

# Art News

## Sussex Avenue Renew School

### Principal's words

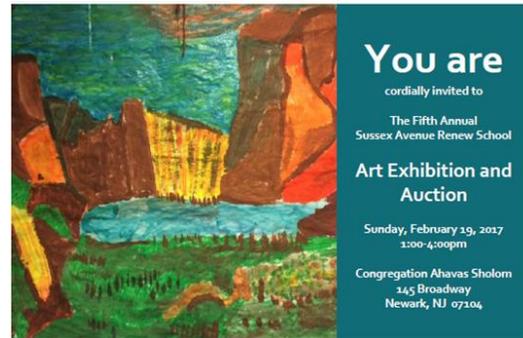
The Sussex Renew Arts integration includes Music and the Brain, Alvin Ailey, Photography, Guitar Residency, Community Installation and Ceramic Mural Art, Theater and Shakespeare. Classroom teachers, the art teacher, resident artists, local artists and musicians, professional dancers, the New Jersey Council of the Arts, as well as community organizations, churches and synagogues collaboratively build our program so that students feel better about themselves, their lives and school through an appreciation of the arts. Sussex Renew innovates!

### Visual Arts

By: Mr. Alvarez

The 2016-17 Sussex Avenue Renew School Visual Arts Program has focused in creating a more efficient and productive sustainability program with the introduction of new partners that have brought additional resources and services to our students. The program had begun focusing on rigorous teaching and helping students to prepare for the next step in life, high school and college. With the support of the administration and community organizations, the SARS Visual Arts Program is becoming a more sustainable and integral part of our school community through an implementation of visual art, community repair and renewal through ceramic and installation murals, and photography.

### Art Auction



The Fifth Annual Art Exhibition and Auction is a fund raising initiative to support special projects that will provide students with different experiences within our school community. Past proceeds have been used to fund the Sussex Renew Every Child Should Ride Program in which thirty bicycles were purchased to incorporate bicycles into the physical education classes. Proceeds have also been used to fund a digital photography program and expand our mural art program to transform the life of people not only in the school but also in our community.

### Music

By : Mr Jones

Recently I had the pleasure of assisting two of Sussex Renew's students, Tyshaun Thomas and Nallely Diaz, with their vocal audition piece for Arts High School. I was excited about the opportunity to help them, but my back ground is in instrumental music not vocal performance. With only three

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Mr. Alvarez	Mr. Marin	Mrs. Gearhart, Mr. Wittenbauer, Mr. Jones. Ms. Sailer, Mr. Alvarez

weeks to whip them in shape we hit the ground running. The first few practices were rough. I have to admit I was worried that I wouldn't be able to prepare them for their audition. But one afternoon Tyshaun and Nallely came into rehearsal with a sense of ease and confidence that I haven't seen before in them. From that point on they made major improvements in their audition pieces, in their performances, and in their confidence. I spoke to the students after their auditions and they mentioned that they felt really good about it and were excited about the possibility of getting into the school. Unfortunately we will have to wait and see if they made it into Arts High. It was my pleasure to get the opportunity to get Tyshaun and Nallely prepared for their audition. They may tell you that I taught them something and they learned a lot but it was I who learned a valuable lesson; "when you become a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught."



Sussex Ave Renew has many upcoming events. Students will be taking part of an Arts initiative that brings in local artists, musicians and actors to teach the students about the ARTS.

March 24: Artist Sam Nygard of Rebel Child Design will teach the students about 2D and 3D images.

<https://www.facebook.com/artmoneylove/>

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March 29: Dr. Jeremy Fletcher of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark will visit Sussex Review to demonstrate different instruments and teach music theory.

March 31<sup>st</sup>: Ken Golden, a local comedian and music industry representative, will teach students how to succeed in the music industry and the dynamics of comedy.

