

August 2011



California Kindergarten Association E-News

California Kindergarten Conference!

Save the Date! The California Kindergarten Association is celebrating its 30th Annual California Kindergarten Conference! [Look for the conference brochure in your email within the next several days!](#)

JOIN CKA and become part of a network of educators who want kindergarten to be the best it can be! This year CKA members can look forward to:

- TKP Implementation
- Common Core State Standards lesson plans
- More You Tube videos
- Development of a Members Only portal on our website.

[Click here to join!](#)

CKA on Facebook!

Have a comment? Want to chat about kindergarten issues? Wondering what we've been up to? Come join us on Facebook and connect with other CKA members!

Be sure to check out our "Tuesday Teaching Tip" every week on Facebook!

It's Time for CKA Awards!

JBAR - The annual Judy Brown Administrator Recognition Award recognizes administrators who exemplify outstanding leadership and exemplary support of kindergarten educators. Judy Brown, along with a group of dedicated educators, organized the first Bay Area Kindergarten

This year we will present a special strand at the Conference – each presentation on some aspect of Transitional Kindergarten. Plan to bring a team to hear all the sessions plus attend other wonderful workshops!

Transitional Kindergarten in California – an Overview – Ernesto Saldaña (Preschool California) and Dr. Lisa Kaufman (Santa Clara County Office of Education) will provide an overview of the Kindergarten Readiness Act, statewide implementation efforts, and resources available to all.

Nuts and Bolts of Transitional Kindergarten – Shirley Esau (Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District) and Ying Lee (Washington School, Kingsburg ECSD) will share how one district implemented TK, including a curriculum guide that blends the Common Core State Standards with Preschool Foundations, making a developmentally appropriate kindergarten program.

Practical Strategies for Implementing a Transitional Kindergarten Program – Amy Weisberg (LAUSD) and Laura Gianaccini (Torrance USD) will offer ideas on developmentally appropriate practice, sample schedules, room arrangement, and curriculum ideas.

Meeting the Broad Range of Needs in Transitional Kindergarten – Whit Hayslip (LAUSD) and Armando Argandona (LAUSD) will present an interactive workshop on the broad range of needs of TK students, a tiered response system that focuses on cognitive, social, and emotional needs. Their focus is on Dual Language Learners and children with special needs, but it will also be appropriate for teachers of traditional kindergarten.

Transitional Kindergarten: The Combination Class Approach – Sheryll Ebbs (Gilroy USD) will offer ideas about how combination classes and early/late bird scheduling as well as other ways to group TK and traditional K students.

Investigating Science in Kindergarten – Sheron Lemley of Weaver Union SD and Sean Timmons of San Joaquin County Office of Education will explore scientific inquiry through hands-on investigations and collegial discussion. Their focus on the kindergarten science standards will be appropriate for both traditional and transitional kindergarten.

To attend, keep an eye out for the conference brochure which

Conference. She also served as the first President of CKA. The administrator who is nominated recognizes and encourages professional development of kindergarten teachers and supports the unique needs of the kindergarten classroom. The nominator must be a current member of CKA.

Deadline: October 1, 2011. The recipient will be given a Certificate of Recognition during the opening session of the annual California Kindergarten Conference as well as be highlighted by an article in the CKA newsletter, *TAKE FIVE*.

[For application, click here.](#)

ASTE A - The \$500 Audrey Sanchez Teacher Enhancement Award has been established to honor Audrey's spirit, talent, leadership and dedication to CKA and Kindergarten by recognizing individual educators for achievement and excellence in early childhood education. The nominee must believe in the philosophy of the CKA Mission Statement.

Deadline: November 1, 2011.

[For application, click here.](#)

Get \$\$\$ for Your Classroom

Did you know teachers typically spend \$40 a week of their own money for classroom materials? Here's a novel way to raise money for your favorite classroom project – go online to DonorsChoose and ask for help. This online charity can help you find funding for a classroom library, musical instruments, instructional supplies, or other important classroom items. Go online to learn more about this charity at <http://www.donorschoose.com/>.

will be emailed in in the next several days!

Exhibitors 2012! The California Kindergarten Association invites you to exhibit your educational materials at the 30th Annual California Kindergarten Conference. We are anticipating over 500 participants - kindergarten teachers, preschool teachers, early primary teachers, administrators, parents and leaders in the forefront of education today.

For information visit

<http://www.californiakindergartenassociation.org/>.

How CKA Can Help You!

CKA is listening to you! In July we summarized the 209 responses to our May survey. Representing new and experienced teachers, long-time and new members, you said you wanted more information, lesson plans and activities to use in your classes and feedback on issues you face. Each month's e-News will highlight specific survey responses and how CKA is changing to meet your needs. This month we focus on how we're using technology to serve you.

CKA now offers multiple ways to gain new information and interact on early childhood issues – a new and improved website at <http://www.californiakindergartenassociation.org/>, e-BLASTS, e-News, and *Take 5*. We're active on Twitter (follow us: @ckastaff). You can also join us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Kindergarten-Association/93714041733>). Our website now features a blog where you can find and share teaching ideas.

CKA rejuvenated our website to make it more interactive and to offer new features.

