

# NEWSLETTER

## Elmwood Arts Infusion

September 2009

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### *Parents and Arts Education*

Activities to do  
with your child

*adapted from*

*Americans for the Arts website*

Just as kids need good nutrition on a daily basis, kids need to have their daily serving of the arts—in and out of school. The arts are more than just fun "extra" activities for kids. Studies show far-reaching benefits of arts education.

1. **Teach your child songs;** enjoy singing together
2. **Encourage, celebrate** participation in arts—in as well as outside of school
3. **Read classics:** nursery rhymes to Cervantes
4. **Attend local events:** galleries (free), concerts, museums, festivals
5. **Play music on the radio and your collection** dance and sing along
6. **Provide art supplies** skill will improve in time
7. **Watch quality TV and programs and movies** that expand imagination
8. **Create family photo albums** and discuss
9. **Make videos together** that will tell a story
10. **Read/write poems** help your child feel the rhythm; make up new words to a poem you enjoy.
11. **Put on plays,** include music and dancing

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

### *Gaining the Arts Advantage Lessons from School Districts that Value Arts Adapted from "The Arts. Ask for More"*

In schools that offer a quality education through the arts, attendance rates go up and serious misbehavior decreases. "One of the values of integrating art into the curriculum is it gives children multiple opportunities to learn a concept," says Jackie Quay, who administers SPECTRA+ for the Fitton Center.

Art can be the "hook, the vehicle, that gets a child into the world of learning...It can be especially beneficial to kids who have been brought up hearing...'no' and 'you can't.'" Kids...don't just learn to tell time...They're taught a dance where they become a clock, with their movements changing to reflect the changing hours. They become time.

"The arts provide a perfect proving ground for individual achievement, nurtured by a community of creators. What better way than to create well adjusted, productive, happy children?"

"We enable children to learn better by introducing the arts into their core subjects and by inspiring their teachers to expand their realm of instruction."

### SEPT. CALENDAR:

- 9/16 Spirit "Hat Day"
- 9/12 Leadership Car Wash
- 9/17 Powerful Parent-School Partnership Workshop Staff Lounge 1:30 PM "How to Read Your Child's STAR Test Results"

### *Effective Teachers*

#### **Characteristics to Model in Class**

From *Creating an Emotionally Healthy Classroom*

School-age children spend more time in the classroom than anywhere else so behaviors teachers model become part of students' lives.

#### **Effective Teachers:**

- Are deeply **interested** in students and material taught
- Conduct class discussions with **less time lecturing**
- **Relate to students** without talking down to them
- **Inject humor, variety and drama** into lessons (arts!)
- Make coursework **relevant, meaningful, important**
- Are **fair and open**
- Are **adaptable** to change
- Have **high behavior and academic expectations**

### *"Principal's Snack 'n Yak" Snacks and Visit with Mr. Semillo*



Parents meet and chat with SUSD's Mr. Morales

Elmwood School held the first "Principal's Snack 'n Yak" August 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents had the opportunity to sit, have snacks and visit with our Principal, Mr. Semillo. Also present was Mr. Semillo's special guest, Mr. Jose Morales. He is our area representative on the Stockton Unified School District Board of Education. Parents asked many great questions about Elmwood and our School District.

Mr. Semillo and Mr. Morales would like to thank the parents for attending and enjoying the **great cinnamon rolls** made by our Cafeteria manager, Jamie Valezquez!! Our next "Principal's Snack 'n Yak" will be held on **Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.** Hope to see you there!!