



Stephanie Rosario—Gr. 12  
Woffson HS  
Patricia BeachArt Teacher

# ART NEWS

## Creativity: What Is It & Do We Embrace It?

### Inside this issue:

Middle School Exhibition	2
Elementary Work Due April 1	2
FAEA Electronic Student Exhibition Entries Due	3
Teacher Takes on Enor- mous Project	3
Spotlight on Art Educators Lana Hardaker	3
Senior High Show Invita-	4

### Dates to Remember

- March 3—Early Dismissal
- March 11—Reception for Senior Show/DATA Show FSCJ South Campus Wilson Gallery 5:00-8:00
- March 23,24—Middle School art work due at Art Lab 2:00-6:00
- March 25—Senior Show closes
- April 1—Planning Day Elementary Library Installations
- April 2-11—Spring Break
- April 14—Early Dismissal
- April 14-18—National Art Education Assoc. Conference
- April 20—Middle School Art Show Reception/Kent Campus 6:00-8:00
- April 28—Early Dismissal

In the March edition of *Art Education*, the focus is on creativity; it's role in today's education and how it was perceived in the past. In the editorial, Professor of Art Education at Indiana University Enid Zimmerman implies that creativity has been overridden by expectations brought about through the use of Standards. He goes on to say "learning outcomes conform to rubrics in which lesson results are awarded values for conforming to teachers' preconceived expectations". The end result: Hallways are filled with art work that is predictable and look very much like the work of fellow students.

This really hit home. As an elementary art teacher, I taught a concept through a particular subject. The end result? The majority of the children had works very similar in subject and color scheme. I see the same thing as I look at the body of work submitted by other elementary art teachers and sometimes, those submitted by teachers in the secondary arena. Professor Zimmerman states when a specific skill is being taught, the predictable outcome is warranted. But what we should truly embrace is the student who provides us with the unexpected outcome. For it is that student whose work is "creative, authentic, and investigat[ive]". Do you remember the child who decided to use a different color for the sky

rather than blue or went off on another tangent when you clearly stated he was to do step 1, 2, and 3?

In a separate article of the magazine, Kerry Freedman, Professor of Art at Northern Illinois University writes about creativity in context and likens it to freedom; "it should always be sought, but can only be achieved to the extent that conditions will allow".

In order to rethink what creativity should be, we must consider it to have the following:

- Critical reflection—based upon the creation of a conflict. Creative juices are often based upon social issues, personal interests, and previously made art.
- Based on interests—common sense tells us that creative people work from their own interests and that we construct new knowledge based on previously learned ideas and experiences.
- It is a learning process—creativity is both a study of self and one that is self-motivating. Students need to be allowed to utilize the knowledge received through experiences outside of school such as hobbies or other interests that lead them to becoming experts in that area.

- It is functional—this does not mean useful as a chair or bowl. When creating art that can influence people, allow them to think differently or see something they've not experienced before, then it becomes useful.
- It is a social activity—although Anglo-Saxon philosophy has lead us to become segregated practitioners, there is a need for social interaction and the ability to discuss and share ideas and beliefs. Thus, group collaboration and the ability to work with others.
- Dependent upon reproduction—"as a learning process, creativity builds on old ideas, images, and objects in the production of the new".
- It is a form of leadership—creativity has the capability of influencing large bodies of people and is dependent upon the ability of one to take risks.

It is important that we take these characteristics of creativity into account as we teach our children not just to "create" but to be "creative". Does that make sense to you?

*Jack E. Matthews*

District Specialist,  
Visual Arts/K-12

## Middle School Exhibition—



2009 Middle School Exhibition  
Opening Reception

Several weeks ago, all Middle School art teachers were sent the electronic log sheet and the student release form. The PDF form is to be printed as many times as necessary. Parental signatures are to be on these forms as a release for us to utilize student images. Once you have the release forms back, duplicate them so that each piece of art work submitted has TWO release forms on the back.

Work is to be matted in white poster board. Do not attach labels to the front of the work as special labels will be created for each piece. Your log sheet is to be submitted both electronically and in hard copy. Please be sure to follow this procedure. Notification of accepted pieces and award pieces will be sent to you via your log sheet electronically Monday, March 29th.

Teachers are to deliver their

body of work (no more than 20) to the Art Lab at 2924 Knights Lane East/Bldg 2 on March 23 or 24 from 3:00 to 6:00.

This year's juror will once again be our Artist in Residence, Joi Hosker.

**DATE CHANGE IN RECEPTION**—On the calendar given to you at the beginning of the school year, the date noted for the opening reception was April 15th. That date has changed to Tuesday, April 20th.

**Matting Mania Set for March 30th**—This day was originally set for the 24th. The lab will be open from 3:00-6:00. Bring your student artwork to mat. All poster board will be supplied.

## Elementary Work Due April 1—



2009 Elementary Library Exhibition  
Downtown Library

No, this is not an April Fool's joke. The annual Elementary Library Exhibitions will be installed on Planning Day, April 1. We have many new elementary art teachers so this will be quite an experience for them. I am depending on the seasoned teachers to help guide them through the process.

