



SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA ARTS IN ACADEMICS (SAAA) NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

Contents	
Director's News	
Karen Husted	1
Larry Mello	2
Master Artist:	
Susan Cole	3
Kimi Eisele	4
Paul Fisher	4
Carrie Starr	5
Partners:	
Ash Creek School	1
Double Adobe School	1 & 3
Naco	2
Ft. Thomas School (Lead School)	2
Mt. Turnbull Academy (Bylas)	2
Cochise College	4
University of Arizona theatre Arts	4
Calendar	5

Karen Husted, Project Director (Founder & Director of Arts for "Border" Children)

Karen Husted is the Director of The Arts for "Border" Children and is the facilitator for the Southeast Arizona Arts in Academics (SAAA) professional development project. SAAA is a consortium of rural school which includes:

- Ash Creek School Elementary,
- Double Adobe Elementary,
- Naco Elementary,
- Fort Thomas Unified School District (the lead school district for the project),
- Mt. Turnbull Academy – Bylas, and

Throughout February & March project director, Karen has met individual with sites to facilitate the development of their theme and essential question and to observe the progress and work of the master teaching artists as they begin to work with the various sites and the development of each school's theme. During the multiple training sessions all schools have been introduced to implementing Understanding by Design. As a part of this methodology, assessment strategies for each school site, as well as, the total project have been implemented. Each school has a master rubric to constantly monitor the progress on their essential question.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



SAAA THEMES & ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Ash Creek: Scientific & Cultural History of the Sulphur Spring Valley
How have the resources that support people in the Sulphur Spring Valley changed over time?

Double Adobe: Americana
How has the American experience impacted and enriched the culture, literature and history of our country as represented in performing and visual arts?



SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA ARTS IN ACADEMICS (SAAA) NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

Ft. Thomas Elementary: Keepers of Tradition
What is my story?

Ft. Thomas High School: Images Ignite
How do images impact our life?

Naco School: Community
How is Naco, AZ. similar to or different from other communities?

Mount Turnbull Academy : Tradition is my life. Education is my future.
How can my education and tradition enrich my future?

In tandem with the SAAA project will be another educational proposal granted from the DANA Foundation. The DANA Foundation is a privately owned philanthropic organization which among other interests supports arts education.

This theatre education proposal will provide rural schools in Southeast Arizona Arts in Academics Project standards based theatre education that emphasizes the multi-disciplinary elements of the theatre. The SAAA project will be facilitated by Arts for "Border" Children. Throughout the process Borderlands Theatre will develop and expand their educational curriculum and outreach program. A further goal of the project is to train novice - teaching artists in order to meet the future needs of rural school populations.

Founded in 1986, Borderlands Theatre provides an institution which addresses the rich culture and the many voices of the border region between Mexico and the United States. From its home base in Tucson, AZ, it provides theatre to the Southwest region and beyond into Mexico, Central and South America.



Borderlands Theatre and Arts for "Border" Children share parallel missions and a deep understanding of the region. The Southeast Arizona Arts in Academics Project is the perfect vehicle for the two organizations to provide quality theatre arts education to the identified rural schools through the project presented in this proposal.

PROGRAM EVALUATOR



Dr. Lawrence T. Mello, Ed. D

Tracking Our Progress, Measuring Our Success

Every program or project funded by the U.S. Department of Education (and, in fact, all federal government agencies) is obliged to develop and implement an evaluation plan. The government encourages its awardees to think in terms of a seamless system between program improvement and evaluation. This broad-based approach focuses on clear, measurable goals and outcomes, involves input from the various players, and is driven by a belief that growth and improvement never ends.

Staff buy-in is a critical dimension of this evaluation model, characterized by everyone working toward the same target. This model encourages staff input for decision-making, the recognition of trust, and significant levels of active involvement by the participants.



SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA ARTS IN ACADEMICS (SAAA) NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

The goals of the evaluation should be clear and operationally defined so that progress can be measured. Even small-shared successes along the way help to move the entire group to be focused on achieving results.

If we are to be highly effective with respect to the outcomes of the Southeast Arizona Arts in Academics project, we must ensure an atmosphere among our staff, artists, and teachers that is fertile for engaging change processes. If we are to encourage changes in what we do in light of the results of our data, we must encourage trust, honesty and sensitivity to diverse ideas.

