



January 2011

SAVE THESE DATES!

A+ SCHOOLS PRESENTS **NEW** ARTS INTEGRATION WORKSHOP: *Keeping Score in the Classroom*

TULSA: Feb 12, 1:00-3:30pm, OU-Tulsa, Schusterman Center
OKC METRO AREA: Feb 19, 1:00-3:30pm, UCO in Edmond

Educators and community members are invited to register at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AI-2011>. Cost is \$30 per person.

Note: Workshop is FREE for OK A+ Network and UCO Faculty/Staff/Students. [Click here](#) for the flyer.

PRE-INSTITUTE 2

(for schools exploring membership in the A+ network)

Jan 26, UCO, Edmond

(onsite for OKC-metro area schools & via video conference for others)

[Click here](#) to register. For more information, [click here](#).

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TRUNK--FULL OF REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

Feb 12, Oklahoma History Center, 10am-12pm

The Oklahoma History Center and OK A+ Schools' Team Washington present a FREE teacher workshop open to all Oklahoma teachers. Learn innovative ways to teach the American Revolution through George Washington in this hands-on workshop, which will premiere the History Center's, "Revolutionary Soldier's Trunk." The trunk contains a military uniform and other equipment and will be available for schools to check out. The workshop will conclude with the announcement of the annual George Washington Birthday Cake Contest (see Student Opportunities below).

Questions: jmclaren@mountvernon.org

A+ OPPORTUNITIES

Letters to Aaron Copland Contest

Contest open to: PK-12th grade students in Oklahoma A+ schools

Deadline: 5 PM, Feb 19, 2011

Winning students and their teachers will receive tickets to attend concerts of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic or The Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, and their entries will play on KCSC or KWGS. [Flyer](#)

Sign up for an A+ On Wheels Kit

Don't let this wheel pass you by! Thanks to funding from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, every A+ School has the unique opportunity to deeply explore a specific discipline like Printmaking, Drumming, or Creative Movement, and all the supplies are provided to you for free! Your school will receive a kit filled to the brim with supplies that allow students and teachers to get creative and take art, music, drama or dance to greater heights! Go to [A+ On Wheels Ning](#) and click on Calendar to view the few kits still available for this 2011 school year. Specific kits include Early Childhood, Elementary,

Quick Links

[OK A+ Ning](#)

[About A+](#)

[A+ Calendar](#)

[Contact A+](#)

[A+ Research Reports](#)

[A+ Newsletters, etc.](#)

Multiple Intelligences



depicted by A+ artists

s m A+ r t s Lessons

[Come Jingle With Us! The Art of Advertising](#)

[Fear Not! Reading Beyond the Basal](#)

Kid Links

Check out these amazing websites

[Build Your Wild Self](#)

[Wordle](#)

[Taqxedo](#)

[artsonia.com](#)

[kidsciencechallenge.com](#)

and Secondary Music, Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Drama/Dance, and Art: Printmaking, Papermaking, and 3D. Please feel free to contact Amber Gunter at amber.gunter@cox.net for more information.

--article contributed by Amber Gunter, A+ on Wheels Coordinator

RECENT A+ EVENTS



Students representing OK A+ opened Day 2 of the CWF on Nov 17, 2010. [Click image to learn more and to see photos of A+ at the CWF.](#)

for everyone who stopped by to learn more about us. [Click here for our NewsOK coverage](#) and click the photo for more links and images of OK A+ at the Creativity World Forum.

Teen Truth Live Visits Oklahoma A+ Schools

Filmmaker [Erahm Christopher](#) was recently in Oklahoma to speak in OK A+ schools and create a film that documents, through student voices, the importance of creativity in education. He presented programs at Harding Fine Arts Academy, Millwood, and Santa Fe South Middle School and filmed students at all three A+ schools.

[See his film on YouTube.](#) [Read](#) a recent article by the filmmaker describing his experiences in Oklahoma, which were made possible through the generous support of the Kirkpatrick Foundation.



