

May 2008 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

Letter from the Dance Curriculum Supervisor

Dear Readers,

Spring greetings from the Office of Arts Education! What a busy past few weeks we have had. Many events have taken place and many more are on the calendar for this month. It is truly an exciting time for arts education.

As the Dance Curriculum Supervisor I have had the great pleasure of getting to know the CPS community and the array of dance programming taking place in our schools. Dance opens the mind to think critically, creatively and constructively. It is an art that I have been passionate about for years and am thrilled to now champion it in our schools. Through my work I've had the honor of meeting dance specialists and classroom teachers alike who are outstanding in their efforts to bring dance into their students' lives. I am constantly impressed by the amount of work they are able to achieve even when faced with space and equipment limitations. Their perseverance and dedication to enhance learning through the arts deserves standing ovations on many fronts.

In the fall of 2007 our office inherited the *Having a Ball* ballroom dance program. Currently funded by a U.S. Department of Education, Carol M. White Physical Education Grant, the program has undergone some developmental changes in order to match the parameters set forth by the funding source. What has been so rewarding during the past few months has been the opportunity to set the bar high for our students and then encourage them towards excellence as they meet and exceed expectations. To look at the students now as they dance the Cha-Cha, Waltz, Tango, Paso Doble and Jive it is hard to believe that anyone would have doubted their ability to rise to the challenge. They have embraced the rigors of weekly dance training and are ready to dance with the stars! We look forward to cheering them on at both the competitions and in their in-school events. Bravo!

Last month CPS was also treated to two special opportunities from world class dance companies stopping in Chicago. American Ballet Theatre graciously brought their *Make a Ballet on Tour* program to four schools, each of whom were able to present a 15 minute ballet at the end of the five day residency, complete with student made costumes. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was also in town and presented over ten master classes in our schools, giving students the chance to work on technique, discipline and performance quality. We are extremely fortunate to have developed strong relationships with both companies and look forward to their next visit.

In the near future you will see the creation of pilot Dance Express Kits as well as dance related professional development sessions. I look forward to serving you for your dance needs and wish you all the best for a wonderful conclusion to this school year. Thank you for your support of arts education.

Sincerely,

Maliwan Diemer

Dance Curriculum Supervisor

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youngARTS Informational Meeting

We are pleased to invite you to an informational meeting about youngARTS on Tuesday, May 13 at Saucedo Scholastic Academy, 2850 W. 24th Blvd., from 4-5 p.m. youngARTS is a scholarship program from the National Foundation of Advancement in the Arts that provides cash awards, scholarships and other opportunities for high school seniors in the arts. Please RSVP to Crystal Gerner via email at cjgerner@cps.k12.il.us or via fax at 773-553-1973. Don't miss this chance to learn how your performing, literary and visual artists can be a part of this nationally recognized program.

For more information about youngARTS please visit www.youngARTS.org, call 1-800-970-ARTS or join us for our joint event on Tuesday, May 13!

Arts on the Agenda Thank You!

We were delighted to host almost 200 principals, assistant principals and administrators at our office's inaugural event, *Arts on the Agenda*, a day long symposium about the importance of arts education. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed their support of arts education and thank you to our special guest, Ramsey Lewis for motivating us all to do more.

Make a Wish!

Did you know that the CPS External Resources and Partnerships Office invites all schools to fill out a "Wish List" for the Free Things for Schools Program? This program helps schools connect with donated items from corporations and individuals. This is great news for arts programs, as schools who have filled out the "Wish List" have received a wide range of free items over the past year, including arts supplies, musical instruments, and marching band uniforms! For more information about the Free Things program, please contact the Partnerships office at 773-553-1545.

Music Highlights

Be sure not to miss the great CPS All City music and dance events, the Elementary Music Festival and the Jazz Band/Combo Contest all taking place this month. For more information please call our office at 773-553-2170 or email wbmcclellan@cps.k12.il.us.

The Met: HD Live in Schools
Education Program

Join the Metropolitan Opera for the 2008-09 season of *The Met: HD Live in Schools*, an education program partnering the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Public Schools and Chicago's Public Television station, WTTW.

