

# arts INfusion

May 2010

## A publication of Shelby County Schools Fine Arts Department

Department of  
Curriculum and Accountability

### Exciting Arts Infusion Events at E.A. Harrold and Rivercrest Elementary

#### Opera Memphis and The Commercial Appeal To Feature SCS Students and Teachers

Monday, May 10 will be a very exciting day for a select group of students from E.A. Harrold Elementary School. These students have been invited to sing with the Opera Memphis cast of *Hansel and Gretel* at their Education Showcase concert at 7 p.m. This opportunity came about as a result of a performance at E.A. Harrold by Opera Memphis on Tuesday, May 4. Nealie Dean, music teacher at E.A.

Harrold, chose a small group of students to perform in the "chorus" section of the school performance. Opera Memphis Assistant Education Director Steven Carey was so impressed with their ability to quickly learn the music, he invited the chorus students to sing at their annual Education Showcase, a sampling of all the programs offered to Memphis area schools.

and Vernessa Lester, arts infusion team members, have taken their new knowledge of arts infusion and have begun to implement arts activities into their daily teaching. Portia Tate, principal at Rivercrest Elementary, is excited to see more of her teachers begin to adopt the arts infusion approach to teaching.

Kudos to the teachers and students at E.A. Harrold and Rivercrest Elementary!

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Rivercrest Elementary teachers will be interviewed and observed this Tuesday, May 11 by The Commercial Appeal for an upcoming story on the arts infusion project. Camela Blanchard



The contents of this brochure were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy for the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

## Words of Wisdom

### Quotes on the arts

*Without music, life would be a mistake-* Friedrich Nietzsche

*Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep-* Scott Adams

*Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures-*  
Henry Ward Beecher

*Music to me is like breathing - I don't get tired of breathing, I don't get tired of music-* Ray Charles

*Anyone who says you can't see a thought simply doesn't know art-*  
Wynetka Ann Reynolds

*Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks-*  
Simonides

*I shut my eyes in order to see-*  
Paul Gauguin



## LIGHTNING!

I was lying in the bed, about to fall asleep, and the power starts flickering on and off! I tried to walk to the living room with my parents, but I couldn't see a thing. I ran into the wall about 10 times! I finally made it to the living room and my parents weren't in there! I looked out the door to see if they were outside and a bolt of lightning came down about 20 feet away from where I was standing! It was so scary! I ran back to my room, didn't run into a wall, and called out my mom's name. It turns out, the whole time they were in their room asleep

## Students sing, write about and paint "Lightning" at Millington Middle School

Millington Middle School choir director Sara Yarley found a creative way to infuse visual art and creative writing with a piece of music on the schedule for the spring concert. The 7th and 8th grade choir had been working on composer Greg Gilpin's "Lightning," a song filled with imagery and word painting, a musical technique that uses sounds and words to create a mental picture in the mind of the listener. When Ms. Yarley began to consider how she would infuse visual art and writing into her teaching, the song presented a perfect opportunity.

Months ago, Yarley selected the song to be performed at the choir's spring concert. In January, Millington Middle School was selected as a pilot school in the Arts Infusion Project, and teachers from the school began receiving professional development in the arts infused approach to teaching. With her new found knowledge of arts infusion, Yarley made a plan for using the song as a focus of an arts infusion unit of study.

Choir students began by writing about their experiences with lightning and storms. Once the journal writings to be used for the project were selected and edited, students created a visualization of their writing by using finger paints and construction paper. Finally, the students displayed their writing and artwork at their spring concert performance of "Lightning."

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## Arts Infusion News

The official web page for the Shelby County Arts Infusion Project is now online! Please visit our site, which is linked on the SCS home page.

If you are an arts infusion teaching member at your school and you have not registered for the summer workshop, you may do so by clicking on the registration link on the SCS Arts Infusion web site.

The Shelby County Arts Infusion Project is generating attention in the Memphis area. Continue to watch local newspapers and television stations for upcoming news on our project.

*Arts INfusion*, the official newsletter for the Shelby County Schools Arts Infusion Project, will take a break in June and July, but will return in August 2010 with a special edition on the 1st Annual Summer Arts Infusion Workshop.

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