Filmmaker meets with students at SFSMS. [Click image for more photos.](#)



Exploring the Drama/Dance Kit

overarching concept to develop lessons that use supplies in the A+ kits. The opportunity to network while experiencing fun ways for students to learn made for a great afternoon. [Click here](#) to view the action!

A+ STUDENTS AT THE BALLET

Thanks to complimentary tickets from OKC Ballet, students in A+ schools attended the haunting *Phantom of the Opera* on Oct 31 and the magical *Nutcracker* on Dec 12.

Thank you, [OKC Ballet!](#)
[Click the picture for more images.](#)



A+ Students at Phantom of the Opera

OK A+ SCHOOLS AT THE CREATIVITY WORLD FORUM

The world came to Oklahoma City on Nov 15, and A+ Schools was there to welcome everyone to pursue creative educational practices with us! Jean Hendrickson, OK A+ Executive Director, discussed A+ philosophy and work at the Pre-Forum Workshop "Shaping the Future of Creativity Today" and in the Forum branch-out session "Growing the Creative Mind." A+ students and their partner students from London opened Day 2 of the Forum and created a pop-up school in an unoccupied corner of the exhibit hall, while the A+ booth offered a creative experience

Creativity Links

[Learning the French Revolution with Lady Gaga: Teachers Sing History](#)

[What are we doing about the Creativity Crisis?](#)

[What happens when we just make it fun? thefuntheory.com](#)

[Changing Education Paradigms: Sir Ken's a Cartoon!](#)

[IDEO's "Design-thinking"](#)

[Tech Supported Tools to Foster Kids' Creativity](#)

Educator Links

[Literacyhead.com](#)
Lessons for teaching literacy through art

[Effort to Restore Children's Play Gains Momentum](#)

[The Thea Foundation: Can the Arts Really Change Public Education in Arkansas?](#)

[What International Test Scores Really Tell Us: Lessons Buried in PISA Report](#)

[The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Test Scorer](#)

[The Myth of Charter Schools](#)

Art Links

["We Care for the Earth" Mural at Science Museum Oklahoma created by over 100 students, teachers, and professional artists during an art-integration project for the 10th Annual Respect Diversity Symbol Exhibit](#)

[Rodrigue's Louisiana Exhibit at NOMA](#)
A Virtual Tour of Cajuns, Blue Dogs, & Beyond Katrina

[Rice Field Art](#)

[Eric Grohe's 3-D Murals](#)

AROUND A+



Click photo for more images from the exhibit.

A+ Student Art Exhibited in Tulsa

On Dec. 3, Oklahoma A+ Schools was part of the fun at the First Friday Art Crawl in Tulsa's Brady Arts District. It was a beautiful evening with lots of people exploring the art galleries in this historic area of Tulsa. At TAC, the Tulsa Artists Coalition Gallery, eight A+ Schools in the Northeast region of the state shared their students' art work with the Tulsa art community. Showing work from

Tulsa Public Schools were Chouteau Fine Arts Academy, Eugene Field Elementary, Grimes Elementary, Grissom Elementary, and Mark Twain Elementary. Other northeast Oklahoma schools showing their student work were Central Fine Arts Academy of Sand Springs, Freedom Elementary of Sapulpa, and Wilson Elementary, Bartlesville. The quality of the work produced by our young students impressed gallery visitors so much that several asked whether the pieces were for sale, while many inquired about A+ Schools. Questions such as "what is Oklahoma A+ Schools" and "why aren't all schools part of this" were heard repeatedly. Many thanks go to Steve Tomlin, Art Teacher at A+ Grissom Elementary and member of TAC, for initiating, developing, and hanging this exhibit. Steve's vision, commitment, and hard work brought this exhibit to life. The show ran until Dec 18, offering a wonderful glimpse into the art being created and the learning taking place in our A+ Schools!

