

A Dream Becomes A Reality (1993-2012)

“ARTISTS ON THE GREEN”

A Fine Arts Collaboration Between Ravenel Elementary School
and Community Artists

CO-FOUNDERS:

Cathy Watson, Ravenel Elementary Principal, 1988-2000, deceased 2000

Beverly Robinson, Ravenel Elementary Art Teacher, 1990-2010, retired

PRESENTERS:

Beverly Robinson

Dr. Bonnie Rushlow, Associate Professor of Art Education, Middle Tennessee State University, former Oconee County Fine Arts Coordinator

VISION

Ravenel is a rural school of approximately 530 students. Although some of our families expose their children to the arts beyond school, many of our children may never leave Seneca or Oconee County, South Carolina. Meeting artists, seeing them at work or visiting their studios might not be a possibility, so we wanted to bring the artists to the students and provide them experiences and exposure to a variety of art disciplines and cultures within our school environment as part of our school family

We want our students at Ravenel Elementary to see that the arts are for life. It starts with young children and the passion for the arts continues, reflected in our artists/performers of all ages and representing all art disciplines. Our students see this love of the arts through our artists and learn about their specific art form as the artists discuss, demonstrate, share their tools, instruments, and techniques. By involving our students in the process of creating, the artists help make art memories for life for our students. All children benefit because such a large range of artists participate and the children are given an opportunity to interact on a personal level.

FINDING YOUR ARTISTS/PERFORMERS

Our artists /performers are **volunteers**, therefore, are not paid to participate in “Artists on the Green.” These artists also bring their own supplies for student participation.

Local arts associations, arts councils, newspaper articles, arts festivals, parents and retirees who are professional and practicing artists, university professors, arts teachers, high school and university visual and performing arts department, dance troupes, local venues; museums, theaters, orchestras, artists in residence programs, references from the above for other possible artists/performers

RAVENEL MUSEUM OF ART

Since the year 2000, the entire school has been transformed into a museum with artwork from all students and loaned artwork from our volunteer artists interspersed in the halls among our students' work. Students are the showcased artists exhibited with our presenters in our museum. The students learn to view artwork in a museum setting. The teachers allow me to use their cork strips and all bulletin boards in the school. A variety of 2-D and 3-D work is displayed.

ARTS DISCIPLINES

Visual Arts	Music (Vocal / Instrumental)	Dance
Drama / Theater	Technology (added)	

PEER FACILITATORS, MEETERS AND GREETERS

The 5th grade students interviewed for Peer Facilitator, Meeter and Greeter. One of their leadership responsibilities is helping with Artists on the Green. They welcome presenters, help them unload their cars, sign in, pick up their packets, and get settled in their rooms. During the day, they check to see if artists need something to eat or drink, take their orders, then bring the artists snacks. At the end of the day they help them pack up and take their supplies back to their cars.

Some of the Meeters and Greeters are on rotations and remain in the front to welcome visitors and give directions. Our Guidance teacher works with these students.

SCHEDULE

Each class will visit four 30-minute sessions during the day, 2 in the morning, 2 in the afternoon. There is a 15-minute block of time when the classes may go to the restroom, walk around the school visiting the museum, take part in the 'special events' (visit a master artist, listen to the musicians in the hall, have their photo made as Mona Lisa or in Grant Wood's American Gothic), or go back to their rooms to write thank you notes to their artists. Each year we have approximately 30-40 presenters.

We have a school-wide performance followed by a picnic lunch outside with music by a Dixieland Band. Recess is also built into the lunch schedule for

each class. During the student/visitor lunch, the PTO Artists' Luncheon is in the Media Center.

Enjoy the day, interact with the artists, make art memories, and take lots of photos.

WELCOME; This is an example of an "Artists on the Green" schedule.

7:45- throughout day, presenters and visitors arrive, sign in (Peer Facilitators, Meeters and Greeters assist)

8:30-9:00 Session I

9:15-9:45 Session II

10:00-11:00 School-wide Performance

11:15-12:30 Picnic Lunch (outside) – Dixieland Band

PTO Artists' Luncheon (with entertainment) Artists visit with one another.

12:45-1:15 Session III

1:30-2:00 Session IV

2:00 "Artists on the Green" Day ends. Peer Facilitators help presenters collect and take their supplies/equipment to their cars.

Students continue to write thank you notes to presenters.

2:50 End of the day.....smiling faces, excited children, parents, and teachers; everyone is ready to share their experiences of their "Artists on the Green" Day.

Collect materials, supplies, and equipment throughout the school. Relish the joys of the day and benefits for the children, presenters, and all involved. Begin thinking about next year. What a great day!

I hope you are now motivated to start your own Fine Arts Day at your school. If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact me at bsrobin@bellsouth.net

Much luck,

Beverly Robinson

March 3, 2012

NAEA Convention

New York

