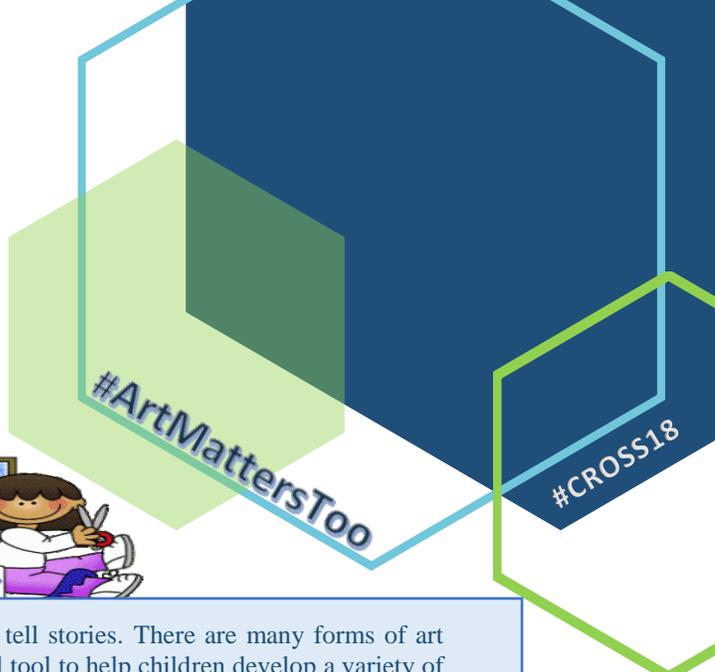


Theme 5

CHANNELS OF CREATIVITY

HOW DOES OUR BROADENED VIEW OF ARTS TRANSFORM US AND THE WORLD AROUND US?



Art allows us to express emotions, share cultures and to tell stories. There are many forms of art including painting, drawing, and music. Art is an essential tool to help children develop a variety of skills they will need in the future (Nevanen 8). In Finland, art is believed to awaken a child to learn. Finnish researchers developed a project to study how art will help children to concentrate and to work with groups as well as tolerate failure (Nevanen 7). According to the *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood*, many Australian bills and acts are in place to acknowledge how important art is in kindergarten and preparatory schools, and how art helps develop communication skills in children. Learning through visual arts helps children communicate their ideas, observations, and understanding of processes as well as understand different perspectives (Garvis 3). According to the *Cambridge Journal of Education*, those who participate in the arts obtain higher standardized test scores, lower drop-out rates, higher student self-concept, and are more likely to provide community service. Art education programs are mandatory in countries that rank consistently among the highest for math and science test scores, like Japan, Hungary, and the Netherlands. Students who study art are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement. Finland is ranked 12th in Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and United States is ranked 36th.

Nevanen, Salla; Juvonen, Antti; Ruismaki, Heikki. *Does Arts Education Develop School Readiness? Teachers' and Artists' Points of View on an Art Education Project*. Arts Education Policy Review. 2014, Vol. 115 Issue 3, p72-81.

Garvis, Susanne. *Exploring current arts practice in kindergartens and preparatory classrooms*. Australasian Journal of Early Childhood. Dec2012, Vol. 37 Issue 4, p86-93.

Maguire, Cindy; Donovan, Corinne; Mishook, Jacob; Gaillande; Garcia, Ivonne. *Choosing a life one has reason to value: the role of the arts in fostering capability development in four small urban high schools*. Cambridge Journal of Education. Sep2012, Vol. 42

1	Go to a local school(k-12) and partner with students to complete an art activity.	2	Hold a drive to collect art supplies and donate them to a local school or Boys and Girls Club.
OPTIONS to CONSIDER			
3	Participate in a workshop during Regional Leadership Conference held October 26-28, 2018.	4	Research arts funding locally and determine if there are ways to lobby for changes.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- If art creates more responsive students and in turn citizens, how can a community support schools that have had program cuts?*
- Why is art so easily pushed aside by policymakers when it has proven to aid in higher productivity rates/social advancement?*
- How can policymakers be influenced to maintain or increase funding of arts programs?*

