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1. SPATIAL THINKING, THE ARTS, AND S.T.E.M. ACHIEVEMENT

"If you don't learn to read well early on, there are ample studies showing that you are crippled all through school," said Ken Forbus, head of the Cognitive Systems Division at Northwestern University's Department of Computer Science. "The question is: Is there an analogous phenomenon in spatial thinking" that relates to sketching?

Forbus said spatial ability is a great predictor of whether a student will excel in the "STEM" disciplines: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. "The better you are at spatial things," Forbus said, "the more likely you are to go into those [STEM] areas."

<http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=135901>

2. FEDERAL UPDATE

HARD HITTING NEWS

Some 40 local students will trek to Washington, D.C., this week, thanks to the financial support of Nashville's business and music communities, to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime White House visit, where the president and first lady will play host for a special concert series and educational workshop.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-2851-Nashville-Country-Music-Examiner~y2009m7d19-White-House-celebrates-country-music-July-21-with-country-stars-40-local-students?cid=email-this-article>

3. ADVOCACY TOOLS & TIPS

SCALP NAEP ARTS 2009!

It is possible to order more NAEP Arts 2008 USB drives for your own use and distribution, provided you order a minimum of 25 units. To do so you will need to contact the vendor directly.

Ordering Process

1. Contact 4imprint at 1-877-446-7746 or <http://www.4imprint.com>
2. Ask for a Sales Representative
3. Explain that you are new customer who would like to re-order and existing product and reference Purchase Order # 4324595-6/61154
4. Specify that you would like to order more of this unit with:
 - a. The existing artwork
 - b. The existing material files
 - c. The files pre-loaded in an Auto Load Locked format, with a partitioned drive
5. Indicate the new billing and shipping address for your order
6. At the end of your transaction, you will be given your own order number for future reference that establishes you as a separate client with your own account
7. Production and delivery time is 14-17 days

Cost for the USB drives depend on the number of units you order, as well as the current sales promotions occurring.

4. NEWS

-AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS AWARD!

Minnesota state Sen. Richard J. Cohen will receive the 2009 Public Leadership in the Arts Award from Americans for the Arts.

<http://legal-ledger.com/item.cfm?recID=12017>

-KY HIRES MUSIC TEACHER AS STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Terry Holliday has been a superintendent of two school districts and worked in high school music programs for 15 years.

<http://www.wfpl.org/CMS/?p=6981>

-INTERVIEW WITH A FIELD LEADER

KeepArtsInSchools.org interviewed Una McAlinden of ArtsEd Washington Hear what Una says about the accomplishments, challenges and plans for the future for arts learning in Washington state.

<http://www.keepartsinschools.org/Interviews/UnaMcAlinden.php>

-ABOUT RACE AND ARTS ED

"The most interesting argument I heard (at the Access, Equity, Quality conference I attended in Seattle June 18-20 at Americans for the Arts) was about race..."

<http://www.keepartsinschools.org/blog/index.php>

-STATE ARTS AGENCIES EXPECT 7.4% BUDGET DECLINE

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies says state arts budgets will decline from \$328 million in FY09 to \$304 million in FY10.

<http://www.nasaa-arts.org/publications/FY10AppropEstimatesFactSheet.pdf>

-TENNESSEE HAS NEW ARTS ED PSA CAMPAIGN

\$500K worth of billboards are beginning to appear across the state promoting arts education in Tennessee schools.

<http://bit.ly/pAskc>

-HOW WE LEARN

New research reviews show: 1. Learning is computational. 2. Learning is social. 3. Learning is brain-circuitry driven.

<http://bit.ly/uYpbZ>

-WOE IS MUSIC!

Black Commentator editorial board member David Love laments that sorry state of music, as indicated in part by the lack of music in schools.

http://blackcommentator.com/333/333_col_turned_off_music.html

-ARE VIDEO GAMES ART?

This blogger's roundup of research and commentary on video games includes a section about the arts of video games.

<http://bit.ly/AmbHS>

-HOULIHAN'S AND ARTS ED

Each Mojito Margarita and S'Mores Fondue dessert sold at any of 90 Houlihan's stores and franchises will send \$1, up to \$30,000, to the Vh1 Save the Music Foundation.

<http://www.franchising.com/pressreleases/12323/>

-PATRICK PUSHES MORE CHARTER SCHOOLS

MA Gov. Deval Patrick (D) proposed a plan last week that would create an estimated 27,000 new charter school seats in about 30 districts across the state.

<http://bit.ly/17y46Q>

-GETTY RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

The lessons are grounded in historical contexts surrounding works of art in the Getty Museum's collection.

<http://bit.ly/8zYUB>

-NOTABLE NUMBERS!

18: The number of charter schools featured in U.S. News's list of the top 100 high schools in America.

5. FUNDING

-FUNDS TO EDUCATION WILL DROP IN 08-09

Education will likely see an average decline of 3.9% in giving for the 2008-09 academic year and only modest growth in 2009-10.

<http://bit.ly/cIhv6>

-FEDERAL FUNDING INFORMATION

Federal Ed Funds: application deadlines, amounts, federal register notice links, and more. <http://bit.ly/edgov131>

6. OPPORTUNITIES: GET INVOLVED, CONFERENCES, JOBS & AWARDS

CONFERENCES:

-ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP FORUM

Charting a Course for the Arts and 21st Century Learning, October 2-3 in Cambridge, MA.

<http://www.aep-arts.org/forums/cambridge2009.html>

-CELL PHONES AS INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS

This free event is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, at 4 p.m. Eastern time.

<http://bit.ly/vGe0G>

JOBS:

Full Americans for the Arts Job Listings are online.

Post, search, apply. Hundreds of jobs; Thousands of applicants.

<http://jobbank.artsusa.org>

AWARDS:

7. BOOK OF THE WEEK!

Art for Obama: Designing Manifest Hope and the Campaign for Change

By Shepard Fairey (Editor), Jennifer Gross (Editor)

150 images from the campaign

In the run up to the 2008 presidential election, Barack Obama's messages of "hope" and "change" inspired millions. Among those inspired were a number of artists who created lasting images and artwork that translated his message and, in turn, inspired the movement that led to his victory.

Shepard Fairey is a contemporary artist, graphic designer, and illustrator who emerged from the skateboarding scene. He first became known for his "André the Giant Has a Posse" sticker campaign. His work became widely known during the 2008 United States Presidential Election, specifically his Barack Obama HOPE poster. The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, calls him one of today's best known and most influential street artists. His work is included in the collections at the Smithsonian, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. He lives in Los Angeles.

Profits from the book are donated to Americans for the Arts.

<http://bit.ly/sUxDz>

8. QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

"Test scores alone should never drive evaluation, compensation, or tenure decisions. That would never make sense. But to remove student achievement entirely from evaluation is illogical and indefensible."

-Secretary Duncan. [Editorial: Where exactly is this guy going with student assessment anyway?]

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/07/07/36nea.h28.html?tkn=RVUFKEwgmsmybxEE5%2BgAQfMcyjKftpBdukBKW>

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