

MIDDLETOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS CULTURAL COUNCIL

Middletown
Board of Education



311 Hunting Hill Avenue
Middletown, CT 06457



2010-2011

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS

The Middletown Public Schools are committed to providing students with an understanding and appreciation of the arts, as the arts are essential to the education of every student. It is through the arts that students are helped to understand people of other times and cultures. The arts serve as a bond to bring together people of different races, cultures and languages all around the world.

The Cultural Council's planned activities will provide all students with opportunities to experience achievements that have been made in music, painting, poetry, dance, drama and other visual arts. We believe that with the efforts of the Cultural Council, our students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the values and artistic achievements of other cultures as well as our own. In addition, these cultural programs and activities can promote a positive influence on students' social values, lifestyles, and career choices. I know that I speak for the entire student body and staff when I extend my appreciation to the Cultural Council on behalf of arts education in the Middletown Public Schools.

Marco Gaylord
K-12 Fine Arts Director

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Pam Tatge, Director, Wesleyan Center for the Arts

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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OBJECTIVES

- To provide programs which foster a basic knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the arts.
- To provide opportunities to develop proficiency in chosen art disciplines.
- To strive for maximum integration of the arts in the education process. Such integration includes the relationship of the arts to each other and to all other disciplines.
- To ensure that the arts of many cultures are presented.
- To encourage and support individual creativity.
- To ensure that all programming conforms to the objectives stated above and is of the best quality.

Program Synopsis (Cont'd)

The Javanese Gamelan

The Gamelan Orchestra from Java, Indonesia, is traditionally an essential accompaniment to puppet shows, dances, feasts, and ceremonies. The gamelan is rarely heard in the United States and Wesleyan University owns one of the finest sets of these beautiful instruments in the world. Housed in the World Music Hall, most of the gamelan instruments are gong and metallophone instruments made of bronze. There are also two-stringed bowed instruments, xylophones, flutes, and drums. Wesleyan students will perform selections for elementary students to show them that in gamelan music, no instrument predominates. They will demonstrate the important function of each, which relates to the whole, and students will have the opportunity to play the instruments.

New Gods and Old in Sichaun: Photographs from the Twenties Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies Gallery

George and Louisa Neumann arrived in China in 1911, just after the fall of the Qing Dynasty. They returned home in 1924 as Sichuan descended into social chaos. Dean of the Faculty of Religion at West China Union University in Chengdu, Neumann was in a unique position to document the intersection of the everyday life of the Chinese with the privileged life of foreigners. This is the first exhibition of images made from Wesleyan graduate George Neumann's luminous hand-tinted photographs, a vision of the encounter of Methodist, Daoist, Buddhist and folk spirituality in the Chengdu basin in the early part of the 20th century.

Program Synopsis (Cont'd)

Grade Four Tours of Wesleyan Center for the Arts

Through the efforts of Pam Tatge, Director of CFA, and the assistance of her colleagues, students have learned about Middletown historical facilities that exist on campus. Students tour the Zilkha Galleries, Davidson Art Centers, and the World Hall where they learn about the historic instrument-gamelan. Activities are slated to the Grade 4 art curriculum.

Connectivity Lost Ezra & Cecile Zilkha Gallery

Connections between the systems that shape our existence are frayed, eroded, even gone. A major shift in our social environment has occurred, removing the direct and instinctual connection with our fellow man and environment. Points of interface, of systems coming together, are no longer seamless. Broader environmental and social implications ensue. We may ask hundreds of friends on FaceBook, yet we are lonely; we have no idea of the origins of the foods we eat; a landscape of parking lots and big-box stores has supplanted agricultural land. This exhibition identifies a body of work based on this disconnect that addresses the ways we are estranged from each other and from the environment in which we live. Artists working in painting, installation, video, prints, photography and mixed media include Daniel Jason Middlebrook, Matthew Moore and Lucy & Jorge Orta.

Art & Appetite Davidson Art Center

From ordinary bread to elaborately frosted wedding cakes and pig roasts to pizza, food has been the delight of artists throughout the ages. This exhibition of more than forty prints and photographs from the Davidson Art Center Collection explores the depiction of food and drink across five centuries. Pieter Bruegel the Elder designed the engravings Fat Kitchen and Thin Kitchen, 1563, as comic allegories of feast and famine. Kaethe Kolwitz protested starvation among the working classes in Germany. Pop artist Claes Oldenburg monumentalized modern fast food with Flying Pizza, 1964, and Dieter Roth used cheese as a printing material in his Small Landscape, 1969. Whether allegory or artstuff, the work in this show will leave you wanting more!

GOAL

The goal of the MPSCC is to make the arts a basic ingredient in the educational process by providing students, teachers, administrators and staff, opportunities to learn about and participate in the artistic experiences including, but not limited to, dance and movement, drama and theatre, music, visual arts and literary arts.

HISTORY

Recognizing the importance of the arts in our culture, the Middletown Board of Education established the Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council in 1978. The Cultural Council was charged with the responsibility to provide our young people with exposure and experience in the arts. The students involved with MPSCC will continue to contribute to a culturally conscious community, providing a fuller, richer life for all.

In 1984, the Middletown Public Schools district was invited to participate in a pilot project under the auspices of the Citizen's Committee on Arts Education with the support of the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Citizens Committee commended the MPS Cultural Council for its diversified programming and long-range planning for achieving the integration of the arts into the core curricula.

FUNDING

The primary source of funding for the Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council is the Middletown Board of Education. The Middletown Schools Association and PTO organizations make contributions to the MPSCC. In addition, grants have been received from the Middletown Commission of the Arts, Connecticut Commission of Culture and Tourism, Middlesex County Community Foundation, Thomas J. Atkins Memorial Fund (Bank of America, Trustee), Hartford Foundation for Greater Hartford and the Liberty Bank.

The Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council is a non-profit organization. Individuals and organizations desiring to make contributions should address inquires to:

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311 Hunting Hill Ave.
Middletown, CT 06457

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Frank Kuan, Executive Director, Center for Community Partnerships.

Elizabeth K. Nocera, Director of Grant Services for the assistance on the preparation of grant applications.

CULTURAL COUNCIL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010-2011

Program Dates

October 2010

12	Flamenco Keigwin	8:30 AM & 9:30 AM
12	Ginga Brasileira Woodrow Wilson Middle School	8:30 AM & 9:30 AM
14	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Bielefield School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
20	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Farm Hill School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
21	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Lawrence School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30PM
26	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Macdonough School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
27	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Moody School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
28	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Snow School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

November

3	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Spencer School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
4	Wesleyan Center for the Arts Wesley School - Grade 4	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Program Synopsis (Cont'd)

Wadsworth Atheneum

Grade 5 continues to have the opportunity to participate in the Learning-to-Look Program offered by the Wadsworth Atheneum where all MPS fifth grade students will have an opportunity to visit the Atheneum in a docent-guided tour. The tour is geared to the art, history, social studies and language arts curriculum. Docent-guided visits to the museum exercise visual literacy skills, developing the vocabulary of concepts necessary for understanding and discussing images and visual symbols. The tour encourages active engagement of students with original works of art resulting in an experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom. Following the tour, the written activity facilitated by the classroom teachers add another dimension to the program experience, as students take the initiative to delve into further observations and interpretation. This exercise provides a deeper involvement and connection between the arts and curriculum, using the museum's collections to teach students written, verbal, and visual literacy skills.

Keigwin Band Tour

The Grade 6 Keigwin Band will visit all eight elementary schools in late March and April. Under the direction of David Daddario, they will present a program that highlights the Grade 6 Band curriculum and repertoire that is being studied and learned this year. The Keigwin Band will perform high-energy band literature by today's top composers and arrangers. The performance will also highlight all of the instruments in the ensemble. Music teachers in each building will continue with demonstrations of each instrument and provide information to all third graders on how they can join the Grade 4 Band program in their schools.

Middletown All-City Music Festival

The Middletown Public Schools K-12 All-City Music Festival is presented in the spring with performances held at the Wesleyan University Freeman Athletic Center. The festival includes instrumental and vocal students from all 11 schools. The program highlights the scope and sequence of our music programs in Grades 4-12. The ensembles presented included the 4th Grade Band, 4th & 5th Grade All-City Chorus, All-City 5th Grade Jazz Ensemble, All-City Recorder Ensemble, Keigwin Band, Keigwin Chorus, WWMS 8th Grade Band and Chorus, Middletown High Concert Choir and the Middletown High Concert Band. The Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council contributes to this activity.

Program Synopsis (Cont'd)

Silent Sounds

Silent Sounds is a year-long Literary Arts project. Its purpose is to stimulate and encourage students in creative writing experiences. The program is for students in grades 6-12 attending the Middletown Public Schools. An annual writing contest is sponsored. Creative writing works, in the categories of short stories, poetry, essay and literary analysis, are submitted to a panel of judges. They select students' work which will be published. These works are featured in a program entitled "Silent Sounds Celebration", held in the spring. The works are read by members of the Middletown High School Drama Department. Each writer receives two copies of *Silent Sounds*, a certificate, and a book award presented by Broad Street Books in Middletown.

Middletown Public Schools Art Show

The Middletown Public Schools K-12 Art Show is presented at the Zilkha Gallery of Wesleyan University. The art show will feature more than 600 artists in Grades K-12 representing each school. The art show will be on display for one week. Community members may visit and write personal messages to each artist. A reception for the young artists selected in this year's show will be held on the opening evening. The Middletown Public Schools and Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council are pleased to be able to assist in this unique cultural activity.

Middletown Public Schools Ruth Montgomery 2nd Annual String Festival

This program will give our Grades 1-9 string students a chance to perform separately and together in the new theatre at the Middletown High School Performing Arts Center. The performance will feature string students in Grades 1-9. The concert will allow students to showcase their talents and show the programs scope and sequence. The evening will also provide an opportunity for new recruits to register and sign up for the summer program or join the program next school year.

Math/Music Residency

The math/music kindergarten residencies will be tutored by teacher and artist Mike Kachuba. Students will use voice, movement, and rhythm instruments to count beats, recognize patterns, and begin fraction concepts. Kindergarten students from Lawrence and Snow will participate in this program. Pending funding, we hope to rotate two to three schools each year.

Program Dates

March 2011

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| 5 | Middletown Public Schools Art Show Reception
Wesleyan university Zilkha Art Gallery | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM |
| 5-13 | Middletown Public Schools Art Show
Wesleyan University Zilkha Art Gallery | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM |

April

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| 2 | All-City Music Festival
Wesleyan University Freeman Athletic Center | 6:30 PM |
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May

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| 3 | Silent Sounds
World Music Hall - Grades 6-12 | 6:30 PM |
| 4 | Wadsworth Atheneum
Bielefield School - Grade 5 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM |
| 5 | Wadsworth Atheneum
Moody School - Grade 5 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM |
| 6 | Wadsworth Atheneum
Farm Hill School - Grade 5 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM |
| 11 | Wadsworth Atheneum
Spencer School - Grade 5 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM |
| 11 | Middletown High School Goes to the Symphony
Bushnell Center for The Performing Arts | 7:00 PM |
| 12 | Wadsworth Atheneum
Snow School - Grade 5 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM |

