



*Welcome to the ArtsNow Newsletter!*

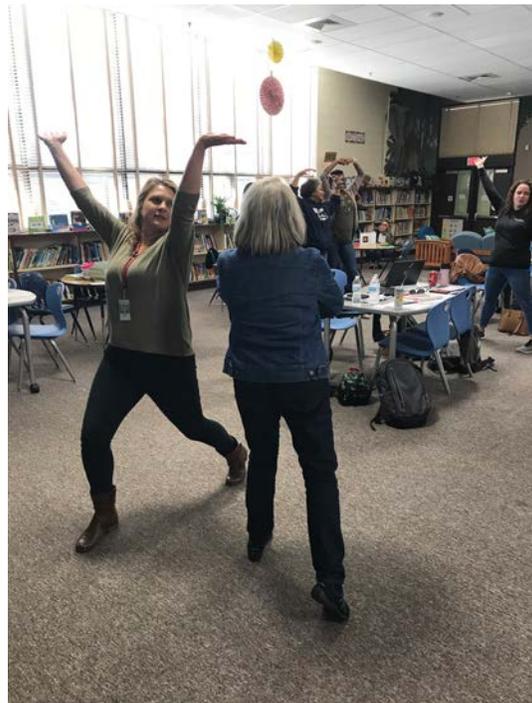
## **JANUARY EDITION**

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### **Cobb Arts4All**

ArtsNow Learning is working with a cohort of teachers in Cobb County who are new to arts integration. Participating schools sent grade level teams to full-day training starting with dance consultant, Whitney Snuggs, and then with visual arts consultant, Shannon Green. The teachers engaged in hands-on learning opportunities specific to their grade level content and standards. ArtsNow Learning consultants will follow-up with demonstration lessons at the participating schools to explore dance and visual arts integration in action. We are excited to see more teachers utilize the power of arts integration across Cobb County!



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## Centennial Academy Charter School

January was a very busy and exciting month at Centennial! Pamela Walker and Crystal Collins began with an arts integration introductory session with their teacher leader team. They are an excellent group of educators who are going to fully implement newly learned strategies within their classrooms! Feedback from the administrative team has been so encouraging, as they are

already seeing the strategies within lessons they are observing!

Later in the month, Susie Spear Purcell (theater consultant) and Crystal Collins conducted student demonstration lessons and teacher planning sessions that included debriefs of all of the observations. It was a great day of professional learning, and the students' depth of understanding and level of engagement was incredible!

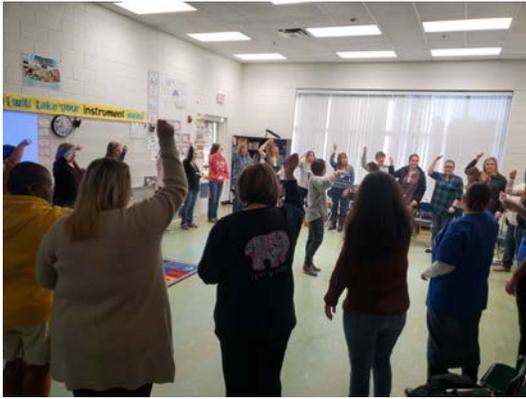


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## **New Hope Elementary School in Henry County**

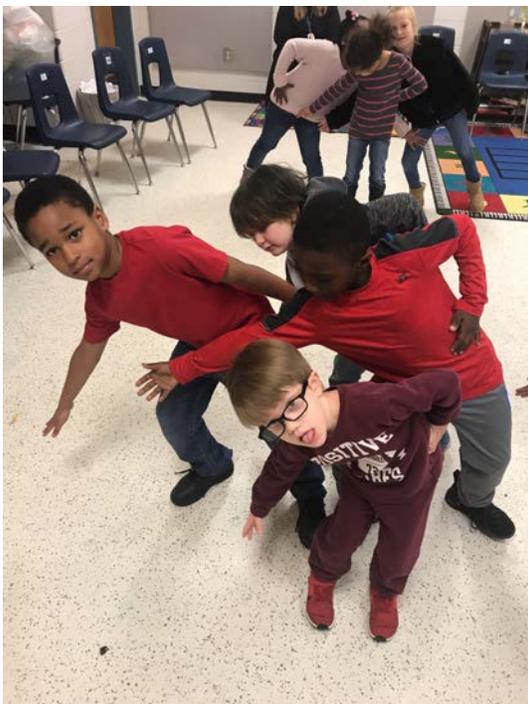
Upon returning from the winter break, ArtsNow Learning kicked off the new year with the full staff of New Hope Elementary School. Pamela Walker kicked the day off with a review of arts integration versus arts enhancement and reviewed the arts standards provided by the Georgia Department of Education.

