

Discovering the Arts at Painted Sky Elementary

PHOTOS AND MUSIC CAN MAKE YOUR LITERATURE LESSONS COME ALIVE!



Cindy Wolf, ARTS Center Librarian

Photography: New Mexico edited by Thomas Barrow, Professor Emeritus at UNM, is a new addition to our rich and growing collection of photography books - and even features the work of one of our own: La Cueva HS photo teacher David Ondrik. Our photo collection books feature work directly related to many of the novels that are required reading in high school literature classes across the district.

While *Photography: New Mexico* focuses on architecture, landscapes and people of our state, *Dorothea Lange: American Photographs* focuses on people from the mid-west and western United States through the 30's and 40's during the dust bowl and depression. *Moments: The Pulitzer Prize-Winning Photographs*, collected by Hal Bell, captures news moments of that same period in time.

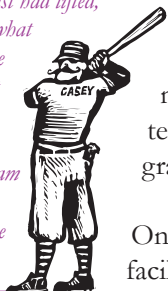
These photo books can provide visual enhancement for novels such as *Red Sky at Morning* by Richard Bradford, a novel set in northern New Mexico at the beginning of the US involvement in World War II, and *Milagro Beanfield War*, by John Nichols, a mid 20th century fiction about the threat of big business interests to a small community. Both novels can be enhanced for students by viewing photos of the era and its people.



Additional collections for these two novels may be found in our music collection. The Big Band music of the era is available in *Best of the Big Bands: the '40's*, which includes The Dorsey Brothers and Duke Ellington. We also have *The Words and the Music of World War II*.



"And when the dust had lifted, and the men saw what had occurred, there was Jimmy safe at second and Flynn a-bugging third." The Discovery Team creates a tableau from "Casey at the Bat."



"Discovering" the arts is the goal of a group of staff members at Painted Sky ES this year. The school refers to this group as one of their "Discovery" Teams: groups of teachers that meet one Wednesday each month to explore a professional growth area of their choice.

This group chose the arts as their focus and will meet with the ARTS Center staff throughout the school year to learn how to integrate the arts into their curriculum. The 15 members of the team include kindergarten teachers, PE teachers, the librarian, and teachers representing many grade level in between.

On September 3, ARTS Center Librarian Cindy Wolf facilitated the team's participation in "Let's Read a Picture," an exploration of the wide variety of ways that book illustration can enhance and broaden the text of children's literature.

On October 1st, the group had the opportunity to experience what it is like to integrate the drama strategies of *Tableau* and *Human Slide Show* into a literacy lesson. Working with Erin Hulse, ARTS Center drama resource teacher, participants began with short warm-ups that introduced physical skills they would need for creating tableaux (still images).

Next, the group listened to the ballad, *Casey at the Bat* by Ernest Lawrence Thayer, illustrated by Christopher Bing. They discussed the various language skills and concepts that were addressed in using this text. The next step had participants working in two small groups to create a series of tableaux (a "human slide show") for their half of the ballad. The final step was a presentation of their slide show for the larger group.

Comments heard during the wrap-up discussion included, "This is great for my ELL students! They can have success without being tripped up with their expressive language." and "My wiggly students can use their bodies in a way that has purpose."

Integrating drama strategies with literacy skills and concepts provides motivation, encourages non-threatening participation for all students, and differentiates instruction across a wide range of abilities. For the remainder of the school year, the Arts Discovery Team will be "discovering" how art, music and movement/dance can enhance their daily instruction.

Teachers & Principals:

If you would like to explore the many ways that the arts can enliven and enrich your curriculum, call the ARTS Center! We are available for individual consultations, demonstrations, site-based workshops and in-services.



These kindergarteners in art teacher Beth Kassay's class at Georgia O'Keeffe ES are looking pretty square! They were exploring shapes through movement with Sara Hutchinson, dance resource teacher at the ARTS Center.