



Link to PACE from Danvers Schools Website:

www.danvers.mec.edu

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April 4, 2008

1. **WELCOME! Introductions and Announcements**

Introductions

Meeting Schedule for 2007-08: May 2

2. **TODAY'S TOPIC: The Arts in the Danvers Public Schools**

A. High School Students: Erin Barker, Erika Harrison, Jennifer Havens

These three students displayed a series of their own and their classmates Chinese scroll paintings and discussed how the paintings were created and how they reflect Chinese culture and values. The presentation included these aspects of Chinese scroll painting:

- A demonstration of the unique brush technique
- Display and discussion of block prints
- The design and use of borders
- Subject and color selection
- Orientation of the artwork

The students found inspiration and explanation of Chinese culture relating to these paintings in their summer reading book: Forbidden City. They practiced and planned their paintings over a period of about a month.

This project specifically reflects Danvers High School's mission statement that students will be creative producers of art.

B. Elementary School art teachers: Mike Massaro, Great Oak

Recent projects included at 10-minute portrait of a live model (2nd graders), watercolor with integrated pieces of leather reflecting a cultural study in the classroom (3rd graders), and optical art, using rulers, compasses, markers, and shading to create 3-D effects (5th graders).

The art teacher has approximately 65 minutes with each child per week and strives to train the children in artistic techniques and skills as set forth in the Massachusetts frameworks. His students cover from pre-K up through 5th grade. In each project, the art teacher encourages students to find ways to incorporate “mistakes” into the final project .

The recently adopted integrated arts block incorporates music, physical education, and art into the classroom learning. These lessons are prepared for each grade and last only 49 minutes. They encourage deeper understanding of the subject through the wide variety of experiences in lesson. The specific implementation varies from school to school. An interesting feature these lessons is having the teachers work together to maximize the student learning. Integrated arts blocks are rare among public school art classes.

C. Town-wide art show

This tradition ended when fire prevention laws changed and prevented art from students of all ages being hung on the high school walls at one time. The show was a tremendous display of the range of art being taught in Danvers Public Schools, particularly highlighting the development of artistic skills from the pre-K students to the high school students. Ideas for alternative locations were discussed, including web pages.

3. Updates and Information

School Committee

The finance committee meets in town hall on 4/9 to review the school budget. Parental support will help obtain their approval of the 7% increase in the school budget this year. Please send e-mails to financial committee and town meeting members to express support.

High School Project

Danvers town and school administration and architects have met with the MSBA for a facility assessment. A final decision on whether we get state funding or not is expected in the spring, but no date is definite.

Administration

The administration requests feedback from parents on how to use funds from our Safe & Drug Free School Grant (federal pass-through grants administered by the state) which have in the past been used to support:

- Open circle curriculum and training
- Middle School peer mediation program
- Health curriculums, including anti-bullying curriculum
- High school SADD advisor’s stipend

One option is to use new funds toward life skills training for our students, which includes a robust anti-substance abuse curriculum, **with a parent portion.**

E-mail feedback and ideas to Gary Nihan, nihan@danvers.org.

4. **Next Month: The Arts in the Danvers Public Schools**

5. **Action for PACE Representatives**

Report back on this agenda to your PAC meeting, especially guest speakers and special events.

Circulate a sign-up sheet for e-mail addresses; e-mail to Jonell or Al or bring to the next meeting.

Please send people to check out the Danvers Public Schools website (with links to PACE agendas, schedules, meeting notes): www.danvers.mec.edu

Important Addresses:

Holten Richmond Memorial Fund (to support the Betty Allen Library):

Holten-Richmond Memorial Fund

c/o DEEP

P.O. Box 387

Danvers, MA 01923

DEEP Memberships:

P.o. Box 287

Danvers, MA 01923