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ART NEWS
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ART NEWS

Great Advocacy for the Arts—

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Advocacy is one of the strongest ways we can get our message across that the Arts are an integral part of our lives and the education of our young ones. It was advocacy that helped turn around the decision to cut the arts in the elementary level last year. At first, we were number one to cut. With the many voices speaking up about the importance of the Arts, we soon became number one to fund.

Some of the best advocacy that can come about is that provided by non-arts people in the community. When we as arts educators speak up, we tend to appear self-serving.

Recently, I received two letters that addressed wonderful things happening in Duval County that directly concerned the Arts. From **Hope McMath**, I received a letter written by **Carissa Dawson**, Wellness Coordinator at **S.P. Livingston Elementary School**. Some students with disabilities went on a field trip to the **Cummer Museum**. The visit impacted one student so much he

screamed out “That was the most fun time, I ever had on a field trip, I ever had...in my whole life!!!” Ms. Dawson ended her letter with this statement:

“Our group of students with disabilities became art admirers and critics for the day. There are hundreds of students who have been forever impacted by the partnership with the Cummer Museum and Gardens. Some will remember their first field trip to the Cummer for the rest of their lives with great fondness as I do and permanently store a visual reminder...a picture...of what the word *serenity* means.”

Another letter came from **Juliann Gaus-Graeser**, a volunteer and PTA delegate from **Atlantic Beach Elementary**. The school, through efforts of the PTA, After School Enrichment, and Friends of Atlantic Beach were able to raise \$12,000 to support the arts at the school. Ms. Gaus-Graeser states she is willing to step up to help in any way to raise awareness throughout the

county. Furthermore, she touted **Fran Phelps** and the **Art Enrichment Program** at the **Visual Education Center** for the wonderful and important service both Fran and the program provide.

Advocacy has also come through the state as evidenced by the Legislature and **Senator Steven Wise**. Recently, that advocacy for how the arts support test grades has made it possible to raise school points.

Whether it be on the school campus in front of teachers, at a PTA meeting, standing in front of the School Board or the City Council, or confronting state leaders, advocacy can have a profound effect upon whether or not the Arts flourish in our county and around the state. Do you know of someone who has a story to tell? How about sharing it!

Jack E. Matthews

District Specialist,
Visual Arts

The complete letters will be posted on the Duval Art Teachers website Fresh Paint

Dates to Remember

February 3—Early Dismissal

February 10, 11—Senior High art work and DATA work due at the Art Lab 8:00-5:00

February 15—Presidents' Day Schools closed

February 17—Early Dismissal

February 27—Senior Show Frame Day Art Lab 9:00-4:00

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

Arts Education Enrichment Grants—

This year's recipients include:

Kathryn Darby (Mandarin Oaks Elementary) Special Supplies for “special kids” and Jackson Pollock, providing user friendly tools that physically handicapped students can manipulate mostly on their own **Terry Woodlief** (Chaffee Trail Elementary) A Day in the Life of . . . Me! orchestrating a digital scrapbook project allowing 16 Exceptional Education Students to become “real authors” by creating books of photographs and journaling using online software, and **Kate Garcia Rouh** (West Riverside Elementary) 100th Birthday Mosaic for West Riverside.

January Mini-Conference Highlights—



The January Planning Day was filled with enjoyable and educational workshops. The District Art Office wishes to thank art teachers **Patricia Beach, Jeannette Dennis, Trevis Geary, Sherry Greenhut, Jennifer Snead, and Alyce Walcavich** for giving of their time and sharing with fellow teachers. Appreciation also goes out to **Terry Bennett/Exceptional Education** who shared valuable information with teachers regarding autistic children. It was also a time for teachers to visit the **Visual Education Center**; to learn more about the wealth of visual stimuli in the Center and

to check out materials. **Fran Phelps** said it was the largest turn out for materials in a very long time!

Looking over the comment forms, it was noted that the hands-on workshops could have been longer. This was especially true of “Painting with Pictures”. We hear you and an all-day Saturday workshop is in the making. Also noted were a couple of comments wishing the Planning Day could be a half day so work could be done in schools. Unfortunately in doing so would negate any possibility of receiving professional development points.