April 4: Dan Swern of coLAB Arts will teach theatre and how acting can help students read. <http://www.colab-arts.org>

## Poetry

By: Mr. Wittenbauer

### *"The Crushing Feeling"*

When the sun is bright and sweet  
 Flowers blooming the bees  
 Hum hum humming ants  
 Run run running  
 People walking jogging and all

But crushing crush  
 Crushing all the ants  
 Down below like  
 How a human crushes  
 Someone else's heart  
 But for me it's  
 Depression crushing my heart.

By: Algernon Bhoomz 11/1/16  
 (Inspired by Robert Frost)

### *"Love that Candy"*

Love that candy  
 Like you love your mom  
 I said I love that candy  
 Like you love your mom.  
 Love to share it with  
 My friends, yum, yum, yum!!!

By Kazarah Campbell 10/25/16  
 (Inspired by Walter Dean Myers)

***“Taisha’s Transformation”***

The first year – in my theatre class:

High cheek-bones, teeth pearly white  
Pretty, graceful, and yet lean and mean  
5th grade muscles tiny, tight  
Bright eyes don’t hide “don’t mess!” sheen.

Called by name – first-response face  
Who are you? Who wants to know?  
Is she from such a tough place?  
And so it just seemed to go...

The second year – in the auditorium:

In breezed Alvin Ailey dance  
One man led our 6th grade students  
To on point-- from happenstance  
Taisha glowed, such presence!

Center stage she aptly took  
And that cookie-cutter pout  
Crumbled way to dazzling smile - a hook  
For anyone near about.

The third year – in the hallways:

Now I see her here and there  
When she allows being seen  
Hard shell back, “devil may care”  
Yet still inspired with calm “being.”

I raved of her to Arts team  
Their response - so write review  
“Sure” my glib reply – a dream  
Already too much to do...!

No true poet by any means  
Not even great teacher – yet..  
But Taisha’s dance gleans  
Why I stake this Sussex Ave School bet!

--by John Wittenbauer  
 (“Mr. Witt”)



**Notes About Renew the Arts**

By Mr. Alvarez

Newark Public Schools Renew the Arts Initiative was established in 2013 to explore and pilot strategies that ensure all students are receiving rigorous sequential arts programming and exposure to high quality community arts experiences. Findings from this initiative help inform a larger, district wide arts education strategy to support the following two goals: i) To expand NPS students' access to rigorous, sequential arts programming in multiple art forms, and ii) To ensure all NPS students have exposure to high quality arts experiences in the community. To date, Sussex Renew has been one of the first and last schools to receive funding from this initiative which has fostered a systemic integration of Arts throughout our school.

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## Artists in Residency



By: Kit Sailer  
Mosaic at Sussex Avenue Renew School

This year the 6th and 8th graders are working with resident artist Kit Sailer to create a glass tile mosaic mural. The students have been working on the mosaic since October. They began their artistic endeavor with a field trip to the Newark Museum to become inspired by examples of mosaics and public art.

Working with music as their theme, the students met with visiting artist Mike “President” Philson to write raps. Images described in the raps were used to generate drawings, and key lines were excerpted to include in the mosaic as text. Each class organized their drawings within larger musical shapes; a microphone, a music note, a piano lid; to create an energetic and colorful design.

Luminous glass tiles are being used for this mosaic. Their grainy texture make them easy cut and safe to handle. The process requires patience and concentration, and the students have worked hard to master this art form.

The mosaic mural is almost done. It will be installed outside in the playground later in the spring when the temperature warms.

This project is made possible through an Artist-in-Education Grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. This is the third year that Sussex Avenue Renew School has received the grant. We thank them for this opportunity and their incredible support.

## Upcoming Events

April 28, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
Focus Poetry Slam

May 18, 5:30 pm – 6:30pm  
Focus Hispanic Heritage Art Expo

May 25, 3:30 pm – 6:00pm  
Family Art Day

May 25, 4:30 pm – 5:30pm  
Focus Talent Show

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