An evaluation model as described above is referred to as "continuous Improvement." Our project adopted this model because we believe that, as the literature suggests, "growth never ends." This model encourages all of us to be full partners in the outcomes of the project and indicates our willingness to change or revise our strategies as we move along the path to our goals.

February 17-20

Ft Thomas Elementary
March 2-6
May 11-15

Ft Thomas Alternative Mount Turnbull
March 16-20
May 4-8

Ft Thomas HS
April 27
May 1

Master Artist Susan Corl reports on some work from Double Adobe. The first week students make a variety of handmade books.



MASTER ARTISTS



Susan Corl's Schedule:

Naco
Jan 5-9 and Jan 12-16
April 6-9 and April 14-17

Double Adobe
Jan 26-30
Feb 23-27

Ash Creek
February 9-13

The second week we focused on the Civil War. One class chose the song "The Drinking Gourd" which refers to the North Star and the Underground Railroad. Most slaves came from West Africa which has a rich heritage of textiles, symbols and patterns. Although they could not read, they could memorize the Underground Railroad Quilt Code:

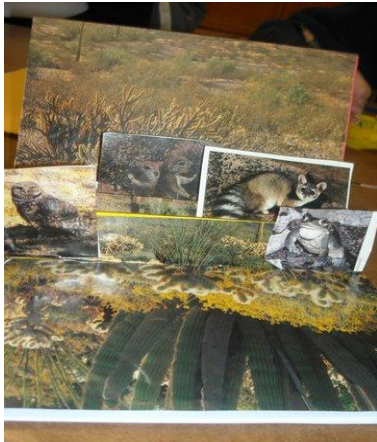




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Spring 2009

The **Monkey Wrench** turns the **wagon wheel** toward Canada on a **bear's paw** trail to the **crossroads**. Once they got to the **crossroads** they dug a **log cabin** on the ground. **Shoofly** told them to dress up in cotton and satin **bow ties** and go to the cathedral church, get married and exchange double wedding rings. **Flying geese** stay on the **drunkard's path** and follow the **stars**.



The boldface names are quilt blocks used in this code.



Students made paper quilt block that will be their journal covers.



Kimi Eisele's Schedule:

Bisbee/Naco
January 26-30
February 2-6

Ash Creek
Feb. 23-27

Ft. Thomas Elementary
March 15-20

Ft. Thomas Alternative
March 2-6
March 30-April 1

Double Adobe
May 4-7

SAAA and DANA Projects would like to thank partners:

- ***Cochise College***
- ***University of Arizona Theatre Arts***



Paul Fisher's Schedule:

Ft. Thomas
1/20, 21, 27, 28
2/10, 11, 17, 18

Mt. Turnbull
3/23 - 3/27



SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA ARTS IN ACADEMICS (SAAA) NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

Double Adobe
4/14 - 4/17

Naco
4/20 - 5/1

Ash Creek
5/4 - 5/15



Carrie Starr's Schedule:

Naco
Feb 9 - 13

Ft. Thomas
Mar. 9-13 at

Double Adobe
Apr. 20-23 in

Ash Creek
May 11-15

Mt. Turnbull Academy.....Bylas
June 8-13

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

2/28 – SAAA Meeting in Willcox, AZ at the Cochise College Building.

March

The production "Our Dad is in Atlantis" for grades 5 - 12 is scheduled for:

*Ash Creek School on Tuesday, March 10 at 12:00 pm.

*Double Adobe and Naco at Lowell School in Bisbee on Wednesday, March 11 at 10:00 am.

*Fort Thomas High School on Tuesday, March 17 at 12:00 pm MT. Turnbull Academy will attend this performance.

April

The production of "Coyote & Cuelbra (3 folk stories) for grades K – 4:

Fort Thomas Elementary School on Friday, April 17 at 12:00 pm.

Ash Creek School on Monday, April 20 at 12:00 pm.

Double Adobe School on Tuesday, April 21 at 9:00 am.

Naco School on Tuesday, April 21 at 12:00 pm. The performance will be at the Turquoise Valley Country Club.

May

May 8 - SAAA & DANA Board meeting – Chez Mac, Tucson.

May 9 – Novice Teaching Artist Selection Panel – Tucson. February-April: Identified, Auditioned and Interviewed Notice Teaching Artists to be selected.

May 28, 29, 30 - Three day training at the University of Arizona in Tucson – Professional Development, Coaching and Mentoring for Teaching Artists.