



[Click](#) to listen to the winning entries. Special thanks again to all students who participated in this year's competition; you did a great job!



portrayed by
A+ artists

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Creative Classrooms

CENTRAL FINE ARTS ACADEMY HONORS EARTH DAY ... In honor of Earth Day's 40th Anniversary, one of the first grade music classes at Central Fine Arts Academy, in Sand Springs, presented a program at the weekly Rise and Shine Assembly. The students shared that Earth Day was a special day not only to remember nature but also to learn ways to protect our environment every day of the year. They recited a poem, "Make Every Day Earth Day," and then shared a [video presentation](#) in which the students illustrated a music book for the Louis Armstrong classic "What a Wonderful World."

Creative Classrooms, Too

By Christina Pickard, Regional Coordinator

GLENWOOD EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER CELEBRATES 2ND ANNUAL "ART IN THE PARK" ... Glenwood Early Childhood Center celebrated their



second annual "Art in the Park" evening on Thursday, May 6. Glenwood children, parents, grandparents and special friends toured the "Glenwood Art Studio" to enjoy the paintings, drawings, sculptures, scarves, and murals that the Glenwood artists had created in the last few weeks. Whether they were inspired by Vincent Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keefe, Jackson Pollock, or Claude Monet, all of the young artists at Glenwood had a great time expressing their creativity and learning about art history.

musical theatre performance by Glenwood children and teachers; the evening was a whole lot of fun and a great success. [Click](#) to see celebration and artwork.

Essential Evidence

By Tyler Weldon, Operations Director

Last month I invited each of you to join me in reading a journal article related to arts and education. The first article was about teaching creatively, and it provided a brief review of generally accepted ideas about creativity, followed by examples of music teachers teaching creatively and teaching their students to be more creative. This month I would like to offer an [article](#) which discusses what can happen when schools are rebuilt based on arts learning. In this article, "Reimagine Learning: Building a District on Arts Education," author Dia Penning tells the story of a progressive superintendent who put arts education at the center of school reform in San Francisco. This article stands as another reminder of the power of what we do at OK A+ and what we believe to be true about education. All of us connected to this extraordinary network understand that quality arts education provides an ever important infusion of creativity into our educational system. As outlined in this article, sparking a revolution of arts-based school reform requires imagining change, developing empathy, challenging assumptions and framing collaborations. I invite you to read the article to learn more about how one district in California is contributing to the arts-based school reform revolution.



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.

Click to see [May Community Happenings and Resources for Educators](#)

NETWORK

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH

[Oklahoma A+ Schools](#)