



ART NEWS

WHAT IF...

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Dates to Remember 4 4

- April 10—Good Friday (schools closed)
- April 14—Middle School Show Reception 6:00-8:00 FCCJ Kent Campus Gal. E-112
- April 15—Early Dismissal Day
- April 16-21—National Art Education Association Conference/Minneapolis
- April 29—Early Dismissal Day
- April 30—Principal of the Year Nominations/Leslie Beddard Applications due
- April 30-May 14—Best of Elementary Art Show FCCJ Kent Campus
- May 7—Best of Elementary Art Show reception 6:00-8:00 FCCJ Kent Campus Gallery E-112
- 19-21—Art work available for teacher pick up Art Lab 3:00-5:30

I came across a very interesting article in the December edition of the National Art Education Association news journal. The article was written by NAEA President, **Bonnie Rushlow** titled “*The Future According to Us.*” The article actually referred to changes in leadership for the association and its 22,000 members; new approaches and new ideas for those who would take on leadership roles in the 21st Century.

Ms. Rushlow attended a seminar at the Aspen Institute in Colorado where she had the opportunity to sit with 25 art educators from around the United States, including **Elliot Eisner** and **Olivia Gude** (who spoke at the October FAEA Conference).

During their workshop, they were to sit and address critical

needs in the world of art education today. As they sat and thought in practical terms, they found themselves moving ever so often and with great intensity towards the theoretical... “What if” you might say.

The conversation that evolved went like this:

What made the visual arts so distinct was the studio—the art room, a place that “brims with imagination, creativity, and thoughtful critiques of one another’s work (**Scott Shanklin-Peterson**). This moved towards the vision of what if “Every classroom [was] a studio?” (**Kent Lydecker**/Metropolitan Museum of Art). Chicago art educator Olivia Gude then broadened the vision to “If all classrooms were studios, then why not every school a canvas?” Moving Maryland

art teacher **Louis West** to ask the question “Why shouldn’t every community be a museum?” Rounding out the vision was Elliot Eisner who said “With every classroom—a studio; every school—a canvas; every community—a museum; why not a future with every child—a work of art?”

Yes indeed...What if!

Jack E. Matthews

District Specialist,
Visual Arts

The Future According to Us—continued

The remainder of Ms. Rushlow’s article focused on the challenges of art education and *No Child Left Behind*. Here is a brief translation:

Art educators need to show the importance of art and how it truly interacts with other core subjects. Not only that, the arts are a science. Through creative thought processes, the arts help tremendously with brain development.

The arts will play an impor-

tant part of the global economy and future workers. **Daniel Pink** states “We are all in the arts business”. Neglecting to provide opportunities for children to explore, discover, create, build, dissect, transform will only hurt us in the long run. Too often we focus on the test, an unexpected outcome of *NCLB*. As a result, art programs are sometimes pared back. Students who would truly blossom from time dedicated to the arts find themselves in re-

medial programs instead. “[Schools] may be losing their ability to produce not just the artistic creators of the future, but innovative leaders who will improve the world.”

For a copy of the full article, contact Jack Matthews

Senior High Exhibition: Many Thanks to All—



1. Senior Show Opening
2. Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals presenting award to Kaitlin Moore (DASOTA)
3. District Specialist Jack Matthews, Samantha Lewis, art teacher Trish Beach (Wolfson HS)
4. Executive Director of Fine Arts Jackie Cornelius, Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals, Jack Matthews

Photographs courtesy of Kristina Broome, Tech Mngr/Communications

A LOT goes into producing this annual student exhibition. With that, comes the need to thank so many people who helped make the event possible.

First of all, many thanks to each of the teachers who submitted artwork. This professional responsibility on your part does not go unnoticed. Further, it takes a team of professionals to fairly review and select the work for the show. The expertise of **Nofa Dixon, Ginger Sheridan, and Larry Davis** was greatly appreciated by the District Art Department.

Additionally, **Fran Phelps** is to be thanked for the time

and energy spent in photographing the accepted pieces. The talented team of art teachers at **Douglas Anderson** framed and delivered D.A.s student artwork to the gallery. During our Frame Day, **Kathy Colvin, Lana Hardaker, Elizabeth Lee, Trish Beach, Tony Wood, Don Frazier, and Jack Matthews** framed the remaining pieces for FCCJ as well as the School Board pieces. FCCJ employee **Lynn Lewis** creatively installed the show and provided a power point presentation that showcased the Jurors Choice pieces and the Administrative Award

selections, while FCCJ provided all printed materials and the reception.

Further thanks and appreciation is extended to **Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals and Executive Director of Fine Arts Jackie Cornelius** for their words of encouragement to our students and their assistance in presenting the awards.

That is probably 60% of what goes into this show. The rest, provided through the District Art Office, could not be possible if it weren't for the many hands that assisted in the fore-mentioned acknowledgements. **THANK YOU ALL!!**

Middle School Show Preparing to Open—

With the exception of having to frame student work, the Middle School Exhibition takes almost as much time. This year, our juror was Artist-in-Residence **Joi Hosker**. Her expertise in both middle and high school curriculum and her strengths in all media provided her the ability to fairly select this year's show. Again,

much appreciation is given to the art teachers who submitted work created by their very talented students.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 14th when we celebrate the talents of these young people at the opening reception at FCCJ Kent Campus. Addressing those in atten-

dance that night will be **Deputy Superintendent Patricia Willis**. Award presentations will be made at 6:30.

