

Celebrate Arts in Education Week!

On July 26, 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation designating the second week of September as national **Arts in Education Week**.

Maine's **Arts are Basic Coalition** invites you to join with us in the celebration of the first national Arts in Education Week this **September 12th – 18th**. We are calling upon schools, teachers, parents, artists, organizations, businesses, and community members to spread the word and celebrate arts in education week by **coordinating community events** and letting your communities know the importance of the Arts in Education.

Here are some suggestions:

- Organize a community potluck celebrating Arts in Education, and invite students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff and community members to attend.
- Create a banner or wall display in honor of the week and feature student artwork.
- Take an arts project, dance, play, and/or musical performance to a school board meeting.
- Ask your students to write letters to their Congressional delegates, letting them know the importance of the arts in their education and lives, and thanking them for their support of arts education.

Senator Susan Collins

senator@collins.senate.gov

Senator Olympia Snowe

olympia@snowe.senate.gov

Congressman Michael Michaud

c/o jill.brimmer@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

c/o Cassie.mann@mail.house.gov

- Ask your students what the arts mean to them and create an artwork/performance piece to express their thoughts. Display/perform these works in your school/community.
- Write a *Letter to the Editor* of your local paper on the importance of Arts in Education in your community.
- Find additional suggestions at <http://aep-arts.org/artsineducationweek.html>

Celebrate in the best way you can, and let us know what YOU did to celebrate! Send pictures and stories of your celebrations to argy.nestor@maine.gov, and Argy Nestor, Visual and Performing Arts Specialist at the Maine Department of Education, will post them on the maineartsed blog for all to share in the celebration.

We wish you a **Happy Arts in Education Week** in recognition of your hard work, dedication, and creativity!

The Arts are Basic Coalition

The Maine Alliance for Arts Education	www.maineartsed.org
The Maine Music Educators Association	www.mainemmea.org
The Maine Art Education Association	www.mainearted.org
The Maine Drama Council	www.mainedramacouncil.com
Dance Education in Maine Schools	
VSAarts of Maine	www.vsartsmaine.org
Maine Arts Commission	www.mainearts.com

The Arts are Basic and for a lifetime.