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October 2010

## SAVE THESE DATES!

### A+ REGIONAL NETWORKING MEETING IN OKC

Nov. 6, 1:00-3:30pm at City Arts Center

A+ Teachers, Principals, & Coordinators are invited to register at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RNM-OKC>.

### CREATIVITY WORLD FORUM

Nov. 15-17, Oklahoma City

Academia Pass for students & educators is still available for \$95 per day (includes meals and all activities at the Cox Convention Center, no evening events).

Students from [Harding Fine Arts Academy](#), [Stanley Hupfeld Academy at Western Village](#), and [Howe High School](#) will represent [Oklahoma A+ Schools](#) as presenters and participants at the Creativity World Forum in a joint program with students in British schools associated with London's [A New Direction](#). To learn more about this exciting international student collaboration around the role of creativity in education, [click here](#).

Don't miss this opportunity to connect and create, right here in Oklahoma City, as the international Districts of Creativity "converge" on our state, the only United States representative in the network. Go to [www.stateofcreativity.com](http://www.stateofcreativity.com) for registration link. To download more information about who is coming and what will happen, [click this link](#).

## Quick Links

[OK A+ Ning](#)  
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## Multiple Intelligences



depicted by A+ artists

## s m A+ r t s LESSONS

[MI Grows UP](#)

[Colonial Craftsmen at Work](#)

## Around A+

## RECENT A+ EVENTS

### A+ Fall Mini-Institutes for Principals & Coordinators

A+ Principals and Coordinators enjoyed artistic and informative gatherings this fall, starting with an evening salon on September 23 at [\[Artspace\] at Untitled](#) in Oklahoma City. Salon goers viewed the [Altered Books](#) exhibit and shared food and drink as they came together in their A+ network. The program included a film and talk presented by Lance McDaniel, Executive Director of the [deadCENTER Film Festival](#), and a reading by award-winning Oklahoma author [Rilla Askew](#).

We are grateful to everyone at [\[Artspace\] at Untitled](#) for inviting us into their wonderful gallery -- special thanks to Programs Administrator Lindsay Hightower, who shared information about the current exhibit, and Executive Director Jon Burriss, our gracious host!



Taco Book (click image to see more altered books on the A+ ning)

On September 24, the gathering continued at the University of Central Oklahoma, where Coordinators considered the Essential Question: How do we create synergy in our network? Focusing on the role of the A+ Coordinator, they developed their A+ manual using alphabet books as their inspiration and then created their own altered books.

Principal Mentor,

Sandy Kent, along with Jean Hendrickson and Rosalynn Wade, worked with principals around the concept of applying the power of ownership, both for their schools and their A+ resources. Sam Chaltain, in his book *American Schools*, states that "people own what they create!" The group turned their chapters copied from Sam's book into altered books that represented what they learned from the experience.



Montie Koehn, Sequoyah Elem. Principal, shares her altered book. (click image to see more pictures on the A+ ning)

On Oct. 14, Principals and Coordinators unable to attend the September meetings made their way to the fabulous Oklahoma City Museum of Art for our second Mini-Institute of the fall. Jonathan Hils' installation, *Intersection*, sparked a lively discussion, and guided by Bryon Chambers, the museum's Assistant Curator of Education, we made many connections between Hils' thought-provoking sculptures and the work that we do in our schools. The discussion continued in a downstairs studio where we reflected individually on the installation and then segued into a discussion of ownership, responsibility, and reform and what these ideas mean for our schools. Many thanks to Chandra Boyd, Senior Associate Curator of Education, and Bryon for hosting our event.

## CREATIVITY INSTITUTE

Teachers who participated in last summer's fabulous Creativity Institute reunited on Oct. 9 at Oklahoma City University's Bass School of Music to continue their learning and reflect on and share the benefits, challenges, and surprises of integrating technology-inspired project-based learning opportunities into their classrooms. The primary focus of the day was the sharing of artifacts created by their students, and there were many powerful examples of what students are learning through this new media. October 9 was a day of learning, sharing and celebrating! It was also a day for creating! Each teacher brought a culinary tool that was used as a lens with which to articulate their experience through art. The photos below show two teachers' creations as expressed through a whisk and Star Wars cookie cutters.