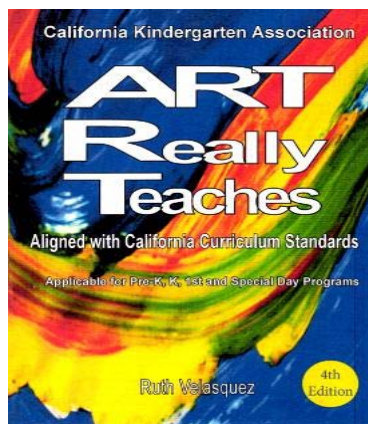
- PowerPoints on Transitional Kindergarten and Common Core State Standards
- Lesson plans using Common Core State Standards, submitted by teachers
- New topics such as Developmentally Appropriate Practice, Transitional Kindergarten, and others
- Current year's research articles—written by early childhood educators like you—along with study guides to help your professional learning communities “dig deeper”
- Photos to make kindergarten and our teaching come alive
- Blog posts that you can use to send us comments or questions
- Pay-pal payment to join will soon be available
- Complete archived research will be available for members only

CKA started a Facebook page. Your survey responses the following:

- About 10 percent of you are “friends” of CKA on Facebook

Art Really Teaches 4th Edition

The new, 140 page 4th Edition is bigger and better! The new edition includes new color photos of art projects by four-, five-, and six-year-old artists from throughout the state, tips for framing artwork, and a project title index as well as over 400 activities to help you teach the standards in Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Visual Art.



ART Really Teaches helps you teach academic standards the way children learn best—with hands-on art projects. It's a must for Kindergarten teachers. The cost is \$35 plus shipping and handling. To order yours today and put it to use in your classroom, please contact First Stage Publishing at (707)664-0164 or email them at FirstStageco@aol.com

- A whopping 40 percent of you said you intended to be a “friend.”
- Nearly 8 percent don't use FB regularly.
- Another 8 percent thought it was only for personal information.
- Some 6 percent said you had no time.
- About 63 percent said you are not on FB, but some of you want to be (see second bullet).

As we improve posting regularity, you are responding. Since CKA Facebook started, CKA has 337 fans on Facebook individuals. We'd love to make it to 500. Help us reach our goal! “Like” us today! ” It's easy to join Facebook and your account can insure that you only allow certain individuals (or no one) to access information about you. Once you have an account, you can “like” the California Kindergarten Association and you're on your way.

Every Tuesday, CKA posts a Tuesday Teaching Tip on Facebook that later is posted on our website. Many Tips include colorful photos. Now we are receiving Tuesday Teaching Tips from you!

A weekly e-BLAST contains information on one issue. Recently, we offered membership incentives – professional books for a pair of lucky educators who joined during the “pledge drive.” In August and September additional books will be provided to winners from a list of renewing/new members. We periodically offer these incentives.

The monthly e-News contains five or six short articles, links to resources, and other pertinent information you may need. The issue includes the month's lesson plans which are later posted on our website.

The quarterly Take 5 contains research information, teaching ideas, and statewide resources. Since we send it electronically, we can include links to additional resources and information. This distribution makes your membership dollars go further!

We hope our use of technology will enrich your experience with CKA and help you do the difficult job you tackle every day – teaching young children! Grab a friend and come join us on Facebook, Twitter, and our updated website. Good luck in the 2011-2012 school year, and we look forward to sharing in your adventures with a new group of children!

Innovative Ideas Grant

CKA is offering an Innovative Ideas Grant of \$150 for the development and implementation of appropriate environment, curricula or classroom project to meet the diverse needs of young children. Our mission is to facilitate quality education for all kindergarten children. We aim to advance the professionalism of early childhood educators; promote an understanding of how young children learn and develop; contribute to and promote the seamless transition from preschool to kindergarten and beyond.

Proposals will be evaluated on: Title; Goals and Objectives; Description of Project/Activities; Relevant Research and Theory; Benefit to Children; Evaluation; Project Timeline; Proposed Budget; Resume/Educational Background; Two Current Professional Letters of Reference.

The [Grant Application and Guidelines](#) are available as a download on the CKA website. Grant applications are due by October 15 and will be awarded by November 30, 2011. Grantees will be introduced at the California Kindergarten Conference on Sunday, January 15, 2012. Applicants should be current members in good standing of CKA.

Grants that were awarded in the past include *Ready for Science - Ready for Reading* by Nathalie Medina, Los Angeles Archdiocese and *Making Sure ART Stays in Kindergarten* by Sheri Sutterley of Turlock Elementary SD.

Common Core State Standards!

The State Board of Education adopted Common Core State Standards for K-12 students in language arts and mathematics to replace the California Academic Standards in those subject areas. Each month CKA will select a standard and offer activities, lesson plans and/or resources to help teachers meet these new standards.

August's CCSS is contributed by Dr. Linda Clinard of UC Irvine. [Click here](#) to view the activity, that addresses Reading Standards: Foundational Skills – Phonological Awareness #2 and Mathematics Measurement & Data #3. Want to contribute your ideas? CKA posts the next month's standards on the CKA website. [Click here](#) for October 2011. If your idea is selected you will receive a special CKA gift!

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