

A unique collaborative partnership of educators, arts and cultural organizations, and the Globe-News Center.

Window On the World

December 2006

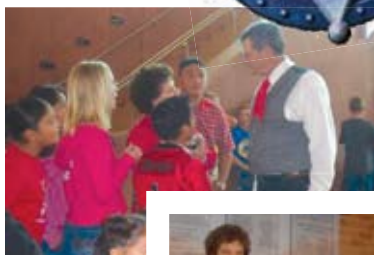
Hank the Cowdog

John Erickson, creator and author of Hank the Cowdog, presented a music and literary program attended by over 6,000 students in early September at the Globe-News Center. The program was performed to students in grades 1-6, with five bus-in performances, and one public performance that included a barbecue dinner catered by Desperados, with collaborative efforts of Friends of the Library, Starbucks, and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Audiences were entertained and students were inspired to read through John's talent to 'spin a yarn' by singing and reading excerpts from his books about Hank, the ranch security dog. It was a great way to begin a new school year!



Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to show our support for education (and for having so much fun at the same time!).

Jim Gleason, Community Relations Manager,
Barnes & Noble Booksellers Amarillo



"Thank you so much and thank you for giving our children the opportunity to see Mr. Erickson."

Megan Huffman,
Bushland Elementary teacher

"The tickets were so reasonable and the program so good! We loved the show and it has spurred a rush on the Hank the Cowdog books in the library. Thank you for bringing this, and other programs, that our small school can take advantage of to try and enrich the lives of our students."

Becky Jones, Lazbuddie Elementary

New gifts in 2006

Education Credit Union
BWXT Pantex
Ed and Margaret Roberts Trust

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Desperado's
Friends of the Library

Starbucks
Donut Stop

NEW GIFTS

In this Issue:

Hank the Cowdog.....	1	Whats New.....	3
New Gifts.....	1	Cultural Exchange	4
Message from Education Director	2	Professional Development	4
Upcoming Events.....	3		



WINDOW ON the WORLD

500 South Buchanan
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 9258
Amarillo, Texas 79105
Phone: 806-342-5600
Fax: 806-342-5604

MESSAGE FROM EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Window On the World (W.O.W!) is now a reality and has been positively accepted and embraced by educators and the cultural community. Our energy has been focused on producing the first-ever database of programs from area arts and cultural organizations in an Educators' Resource Guide for our pilot schools which include: Lee Elementary, Lamar Elementary, Bivins Elementary, South Georgia Elementary, and Fannin Middle School. We have

also included two rural schools in our pilot project: Mary Allen Elementary in Stratford, and Wellington Elementary in Wellington. Collectively, we have issued funding allotments to these schools, based on September 15th enrollment at \$5 per child, to apply toward programs and artist residencies listed in the Educators' Resource Guide. Many thanks to the Amarillo Area Foundation for support in the development of W.O.W! Our pilot schools are eagerly booking programs from the Educators' Resource Guide as a tool to enhance their curriculum and increase student success.

W.O.W! representatives Pat Turner and Memorie Williams are working with cultural organizations to help them incorporate appropriate grade-level curriculum programs, and to assign TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) to the submitted programs in the Educators' Resource Guide. A total of ninety-three programs are found in the Guide, which include programs during the school day, after school, weekend and summer. The programs are categorized according to curriculum, so that teachers can easily make choices of programs for integration in their lesson plans.

Amarillo Independent School District has been a most cooperative education partner with Window On the World. The district superintendent, fine arts coordinator, curriculum specialists and technology specialists have met with us, and have helped us promote our education program at all levels. In the near future, we hope to have the Educators' Resource Guide on the AISD website so that all teachers can access the database of programs to utilize in their curriculum.

Region 16 Education Service Center technology department has assembled our distance learning equipment, a Polycom mobile unit made possible through our participation in the RUS grant through USDA. This unit enables us to deliver live performances virtually anywhere in the Globe-News Center, record sessions, and have numerous capabilities of taking culture to the rural classroom. In addition, it will be used for teacher planning sessions and professional development opportunities.