We then had break out sessions conducted by Melissa Ditmar Joy (dance consultant) and Susie Spear Purcell (theater consultant). They both provided integration strategies and unpacked the standards with the staff. We reviewed vocabulary and had time for unit planning with the teachers. It was a great day of professional learning in Henry County!



## Hephzibah, Georgia

January was also very busy in Hephzibah, Georgia. At the beginning of the month, Susie Spear Purcell and Crystal Collins worked with students of Hephzibah Middle School and Hephzibah High School to integrate theater strategies with literacy standards. Students used open scenes and monologues to deepen understanding of Animal Farm. Other students worked with theme, setting, and plot through the elements of tableau. Later in the month, Melissa Ditmar Joy was at Goshen Elementary School, Shannon Green was at Willis Foreman Elementary School, and Susie Spear Purcell was at Hephzibah Middle School. We implemented demonstration lessons and planning sessions for teachers to have ideas moving into Black History Month. Alvin Ailey, Alma Woodsey Thomas, and Nellie Mae Roe were the inspirations for the lessons!





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## East Clayton Elementary School

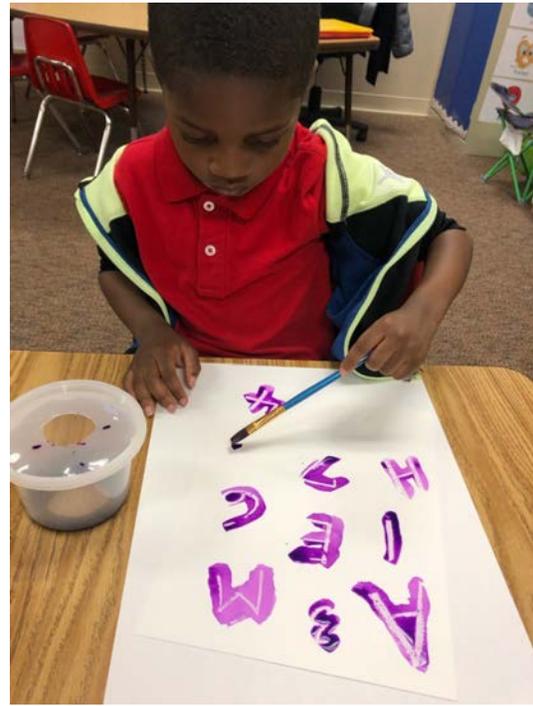
We began a new partnership with a core leadership team from East Clayton Elementary School, including the principal, Dr. Freda Givens. ArtsNow Learning will provide professional development in four of the five art forms before the end of the year. Their first experience was with music integration, led by Darlene Guida. The team wrote original lyrics and created original compositions based on The Little Blue Engine. Mrs. Guida introduced notation through math integration. It was a great day in Clayton County!



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## Zion Baptist Academy

Visual arts consultant Shannon Green, and Curriculum Consultant Les Conley, worked with pre-k through first grade students at Zion Baptist Academy. Pre-k and kindergarten students explored the elements of art while learning about letters and letter sounds. Les attended the planning session with all teachers in order to debrief the lessons they observed, as well as to provide ideas and strategies for upcoming lessons.



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## **AAEDD Principals' Retreat**

**Charleston principal Judith Condon, Savannah principals Sylvia Wallis, Alonna Curry, and Aysha Parks joined Pamela Walker, Whitney Snuggs, Crystal Collins, and external evaluator Melinda Mollette for our annual principals' retreat at Lake Lanier Islands. We spent two days reviewing the grant's progress to this point, and then made plans moving forward. Dr. Mollette lead a data review conversation to ensure we were meeting the grant's outcomes and expectations. The principals all brought artifacts from their schools documenting arts integration in the area of literacy. Whitney did a great job of organizing the event and created a minute-to-minute agenda ensuring we were able to meet the goals of the two days.**



## Angel Oak Elementary, Charleston, SC

Due to the success of our partnership with Angel Oak, and the support the school is receiving from the AAEDD federal grant, principal Judith Condon saw a need to include pre-k teachers in arts integration professional learning. With funding provided by the district in order to support Mrs. Condon's vision, ArtsNow Learning was able to spend a day with pre-k teachers from Angel Oak and North Charleston Creative Arts elementary schools. Our focus was dance and movement strategies, and we then conducted student demonstration lessons in the Angel Oak pre-k classrooms.



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