Teachers were sent via email a log sheet and student release forms as PDFs. Print the forms as needed and attach to the back of the work **WITH PARENT SIGNATURES**. You will be able to type directly onto the log sheet. Submit the log sheet electronically to the Art Department. It is best that you save the PDF in a file, then open it, type your information, save it, then send it to [matthewsj@duvalschools.org](mailto:matthewsj@duvalschools.org)

All teachers are to report to the Art Lab at between **8:30 and 9:00** that morning. This will give you a little time to collect any last minute things from your schools. Each teacher is to bring student

work that is matted in white poster board to the lab. Stations will be set up for you to place art work that is correlated with the library your school(s) is/are assigned. Full time teachers will most likely be assigned to the same library that their school is assigned to. Itinerant art teachers will either be assigned to a library where at least one of their schools is assigned or to the Main Library on Laura Street.

Speaking of the Main Library, each school is to be represented by **ONE** piece of student work. The full time art teacher or the one who is at the school the majority of days, is the teacher who will make this selection.

Installation of the shows should not take an incredibly long time. But it is important to be sure you have set up a show that will be visually pleasing and reflect positively on you, your school, and the Duval

County Fine Arts Department. Therefore, the Team Captain will need to be sure all team players are doing their share of the work and doing it constructively.

Some of you will have 3-D work. A few of the libraries have display cases. If you find you cannot display these pieces, you **MUST** bring them back to the Art Lab. Do **NOT** leave them at the library.

If you finish early, you are instructed to go back to your Thursday school.

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Matthews.

**NOTE:** *Participating in the installation requires you to fill out a leave form and receive TDE (Temporary Duty Elsewhere) from you principal.*

## FAEA Electronic Student Exhibition Entries Due—

It is time for the fourth annual Florida Art Education Association Electronic Student Exhibition. FAEA developed this as a means of assessment. It has proven to be a great tool. All images are submitted digitally. No art work to transport or try to get back. A teacher needs only to go to the FAEA website and download the information. Entry fee is \$5.00 per piece. Many PTAs are very willing to support this. The teacher **MUST** be a member of FAEA. You can easily go to the website and join. New membership costs \$35.00. Renewing members pay \$45.00.

Last year, Duval County was represented with over 30 student images. You want to see them? Again, go to [www.faea.org](http://www.faea.org) and click on the Electronic Student Exhibition. You can view art work by education levels and ranking by the jurors. The majority of Duval County entries ranked as Excellent.

During the 2009 FAEA Conference, 48 pieces that rated an Excellent, were printed in a larger format, matted, and displayed throughout the Conference area. Later, they were taken to Tallahassee where they were framed and now hang in the Capitol Building. Students of Alyce Walcavich, Trish Beach, Jennifer Snead, Judi Evans, and Terry Woodlief have reproduced images of their art work as part of that mass hanging. Plans are underway to do the same thing this coming year. Let's be sure that Duval County is well represented once more!



To the right: First Grade piece from Chets Creek Elementary selected for display at the State Capitol Building (Jennifer Snead/Art Teacher)

## Teacher Takes on Enormous Project—

**Jacksonville Beach Elementary** art teacher **Donna Guthrie** does not confine her students to projects that go no further than an 18x24 piece of paper. In fact, you might say she inspires students to stretch themselves and their creative thought processes. Based on a high school lesson she discovered in a book called *From Ordinary to Extraordinary: Art and Design Problem-Solving* by Ken Vieth, students began the journey to discover their family heritage.

First, students participated in

a classroom discussion of what makes up a family tree and why people study their heritage and ancestral roots. On a family tree chart, students described qualities and attributes of their significant family members, **INCLUDING** pets. Students transferred these descriptive words into a visual language, listing types of line, color, and texture.

Starting first with themselves, students selected various fabrics of line, color, and texture that best described them, wrapping each piece around a 10 foot rope. Students

repeated the process with other family members.

After each person was completely represented with fabric, 12 inches down the rope, students wrote the name of the person and chose 4 words that best described that significant family member on a tag. At the end of the rope, students selected raffia or ribbon to symbolize family roots.

This was a great project that had students working together and discovering things about each other and their families.



## SPOTLIGHT on Art Educators—Lana Hardaker

**Lana Hardaker** has been teaching for 25 years. She attended Valdosta State College and earned her Bachelor of Art Education from the University of North Florida. Presently, she teaches drawing and painting at **Duncan Fletcher High School**.

Lana is married and has 6, yes, 6 children and 3 grandchildren. Lana **LOVES** the outdoors! Whenever the chance

arises, she and her family take the boat out to the Abacos. Another favorite outdoor sport for the family is to go snow skiing. Lana loves to walk along the beach and to go swimming as a time to get away and reflect. One might call this her "meditation" time.

If an award for most improved teacher were to be given, Lana would win it hands

down. The caliber of work coming from her students has grown immensely over the years. She is constantly honing her teaching ability, researching new ideas, and putting them to practice. Evidence of the success of her program can be seen in the number of pieces selected for this year's Senior High Exhibition and the Duval County School Board Building.



#3001  
6th Floor—Fine Arts Department

Phone: 904-390-2677  
Fax: 904-390-2260  
E-mail: [matthewsj@duvalschools.org](mailto:matthewsj@duvalschools.org)

---

**ART LAB:** 2924 KNIGHTS LANE EAST  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216  
**PHONE:** 732-5123

---

“Conditions for creativity are to be puzzled; to concentrate; to accept conflict and tension; to be born every day; to feel a sense of self”.

- Erich Fromm



Senior High School  
Exhibition  
&  
Duval Art Teachers  
Association Show

March 11 - 25, 2010

South Gallery  
Florida State College at  
Jacksonville