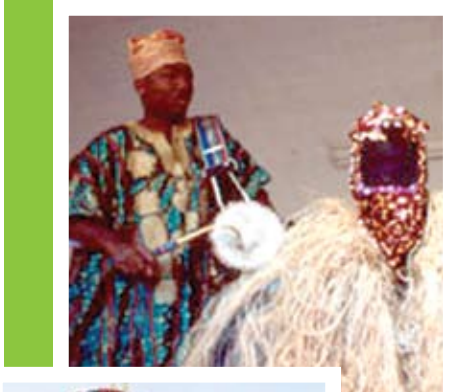


*Educators' Resource Guide
Now Available!*

This semester, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Amarillo College and the Globe-News Center once again partnered to offer another Theatre Practicum to five interns. After our evaluation of the program last semester, we offered more hands-on opportunities for the students over the course of this semester, including class sessions at Amarillo College under the teaching of Ray Newburg, Director of Theatre Arts. Jim Elliott is our facilitator for this project here at the Center, and together we hope this program is an opportunity for the Boys Ranch students to get real-world experiences in stage production, lighting, sound, construction and theatre management through working with different theatre venues.

Our Steering Committee continues to be a positive group of interested and involved citizens who are an integral arm of Window On the World. Their input is an affirmative force of guidance as we continue to move forward with W.O.W!

Together....we can successfully provide alternative ways of teaching and learning, making life-long connections for every student, and better prepare our children for tomorrow in an increasingly challenging world.



Pilot Schools:

Window On the World is moving forward with seven pilot schools for the 2006-07 school year. Five AISD schools and two rural schools were invited to participate in this project: Robert E. Lee, Lamar, Bivins, South Georgia Elementary Schools, Fannin Middle School, Mary Allen Elementary in Stratford, and Wellington Elementary in Wellington. Replicated after the Big Thought model of arts education integration in Dallas, Texas, Window On the World is the facilitator for arts and cultural organizations and educators of the Texas Panhandle. Local arts and cultural organizations were invited by Window On the world to be included in a first-ever database of education programs offered to teachers for the purpose of integrating programs into the curriculum throughout the school year. The Educators' Resource Guide was published last August along with a Principal's Guide and a Teacher's Guide for the ease of introducing and implementing the program.

Agalu; African Music and Culture coming to the Center February 26

Coming to the Globe-News Center February 26 is Agalu; African Music and Culture. This Nigerian drumming group will perform at 10:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. for school bus-in performances. One public performance is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Curriculum materials will be sent to schools in early January for this event which is an enrichment of Black History month. You won't want to miss this spectacular performance of drumming, fire-eating and dance!



New faces to Window On the World:

Two recently retired teachers have joined Window On the World as W.O.W! representatives. Pat Turner, who was the AISD Music Teacher at Paramount Elementary for 23 years, developed the 2006 Music TEKS assessment for AISD and has presented music workshops across West Texas through Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. Memorie Williams, who was a Visual Arts Teacher for 31 years in AISD, has additional experience in interior design, custom jewelry, and vintage furniture design, and is the owner of Alley Arts. Both retirees are highly talented and bring their expertise to W.O.W! Pat Turner, seated left, and Memorie Williams, seated right, are referring to the Educators' Resource Guide as they work with directors from the Don Harrington Discovery Center and the Amarillo Botanical Gardens to integrate educational programs for teachers of our seven pilot schools. Participating arts and cultural organizations have noted a drastic rise in student attendance to their venues due in large part because of the Guide.



A Cultural Exchange:

On June 8th and 9th, we were invited to participate in A Cultural Exchange in Dallas. Other cities invited were; Boston, Baltimore, St. Louis, Seattle, Denver, Charleston, and Washington D.C. The purpose of this conference was to view first-hand the model that Big Thought has in place in Dallas, so that we could see the 'hows' and 'whys' of a successful arts education integration model. We had 19 participants from Amarillo, the biggest group to attend collectively, which included the principals and site coordinators of our pilot schools and our research team from WTA&M University. A follow-up meeting three days after the trip validated our involvement in the further development of W.O.W! Shortly thereafter, our Steering Committee met to be informed of the outcome of A Cultural Exchange and to establish their continued support of our program.



Professional Development Days:

October 17 W.O.W! presented a professional development opportunity to area cultural organizations. AISD Board Room was the host site for the executive directors and education directors/coordinators of participating Arts & Cultural organizations to better understand integrated learning and curriculum. Brent Hasty, PhD candidate from the University of Texas and Big Thought Consultant, presented the educator's process for arts education integration as applied to TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills). In addition, he offered organizations a time to collaborate and discover creative ways of integrating fine arts in the curriculum.



Saturday, October 28 was a day for principals, teachers, and site coordinators of our pilot schools to voluntarily participate in a workshop held in the Gilliland Education Center to discover ways of integrating fine arts. Education Credit Union provided stipends, and AISD allowed 6 credit hours for Gifted & Talented certification. From the evaluations submitted of the two-day workshop, Brent Hasty did a wonderful job of presenting applicable methods of utilizing materials and creatively involving students to enrich curriculum and help educators align arts education with TEKS.