

HIGHER ORDER THINKING SCHOOLS NETWORK
strong arts arts integration democratic practice

SPRING 2013 • ISSUE 01



Gallim Dance (pictured above) will perform at the HOT Schools Summer Institute.

SAVE THE DATE JULY 8—12 SUMMER INSTITUTE 2013

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

The 20th annual Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools Summer Institute: **BACK TO THE FUTURE—STILL LEADING THE WAY** will highlight the HOT APPROACH as a reliable keystone for employing instructional practice that cultivates critical, creative and innovative thinkers, inspires and motivates educators, and sparks the joy in teaching and learning!

The HOT Approach is a delivery system that provides teachers, teaching artists, administrators, parents, and arts organization educators vital professional development, resources, tools and strategies to develop, deepen and expand effective practices in arts education, arts integration, school culture change, and leadership development. There is nothing common about our core!

The HOT Schools Summer Institute is a nationally acclaimed, week-long residential conference packed with renowned speakers, seminars, workshops, sequential learning tracks, interactive

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BALLOON MANEUVERS

During this John C. Daniels School physical education class students intensely focus to keep the balloons in continuous motion.



FROM THE ARCHIVE

2005 Summer Institute participants create an ensemble tableau inspired by Thomas Hart Benton's "The Arts of Life in America: Arts of the South."



HOT educators enjoying the 2008 HOT Schools Summer Institute.

HOT SCHOOLS DIRECTORY

Alcott Elementary School
Wolcott

Columbus Magnet School
Norwalk

Gaffney Elementary School
New Britain

High School in the Community
New Haven

Integrated Day Charter School
Norwich

Jack Jackter Intermediate School
Colchester

John C. Daniels School
New Haven

John Lyman Elementary School
Middlefield

Kinsella Magnet School
Hartford

Lincoln Middle School
Meriden

Martin Elementary School
Manchester

Samuel Staples Elementary School
Easton

Worthington Hooker School
New Haven

Bonnie Koba
Director

Amy Goldbas
Associate Director for Programming

Christopher Eaves
Associate Director for Professional Development

The Pulse of Something Extraordinary Going On!

—Bonnie Koba, Director, HOT Schools

It's such a delight to have this new vehicle to share HOT happenings in our schools and throughout the HOT Schools Network with you! Special thanks: to each of our first issue contributors; to Christopher Eaves, Associate Director for Professional Development and HOT Communications Specialist for launching this first newsletter and committing to producing it quarterly; and to Amy Goldbas, Associate Director for Programming, who pulls it altogether for us every day.

The continually rising din of educational acrostics such as NCLB, RTI, SRBI, STEM to STEAM, CCSS and teacher accountability (to name a few) can be dizzying. But I have to tell you how refreshing it is to walk into Connecticut Higher Order Thinking Schools and feel the pulse of something extraordinary going on!

When people first learn about HOT Schools and then when they see our schools in action, particularly now that so many Leadership participants come from schools outside of the HOT Network, they often think that HOT Schools are somehow exempt from the challenges that state and federal mandates and trends seem to bring. And they are amazed to learn that you are not. Kudos to each of you for your part in making it so.

Each time someone from your school community—parent, teacher, principal or specialist—commits to participating in a HOT Summer Institute, Mini-Institute, Leadership, Teacher Artist Collaboration, etc., etc., etc., he brings back new strategies, ideas, clarity, and enthusiasm that benefits your entire school community. HOT practices are so embedded in the everyday of what you do they seem to just sort of seep in—in ways that you don't notice—but if you take 2 steps back—you can feel it in the halls, see it on the walls, and hear it in the voices of children! HOT Schools are vibrant and alive! There is complex thinking going on! ...and learning, and understanding, and creating and innovating!

I'm honored to be the director of the HOT Schools Program. It is absolutely the best and most electrifying joy to be able to work with HOT School principals, teachers and teaching artists—the finest educational leaders in our state. Enjoy this first issue glimpse into what we do! My very best to you!

Hands & Hearts at Worthington Hooker

—Judie Cavanaugh, Site Coordinator, Worthington Hooker School



I found out about the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy from a class of 7th graders in the afternoon on December 14th. At that time the students didn't know that I had attended Sandy Hook Elementary. They did not know that my mom was once Sandy Hook's 'cafeteria lady.' They did not know that Newtown is my hometown.

While fishing around on the web, I found a project on the art blog 'New City Arts' that seemed perfect for my 4th graders as their parents and teachers had started the conversation about what happened in Sandy Hook. This project pulled together several concepts. We discussed skin tone and how to achieve it with watercolor after tracing our hands and outlining with sharpies. To create the 'ribbons' for our writing, we applied masking tape to keep the watercolor off certain parts of the paper.

While the art dried we talked about how our hands could be our heart. What a great conversation! Responses varied from 'holding

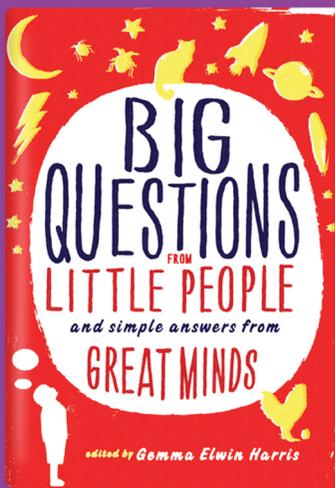
someone's hand' to 'playing music.' When I asked, "Does anyone know why we might be doing this project?" one of the first responses was, "Because of Newtown." The kids got it! After the watercolor was dry, students wrote personal responses on the artwork and we did a share around the room.

