

Art News

Sussex Avenue Renew School

Principal's words

From Alvin Ailey to murals to instrumental music and next year, to Music and the Brain, Sussex Renew innovates! Our creative teachers are helping students feel better about themselves, their bodies, and school through the arts.

By: Principal Gearhart

Visual Arts

The 2013-14 school year has been a time of incredible transformations at Sussex Avenue Renew School! Last year, the students at Sussex Ave School received art class once a week. This school year, in order to expose students to a more intense and dynamic arts experience, the Art Program has been reorganized by semester. Lower grades will receive art class three times a week during the first semester. Upper elementary and middle school students will have their turn in the second semester. Moreover, in an effort to diversify the art experience in our school, the art program will start adding more complex art media to our repertoire in the form of ceramics and photography classes. At Sussex Avenue Renew School, we subscribe to the vision that there is an artist inside each one of us, and it is our job to provide opportunities for students to become artists.

Music

New to the Sussex Ave. Renew school is instrumental music, where 4th grade students

are learning how to read and write musical notation, clap, sing and play rhythms, and perform solo or as a part of an instrumental ensemble. While we wait for instruments to be delivered, students are already engaged in musical performance by using their bodies and voices as musical instruments, employing daily objects found in the classroom for musical production as well as playing a select number of instruments currently available. By the end of this year, we look forward to performing at least one concert and provide music for another performance by the entire 4th grade. In the upcoming years we will be expanding to the upper grades as the program grows and improves. Stay tuned as we ROCK ON!

By: Mr. Eveland. Music Teacher.

Drama

Mr. Witt's 4th grade ELA class is slowly embarking on creating a play that uses the *Expeditionary Learning* curriculum's Iroquois Indians' evolution from five warring tribes to one united nation as a metaphor for an anti-bully/ anti-gang production. Although there are some challenges (not a lot of time and not enough participants – currently there are two in Mr. Witt's 7-8 A.M. Tuesday and Thursday drama classes), the SHOW MUST GO ON! Therefore, Mr. Witt has picked up the script-writing slack and so far has two scenes written. His two morning FOCUS members (sisters Jenascia and Jemalie Mercado) are

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Mr. Alvarez	Mrs. Jara	Mr. Marin	Mrs. Gearhart Mr. Eveland Mr. Wittenbauer Mrs. Cano

actively rehearsing them as they work on further script development.

It is Mr. Witt’s hope to partner with Mr. Eveland for foot-stomping, thigh-slapping, whooping, tribe-chanting effects. Additional collaboration will occur between Mr. Witt’s class and Mr. Eveland and Mr. Alvarez for some simple set-design, building, and decorating as we approach the spring 2014 season at Sussex.

Stay tuned!

By: Mr. Wittenbauer

Notes About Renew the Arts

For the 2013-14 school year, Sussex Ave Renew School was selected as part of the Renew the Arts program. Renew the Arts is a district initiative to help Newark Public Schools develop the arts. As part of that initiative, our school has been given access to important resources and trainings for art teachers. One of the benefits of this initiative includes the creation of a first-ever ceramic art class at Sussex Avenue Renew!

Art Partners

The Sussex Ave Renew School Art program is working in partnership with an important group of institutions to support the arts in the school. These local community organizations include: My Block, My Family, My Village and The Newark Museum. We are currently working on establishing new partnerships with The Newark Print Shop and Gallery Aferro.

In Their Own Words

Students and Teachers are excited about the Renew the Arts efforts at Sussex Avenue Renew. Here is what some of them have to say:

“Our 5th grade students have helped transform the once gloomy, dull-painted auditorium into a bright, colorful, welcoming place to be...Students take pride in their painting.”

Ms. Cano, Kindergarten Teacher

“A mí me gusta arte porque cuando sea grande quiero estudiar para ser una pintora. A mí me gusta pintar el muro porque estoy aprendiendo como pintar.”

Hismeiry Rodriguez-Reyes, Grade 5

“I like art because I love painting and coloring. The mural represents the earth and the animals that give us life and food.”

Andrea Maldonado, Grade 5

“I think it’s a way to help me to see how good my skills are. I like art because I get a chance to paint again and I can be with my two favorite teachers [Mr. Alvarez and Ms. Cano].”

Amos Jackson, Grade 5

“A mí me gusta [el programa de arte] porque cuando sea grande voy a ser pintora y voy a tener un programa de arte.”

Jeidy Rodriguez-Reyes, Grade 5

“The painting to me is ...alive. I love art!”

Kaborei Wade, Grade 5

Artists in Residency

Sussex Avenue Renew School was selected to participate in the AIR program. The AIR (Artists in Residency program) program is organized by the Newark Museum. As part of the program our 5th grade students will receive 9 photography classes, with an artist selected by the Museum. The program also includes a Museum visit and a student artwork exhibition at the Newark Museum.

Events

The Art Program will play a major role in the following future events:

- Thanksgiving Dinner November 28 from 11.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
- End of the year Celebration in December

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