The Creativity Institute was developed by Oklahoma's Education Leaders Institute (made up of members from Oklahoma A+ Schools, the Oklahoma State Dept. of Education, Tulsa Public Schools, Oklahoma City University, and the Kirkpatrick Foundation) and was made possible by the generous support of the Dana Foundation.



## Chihuly Glass?

Students at Harding Fine Arts Academy, OKC, created this hanging sculpture with plastic bottles and other recycled objects.



## A+ Student Art at Gilcrease Museum

Student work created in Jennifer Barretto's art class at Central Fine Arts Academy, Sand Springs, was on display at Gilcrease Museum this month.



CFAA Students at Gilcrease Museum (click image for more pics)

On view were 49 works by kindergarten, first, and second grade students ranging from Picasso-influenced portraits to David Hockney style landscapes. The students were excited to have their art in a real museum! Mrs. Barretto is justly proud of her students; "they worked very hard creating the art and learning the different artists' styles," she said.



Exploring the Music Kit (click image to link to more pictures in the A+ ning photo albums)

## A+ Regional Networking Meeting in Tulsa

If you happened to be at beautiful [Philbrook Museum of Art](#) on October 16th, you might have seen a group of adults playing with puppets, dancing with scarves, or creating works of art. Why were they doing that? Philbrook was the venue for this year's Regional Networking meeting, where A+ Fellows gave A+ teachers and principals in NE Oklahoma the opportunity to explore our new A+ on Wheels kits. Participants discovered ways of connecting to an

overarching concept and shared the lesson ideas they created using the many supplies in the kits. The opportunity to network while experiencing fun ways for students to learn was appreciated by all who attended. The workshop will be repeated in OKC on Nov. 6 for A+ schools in central, south, and western Oklahoma. [Click here](#) to register!

We are grateful to everyone at Philbrook for allowing us to be their guests, with special thanks to Cindy Williams for making the arrangements.

## 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 A+ online network at <http://aplusokconference.ning.com/>.

### A+ ON WHEELS

Remember to reserve one of our 9 kits of materials for experiencing various art forms in your A+ school! [Reserve your kit today!](#) (made possible by the generous support of the [Kirkpatrick Family Fund](#))

### OK A+ Schools Online Lesson Sharing

Teaching is an art form. Share your artistry with the network!

[This link](#) takes you to the A+ Ning site where you can upload your lessons by grade levels, add tags to identify topics, subjects, and concepts and search for lessons posted by others!

### OK A+ Intro/Refresher Available Online

Teachers and staff in A+ schools are invited to join the [A+ online network](#) and the appropriate [OK A+ Intro/Refresher Group](#), either [Elementary](#) or [Secondary](#). These groups are especially 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 the procedures for earning professional development credit at the A+ Ning and to select a video. This month's featured video, "[The Art and Science of Process](#)", is just one of the videos available to you! Viewers will experience a lesson integrating science, art, vocabulary, oral language, and assessment for the very young child in this fun, active workshop.

*Oklahoma A+ Schools®: What the Research Tells Us 2002-2007, Oklahoma A+ Schools' 5-year Research Report...* Individual volumes

## Kid Links

Check out these amazing websites

[Build Your Wild Self](#)

[Wordle](#)

[Tagxedo](#)

[artsonia.com](http://artsonia.com)

[kidsciencechallenge.com](http://kidsciencechallenge.com)

## Creativity Links

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

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

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

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

[Transforming Children's Learning to Address America's Creativity Crisis](#)

[The Top 5 Qualities of Productive Creatives](#)

## Educator Links

[Waiting for All the Superheroes](#)

From Sam Chaltain:  
[Is It Really All About the Benjamins?](#)

[The Whole Child Podcast: Critical Role of the Arts Throughout a Whole Child Education](#)

[Phys Ed: Can Exercise Make Kids Smarter?](#)

[Schools: The Disaster Movie](#)

[Scientifically Tested Tests](#)

OR the entire 5-volume set may be purchased. Free pdf downloads are also available. [Click 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 OK A+ Schools network.