Their artwork is currently displayed at Worthington Hooker School and my ultimate goals are to make a paper quilt of them, to display at the New Haven City-Wide Art Show, and to take the artwork to the Healing Art Center in Newtown. It's nice to have administrators who trust that I'm able to cover art concepts while integrating social development issues and current events. It's nice to be given the freedom to allow my students a glimpse of my personal world.

My mom's side of the family still resides in Newtown. My sister lives down the street from one of the middle schools. I used to visit for the holidays. I visit a lot more now!

HOT RESOURCES

“Big Questions from Little People and Simple Answers from Great Minds”



By Gemma Elwin Harris

“This charming and informative collection has been compiled from children’s actual questions, which are answered by the world’s greatest experts, including Mary Roach, Richard Dawkins, Philip Pullman, Bear Grylls, David Eagleman, Philippa Gregory, Noam Chomsky, and Mario Batali.”

2012 Harper Collins Publishers

Democratic Practice is Alive & Well at Gaffney

—Lisa Eells, Principal, Gaffney Elementary School



The 2009 Gaffney Elementary School Charter was created by every child in the school. Each student (Pre-K–5) wrote and/or drew a picture of what they wanted their school to look like, sound like, or feel like. All contributions were then displayed on posters throughout the cafeteria for all to see.

The student council members then studied the posters to find themes expressed by their peers. They wrote down the central concepts and then came together over several sessions and worked in jigsaw small groups to develop the wording of the charter.

The Gaffney Elementary School Charter

I, as a Gaffney Citizen, believe our school should be a cozy, loving, respectful place where learning happens peacefully.

I promise to work to my highest potential to make a difference by:

- Caring for one another
- Being helpful to all
- Doing no harm
- Cleaning up after myself and others
- Taking responsibility for my actions
- Supporting each person’s academic and artistic journey here at Gaffney

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Spring 2013 Professional Development at John Lyman school



Hot Committee & ECHOs at Martin

—Lauren Eichenauer, Site Coordinator, Martin Elementary School

We created a HOT Committee

During the end of the 2011–12 school year, Martin decided to form a HOT School Committee to help with the growth of our HOT programs. This committee grew to nine members during the 2012–13 school year. Our HOT committee members include: school principal, math coach, physical education teacher, music teacher, a teacher from each grade level (K-5) and a parent representative. The HOT Committee works together to share viewpoints on the HOT process and to help with the multiple HOT experiences we introduce to our students!

We have ECHOs

This school year, Martin Elementary decided to begin ECHOs and to develop it into something that could be done with all grade levels! ECHOs stands for Enhanced Curricular HOT Opportunities. It allows for students and teachers to be a part of a group with similar interests. These groups are student led and work collaboratively

to learn more about a topic that interests them. Currently, K-5 students participate in ECHOs.

These HOT opportunities allow the students to explore an area that interests them, as well as meet new peers and teachers. The final products of each ECHOs group are acknowledged at our Town Meetings, with the ZUMBA group choosing to hold its first ZUMBATHON fundraiser before the school year ends!

The ECHOs we currently offer include:

- Healthy Bodies and Minds
- Green Thumb Club
- Sign Language
- Duct Tape
- Zumba
- Puppets
- Dinosaurs
- Zentangle
- Cards for Causes
- Kids Take the Stage
- Dance Around the World

HOT Schools Summer Institute 2013 (continued)

demonstrations and performances. The Institute advances professional development, highlights the value of learning communities, fosters collaboration and provides educators skills and strategies to address learning challenges, and advance learning through differentiated instruction.

HOT Schools is a community of practice that networks and develops entities interested in teaching and learning in, about, and through the arts using the HOT Approach. HOT practices and strategies stimulate student curiosity, ignite their sense of wonder, and steer students toward a journey of lifelong learning.



Summer Institute guest speaker Dr. Yong Zhao

Our guest speakers will include Dr. Yong Zhao, Garry Golden, Deborah Brzoska, Eric Booth, Steve Seidel. The Hot Schools Summer Institute will feature performances by Christopher Eaves, Jimmy Greene Quartet, Gallim Dance, Barry Lane Literacy Cabaret, The Amigos Band and more!

HOT Schools is a program of and the Summer Institute is presented by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts in partnership with Wesleyan University's Green Street Arts Center, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Democratic Practice at Gaffney (continued)

Because, at Gaffney Elementary School, the sense of community and safety with each other is stressed above all other behavioral expectations, students are rewarded both individually and as a group, yet they do not earn prizes that benefit the individual. All rewards benefit the larger group.

When students at Gaffney are 'caught' following the four Tribes agreements: Attentive Listening, Appreciations–No Put Downs, The Right to Pass, and Mutual Respect; or are 'caught' following the Gaffney Elementary School Charter, they are given a 'compliment ticket' by any adult school community member who is not the student's own teacher.

When given the frame that students could only have a prize awarded if the prize was for the community, students then decided on a menu of rewards that included earning certain numbers of compliment tickets for desired prizes that would benefit the whole classroom of students, such as recess equipment (soccer balls, playground balls, frisbees, jump ropes, etc.). The menu of rewards also includes indoor recess items such as Uno cards, board games or strategic games (Battleship, etc.) and other group earnings such as a pizza party for the class.

At Gaffney Elementary School, students are not disappointed when a classmate earns a prize for doing the right thing; they cheer each other on, and pat their classmates on the back, because they realize every day that when one student contributes to the greater good, we all win!

Connecticut
still revolutionary

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office of the Arts



Register online for the HOT Schools Summer Institute!
www.wesleyan.edu/greenstreet/partnerships/hotschools.html