Educators will receive:

- FREE tickets to 4 Saturday matinee performances of the Metropolitan Opera's *live* in high-definition (HD) telecasts at your local movie theater for you and your students (150 total for CPS);
- Educator Guides that include comprehensive cross-curricular activities and tips to help integrate the opera performances into classroom teaching;
- A professional development workshop; and DVDs of each of the 4 opera performances to be used in the classroom post-performance.

The four Saturday matinee performances include Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* (on 3/7/09) and *La Rondine* (on 1/10/09), Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* (on 2/07/09) and Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (on 5/09/09).

We hope you will join us and teachers and students across the nation in *The Met: HD Live in Schools*. Please contact cjgerner@cps.k12.il.us before May 15th.

Theater and Literary Arts Highlights

OAE is pleased to feature two upcoming CPS theater performances. Please join us in supporting these young artists!

Our Dreams, Our Words, Our Voices featuring writings by students in the Clemente Theater Project will be presented at Clemente High School on May 30. This project is funded by a grant from the Oppenheimer Family Foundation. Please contact: Robert Schroeder at Clemente High School 773-534-4000 for additional details.

Roosevelt High School presents Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* April 30, May 1, 2, and 3. A portion of the money raised by ticket sales for *Beauty* will go to benefit Building with Books, an organization that helps build schools in developing countries. For more information please contact Roosevelt High School at 773-534-5000.

We'd also like to highlight some theater arts partner performances:

Lookingglass Theater presents *Around the World in 80 Days* through the end of May, including matinee performances. If you are interested in reserving tickets for a matinee performance, please contact Lizzie Perkins, Community Programs Manager, at 773.477.9257 x104.

Chicago Children's Theater presents *Hana's Suitcase*, based on the book by Karen Levine through May 11. Call 312.742.TIXS for more information. Student matinee tickets are available.

eta Creative Arts Foundation presents *A Salute to Teachers* honoring teachers who have worked in partnership with eta programs or are interested in participating in arts education at eta. The event will take place at eta Creative Arts Foundation 7558 S. South Chicago Ave. on May 21 4-7 p.m. Please call 773-752-3955 for more information.

May 2008: Select Events and PDs

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

* Indicates a professional development opportunity.				1	2	3 Chicago Shakespeare Theater PD*
4 CPS All City Art Exhibition Ends	5	6	7	8	9	10 CPS Jazz Band/Combo Contest
11  Happy Mother's Day!	12	13 CPS Elementary Music Festival; youngARTS Info Meeting	14 CPS Elementary Music Festival; Hubbard Street PD*	15 CPS Elementary Music Festival	16 CPS Elementary Music Festival	17 CPS Having a Ball Semi-Finals; Steppenwolf MaTEENe

Happy Mother's Day!		Music Festival; youngARTS Info Meeting	Music Festival; Hubbard Street PD*	Music Festival	Music Festival	Finals; Steppenwolf MaTEENe
18 CPS Having a Ball Semi-Finals; Hubbard Street Repertory Workshop	19	20	21 CPS Having a Ball Finals; eta Creative Arts' Salute to Teachers	22 Art Institute Teacher Program*	23	24 CPS All City Festival Concert
25	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30 MCA Summer Teacher Institute Applications Due	31

For more information regarding events listed in this calendar please contact the Office of Arts Education or the host arts organization.

Upcoming Opportunities

The Lou Conte Dance Studio presents its Summer Intensive for dancers ages 14-18 June 23-27, 2008. For details call 312-850-9766 or visit www.hubbardstreetdance.com

Free Street Theater will offer its Summer Intensive June 30-August 7. Call 773-772-7248 or visit www.chicagokidstart.org. Free Street partners include: DePaul University, Stella Adler Acting Studio NYC, Columbia College, Metropolis Theater Berlin, Brama Theater Poland.

Join Luna Negra Dance Theater for a pre-professional dance training session July 7-18, 2008. Contact Monnette Garcia at 312-337-6882 or monnette@lunanegra.org to learn more.

For more information about the Office of Arts Education or items featured in this newsletter please contact cjgerner@cps.k12.il.us or call 773-553-2170. www.cpsarts.org Coming Soon!