

ARTS @ Dorchester Academy

November, 2014

Arts Department Newsletter



ARTS ALL AROUND US!

Our First Newsletter

Welcome students, teacher, families, and community members! This is our inaugural newsletter. Moving forward the DA Arts Department will release a monthly newsletter, which will feature class updates, upcoming events, and opportunities.

Meet the DA Arts Team!



Ms. Schuermann, *Visual Arts & Design Teacher*, teaches Foundations Visuals, Applied Design, and Creativity Lab II. The Arts Department would like to congratulate Ms. Schuermann on her acceptance into the competitive Dynamic Media Institute graduate program at MassArt.

Ms. Prefontaine, *Arts Director*, teaches Creativity Lab. She is happy to be returning for her third year at DA. This summer she and husband welcomed a baby girl into their family, Titilayo Grace.

Ms. Kronenberg, *Theatre Teacher*, teaches Intro to Theatre. Ms. K is happy to join the DA Arts team! She is a long time teaching artist with VSA Massachusetts and has taught in several BPS schools including Orchard Gardens K-8 school.

Creative Character Framework

The DA Arts Team has developed a new framework that outlines the non-cognitive competencies and 21st Century Skills that students learn through arts study. Check it out by clicking on the link below:

[CREATIVE CHARACTER](#)

October Students of the Month

Kiara Mitchell

Intro to Theatre, 2nd period

Dakarai Pittman

Intro to Theatre, 3rd period

Giro Garcia

Foundation Visual Arts, 3rd period

Calendar

November 20	DA/CASH Installation Opening
November 22	Afro-Caribbean Concert
December 1	Arts Seminar II



Above: Theatre students work on a tableaux exercise



Left: Visual Arts students visit the ICA and participate in the WallTalk program.

November Classes

Click on the links below to download class learning units for the month of November.

[Foundations of Visual Arts](#)

[Applied Design](#)

[Creativity Lab II](#)

[Intro to Theatre](#)

DA/CASH ART INSTALLATION PROJECT "SHARED COMMUNITY"

Dorchester Academy and CASH have teamed up to create a grand scale art installation in the school communal lobby on the theme of "Shared Community." In our new space, we have the unique opportunity to create new memories and a positive, inspired environment not only for our students, but also for our staff, the families we serve, and our neighbors. What better way to do so than through the arts?

Students have contributed their voices and vision by helping to develop the installation model, to create art packages for teachers, to motivate teachers to get involved, and to plan the installation reveal. Student artists believe the purpose of this project is to "...make our community more welcoming and beautiful. This creation will represent our individual schools and us as a whole. We want the first thing that visitors notice as they walk through the doors is something positive."

A special thanks to our partner sparc! the ArtMobile (CACP) @ MassArt and teaching artist, Richard Rozewski for spearheading this community arts initiative with us!

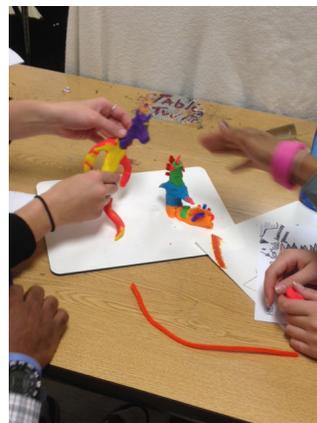
Join us for the Installation reveal on November 20. More details and invitation to follow soon!

Left: AfterHours Art Club Leaders collaborate on installation design and construction. *Right:* sparc! the Artmobile picking up supplies for the project.



MASSART STUDENT VISIT

On October 28, 2014, MassArt Professor and BPS Visual Arts Content Specialist (AND Founding DA Arts Director!) brought thirteen sophomore MassArt Art Education students to visit Dorchester Academy. The students' visit included arts class observation, a Q&A session with the arts team, a prep session for our community art installation, and one on one assistance in our Special Education Creativity Lab class. It was a wonderful experience! Thank you to Ms. Ortiz and the MassArt students. You are welcome back anytime!



