

"Sing...Dance...Paint... Discover an art form that connects you to others." Janice Tanton, TEDx Calgary.

Arts–Infused Learning aims to help students find **Connection**, with art and with artists in our community, as well as their own unique abilities, interests, and passions. Through Exploration, Expression and Exposition, student engagement is heightened and students develop a deep understanding of the subject and art form.

In the 2010–2011 school year, grades 3 and 4 students were engaged in two major Arts–Infused Learning initiatives.

Grade 4 students had the opportunity to choose an art form to explore with a variety of artists from our community, who generously volunteered their time. The artists and art forms were: Helen Rolfe and Kat Wiebe, scriptwriting; Ray Reddekop, songwriting; Joe Bembridge, drama; Kelly Schovanek, photography; Conrad Habing, drawing; Wanda Ellerbeck, sculpture; the Biosphere Institute, documentary filmmaking; and our own teacher–librarian, Sandra Becker, claymation.

Student response was overwhelming, and so was the artists'! We applied for and received a grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to continue to develop this aspect of Arts–Infused Learning, and are excited to work on a project of increased scope: **This year grade 4 students** will express topics from the Social Studies curriculum (Alberta's history and geography, basically) in a chosen art form. Our roster of artists is: Helen Rolfe, Kat Wiebe, Joe Bembridge, Kelly Schovanek, Conrad Habing, Wanda Ellerbeck, Cori Brewster, Leanne Allison and Rowan Hill.

Grade 3 students worked on another Arts–Infused Learning project with Joe Bembridge. Joe visited classes regularly to develop dramatic skills: movement, improvization, character development and story. Students created original short plays which were presented in a very unique way: We transformed spaces (the library, the office, even a staff washroom!) throughout the school and had the audience tour from one presentation to another. We were grateful for the costuming expertise of April Browning, who generously volunteered her time.

Keep checking our website for updates on Arts–Infused Learning. We look forward sharing more information on our artists. Grade 4 students will be developing their project for presentation in spring 2012.

"Come Grow with Us!"
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