

## *ArtReach* Bulletin # 14 – March 2008

News of the *ArtReach* program and the resources it offers to teachers and students continues to spread quickly across the province. In November, we were thrilled to visit our first francophone school in Tusket near Yarmouth where high school art students participated in artful discussions and printmaking. Our next stop was Ecole de la Rive-Sud in Blockhouse. An exhibition and workshops are also being planned for teachers, students, and artists in the Sydney area at the fabulous new Centre for Craft and Design in early April.



*Students at École Secondaire de Par-en-Bas enjoy their workshop*

In order to help the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia continue in its offering of invigorating educational programs that are current, affordable, and relevant to school curriculum, we invited teachers, in our last Bulletin, to respond to a survey regarding student tours. We received some very thoughtful and helpful feedback that has been incorporated into our plan for the future. (See attached.)

It's time to plan for spring workshops for teachers. Once again, we will use art works in the current or permanent AGNS collections to generate discussion, hands-on art work, and the development of skills and strategies to enhance students' powers of observation and informed response. Classes will be held at AGNS on Thursday evenings from 5:30-8:30 on May 8, 15, 22, June 5 and 12. For further information or to save a space in these classes, contact Willie Reid (below).

Be sure to visit the Gallery's new website and contact us with your comments, ideas, and suggestions.

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**Plans in the works for AGNS school programs, based on feedback from teachers:**

- We are presently developing a document that will highlight many curriculum links to permanent works and special exhibits at the Gallery. Staff is currently working on creating more specialized content that would pinpoint and showcase some of those links as an example of what teachers and students may derive from a Gallery visit. We are preparing lessons that will be available to teachers as they plan for their visits. (e.g., the Marilyn exhibition) Other lessons and links will appear on line as the program continues to grow.
- Bussing costs and scheduling in schools are a common response to why you can't visit. We recognize that this is a big concern and would like to offer one suggestion. Perhaps certain businesses in your areas could be asked to sponsor a Gallery trip rather than make a general donation to your school fund raising. Students could thank their donors with special artwork created in response to the visit. With the development of more relevant connections to your curriculum, perhaps a trip to the gallery can be more effectively validated in your School planning (though we feel that no validation is necessary in order to have children engaged in looking at and responding to art. So many outcomes are realized by just one visit!)
- Traveling tours of original artworks are currently under way in several parts of the province, along with workshops and educational kits to accompany them. Please refer to the *ArtReach* program in the Gallery's new website [www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca](http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca) for more information. We have visited two francophone schools, one in Tusket and the other in Bridgewater. At this point, we are having many of the accompanying documents translated into French. Feel free when booking to request a guide who can deliver the tour in French and we will do our best to accommodate.
- The "Grow With Art" program, that used to lend reproductions to schools and institutions, is currently under revision. A generous volunteer, Sandra MacLellan, has taken responsibility for running this program. More information will be available on the website once the initial cataloguing has been completed and we are ready for business.
- A suggestion for traveling guest speakers from AGNS (using power point or slide presentations) is certainly a welcome one and is a possibility for future consideration pending staffing and scheduling.
- Gallery visits and workshops for teachers are already taking place through the *ArtReach* program in Thursday evening sessions. Please refer to the website or ask to be on the mailing list for the *ArtReach* Bulletins. Artssmarts (on-line) is a national program that also offers teachers the opportunity to apply for grants for professional development. Tours of the Gallery for teachers can be requested at any time by any group of teachers. If 10 or more want to arrange for a guided tour, they may make this request through Enrique Ferreol in the Education department. Gallery admission is free for teachers with appropriate ID on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month.
- As the new Gallery website develops, we will feature more and more information on exhibitions, programs developments and related topics. We encourage teachers

to use this resource in preparation for your visits and share the information with others.

- Watch for a special forthcoming fall exhibition on “Flight” and the many educational connections, lessons, and manifestations that we are developing around this theme.