Elementary Library Shows on Display—

Approximately 85 elementary art teachers converged on the Art Resource Lab March 27th, preparing to transport student art work to 15 city-wide libraries as part of the annual Elementary Library Show. The District Art Office is grateful to these host libraries and especially grateful to **Kathy Graw** who acts as the

liaison to each of the libraries.

These displays will be on view to the public through April 12th. From the nearly 600 2-D pieces displayed, selections will be made for the annual "Best of Elementary Exhibition". Approximately 150 pieces will be displayed in the

gallery at FCCJ Kent Campus from April 30 through May 14. **School Board Chair Tommy Hazouri** will be the guest speaker during the Opening Reception and award recognitions on Thursday, May 7th. Presentations begin at 6:30.

NOT TO FORGET... Student artwork from all three exhibitions will be selected to hang in the School Board Building through the Summer and the majority of next school year. Additionally, elementary work from the library shows not selected for "Best of Elementary" will be displayed in the six Regional Offices beginning in May. Work will be returned to students in May of 2010.

REMINDERS—

- **Principal of the Year Nominations**—Remember to get your packet in. The previous newsletter stated the packets needed to be submitted by April 17th. That deadline has been extended to April 30th.
- **Leslie Beddard Scholarships**—The deadline for submission has also been extended to April 30. Teachers have been sent information regarding a variety of summer workshops and seminars. Your LB Scholarship can be applied to these professional development opportunities.
- **Professional Development**—Remember whenever you take summer workshops, trips, etc. that are considered Independent Studies, you must send an I.S. application to Professional Development BEFORE the event.



Upcoming Events in Your School and Around the District

- Enterprize Learning Academy— “Kids Arts Fair” April 7-9
- Art is in the Heart. an exhibition of art by elementary school students from S.A. Hull, R.V Daniels and Suzie Tolbert. Hemming Plaza Jewelers. 231 N. Hogan St. 32202 Opening Reception, April 1 5:30-8:30pm, During Art Walk
- San Jose Elementary— “Week of the Arts” April 13-17 Theme: Roman/Grecian Art
- San Mateo Elementary— “Night of the Arts” April 16
- RL Brown Elementary— “Kids Arts Fair” April 16th from 5:30-7:30 P.M.
- San Pablo Elementary— “Starry Night Art Show” April 16 6-8 P.M.
- LaVilla School of the Arts— 8th Grade Gallery Opening April 16 5:30-7:00 P.M. “April Showcase” LaVilla Theatre (all arts areas) April 16-17 7:30 P.M.
- Sadie Tillis Elementary— “Spring Fling” April 18
- Twin Lakes Elementary— “Celebration of the Arts” Gallery Opening/Music/Dance April 30
- Woodland Acres Elementary— “Night on the Nile” Egyptian pieces on display from Cummer Museum, archaeological dig, terracotta clay heiroglyph project, and other activities April 23



SPOTLIGHT on Art Educators—Aisling Millar

This month, we highlight art educator **Aisling Millar** (Lake Forest Elementary). Aisling received her Bachelor in Arts Education degree in 2005 and is presently working on a Bachelor in Fine Arts/Ceramics-Sculpture at the University of North Florida.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Aisling moved to Vero Beach, Florida in 1994, migrating to Jacksonville in 2000 to attend UNF. She is a champion level Irish Dancer (are we surprised) and loves anything Irish. Much of her own art work reflects her heritage.

Several years ago, Aisling participated in an 8 month internship at the Wolfson Children’s Hospital through the “Art with a Heart to Promote the Healing Process”. Whenever she has the chance, she continues to volunteer her time there. She was also a teacher’s assistant at UNF for American Sign Language.

Since 2000, Aisling has participated in over 2 dozen exhibitions. She is a member of the following organizations/associations: Jacksonville Coalition for the Visual Arts, Golden Key International Honor Society, Duval Art

Teachers Association, Florida Art Education Association, National Art Education Association, National Education Association, UNF Potters’ Guild, and UNF Sculpture Guild. Presently, she is a board member of the Jacksonville Coalition for the Visual Arts.

Work at Lake Forest keeps her very busy. Due to a 3 year grant, students at the school are to receive 10 hours of art per week (Visual Art, Music, Dance, Drama). Students receive art every two weeks, with advanced students receiving art the last hour of every afternoon. The school participates in as many




community projects as possible. We are fortunate to have a teacher as gifted and as energetic as Aisling Millar!



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“Creativity is allowing yourself to
make mistakes. Art is knowing
which ones to keep.”

- Scott Adams, American Cartoonist



Dominique Mathis Grade 5
Lake Forest Elementary—Aisling Millar, art teacher
(2008 Show)

DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
FCCJ KENT CAMPUS PRESENT:

2009
**Best of Elementary
Art Exhibition**

April 30—May 14, 2009
Gallery E-112—FCCJ Kent Campus

Reception and Recognitions:
Thursday, May 7, 2009
6:00—8:00