



Marsha Hatcher 2006

ART NEWS
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ART NEWS

Back To Work! Music To Our Ears—

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I am sure some of you are wishing the days of summer would have lasted much longer. Still, many of you are (or should be) rejoicing that you have a job to come back to! Last Spring, things looked pretty bleak. We were faced with the possibility of losing 30% of our elementary resource teachers and quite a number of secondary elective teachers. That all changed once Duval County received additional funding from Tallahassee. Although that was a pivotal point, we must give thanks to Super-

intendent Ed Pratt-Dannals and our School Board. They made funding back elementary resources a number one priority. The icing on the cake was the funds given to secondary school administrators, making it possible for many surplused personnel to be added back to school faculties.

We can breathe a sigh of relief...for the time being. The ability to keep these programs in tact is based upon a 2-year stimulus commitment. What happens then?

It is important we keep the

funding for education on the front burner in Tallahassee. I am sure our Superintendent plans to be on the heels of this issue and we should do all we can to support his endeavors.

We are fortunate to have a leader as well as a School Board that believes so strongly in the importance of the arts to a child's education.

Jack E. Matthews

District Specialist,
Visual Arts

Senator Stephen Wise Honored —

At the July School Board Meeting, Senator **Stephen Wise** was honored with an award given by the Florida Alliance for Arts Education (FAAE), formerly known as Arts for a Complete Education (ACE).

Susan Burke, Executive Director of FAAE, was on hand to present the Senator with the Legislative Leadership Award for his support of the Arts in Florida. Senator Wise sent a letter to Commissioner of Education, **Eric Smith**, bringing attention to data supplied by D.O.E. regarding fine arts credits for high school students. In his letter he reaffirmed what we have known for many years. Students involved in the arts achieve higher testing scores

and have a greater likelihood of graduating from high school. He further states that, when school districts have to make cuts, "the Department of Education should do all [that is] possible to encourage principals and superintendents to ensure the continuation of music and other arts programs (visual art, drama, dance)."

Both Senators Wise and Nancy Detert, who worked with Wise on putting this before Tallahassee Legislators, will be honored at the October 2009 Florida Art Education Association Conference in Orlando.

To view the complete letter from Senator Wise, you can go to www.faea.org and click on "Resources"

Dates to Remember

August 19—Subject Area Meeting, Cummer Museum 8-3

August 24—Students return

September 7—Labor Day Schools Closed

September 9—Early Dismissal

September 19—Empty Bowls workshop, Art Lab 9-4

September 23—Early Dismissal

October 7—Early Dismissal Empty Bowls Part II, Art Lab 2:30-5:30

October 15-17—FAEA 2009 Conference Orlando, Florida



The Honorable Betty Burney, Sen. Wise, Susan Burke, Music Specialists Dale Choate and Paula Thornton, Visual Arts Specialist Jack Matthews, Executive Director of Fine Arts Jackie Cornelius and Cultural Council/Local ACE Chair Martha McManus



Lap Top News—

As I am understanding from the Technology Department, the District is changing out dated lap tops. That means the lap tops issued several years ago from the Itinerant Art, Music, and P.E. Resource Programs are going away. Lap tops that were stored at the Art Lab this summer will be equipment-transferred to Bulls Bay. So, what happens to any lap top

that is still checked out? Your lap tops will need to be returned to the Art Lab for an equipment-transfer as well. New lap tops for Itinerant Resource Teachers will be issued by the school you service the most days. *Under no circumstances are you to turn over your lap top to your school.* The lap tops for art teachers are affixed to the inventory for

RC3281. By surrendering your lap top to your school you will create a lost inventory error, which the District Visual Arts Department is accountable for.

Until you hear from your school administrator about new lap tops at your school or you hear from the District Visual Arts Department, hold on to your lap top!



Wedding Bell Bliss!

Wedding bells have been ringing this summer! **Ina Blume** (Enterprise Learning Academy) is now Ina DeGram. Get her to tell you about her honeymoon! An-

other summer bride was **Tiffany McGuire**, (Susie Tolbert/ R.V. Daniels) now Gonzales.

Many of our female art teachers will be shedding a few tears as

Seth Mann (George W. Carver/ Sabal Palm marries this Fall. Are bells ringing for anyone else?

“Empty Bowls” Workshops Planned—

There will be a workshop for teachers to create artistically designed bowls for the “**Empty Bowls**” Luncheon. This year marks the 25th year for this special event so we want the bowls to be even bigger and better.

Teachers may register through

the Schultz Center to attend the workshop to be held Saturday, September 19 at the Art Lab from 9:00 to 4:00. Come back on Wednesday, October 7 to clean up and glaze your creation(s). The Lab will be open that day from 2:30 to 5:30. A total of 9 points can be earned

by attending both sessions.

The bowls will be part of the Silent Auction held at the **Prime Osborn Convention Center** the day of the luncheon, *Tuesday, November 17th*.

Come out and show off the creative stuff you’re made of!



Make Plans to Attend FAEA Conference 2009—

The **Florida Art Education Association Conference** is just around the corner. I encourage each of you to seriously consider attending. This year’s conference has been shortened to 3 days (Thursday morning—Saturday afternoon). Although shorter, it

will still pack nearly 100 workshops, 2 general sessions with great speakers such as **Jerry Uselmann** and wife **Maggie Taylor**, and a great time for teachers from all over the state to exchange ideas and learn from each other. The confer-

ence is set for October 15—17. Go to www.faea.org to register. This year’s theme: **“EYEWITNESS: Learning in the Visual Age”**. You won’t want to miss it. Talk to some of your fellow art teachers who attended last year’s conference!



Not a member of your Professional Organizations? Early Bird dues to join your local Duval Art Teachers Association is \$15.00 and affords you the opportunity to apply for **Leslie Beddard Scholarships**. First-time membership to the Florida Art Education Association is \$35.00. Membership renewal is \$45.00. Membership provides you with quarterly magazines as well as the ability to have your students participate in FAEA’s state assessment electronic exhibition.