May 2021

Arts Committee

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WHAT WE’VE ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE 2019-21 TERM

It's hard to believe the 2019-2021 term is almost over - and what a term it's been! While there were many new hurdles to overcome, California State PTA and the Arts Education Committee continued to work and accomplished some great things:

- Bi-monthly Creative Connection newsletter
- Revised Parents' Guide to Arts Education in California Public Schools
- New arts education landing page on capta.org
- Arts advocacy training template with field service requests for the arts
- Guest appearance on the CDE Foundation’s "Lunch Bites" podcast.
- Family arts night webinar showcasing at-home arts activities parents can do with their kids
- Convention workshops
- More to come:
  - Student Ambassadors to the Arts video
  - Local advocacy campaign to promote arts education awareness to school boards

Most of these resources are available on capta.org - click the links above to check them out!
California State Superintendent Tony Thurmond recently announced the 2021 California Exemplary Arts Education Awards. According to Thurmond, the winning schools engage in all disciplines of the arts according to state standards and indicate progress on the state dashboard.

“This year has been especially challenging for our students and schools, but I commend these schools for recognizing that this is a time when the arts are more critical than ever,” State Superintendent Thurmond said. “These schools excelled in providing quality arts education, despite all the obstacles presented by distance learning. It is with great pleasure we honor these schools for their steadfast dedication to arts education that plays a powerful role in supporting wellness, bridging social divides, and expanding creativity and critical thinking in our students.”

Click here to see the award-winning schools.

SUMMER ARTS ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS, TEACHERS & PARENTS

Looking for arts activities to do this summer? Keep reading for options for families, teachers and parents!

- **Easy Arts for Everyone Videos**, from Riverside County Office of Education. These lessons are provided by Louisa Higgins, Riverside County Office of Education’s Visual and Performing Arts Administrator. They are suitable for a variety of age groups, and can be done with simple materials found around the home or classroom.

- **Eastern Sierra Summer Arts Institute**, from Mono Arts Council: Arts training and tools that meet the California Arts Standards and address social-emotional competencies for teachers to integrate into their classrooms.

- **Camp ARIA: Exploring Social Justice Through the Arts**, from San Francisco Opera: This 2-week virtual day camp is aimed at youth ages 5 to 12 years old. Campers will explore their creativity, express their individuality, and take artistic risks in a vibrant, supportive community of learners. They will participate in a structured arts-integrated, social justice and literacy program that builds arts skills and supports social-emotional learning

ARTS ADVOCACY DURING THE TERM BREAK

While we are all looking forward to a fun summer, we urge you to continue your advocacy efforts. Now more than ever it is important to make sure that a full arts curriculum is part of every school plan. Volunteer to be on the LCAP committee for your school and/or district.
For other ideas and talking points, try these resources:

- **Counties on the Move: Arts Education for All Students**, from the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA)
- **Keep Arts in Schools**
- **Create CA**

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**TAKE ACTION!**

See our Mental Health Awareness Month resources in the Resource Library

Don't miss the final Advocacy Webinar of the 2020–21 term: Wednesday, June 2

School reopening webinar recording now available to watch on capta.org

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