

Oct / Nov
2008

Fine Arts Focus

Schenectady
High School

Principal's Column

First quarter grades are now complete. If your child's grades are not what you had hoped for there are many services available at Schenectady High School to assist them:

ARTS – Afterschool Resources Training and Support is the Sayles School of Fine Arts extended day program. It runs Monday – Thursday in FA7 from 3:15-4:45. We provide a daily snack, homework assistance; subject tutoring, and academic computer access. There is a designated late bus for the house afterschool programs at 4:45. Students that would like to attend just need to report at 3:15 to FA7. There are teachers from critical subject areas including Math, Reading, Special Education, and Social Studies that staff this program. Please encourage your child to attend.

Have you signed up for Home Access? You need to do so today! This will provide you with computer access to information everyday regarding your child's progress. Grades, attendance, discipline, and scheduling. When you have questions about a class the site provides quick links to the teacher's email address to find out more information. For more information see the district web site www.schenectady.k12.ny.us or stop in FA1 at the high school with photo identification required to register.

9th grade is a critical year. Team 9 will be scheduling parent conferences for students that are struggling. To request a conference contact Mr. Chank, Dean of Students.

Ensure your child is in school on time everyday. Attendance, attendance, attendance is one of the most important things you can do to be sure your child reaches his/her potential in school. School is now 30 minutes later than last year yet there are students that are late everyday. Reliability and promptness are key characteristic life skills that will prepare our children for beyond high school. Be sure your child is in school from 7:55-3:05 everyday.

I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Fine Arts Seminar

The Fine Arts Seminar recently read Sandra Cisneros', **The House on Mango Street**. Students then created and presented fine arts companion works based on chosen chapters. Currently students are pursuing autobiographical writings, which will be adapted into performed multimedia presentations.

Butzel Gallery

November 3 - December 23
Senior Seminar

January—February Gail Kort
Panoramic landscapes

The **JSSFA Band** will march in the 40th Annual Holiday Parade on Nov. 22 in downtown Schenectady.

Mrs. Eichelberger's Piano Classes

Piano classes are very busy getting ready for December performances. Parents are invited to the **PIANO 1 CLASSES** December piano recitals. Mod 1 class will perform for parents on Tuesday Dec 16 at 9:30 am. Mod 2 class will perform for parents on Thursday, Dec 18 at 9:30 am. Both recitals will be held in FA6. Piano students are preparing many different types of piano songs, including duets, solos, classical, Broadway, popular, spirituals, ragtime and winter holiday songs. Parents please join us to enjoy the music.

The 2nd and 3rd year piano classes have several performances coming up. Our annual trip to Ellis Hospital will be on Thursday, Dec 11 to perform for the Ellis Center for Long Term Care. We look forward to this annual trip every year to spread some holiday cheer to the seniors. The advanced piano students will also be performing on the grand piano in the SSFA Lobby on Tuesday Dec. 23 during all lunches so teachers and parents please stop by to hear a variety of piano selections.

The **PIANO STUDENTS** wish everyone a very joyous holiday season with family and friends.

Theater

Nov 5-8 saw a brilliant production of **The Glass Menagerie** directed by Bill Ziskin. Kudos to the cast and crew for a superb round of performances.

December 3rd through the 6th will bring **A Piece of My Heart**, directed by Louise Gundrum, to the BRTC stage. Written by Shirley Lauro, this ensemble piece focuses on six women and their part in the Vietnam War and its impact on their later lives.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for Senior Citizens and Students and \$2 for SHS students with ID. Contact gundruml@schenectady.k12.ny.us for ticket reservations.

FA Spanish Classes

On October 10 Spanish 3 & 4 FA went to the New York State Museum to view Latin American and Caribbean Art exposition that was on loan from The Museum of Modern Art. They viewed the numerous works of art and completed a scavenger hunt. Some of the artists represented at the exposition were Diego Rivera, Roberto Echaurren, Marisol Escobar, Joaquin Torres-Garcia, Feliz Gonzalez-Torres, Alejandro Otero and Wilfredo Lam just to name a few. The group enjoyed the other exhibits, but the 911 was the favorite. We did a very nice panoramic tour of the city of Albany on our way to lunch at Garcia's. Our lunch was a buffet complete with fried ice-cream. We had a great time and look forward to our next trip.