Right Above: Students create creative creatures.

Far Right: MassArt students prep installation materials

Right Bottom: MassArt student helps DA student, Jullissa, with her artwork

Left: Ms. Ortiz and MassArt students





Left: Creativity Lab students perform

CREATIVITY LAB: DANCE RESIDENCY

Students in Ms. Prefontaine’s Creativity Lab spent several weeks in October learning about the discipline of dance. Master dance teacher, Jean Appolon, led students through warm-up activities and movement exercises. Mr. Appolon provided choreography for a culminating dance performance and empowered students to create their own steps. Students also chose a mash-up of music to compliment their moves. A big shout-out to Ms. Williams, a DA teacher and arts extraordinaire, who provided guidance and support to students in the creation of their dance piece. On October 28, Creativity Lab students performed the creative dance in an Artist Showcase for invited guests. Thank you to Ms. Moss for bringing her class and Mr. Zinkowski, Ms. Kronenberg, and Ms. Schuermann for attending! Creativity Lab’s next Artist Showcase will feature original music written and performed by the students!

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Haitian Folkloric Dance Class

The DA Arts Department held its first Family and Community Arts Event on October 25, a Haitian Folkloric Dance class taught by Master Dance teacher, Jean Appolon. The event was held in the gym and approximately 20 students, teachers, and families- young and young at heart- danced and sweated to heart-pumping music! Mr. Appolon taught participants a traditional Haitian dance while drummers played live music.

Shout outs to...

- Ms. Kronenberg and Ms. Williams, who attended and brought their daughters
- Our partners in crime at CASH, the Engagement team, Ms. Hassan and Mr. Grogan, who also attended
- Ms. Jaida Decoteau, DA Alumnae, demonstrated her artistic leadership
- Ms. Felika Poblak, DA Student, who volunteered her time to help greet participants and set up

Join us for our next FUN, FREE Family & Community Event!

Saturday, November 22, 2014
10:30 am-12:00 pm in the gym

Afro-Caribbean Concert With Cornell Coley and his band Afrika Gente

This interactive concert will take audience members on a journey from Africa to the Caribbean through beautiful music!



Above: Participants show off their dance moves!
And drummers make beats on Haitian and African drums.

**Click here to download a flier:
Afro-Caribbean Concert!**

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Far left: Erica Telisnor and Mr. Seiden share with the group



Left below: Mr. Yip and Ms. Moss prepare for the art activity

Direct left: The whole group!



TEACHERS

Arts Seminar I

The DA Arts Department held its first Arts Seminar for the DA community and partners in early October. Ms. Chandra Ortiz welcomed participants to her personal art studio at the League Women for Community Service in the South End. The beautiful venue provided an inspiring professional development session for all. The group engaged in meaningful conversation, hands-on activities, and art-making. Along the way, Ms. Ortiz modeled excellent teaching and learning practices and motivated all to collectively reflect. All of us picked up a few new tools to create more effective classroom culture settings.

Shout outs to...

- Mr. Yip, Ms. Moss, Mr. Seiden, Ms. Schuermann
- Ekua Holmes and Richard Rozewski, our partners from sparcl! the Artmobile
- Erica Telisnor, BAA ACC member, and DA teaching artist

Join us for our next Arts Seminar:

Monday, October 1, 2014
3:00-5:00 pm in the DA Arts Wing

VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) for the Classroom
with Nicole Agois, VSA Education Director

Click here to download a flier:
ARTS SEMINAR II

Dorchester Academy Arts Department

Our mission is to engage students in meaningful arts learning that transforms minds, classrooms, and our whole school community. By placing student voice at the core, our goal is to empower the artist within and to foster his or her individual artistic development, as he or she prepares for the 21st century workforce.



For more information about the DA Arts Department, please contact Ms. Prefontaine, *Arts Director*
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