

ArtsSmarts PEI Program: Open Your Mind and Learn Through the Arts!

ArtsSmarts

Ignites young people's excitement about learning core curricula through the arts.

Inspires collaboration among artists and educators, schools and communities.

Invests financially and strategically in creative learning networks at local, regional, provincial and national levels to build capacity for arts and education.

Supports a new vision for public education in Canada and in Prince Edward Island.

The mission of ArtsSmarts PEI is to offer schools and their communities the chance to emphasize educational activities related to the arts. The program aims at encouraging students to develop their intellectual skills by participating in arts activities. Artists and teachers work together to integrate artistic activities in subjects that are non artistic, but that relate to educational outcomes.

For more information on the program, please contact the program coordinator, Cecile Arsenault, by e-mail at ccarsenault@gov.pe.ca or by phone at 902-854-7265. You may also visit our Web site at www.artssmartspei.ca.

St. Louis Elementary and Bloomfield Elementary

Project: Celebrating Cultural Diversity Through Mask Making

Artist: Christina Campbell

Number of students: 284

Grades: 1 to 6

Link to curriculum: Social studies

Cultural diversity is a richness that can be explored in a variety of ways. The young and the not-so-young benefit from exploring similarities and differences between different cultures. The goal of this project was to highlight African culture through mask making. By exploring the history of African culture and discovering the materials used in mask making as well as the role of these masks in heritage expression, students had the opportunity to learn about a culture that is different from theirs, while expressing their creativity.

École Évangéline

Project: Chante-moi ta chanson

Artists: Jeannita Bernard, Lucie Bellemare, Stéphane Bouchard, Paul Gallant

Number of students: 31

Grade: 8

Link to curriculum: Oral communication, written French, reading, social studies

The Acadian and Francophone community, and the Evangeline area in particular, is recognized for the quality of its singer/songwriters. The goal of this project was to create a song following a review of the Acadian song repertoire and Prince Edward Island's Francophone singer/songwriters. Students had the opportunity to refine their listening skills and broaden their musical knowledge. In addition, they were able to discover the artistic process involved in creating a song, with its words and music.

École Évangéline

Project: L'Acadie au coeur de la francophonie

Artist: Lynne Gaudet

Number of students: 14

Grade: 5

Link to curriculum: Plastic arts, oral communication, French, social studies

The Acadia of Prince Edward Island and the Acadia of the Atlantic provinces are part of a larger whole, that of the worldwide French-speaking community. The goal of this project was to increase the feeling of belonging and recognition of the ties between the Acadian and Francophone culture on the Island and the international French-speaking community. Students were able to compare cultural elements such as music, dress, art, food, and way of life. They then created three wall frescoes representing Acadia within the French-speaking community.

Elm Street Elementary

Project: Canadian Critters in Colours

Artist: Maurice Bernard

Number of students: 40

Grades: 4 and 6

Link to curriculum: Language arts, math, science, technology

Canada is recognized for its plants and wildlife, its wide-open spaces, and its artistically inspiring landscapes. The goal of this project was to have each student paint a picture of an animal native to Canada. Students had the opportunity to discover basic drawing techniques as well as paint-application techniques. They then painted their own pictures using acrylics. They also learned about Canadian and Island visual artists. Together, students prepared a class logbook for tracking the project's progress and noting down the comments of their teachers and parents.

École-sur-Mer

Project: Composition d'une chanson thème pour l'École-sur-Mer

Artist: Angèle Arsenault

Number of students: 13

Grades: 5 and 6

Link to curriculum: Written French, music, social studies

A theme song is based on the concept of appropriation of shared symbols in order to create a greater feeling of belonging to a given group. The goal of this project was to write a theme song for the school, using the themes of the school's past, present, and future. Angèle Arsenault, a PEI singer/songwriter of world renown, helped students explore activities such as the search for ideas, poetic writing, melodic composition, and musical arrangement. Students also had a chance to learn about the planning, execution, and professional production of a musical recording.

Central Queens Elementary

Project: Earth Songs

Artists: Maurice Bernard, Catherine MacLellan

Number of students: 184

Grades: 1 to 6

Link to curriculum: Visual arts, language arts, math, music, science, social studies

The environment is certainly a hot topic these days, but the beauty of the environment and the landscapes that surround us is also a source of inspiration for artists. The goal of this project was to get students thinking about the beauty of the environment through visual art and music. Students were asked to write a song inspired by a painting and then create a painting inspired by a song. Each class had the opportunity to work with either the painter or the singer/songwriter for the purpose of exploring the process leading to the creation of a visual work or a song.

Parkdale Elementary

Project: Building Blocks of Art

Artist: Terry D. Stevenson

Number of students: 15

Grade: 1

Link to curriculum: Math, science

Sculpture is a multi-faceted artistic discipline that offers a multitude of options when it comes to the variety of materials used. During this project, students learned techniques for creating a sculpture from recycled objects. They used old wooden toy blocks, which they painted and decorated, to create a group sculpture. Students were asked to search for ways of putting the blocks together, modifying them, and making an interactive sculpture to which other students at the school could eventually contribute.

Grand Tracadie Elementary

Project: Our Place in Time

Artist: Everett Johnson

Number of students: 30

Grades: 1 to 6

Link to curriculum: Visual arts, math, science, social studies, technology

On the Island, the primary industries of fishing and agriculture have been economic engines for centuries. The goal of this project was to highlight the importance of fishing, agriculture, and the residents of the community of Grand Tracadie from the 1800s until today by means of three exterior murals. The murals were designed and built by the students with the artist's help. As part of their research, students visited the Provincial Archives and the Artifactory. They also interviewed some seniors in the community of Grand Tracadie.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of the artists, educators, students, and parents who participated in ArtsSmarts PEI. Although there are too many to name them all, they are directly responsible for

the program's success.

A major program like ArtsSmarts PEI depends as well on the unflagging support of select partners. Year after year, they make possible the many projects that are carried out. We wish to thank the following institutional partners:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

The Department of Tourism and Culture

The Western School Board

The Eastern School District

La Commission scolaire de langue française

La Fédération culturelle de l'Î.-P.-É.

The Confederation Centre of the Arts

The Eptek Centre

The PEI Council of the Arts

The PEI Crafts Council

The University of Prince Edward Island

The Atlantic Technology Centre