

## Passionate Connections Conference

We hope that most of our members were able to attend the Passionate Connections Conference held on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Caboto Centre. We believed that the conference was a success after hearing comments from participants on Thursday and Friday, but upon reviewing evaluations we were extremely pleased with the positive comments and insights of our members.



Thursday night's Celebration of Students' Art featured a visual arts display from students throughout the city and performances by the Miles Mac Jazz Ensemble, Grosvenor School Dancers and the Margaret Park Elementary Drama group. Interspersed with the student presentations, Winnipeg professional artists such as Lita Fontaine, Rachel Browne, Steve Kirby and Nancy Drake discussed how they gained their inspiration and how they learned to passionately embrace their art form.

Comments from Thursday's participants:

- *I was inspired by Nancy Drake and Rachel Browne - learning and creating continue as long as one lives, it changes to fit where we are in life, whether a teacher, a student, young or not so young. Passion is life is Passion.*

*Good and interesting mix of speakers - each confirming the richness and reward a love of their art has brought to their lives and to sharing their passion with others.*

Friday's conference began with Keynote Speaker, internationally acclaimed artist, singer and songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie. Ms Sainte-Marie is a passionate advocate of the power of art to change lives. She emphasized the need to allow children of all ages to explore their own creativity, without imposing so many rules on them. She asked us how we as educators can nurture the creative process. It is this creative process, not the final product which is important if we are to truly develop creative individuals. Participants found her to be inspiring, uplifting and dynamite!



Workshops the rest of the day explored ways in which a passion for the arts can be enhanced. We thank all our workshop facilitators for their excellent work as they inspired so many people.

Comments from Friday's participants:



- *Be yourself so that children can be motivated by your passion.*
- *Creativity can open worlds. We need to keep the fun in the arts.*
- *I now have so many ideas to share with my school; I wish they all could have been here. I loved this day!*
- *The conference was so inspiring and I personally felt rejuvenated after listening to so many talented people. It was wonderful to re-learn that learning and creating isn't just for the children... it is a gift for as long as we care to experience it.*

Participant would like to see us organize more activities like this, in which we can all share hands-on experiences. So that we don't preach to the converted, it was suggested that we need to encourage the attendance of more people who can make decisions and influence what happens in the schools. We hope that we see you at future Alliance conferences.

## Welcome New Members

The Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba would like to welcome the following people to the Alliance's Lifetime Membership:

Bob Armstrong	Roger Binne	Kristine Emslie	Anne Johnson
Michael Bridgeford-Read	Laya Kneller	Joyce Mackay	Kristina Washchyshyn
Ilse Mohn	Mary Ferber	Miranda Chin	Joey Robertson
Christa Webster	Marylyn Fisher	Rita Hildahl	Peter Frigo
Gloria DeNeve	Deborah Henteleff	Pancho Puelles	Susan Cowtan
Noble Lalbiharie	Patti Matheson	Tracy Arias	Anna Marie Boquist
Janice Millar	Lynne Yetman	Erin Crocker	Sandra Wiebe
Bev Greenberg	Alana Chernecki	Terry Cooke	Sandra Komishon
Chris Krucko	Evelyn Meikle	Renée McGurry	Anastasia Sych-Yereniuk
Elizabeth Boczowski	Ellen Cook	Erika Uustalu-Nicholson	Pegi McGillivray
John Barrett	Jordy Walker	Annelie Peters	Gerald Farthing
Glen Bergman	Wendy Ledger	Sue Proctor	Claire Weiss
Catherine Robertson	Martha Graham	Leanna Loewen	Faye Tardiff
Paulette Chartrand	Phoebe Man	Patti Fernie	Elwick Community School
Patricia Keating	Angela Fey	Mary Louise Chown	Maple Leaf School
Melanie Fenton	Karen Hartikainen	Raye Anderson	Western School Division
Bryan Magnusson	Cathy Horbas	Danelle Reid	St. Avila School
Tracey Cervantes	Cristina Almeida	Howard Ryant	
Ruth Livingston	Eileen Funk	Nancy Finlay	
Renée Gillis	Patty Hobson	Sandra Benum	

## Full Page Ads in the Free Press

We are currently working with graphic design company, Doowah Design, to create full page advertisements that will be in the Winnipeg Free Press in the fall. Free, some of you may ask? To further inform everyone in Manitoba as to the values of a strong arts education for ALL students in the province and to remind policy and decision makers of their commitment and responsibility to arts education. These full-page ads will be a component of a larger advocacy campaign that will be the focus of the Alliance's work over the next year. Please look for these ads in the fall and the follow-up material that will be sent out for you to post, share, and celebrate.

## Co-Chairs Report

Another busy year with the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba. Jey was invited to attend the Manitoba Arts Network 2005 Manitoba Showcase: Engaging Your Community, in Virden Manitoba in late October. She commented that it was wonderful to meet so many people who care passionately about the arts and arts education. Jey was invited to speak on two panels during the conference, and the focus of each was: 1. Arts Education Opportunities: Resources and Programming, and 2. Partnerships with Business and Schools: Exploring the Potential to Develop Relationships. Each session went well with many thoughtful questions from the audience. It was particularly joyful to show our video, *Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter*. While many members had seen the video before, they were re-inspired by watching it once again. Have you seen the video lately? It truly is wonderful and a joyous reminder of why the work that we do is so important. Many thanks to Lydia Giles and the team at Manitoba Arts Network for such an inspiring weekend.

Our focus this past winter was on the preparations for the February, 2006 conference, *Passionate Connections*. The board of directors pulled together, worked amazingly hard and under the guidance of Liz Coffman, presented this amazing conference. Please read more about the conference in this newsletter.

We are now planning the AGM for the AAEM. The 2006 Annual General Meeting will be on **Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at Urban Shaman Gallery**. Please join us to: celebrate the past year; view fabulous art; listen to Steve Loft speak; and share in some wine and cheese.

Sincerely,

Jey Thibedeau Silver & Gordon Campbell  
Co-Chairs, AAEM

## Welcome to New Members

A sincere welcome to the 76 new members that have registered with the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba in the past 8 months. Wow, we now have almost 400 members province-wide. We appreciate your support, rely on your input and guidance and welcome your involvement in all aspects of the organization. If you would like to volunteer your time to help us with different projects, please email our Coordinator, Sylvie Cottee at [scottee\\_AAEM@shaw.ca](mailto:scottee_AAEM@shaw.ca).

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Individual Membership \$15.00  
Organizational Membership \$25.00  
Student Membership \$5.00  
(These are one-time membership fees.)  
Charitable donations accepted.  
Tax receipts issued.

Mail Cheque or Money Order To:

ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION  
C/O SYLVIE COTTEE, COORDINATOR  
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### "Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter"

is a video that celebrates dance, music, art and drama and informs the viewers of the many benefits of an education rich in the arts - \$15.00/copy. E-mail Sylvie Cottee at [scottee\\_AAEM@shaw.ca](mailto:scottee_AAEM@shaw.ca).