



Newsletter | February 2025
We bring learning to life every month!



Lake City, SC: Reading Rondos

Teachers and students at J.C. Lynch and Lake City Early Learning Center explored why we dance and how it connects to literature. Students learned that a rondo in dance is a repeated pattern that returns to a theme. Kindergarten through fifth graders created their own rondos to illustrate the main idea of a passage. Other classes used a Magic Machine dance to retell stories, using movement to highlight key moments. Smiles and laughter filled the schools as students expressed stories through dance.



Pee Dee, SC: Deepening Student Learning

Andrews Elementary, now in its third year with ArtsNOW, is focused on collaboratively planning integrated lessons. Music Consultant Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White helped teachers integrate soundscapes and rhythmic speech into lessons. At Sampit Elementary, Visual Arts Consultant Stephanie Lancaster introduced oil pastel techniques, guiding students in making artistic choices about color and texture. Students used these strategies to document scientific observations and design fraction art inspired by Piet Mondrian. Through these creative approaches, they deepened their understanding of core subjects while exploring music and visual arts.



Savannah, GA: Dramatic Strategies for Classroom Success

Savannah-Chatham County School System teachers explored innovative ways to engage students with Theatre Consultant Barry Stewart Mann. He introduced theatre games and activities that integrate into the curriculum while supporting student and teacher well-being. These strategies foster creativity, communication, and critical thinking. The workshop inspired teachers to use theatrical methods to enhance learning, boost student involvement, and create a more dynamic classroom. Educators left with valuable tools to make theatre a powerful tool for engagement and academic success.



Midlands, SC: Learning Through Music & Movement

Logan Elementary students explored movement with Dance Consultant Chris Crabb, making mindful choices while embodying how plants, planets, and animals move. At Oakwood-Windsor Elementary, kindergarteners learned about South Carolina native Peg Leg Bates through a tap dance book and practiced tap steps with Crabb. East Alken School of the Arts welcomed two ArtsNOW Consultants. Music Consultant Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White helped students create rhythmic phrases to deepen understanding, while Dance Consultant Melissa Joy led movement-based lessons that connected math, science, and writing.



Sandy Springs, GA: Collaboration is Key

Fulton County principals participating in the Whitehead Foundation Grant through ArtsNOW meet quarterly to support and learn from one another. Each session is held at one of four schools, where the host principal shares arts integration successes and how they align with school and district initiatives. This quarter, the group visited Ison Springs Elementary School, joined by ArtsNOW Liaisons from each school. Collaborative discussions were a highlight, along with a school tour where principals observed Process Boards and ArtsNOW strategies in action with teachers.





North Charleston, SC: Creative Connections

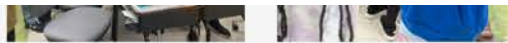
At North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary, Visual Arts Consultant Stephanie Lancaster introduced teachers to oil pastel techniques like blending, resist, and sgraffito, exploring ways to incorporate them into lessons. Fourth graders created geometric shapes using a vanishing point, pattern, and value. First graders designed artwork using only their favorite color and then graphed the class's color choices for analysis. Kindergarteners completed a directed drawing activity reinforcing positional words like above, below, beside, and on. The visit was filled with creativity and meaningful connections between art and learning.



Union City, GA: Do You See What I See?

At Gullatt Elementary, students and teachers used their imaginations to make learning fun. Fourth and fifth graders analyzed photographs from the Oregon Trail and the Great Depression, writing dramatic compositions from a character's perspective. First and second graders used high and low voices while moving their bodies to bring characters to life. Kindergarteners explored different story settings by traveling around the room. Smiles and laughter filled the space as students embraced drama strategies, and teachers left excited to incorporate them into future lessons.





Clayton County, GA: Building Literacy, Sparking Joy

At **East Clayton Elementary**, students and families gathered outside for a special book giveaway with ArtsNOW. Thanks to the Reimagining and Accelerating Literacy through Arts Integration (REALAI) grant, K-5 students received books and arts integration supplies that matched activities in the Creativity Task Cards. This marks the second year books were distributed, with families picking up materials to support learning at home. In addition to student giveaways, books were provided to the school to help build classroom libraries. Excitement filled the event as students received books of their own to keep, fostering a love of reading and creativity.



Upstate, SC: Integrating the Arts Across the Upstate

At **New Prospect Elementary** and **Centerville Elementary**, Music Consultant Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White engaged students in rhythmic speech activities, exploring topics from shapes to the Revolutionary War. Second graders expressed coin values, while fifth graders demonstrated plot elements in eight-beat phrases. At **Holly Springs-Motlow Elementary**, Dance Consultant Simone Liberty guided Ms. Fowler's kindergarten class in embodying arctic animals through movement, choreographing group dances that highlighted animal traits. At **Berea Elementary**, Theatre Consultant Barry Stewart Mann introduced theatre integration strategies, helping students mirror their partner's body language. At **Inman Elementary**, Music Consultant Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes showed teachers how to integrate music into math and language arts through songs, soundscapes, and data collection activities.



Augusta, GA: Art Meets Curriculum

At **Deer Chase Elementary**, Visual Arts Consultant Katy Betts collaborated with teachers and students to integrate art across subjects. Teachers created Zine books connecting the Elements of Art to standards in visual arts, language arts, and social studies. Students explored these connections by designing Kandinsky-inspired place value art in math and symbolic portraits of Frederick

Douglass and John Lewis in social studies. Working in groups, they researched and brainstormed symbols representing these historical figures' contributions, deepening their understanding through creative expression.



Register: **Demonstration of Learning Days**

Registration is now open for ArtsNOW Demonstration of Learning Days for 2024-2025. Join us and visit ArtsNOW Leadership Schools to see arts-integrated lessons in action. Our eight dates showcase different types of schools in Georgia and South Carolina.

[Register Now](#)

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