Lastly, we are very grateful to the **Summer Museum of Art and Gardens** for its continued support and provision of space for both our meetings and workshops.

Our next Planning Day will be the installation of the annual **Elementary Library Shows**. Information is forthcoming.



Jennifer



Judi



Gerie



Jack



FAEA Updates: Why It Should Interest You—

Duval County is represented by FOUR art educators, both past and present, as members of the Florida Art Education Association Board. They are:

Jennifer Snead—Elementary Division Chair, **Judi Evans**—Districts Assembly, **Gerie Leigh**—Retired Art Educators, and **Jack Matthews**—President.

This is very good as we help to pave the way to a better and stronger state association. We have just come back from a Board of Directors’ meeting in Orlando. There are many issues that lay ahead. A few of these are the **New Generation Standards** (as we rewrite the **Florida Sunshine State Standards**), and the rewriting of **Course Descriptions**.

All other core subject areas have had their standards rewritten including Physical Education. The Fine Arts and World Languages have not. Problem? The Department of Education (DOE)

lacks the funds to see this through. To rewrite the other academic areas cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000. What will happen if we don’t get this work done? Without the newly designed standards, it could affect future textbook adoptions. **Linda Lovins**, liaison for the Department of Education, is working with the Fine Arts Associations to see what we will be able to do to move this forward. Bottom line: Something must be done before the end of summer.

Another issue happens to be the Course Descriptions. These have not been addressed for some time and many of them are sorely outdated. In some cases, we have too many courses; in other cases, we are lacking in updated information regarding technology. Once we are in a place where we can begin working on these, experts from around the state will be called upon to help with the

rewrites.

A third area we are working on is the **Visual Arts Demonstration School model (VADS)**. This was brought to your attention after the last two FAEA Conferences. Although a few snags have hit us due to rewrites and funding, we will be moving ahead with this in the very near future. We will keep you informed as we definitely have schools in Duval that should consider applying.

Our ability to move ahead in all three areas lies with the DOE.

NOT A MEMBER OF FAEA?

It is never too late to join. New members pay only \$35.00. Returning members: \$45.00. FAEA is your voice in Tallahassee. The stronger our membership, the stronger our voice. Go to www.faea.org to learn more!

CELEBRATIONS!!!

- More babies on the way! There was definitely something in the water! I am waiting to hear news from **Tiffany McGuire Gonzales** (Susie Tolbert/RV Daniels). **Sarah Santiago** (Highlands Middle) went on maternity leave the end of January. **Miriam Provisero** (Mandarin High) will go on maternity leave the end of April as will **Lori Pashley** (Holiday Hill Elementary).
- Congratulations to students of **Dana Garfinkel** (LaVilla School of the Arts) and **Kelly Delaney** (Southside Middle) as they were winners in the *First Annual Amity Turkish Cultural Center Essay and Art Contest*. Students created artwork and wrote essays based on the theme “Alliance of Civilizations”. LaVilla took 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place while Southside took 5th place in the art portion of the contest. First place for both the student AND the teacher was a laptop computer! Second place: \$200, 3rd place: \$100, 4th place: \$50, 5th place: \$25. A fantastic reception was held at the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts at FSCJ South Campus with Action News-CBS47 anchor, **Dawn Lopez** acting as Mistress of Ceremonies.
- **Samuel Wolfson High School** added a second art position! Great news as we welcome **Nicole DeFeo** to the county. Nicole graduated from UNF this past December, having interned under **Patricia Beach**.
- WELCOME BACK! To both **Joe Capshaw** (Sandalwood High) and **Dana Johnson** (Fletcher High) as they return from lengthy and serious medical absences.



Dana



Kelly

REMINDERS...

- **Senior High Student Work** is due at the Art Lab February 10th and 11th from 8:00 to 5:00. All logs and forms have been sent to teachers via email. If you have questions, call the Art Office at 390-2677 or send an email to matthewsj@duvalschools.org. Our jurors for this year’s show are **Nofa Dixon, Paul Ladnier, Ginger Sheridan, and Jack Turnock**.
- **DATA Show Entries** are due the same time as the Senior High work. \$10.00 for members; \$30.00 for non-members. You may submit up to 3 pieces that have been completed in the last two years.
- **Art Teacher Hall of Fame**—Please remember to contact the Art Office if you have ever been selected as Teacher of the Year at a school you served in Duval County.



