

OFFICE of **ARTS** EDUCATION



Dear ,
Happy spring! We are delighted to be hosting our second annual [Arts on the Agenda: A Day for Principals](#) event on Tuesday, April 28 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Last year we were encouraged by the amount of support and interest in arts education and hope to continue to strengthen advocacy this year. *Arts on the Agenda* is a wonderful opportunity for administrators to share ideas about best practices in arts education and to highlight the impact that strong arts programs can have on student success. Special guests for the event include Elizabeth Burmaster, Maggie Brown, a diverse group of CPS principals and CPS student performers. For more information click on the link above or call 773-553-2170.

Best wishes,
OAE Staff

DISCIPLINE HIGHLIGHTS
DANCE

OAE congratulates the students in the pilot year of the [CPS Elementary Dance Scholarship Program](#) for the successful completion of their second 6-week session which concluded on March 10 with an in-studio demonstration at the Lou Conte Dance Studio. Thank you to the many parents, teachers, principals, friends and family who joined us for the presentation!

MUSIC

The deadline for the CPS Elementary School Music Festival is Thursday, April 2. For more information call 773-553-2170.

Don't miss the upcoming organizational [contests](#)! The contests are open to the public and are free of charge. The contests are some of the longest consecutively operated music events in a public school system in the United States.

84th Annual High School Choral Contest:
Tuesday, April 14 at Lane Tech College Prep 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 16 at Curie Metro HS 9:00 a.m.
Friday, April 17 at Kenwood Academy 9:00 a.m.

84th Annual High School Band and Orchestra Contest:
All are on Saturday, April 18 and begin at 9:00 a.m. at:
Schurz HS
Curie Metro HS
Kenwood Academy



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Students in EDSP finish their ballet demonstration. Click here for [more photos](#)!

THEATER/LITERARY ARTS

OAE Professional Development Series:

The 2008-2009 Theater Workshop Series has been presented in partnership with Urban Gateways. We had an excellent session on March 27 where teachers offered critical feedback on the Scope and Sequence of Learning in Theater that will be a critical component of the *Chicago Guide to Teaching and Learning in the Arts*. We also had a wonderful session on using improvisational techniques to enhance student learning.

The next professional development session will focus on Technical Theater - How to make good choices with limited resources. It will be held on Tuesday, April 21 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. For details and registration contact: Jill LeCesne Potter, Program Manager Urban Gateways, Center for Arts Education at 312-922-0440 x.2751 or [by email](#).

The CPS Elementary Poetry Festival presented by OAE in partnership with The Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing and Young Chicago Authors will take place at the Old Town School of Folk Music on April 3, 14, 17 and 24. More than 35 elementary schools will gather over these dates to perform original and classic poetry. Students will also have the chance to hear talented authors including Joyce Carol Thomas and Willie Perdomo. For more information call 773-553-2170.

The CPS High School Theater Competition presented by OAE in partnership with the Goodman Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre will take place on April 25 and Victory Gardens Theater and on May 13 at Roberto Clemente High School. Twelve high schools will participate in this performance of monologues and scene work. For more information call 773-553-2170.

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April is National Poetry Month! Get students involved in poetry recitation and give them another outlet to express themselves: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/>

Or, encourage your budding young poets to enter the Half-Pint Poetics Competition at Kuumba Lynx. The winning team will be featured at the Brave New Voices, a national youth poetry competition. To register or for more information contact Jacinda Bullie by [email](#) or at 773-550-3849.

Need other ideas? Check out these sites for poetry lesson plans...

[The Academy of American Poets](#)
[Teachers and Writers Collaborative](#)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

For more events and opportunities please visit our [online calendar](#).

The Chicago Arts Educator Forum is Friday, April 10. This is a community initiative designed to bring together the arts education community—administrators, teaching artists, etc.—to engage in dialogue to discuss relevant topics. For more information [click here](#).

Celebrate the start of the 2009 Festival of Youth in Music this April with the Chicago residency of the renowned Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra! Opening events include a symposium discussing the Venezuelan social action program

"el Sistema," an open rehearsal and concert, a public workshop with young musicians from Chicago and members of the orchestra, and community performances. For more information visit the [CSO's website](#).

Discover how to unlock imaginative learning and find new excitement in your teaching practice. Register now for the Lincoln Center Institute online course! LCI and CaseNEX will be offering two online courses this April. Courses will begin on April 20. [Click here](#) for more information.

See The Midwest Premiere of Motti Lerner's *Pangs of the Messiah* at Silk Road Theatre Project through May 10. Teacher discounts are available. Visit the [website](#) or call 312-857-1234 ext. 201 for details.

The Joffrey Ballet announces CAMP Joffrey, a new summer dance program for students ages 12-14 that includes classes, field trips, guest speakers and more. Interviews are Saturday, May 16. No prior dance experience is necessary. For more information please [email](#) Linda Swayze or call 312-386-8951.

Need some good resources to help your students learn about different cultures? Want to teach songs in some uncommon languages, but lack the confidence to do so? Want to learn from master teachers and musicians? Then the 2009 [International Summer Institute: Music in Many Languages](#) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is for you! June 14-19.

OTHER NEWS

OAE congratulates Hibbard Elementary School on implementing a youth orchestra program. The initiative is modeled on the principles of "el Sistema," a Venezuelan method of music education. The program was featured in a [Chicago Tribune](#) article on March 11.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

For past issues of our OAE E-Newsletter please visit our [website](#). This publication is produced monthly from August through June.



Chicago Public Schools | Office of Arts Education • 125 S. Clark Street, 9th Floor • Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 773-553-2170 • Fax: 773-553-1973 • www.cpsarts.org

