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Arlington Middle School
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ART NEWS

Light at the End of the Tunnel—



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Dates to Remember	
May 6—Best of Elementary Show Opening Reception 6-8 pm	FSCJ Kent Campus Gallery E-112
May 12—Early Dismissal Day (Middle School Art Pick Up until 5:00 at Art Lab)	
May 18—Best of Elementary Show closes	
May 25-26—Elementary Art Work Pick Up from Art Lab 3:00-5:00	
May 28—Schools Closed	
May 31—Memorial Day all schools and DCPS offices closed.	

Well, that’s an opening for many a subject. One of the obvious is the nearing of school’s end. In only a few short weeks, students will be off for yet another summer vacation. Teachers will clean up, pack up, and leave for vacations, continuing education opportunities, or summer jobs. At this point for me, I am seeing the near completion of our large exhibitions. The “Best of Elementary” Show will open on the 6th and is the last of the major installations. For many of you, there are probably a few more Spring/Art Themed shows at your schools. It’s almost over...and we see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Still, another “light” is one

that we are not so sure about. At this writing, I do not have final numbers for next year’s art programs. It does seem that the elementary programs have remained almost the same. Great! However, some secondary programs may not fare as well. This is due to the Class Size Amendment. Florida school systems are faced with meeting class size restrictions or be heavily fined. Thus, middle school and high school administrators have to make difficult decisions. These include decisions to eliminate some electives.

I have no final words of wisdom regarding this. If someone were to ask me “What is going to happen to me?” I don’t

have a pat answer. There are many scenarios which I won’t go into. All anyone can really do is sit back and hold tight. One thing I can say for our county is that when faced with dilemmas, we’ve moved on them the best way possible and, in the end, came out better than expected. I think I will keep that in mind as I begin looking for that next light at the end of the tunnel.

Jack E. Matthews

District Specialist/
Visual Art—K-12

Art Students Part of First Published Poets Publication

The 2010 *Published Poets Poetry Writing Competition Volume I* is not only filled with creative writing. The book also contains art work from 18 students from around the county. The work was selected to help reflect the theme of this year’s poetry contest, “Expressions of Me”. Rather than hold a contest for the art work, pieces were selected from art shows held in

2009 and 2010. **Schools represented via art imagery: Enterprise, Fishweir, Rufus Payne, San Pablo, Twin Lakes Elementary Schools, John E. Ford, Landmark, LaVilla Middle Schools, and Douglas Anderson, Englewood, First Coast, Fletcher, Ribault High Schools.**

Students whose works were selected for the book were

treated to a reception and award ceremony at the Downtown Public Library on April 27th. Guest speaker was well-known Jacksonville author and educator **Dorothy Fletcher.**

Noting the success of this first project, I am sure more editions are to come.

Savion Bethea—Gr. 8
Ft. Caroline Middle



MIDDLE SCHOOL OPENING RECEPTION—

Although a week after the installation, the “Opening” reception was well attended. With the absence of School Board officials, **Terry Woodlief**, President of the Duval Art Teachers Association, and show juror **Joi Hosker** assisted with handing out certificates to students receiving Juror’s Choice and Administration

Awards. Also on hand was **Trish Beach** who patiently took pictures of each student receiving an award.

Others to thank are those teachers who brought additional refreshments. The majority of the food was gobbled down before 7:30.

A challenge to all middle

school art teachers: Next year, get your principal to attend! These shows are most important to the students and their families. It is also good for other teachers and administrators to see the quality of programs we have in our county. It is just one more way to validate our programs.

STUDENT ARTWORK PICK UP—

Senior High work has returned to the Art Lab and ready for pick up EXCEPT some 9th-11th grade pieces that were already hanging in the School Board Building or were part of the FSCJ Exhibition. Middle School artwork will be back in the Art Lab the week of May 10th. Early Dismissal Day will be a good one to come by and pick up work. I can be there until 5:00. Elementary work not utilized in the Best of Elementary Exhibition has been sorted and ready for pick up. Teachers can come by on the 12th as well BUT you may also want to wait until after the BofE work comes back from FSCJ. Official date for all elementary work to be picked up: May 25-26 from 3:00 to 5:00.

