

# NEWSLETTER

## Elmwood Arts Infusion

August 2009

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### *Success and Community*

Adapted from:  
"Outliers"

by Malcom Gladwell

#### Why are some people

"...so accomplished and so extraordinary and so outside of ordinary experience that they are as puzzling to the rest of us as a **cold day in August?**" Is it because they are **extra smart, work hard, were born at the "right time"** or have access to opportunities?

Malcom Gladwell found that:  
--people only need to be "**smart enough**", like being tall enough to play basketball well

--successful people spend **10,000 + hours** before they have a breakthrough

--**birth month and year allow opportunities** not open to those older/younger  
--**access to resources** (wealth, influence, position) offers a significant boost

Success comes with ordinary intelligence and opportunity, so what's different? Mr. Gladwell learned: "...how much of a **group project success is...** It's because of the contributions of lots of different people and lots of different circumstances—and that means that we, as a society, have more control about **who succeeds—and how many of us succeed**—than we think.

### *Arts Play Critical Role in Education*

#### Chartrand Foundation

#### Key quotes outlining how arts improve deep learning:

"When students have an opportunity to engage in a dramatic enactment of a story, their **overall understanding of the story improves**—story comprehension effects were greatest for first graders who were **reading below grade level.**"

"A student making music experiences the simultaneous engagement of senses, muscles and intellect. Brain scans taken during musical performances show that **virtually the entire cerebral cortex is active** while musicians are playing."

"According to a May 2005 Harris Poll, 79 % of Americans agree that **incorporating the arts into education** is the first step in adding back what's missing in public education today."

"The arts play a critical role in education by providing us with a form of thinking and way of knowing **not found in the other academic subjects.**"

[www.thechartrandfoundation.org](http://www.thechartrandfoundation.org)

### *Welcome Back!!*

#### Warm Smiles and Friendly Greetings Fill Elmwood Halls

as students, teachers, families, staff and friends welcome each other to a new school year. "This is the best school opening I've ever seen," was a quote often heard throughout Elmwood's first week of school. Possible reasons mentioned included:

- **school starts at 8:30 a.m.**
- **we have longer lunch periods**
- **Elmwood's great Arts Infusion!**

Whatever the reason, we're happy to be together working to help everyone, according to the school Mission Statement: "achieve real and significant academic growth...educating the whole child."

### Art As Education

*John Dewey*



*Claymation about Hammurabi's Laws, Ms. Golder*

**As long ago as 1934, John Dewey** wrote about how to make significant progress in school reform:

"**Traditional teaching methods have failed many of our students**, clearly demonstrating an inability to significantly increase student growth and achievement... Embracing the arts will dramatically change the culture of our schools, transforming them into places of wonder and fantasy; where dreams are born and realized. **We must ignite the imaginations of our students** and motivate learning in bold, innovative ways to ensure that all children are engaged in, and enthused about, their education.

### AUGUST CALENDAR:

- 8/12 **Parent Teacher Organization Meeting** in the Auditorium
- 8/19 "**Back to School**" Night