

Dear Friend:

This is an exciting time for arts education in the New York City public schools. The Department of Education's *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts* has been released for music and visual arts and is now being implemented. At the Center, our summer was spent creating new resources for parents and teaching educators about arts-related careers for their students.

As the school year began, we found our 51 Partnership Programs in full swing. Their teachers and cultural partners are continuing to use the arts to teach and promote learning in a variety of subjects across grade levels. We will again be funding Parents As Arts Partners grants. In fact, a new exhibit of artwork created as a result of these grants will open at our Gallery at 180 Maiden Lane in January.

In addition to our ongoing programs, we are undertaking a strategic planning process that will help guide our work in the future. We will be asking ourselves, and you, how we can better achieve our mission and how we can better serve the public schools and the field of arts education in New York City. This is a particularly important time to be rethinking our strategies. The Center for Arts Education is still a young organization, and in our eight years there have been profound changes at the Department of Education.

You may have noticed a message on the back cover regarding legendary singer-songwriter Paul Simon, who attended PS 164 in Queens and graduated from Forest Hills High School. In the letter enclosed, Simon asks you to support the Center in its ongoing endeavors. We thank him for his interest in arts education and New York City public schools.

We both wish you all a healthy, happy and peaceful holiday season.

Laurie M. Tisch
Chairman

Richard Kessler
Executive Director

WISHING YOU
PEACE & JOY
IN THE
NEW YEAR



PS 2X student proudly displays her playwriting journal.

Photo: Sylvia Lopez

Success evident at PS 2X

PS 2X has evidence and Carmen Farina, Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning at the New York City Department of Education, wants it. Farina is collecting documentation of how the arts impact literacy and whole child development. According to Principal Mark Bailey, the school, in its third year of a Center-funded Partnership, has just what Farina is looking for.

"Student test scores are rising. Attendance is rising. There is tremendous enthusiasm among teachers and students about playwriting, performing and sharing what they have learned with the parents," says Bailey. "The whole PS 2X community is involved. Parents attend performances and assist in the classroom. Classroom teachers are now using theater arts techniques taught by our cultural partners Creative Arts Team (CAT) and Arts Horizons to foster literacy, numeracy and school morale in our students." Professional development workshops present engaging ways for teachers to introduce new vocabulary, concepts and curriculum to increase students' motivation.

Catherine Nettey, a first grade teacher, agrees. She has found that shy students and those with behavioral or academic challenges actively participate in theater activities. "Many children who can't read or write take the lead when it comes to drama. They are extremely motivated. A lot of my students are eager to respond to stories, write journals, draw pictures and write their own stories. Kids feel a part of the lesson and feel they have input in their education," says Nettey.

The school's original cultural partners were CAT and Open Classroom Collaborative. In the first year, three third grade teachers were trained by teaching artists. The program culminated with a play reading. In the second year, the program expanded to include six teachers, who focused on "Peacebuilders" and "Book of the Month" themes. The final productions went beyond play reading. Students memorized lines and performed in costume on stage. The

continued on page 5


Success evident at PS 2X *(continued from page 2)*

Visual Arts Club created scenery. Keyboard students played musical interludes during play transitions, under the guidance of music teacher Tom Hall. Hall was recently named the national Barbie Arts Teacher of the Year, an award funded by the Entertainment Industry Fund and Mattel.

Now, with the addition of Arts Horizons, the Partnership program includes a poetry component in the fourth grade and a playwriting component in the fifth grade. Classroom teachers incorporate drama, poetry and playwriting into their lesson plans.

Fran Yesner, Language Arts Specialist, described the evaluation process that measures the Partnership's success. "Student growth is determined through reflective journals and videotapes. Teacher growth is evaluated through pre-surveys, post-questionnaires and informal conferencing.

Every teacher has had a positive experience," Yesner says. "Remarkable things have happened. Students showed gains in written language skills as reflected in their journal entries."


According to Bailey, the arts have transformed the school. Classroom teachers are developing skills and confidence in using the arts during and beyond their collaboration with teaching artists in the school. They are succeeding in reaching academically challenged students. Students willingly come to school to participate in a range of arts activities. Bailey proclaims, "As a result of the Partnership program, PS 2X has developed a culture in which the arts are an integral part of the total instructional program." 

Parents will benefit *(continued from page 3)*

One of the new resources created for the NEA/PAAP initiative is *Involving Parents and Schools in Arts Education: Are We There Yet?* It is a printed guide that helps public school communities build parental involvement in and through the arts. The guide includes practical tips on how to encourage parent participation and implement hands-on arts activities for parents and families. For example, it provides information on how to develop a school arts inventory, assemble an arts leadership team and create a family arts day. The guide, initially created with funds from the Center through a 2001–2003 Curriculum Development & Access Leadership grant, was developed by Oakland Gardens School PS 203, in Queens. It is available in English and Spanish on www.cae-nyc.org/resources/publications.htm and is being disseminated to schools and parents throughout the City at cultural and community-based organizations, seminars, conferences, special events, and regional Parent Coordinator meetings.

Another component of the NEA/PAAP initiative is an exhibit of parents' artwork that will open to the public in January 2005 at the Center's Gallery at 180 Maiden Lane. In conjunction with this exhibit, a series of talks led by Jenny Monick, the exhibit curator, will provide an opportunity for peer exchange among the 2004–2005 PAAP Project Contacts. These talks will enable participants to share insights into their programs.

The NEA is also funding the Center's Parents As Career Partners (PACP) workshops, offered as part of Partnerships for After School Education's (PASE) series of Arts Career Expos. These workshops will provide families of middle and high school students with tips and tools for exploring careers in the arts. For details about the PASE Arts Career Expos, please visit www.pasesetter.org.

Thanks to the NEA's funding, more schools are engaging parents and empowering them to become arts education advocates. 

THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN

Laurie M. Tisch

VICE CHAIRMEN

Jody Gottfried Arnhold

Blair W. Effron

John Hannan

BOARD MEMBERS

Richard A. Barasch

Schuyler Chapin

Judith K. Dimon

Peter Duchin

Arthur Greenberg

Kitty Carlisle Hart

Joel I. Klein

Michael Lofton

Carol Loewenson

Christina M. Mason

Mark Pearlman

David Sherman

David Shookhoff

Diane Heidt Steinberg

Jane Stern

Beth Uffner

NEW YORK CITY EX OFFICIO

Michael R. Bloomberg

Mayor

Gifford Miller

Speaker, City Council

William C. Thompson, Jr.

Comptroller

Kate D. Levin

Commissioner,
Department of Cultural
Affairs

STAFF

Richard Kessler

Executive Director

Joe Bardales

Administrative Manager

Blair Bitters

Senior Program Associate

Rudy Colon

Office Manager

Russell Granet

Associate Program Director

Leslie Hunt

Assistant Program Director

Kpoene' Kofi-Bruce

Assistant to the
Executive Director

Stephanie Fekety Kornfeld

Assistant Director of
Development

Marshall Jones Kumahor

Assistant Program Director

Eve Levy

Director of Development

Aida Marcktel

Director of Finance

Greg McCaslin

Director of Programs

Sara Straus

Senior Program Associate

Wendy Weisman

Communications Associate

Judith Weiss

Director of Communications