Sculpture Class

Sarnacki's classes:

The sculpture class has started life sized clay busts. Students are working with photos and mirrors to pursue their self portrait in clay. Recently, their last project, life sized paper mâché sculptures, were installed over the Fine Arts entrance.



Sarnacki's Sculpture Class

FA Team 9 is about to finish up an incredibly successful guest artist residency with storyteller Marni Gillard. All of Team 9 spent time with Marni crafting stories based on personal experiences and honed their skills giving "appreciations." This residency culminated with a Storytelling Assembly in the Black Box Theatre which featured 15 storytellers from Team 9 who have shown great enthusiasm and effort throughout the process.

Ms. Katz's Introduction to Science classes are finishing a unit on Scientific Inquiry. We'll be starting an experiment in class to study the process of doing a proper experiment. We will also do a measurement unit to help students to properly take data.



SSFA Calendar Of EVENTS

Winter Concert
Dec. 15th 7 pm
SHS Auditorium

"A Piece of My Heart"
SHS Black Box Theater
December 3-6 at 7 pm
2pm matinee on Saturday the 6th

Mrs. Harman's 9th English

Mrs. Harman's 9th grade classes are studying the unit, "Beauty and the Beast: Exterior vs. Interior Beauty." Students will write modern versions of the traditional story, to be graded based on plot development, correct sentence structure (avoiding run-on sentences), and correct punctuation and formatting of direct quotes. The unit will also explore other cultures' versions of "Beauty and the Beast," Nelson Mandela's work in South Africa to end apartheid, and Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

The Fine Arts Seminar, Sculpture, and AP Drawing

classes recently went on a trip to Capital Repertory to see a production of "Art". The show took a humorous look at the nature of art.

TEAM 11

By the end of September all 11th graders participated in a workshop on the play "Fences". In a unique setting students got to read a play in school all in one day –from start to finish. Students also received personal copies of the play to keep and they were able to mark up the text with their thoughts, highlights, and post-it notes. Student feedback was extremely positive! Many students said, "They wished every school day could be like that" and others eagerly asked "are we going to read like this again later in the year?" On October 7th fifty 11th grade students traveled to Cooperstown, NY to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame to culminate the reading of the play. Students participated in educational modules where they learned about Jackie Robinson's influence on Civil Rights, and visited the baseball art gallery. One group of students even recorded a sports broadcast!

50 FA Juniors traveled to SUNY Purchase for a tour of the college and to see what admissions expected of them. It was a great trip and students saw the campus and had an opportunity to eat in the dining hall. The trip was funded through Strategic Planning Money...THANKS.

Dance

In October, Dance students attended a performance of Bridgman/Packer Dance at the SUNY Albany Performing Arts Center. The performance combined dance with video projections and audience participation.

Dance Connection students performed "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" choreographed by Sheila Los at the Moonlight Serenade on November 13. The class has also started to work on seasonal holiday choreography that will be performed December 18th as part of the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation's Holiday Open House.

All dance classes are beginning to select material to be performed during "Project Dance". The annual dance performance will take place on March 6 in the auditorium.

Team 12

Team 12 is closely monitoring senior's progress in hopes of having the largest graduating Fine Arts House class ever. Grades for first quarter were entered on November 11. Grades were sent home shortly after that date. Please make sure you review your report card carefully with your son or daughter. Any concerns should be addressed immediately. Set and monitor grade goals for second quarter and check in with teachers by phone or via email. (teacher'slastnameinitial@schenectady.k12.ny.us).

MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Rebecca Breen for being accepted into the Melodies of Christmas Choir!! She will be performing with the group on Dec. 18-21 at Proctor's Theater and the performance will be aired on Channel 6 on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Congratulations to Phillip Ducreay, Nathan Kipniss, Ben Veglia, Mike Benoit, Malcolm Moran and Josh Kaminsky for being accepted into the NYSSMA Zone 7 Area All State Festival. Students are chosen for this honor through their outstanding performance at a local NYSSMA festival the previous spring. The performance will be Nov. 22nd at Saratoga Springs High School at 2pm.



Congratulations to Rebecca !!!

John Sayles School of Fine Arts

Schenectady High School
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The *John Sayles School of Fine Arts* is a multi-cultural collaboration of students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community, that values students' artistic excellence and academic achievement. It is committed to artistic exploration and growth in alignment with the New York State Learning Standards.

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