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

## ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS AND RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

### World Premiere of New American Musical - *Soul on Fire*

Thurs, Oct 28, thru Sun, Oct 31, Frederick Douglass Auditorium  
*Soul on Fire* is a haunting musical about a young girl who decides to take matters into her own hands when justice refuses to serve her. Go to the Facebook site, [Soul on Fire the Musical](#), to hear excerpts from this new Oklahoma musical. Information: [soulonfire2010@aol.com](mailto:soulonfire2010@aol.com). Tickets and synopsis: [www.ticketstorm.com](http://www.ticketstorm.com)

### Lizinga Lemandla Ami: The Measure of My Strength - A Sculpture and Interpretive Exhibition on the Women and Children of Swaziland, Africa, with Interpretive Elements by Sunni Mercer and Photography by Bridget and Eric Pipkin AND "Gigi's Kids: 24 Artist Invitational"

Through Nov 6 (open Tues thru Sat, noon to 6pm)  
[Individual Artists of Oklahoma Gallery](#), 706 W Sheridan, OKC  
The exhibition is intended to raise awareness for the "Swaziland Partnership." "The women and children of Swaziland will inspire and challenge us through their accounts of suffering and triumph in the face of immeasurable odds. Sometimes there are no words for the stories we must tell. I believe contemporary artworks developed as art in context can function as powerful storytellers." -Sunni Mercer ([Video preview link](#))

### Oklahoma High School Dance Festival at UCO, Nov 5 & 6, 2010

Individual students may still sign up to join the 11+ high schools already registered for two days of classes (including ballet, modern, jazz, flamenco, hip hop, salsa, and aerial dance) and evening concerts with seven high schools joining the UCO Kaleidoscope Dancers on stage. In conjunction with the festival, the UCO Dance Program is offering the first juried event in dance for high school seniors for the Oklahoma State Superintendent Awards for Arts Excellence. Information: call the UCO Dance Program at 405-974-5231 or email: [jjacobson@uco.edu](mailto:jjacobson@uco.edu); [Flyer](#)

### [Reduxion Theatre Company](#) presents the [Fall Connexions Workshop](#)

Saturday, November 6, 2010, beginning at 11 am  
[City Arts Center Theater](#) (at Fair Park), 3000 General Pershing Blvd., OKC  
A full day of training with professional actors & university professors in: Stage Combat, Voice and Diction, Acting Technique. Also included: admission to the evening performance of Macbeth, post-show talk-back with cast and crew, lunch and reception. Recommended for students 16 yrs+, \$50 student rate, [download registration](#) for further details. (Be sure to mention that you're from an A+ school.)

### American Indian Learners Workshop, Saturday, Nov 6, 2010

Chickasaw Cultural Center, 867 Charles Cooper Memorial Rd, Sulphur, OK  
Educators and administrators at all levels are encouraged to attend. This workshop will provide cultural insight into American Indian learners and help you embrace the diversity in your classroom, school, or organization. The schedule includes a cultural presentation, tour of the cultural center, a make-n-take activity, and lunch.  
Information & registration: Oklahoma Center for Arts Education, UCO, Phone: 405-216-2588, [www.ocae.net](http://www.ocae.net) [Flyer](#)

### Revolutionary Day on the Hill to be March 3, 2011, in Tulsa

Applications due Wed, Nov 10, 2010  
The events of the day will bring to life the American Revolution for fifth-grade

[Picture Books No Longer a Staple for Children](#)

[The Creativity Crisis](#)

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

[What Makes a Great Teacher](#)

[Building a Better Teacher](#)

[Music Lessons Build Brainpower](#)

## Arts



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students of northeast Oklahoma. All Northeast Oklahoma fifth-grade teachers and resource teachers are eligible to apply. Questions? Contact Dessa Weber at [weberde@tulsaschools.org](mailto:weberde@tulsaschools.org). To see news coverage of last year's event, [click here](#). [Click for application](#).

**Glogster - [edu.glogster.com](http://edu.glogster.com)**

Educators can register 100 free student accounts until November 7. After that, all NEW Basic Free teacher accounts will be limited to 50 student registrations.

**NETWORK**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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