--article and photos contributed by Genie Reiman, OK A+ Regional Coordinator for Northeast Oklahoma

A+ Schools in the Spotlight

- **Congratulations to Chouteau Fine Arts Academy**, Tulsa Public Schools, recently named a Title I Academic Achievement Award winner. Along with the honor came a check for \$36,800 AND an additional \$10,000 for continued success in math and reading!
- **Congratulations to Stanley Hupfeld Academy at Western Village, Mark Twain Elementary-OKC, and Millwood Arts Academy** for taking 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at Life Change Ballroom's 5th annual 5th grade competition on Dec. 16 at Rose State Theatre! View highlights of the performances on [YouTube](#).
- **Jefferson Elementary in Norman and Principal Kathy Taber** were featured in the *Norman Transcript* for the school's Homework Camp program. [Link to story](#)
- **Beth Howard's Art Ambassadors from Mark Twain Elementary** participated in the Tulsa Veterans Day Parade. [Click here for the news video](#) and watch for the students at the 48:10 mark. They're in Revolutionary War costume honoring our very first veterans and American heroes!
- Band Director **Scott Filleman** and four members of [Pandemic](#), the Santa Fe South High School steel drum group, performed on air from the studio of KCSC, during the radio station's annual fall fundraiser. [Read more and hear the performance](#).
- Earlier in the year, **Cleveland Elementary in OKC and Principal Marsha Stafford** were featured in the *Oklahoman* for the school's vegetable garden. [Link to story](#)
- Also in the fall, art created at **Mercy School** was featured in the *Oklahoman*. [Link to story](#), [link to photos](#)

Ongoing A+ Support for Network Schools...

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Contact your [Regional Coordinator](#) to arrange for free on-site professional development, especially designed to meet the needs of your school!

NETWORKING

Faculty and staff in A+ schools are invited to join the [online network](#).

A+ ON WHEELS

Remember to [reserve](#) one of our 9 kits of materials for experiencing various art forms in your A+ school.

(made possible by the generous support of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund)

ONLINE LESSON SHARING

Teaching is an art form. Share your artistry with the network. [Click here](#) to visit the A+ Ning and upload your lessons by grade level or search for lessons posted by others.

A+ INTRO/REFRESHER AVAILABLE ONLINE

Teachers and staff in A+ schools are invited to join an [Elementary](#) or [Secondary](#) Ning group designed for: 1) teachers new to A+ who did not attend the 5-day Summer Institute with their school and 2) anyone wanting a refresher on the basic language and practices of A+.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIDEOS

Posted on A+ Ning [Click here](#) to learn about earning PD credit at the A+ Ning and to select a video.

OKLAHOMA A+ SCHOOLS WHAT THE RESEARCH TELLS US 2002-2007

Oklahoma A+ Schools' 5-year Research Report... Individual volumes OR the entire 5-volume set may be purchased. Free pdf downloads are also available. [Click here](#).

ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE

THE CONFLICTED NATURE OF CREATIVITY IN THE CLASSROOM

By Tyler Weldon, Operations Director

Among the outcomes of Oklahoma A+ Schools participation in the Creativity World Forum (CWF) is affirmation of our mission-driven commitments to nurture creativity in every learner. Additionally, we were reminded of the importance of maintaining a

current and working understanding of the field of creativity research, particularly as it relates to education. OK A+ Schools plays a central role in this discussion, both through our contribution to the research base and the practice it informs.

It became clear at the CWF that OK A+ Schools is not alone in our understanding and belief in the essential role of creativity to transform how we think about, practice, and behave as educators and learners. This writing is intended to provide perspective from leading contributors in the area of creativity and education with a particular focus on the barriers to creativity as a mainstream educational goal. The information that follows comes primarily from a review of *Creativity in the Classroom* (Beghetto) and a chapter from *The Cambridge Handbook of Creativity* (Kaufman & Sternberg, Editors, 2010) and is informed by other research.