National Art Education Association Convention—



Peter Yarrow and Jack Matthews

The Conference in Baltimore, Maryland this year centered on Social Justice and many workshops relayed the same theme. I spent most of my time in Delegates’ Assembly or in bed with a horrific cold! I did have two eye opening opportunities: One was the second General Session. It focused on the use of electronic games as a means of education. I have never been one for electronic games (yeah, I’m a fuddy duddy), but my eyes were open to the many

ways these games affect education. Everything we have learned lately about the impact the arts have on student learning, creative thinking and problem-solving, connections to the global economy and job market ALL fit neatly with electronic games and the ability for students to learn by creating such games. There may be hope for me yet!

Second: The chance to meet **Peter Yarrow**. Don’t know who he is? Think “Puff, the

Magic Dragon”. Yes, a member of Peter, Paul and Mary was a presenter at this conference. Mr. Yarrow, although an accomplished musician also has a degree in Psychology and discussed with us sensitivity issues students face in school. He had the audience in a trance as he spoke and played his guitar and we all sang along with him. By the end, there wasn’t a dry eye in the room.

Newsworthy...



- **Miriam Provisero** (Mandarin HS) had a baby girl, Sophia Rose Provisero. Born April 20th at 5:01 pm. All are doing well.
- **Lina Bales** (Westview K-8) had three students win first and second place in the 2010 Annual Earth Day Poster Contest. First Place Winners were: India Brown—Grade 3-5 Division and Nivren Flores—Grade 6-8 Division. Second Place winner was Kayne Reevey—Grade 6-8 Division. First Place winners received a check for \$150 while Second Place collected a check for \$100. The awards were made possible by CSX. Awards were presented at the Earth Day Ecology Fair, held at the Jacksonville Landing April 17, 2010



Moises Ramos Named Art Educator of the Year

At the 34th Cultural Council Arts Award Luncheon, **Moises Ramos** was named Art Educator of the Year. In addition to the great work he has done as art teacher at **Arlington Heights Elementary**, Moises was recognized for the work he has done as an instructor for Lutheran Social Services' summer program for refugee chil-

dren, as an instructor for the Cathedral Arts Project, and for donating "art bags" full of supplies to children at Wolfson's Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House.

This award further acknowledges the hard work and dedication Moises has provided to students in Duval County. Last year, he was named the recipi-

ent of the Memphis Wood Award and received \$1,000. The awards for this year's Cultural Council event were created by artist **Allison Watson**.

Others recognized by the Council were **Betsy Lovett, Wayne Wood, Jim Dalton,** and **Delores Weaver**.



Celebrating Art Programs—

Moises Ramos followed the directions provided in a previous workshop on artist Dale Chihuly and had his students at **Arlington Heights Elementary** create a magnificent centerpiece.



Michele Corley and Elaine Carl-Charles took information sent to all teachers regarding

"Houses for Haiti" and turned it into a fundraiser. At **Alimacani's** Spring Art Festival, the Haitian Houses Project was the main highlight. The project, developed by teachers in South Florida, focused on creating miniature houses that would become magnets or pins. Money raised from donations for these little jewels went to help victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

Donna Blakely combined that project with a workshop she took during Planning Day in order for 7th and 8th grade students from **John E. Ford K-8** to create a large-scale wall hanging depicting funky houses with a Van Gogh-like starry night background. The piece won an award recognition at

this year's Middle School Exhibition.

Hey! Teachers really DO learn things during these planning day events!



GOT ARTWORK CHECKED OUT FROM THE VISUAL EDUCATION CENTER????? All reproductions both 2-D and 3-D must be returned to the **Visual Education Center** at the Cummer Museum by May 26, 2010. It is very important these are returned ASAP as Fran prepares to close out the school year.

ART NEWS
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“If I could say it in words, there would
be no reason to paint”.

- Edward Hopper

“Painting is just another way of
keeping a diary”.

- Pablo Picasso

Duval County Public Schools
and
Florida State Community College
present
the

**Best of Elementary
Exhibition
2010**

May 6—18, 2010
Opening Reception
May 6 6:00-8:00
Gallery E-112