FRAME DAY FOR SENIOR SHOW— Saturday, February 27th is slated for teachers to come frame student art work for the exhibit at Wilson Gallery/FSCJ and the Duval County School Board Building. Teachers may come at any time between 9:00 and 4:00. It is highly recommended you call by 12:00 noon just in case all framing has been finished. Call 732-5123

SPOTLIGHT on Art Educators—Ryan Handy

Education:
 BFA from Rowan University
 1991 (Computer Graphic Design)
 Ryan is our newest edition to the family of Duval County art teachers. He began teaching art in 2005 in Vineland Public Schools, Vineland, New Jersey. He has a daughter, Imani who is in high school in New Jersey. What brought Ryan to Jacksonville? Weather, cost of living, and family (not necessarily in

that order!). He has a brother who lives on the north side of Jacksonville.
 Ryan was hired to replace **Teben Pyles** at Baldwin Middle/ High School. Teben has resigned in order to enter the ministry. We wish him the best.
 Along with teaching art, Ryan is the coach for the girls’ track team.
 Ryan is hoping to get back to the practice of art which primarily means graphic design.

In the mean time, he enjoys bowling .
 While in New Jersey, Ryan also was a teacher delegate for People to People Ambassador Programs, South New Jersey. He was also a Behavioral Assistant for R.A.P., L.L.C. and ASAPP Healthcare, Inc. and was responsible for applying positive behavioral principles within the community to enhance children’s behavior. To Ryan, we say “WELCOME TO JAX.!”





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“A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge”.

- Thomas Carlyle

“Love is a canvas furnished by nature and embroidered by imagination”.

- Voltaire

On-Line Student Galleries

When you get a chance, check out **Jesse Nolan’s** student gallery. Jesse is now teaching at **Paxon School For Advanced Studies**, along with **Mai Keisling**. In his AP class, he has created an on-line gallery for students to look at their work via another medium other than face to face. “It gives students the opportunity to see what their work looks like when viewed through technology”, says Jesse.

Each student has a set of images based upon their concentration. When you click on an image of their work, it takes you to their complete gallery. Students are protected by using first name and last initial only. I am sure if you are wondering how to do this, you can give Jesse a call. He would be more than happy to work with you. Go to www.picturetrail.com/nolanstudentspaxonsas

Results of Palette Raffle

The “Painterly Palette” raffle was held at the Cummer on Planning Day. Results of the raffle will be posted on DCPS website for Duval County Art Program (Duval Art Teachers Association) and on the DATA website ‘Fresh Paint’.

Money raised through this year’s raffle amounted to \$1,500. That provides as many as three full Leslie Beddard Scholarships. DATA wishes to thank the artists who gave of their time and talent to support this fundraiser. DATA will be looking for artists to create next year’s palettes.

Middle School Show

All middle school art teachers should have their logs and forms. Please adhere to the dates of March 23rd and 24th to submit work. **CHANGE IN RECEPTION DATE:** The reception for the middle school show has been changed from April 15 to April 22 due to conflict with the National Art Education Association. You will receive invitations to the reception the day you submit student artwork.

As in the past, we ask that teachers help with the refreshments. FSCJ is very kind to provide cookies and punch. Other finger snacks are greatly appreciated. You will be contacted regarding bringing food as the date draws nearer.

Elementary Library Show

Elementary art teachers will receive their logs and release forms electronically the beginning of this month. It is **IMPERATIVE** your email system is **NOT** full in order to receive this important mail. More information will be emailed to you regarding how we will set up the shows, assignments, and the ability (or not) to display 3-D items.

NOTE: THE MATTING MANIA SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 24 HAS BEEN CHANGED TO TUESDAY, MARCH 30TH FROM 3:00 TO 6:00. Poster Board will be provided should you wish to attend.