



A r k a n s a s

Learning Through the Arts

A creative approach to arts-integrated learning

PARTNERS IN ARTS AND EDUCATION

A quarterly newsletter -- Inaugural Edition, April 2014

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts (ALTTA) was formed in the spring of 2012 and is based on the arts-in-education model - *Big Thought* (Dallas, TX). The mission of ALTTA is to improve student achievement by integrating cultural arts into the educational experience in order to ignite students' interest in learning. The approach is to create curriculum-based arts workshops, residencies and experiences that introduce students to the arts while energizing the classroom lessons.

ALTTA works with Teaching Artists and Curriculum Directors to identify areas of need, create effective classroom programs and schedule them at appropriate times during the school year. Teachers find that students are more readily engaged in learning when there is a strong arts component in the classroom. Studies have documented that student engagement is critical to learning and that the presence of the arts has a dramatic effect on achievement. ALTTA was formed in the greater Hot Springs area with the purpose of expanding throughout the state as artistic and financial resources allow.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Oaklawn Arts Magnet and Fountain Lake Elementary Schools launched the pilot programs last year. Additions so far this year include Langston Magnet, Park Magnet



and Jessierville Elementary schools. Lake Hamilton Elementary School is also scheduled for workshops and residencies later this spring

2013 - 2014 Roster for Grades 2 - 5

Dancing With The Greeks introduces students to communicating through dance as they produce a 5 scene story of Perseus and Medusa. Teaching Artist: Rebecca Sayadian



Teaching Artist Laura Lee Williard introduces students to *Women and Girls in Medieval Times* through a Robin Hood story and 12th century ballads. Students learn how to do a choral reading.



FOUNDING BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS & STAFF



The founding ALTTA Board consisted of Martha Smither (President, former Big Thought Board member), Dorothy Morris (Secretary, philanthropist) and Tom Bryant (Treasurer, active community volunteer). At the March Board meeting, the Board welcomed Rob Bowers, a retired CPA and community volunteer and Lynn Payette, a church music director and adjunct professor at NPCC.

Craig Welle serves as the Executive Director and hails from Dallas where he collaborated with Big Thought as the Executive Director of Enrichment Curriculum with the Dallas Independent School District. Marsha Knighton, a community volunteer and former accountant, has recently joined the

Teaching Artist Jermaine McClure brings *The Magic of Poetry* with 2 residencies where he portrays poet Langston Hughes and another on Haiku poetry. In both, students create their own verse.



Students create their own art work, either watercolor or pottery, that relates to a book being read in the classroom. They learn that artists often see the world differently. Teaching Artist: Nina Louton



Expert Storyteller William Worden portrays a Native American and introduces students to their stories, customs, music and sign language. Students learn the fundamentals of playing the Indian Flute. This residency connects to two books used in the classroom



ALTTA Receives Major Challenge Grant!

The Arkansas Arts Council funded two ALTTA grant requests that launched curriculum development for arts-integrated initiatives and supported ALTTA programming in the schools. These grants totaled over \$23,000 and challenged ALTTA to match those funds - which is nearly completed.

The curriculum grant supported the development of materials for:

- ★ Residencies and workshops for ALTTA
- ↓ Children's Concert of the Arkansas Symphony

Orchestra

🎵 Arts Partners In-classroom String Quartet workshops (ASO)

The materials for the latter two are disseminated throughout the state where ArtsPartners and the Children's Concert are performed.

The residency grant provided partial support for ALTTA's in-classroom residencies, making it more affordable to the

FOUNDING FUNDERS

Arkansas Arts Council
Richard W. Averill Foundation
Tom & Jean Bryant
Entergy
John & Jane Hollansworth
Hot Springs Giving Circle
HS/HSV Symphony Guild
Jane Howard Foundation
(Melanie Masino)
KYE-YAC Foundation
Morris Foundation
(Dorothy Morris)
Wilbur & Martha Smither
Elisabeth Wagner Foundation
Windgate Foundation
Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

BECOME A FRIEND OF **Arkansas Learning Through the Arts** and support our children!

Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

I want to be a friend at the following level:

Individual \$15 _____	Family \$25 _____	Van Gogh: \$50 _____	Picasso: \$100 _____
Joplin \$300 _____	O'Keefe \$500 _____	Beethoven: \$1000 _____	Shakespeare: _____
\$3,000 _____			
Other: \$ _____			

Please contact me about volunteering. ☐

SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: **Arkansas Learning Through the Arts**

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