I come away from this review of literature with a few questions. Why is the focus on adding creativity to the curriculum rather than on discovering creative ways to do the curriculum? It seems the priority should lie not in adding a module to discuss "creativity" but rather creating space to practice and experience creativity daily as fundamental to the business of doing school.

What do you think? [Read the full article here.](#)



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 network.

Click this link for our most recent [Community](#)

[Happenings and Resources for Educators](#) to view more opportunities, as well as ongoing community and internet resources. Student opportunities include Youth Arts Month contests and exhibits, ScienceFest 2011, and poster contests. Educator opportunities include workshops at art museums, free seminars on teaching about Asia, Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute 2011, and NEA cash awards.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute ... Auditions Underway

Open to OK students at least 15 years old by Sep 1, 2011, graduating seniors included. This year young pianists will join other musicians, dancers, writers, actors, singers, filmmakers, and visual artists from June 11-26 at the two-week residential academy taught by nationally renowned artists at the Quartz Mountain Arts & Conference Center. For more information about OSAI, including audition requirements and audition scheduling, visit www.oaiquartz.org.

Oklahoma City Museum of Art Teen Council ... Application Deadline Jan 24

OKCMAO wants high-school juniors and seniors who love art to be on the museum's first teen council. [Apply online.](#)

George Washington's Birthday Cake Contest

Deadline Jan 29, Categories: Grades 3-5 & 6-8

[Click here](#) for details or contact Jan McClaren at jmclaren@mountvernon.org.

The cakes will be on display during the FREE George Washington Revolutionary Workshop on February 12 at the Oklahoma History Center.

All Kids Can CREATE Call for Art, presented by VSA and CVS Caremark

Deadline Feb 4 For information, please visit www.vsarts.org/allkidscreate or contact Sonja Cendak at scendak@vsarts.org.

Sutton Award 2011 ... Submissions Accepted: Jan 24-28 & Jan 31-Feb 4 Recognizing OK students, grades 10-12, who present a conservation topic in an artistic, dramatic and/or compelling way

Formats: Movie, Photo Essay, Fine Art, Advertising [Download the application form.](#)

Contact: Karen Kilbourne, Sutton Avian Research Center, 918-336-7778

Websites: www.suttoncenter.org, www.natureworks.org

TEEN TRUTH FILM FESTIVAL - CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entry Deadline: Jan 31 (Feb 11 - Late)

For TEENS who love to make movies, this film festival gives students, ages 12-24, a voice and empowers them to make a difference. The films will be shown at the 4th San Joaquin International Film Festival, March 18, 2011, in Stockton, California. Participants can win a trip to the Film Festival, TEEN TRUTH internship, and a flip camera. Entry form: teentruthlive.com/filmfest

Talent Search: NPR's *From the Top* Seeks Local Talent & Awards Scholarships

Deadline Feb 25: applications and recorded auditions

Open to classical musicians ages 8 to 18 (not high school grads), solo performers on all instruments, composers, and instrumental or vocal ensembles

Arts



depicted by A+ artists

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Enriched Assessment



depicted by A+ artists

Edited by Anne Springall
cspringall@uco.edu

Application & info: www.fromthetop.org Contact: Susan Clark, KCSC, 405-974-2120

From the Top showcases America's best young classical musicians and is seeking local talent for its radio concert taping on May 15, 2011. Listen to *From the Top* on KCSC 90.1 at 2pm on Sundays for musical performances, lively interviews, and lighthearted parodies with some of the country's best pre-collegiate performers.

Youth Art Sale, 2011 Festival of the Arts, Sat., April 30, 10:00-3:00

Entry receipt deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 5:00pm ... This opportunity for students to show and sell their original artwork is open to 3rd-12th grade students living in a Central Oklahoma county (see list on [flyer/application](#)). Mandatory orientation meeting: Sat, March 26, 10:00am, Allied Arts, 1015 N Broadway, Suite 200, OKC. Questions: Jennifer Barron, 405-270-4848 or jbarron@artscouncilokc.com

NETWORK

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH

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