



California Kindergarten Association

E-News

Innovative Ideas Grants - Due May 1st!

CKA is offering an Innovative Ideas Grant of \$150 for the development and implementation of appropriate environment, curricula or classroom projects 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 May 1, 2012 and will be awarded by June 30, 2012. Grantees will be introduced at the *P K 1* Conference on Sunday, January 20, 2013. Applicants should be current members in good standing of CKA.

Call for Spring Art!

Calling all Pre-K, K, and 1st Grade Teachers!

Now is the time to send in art work created by your students. These projects will be mounted by the CKA Art Committee for display at the 2013 Young Children's Art Exhibit in January in Santa Clara. All entries must have *minimum* teacher involvement and *maximum* student effort. No pattern or ditto projects will be accepted. The required [Art Information Sheet](#) for each class project can be downloaded at the CKA website:

Note: All teachers submitting their students' art work by November 1st will have the opportunity to win a free 2013 *P K 1* Conference registration by downloading a [raffle ticket](#) at the CKA website and including it with the art work. The more art entries and coupons submitted, the greater your chance of winning.

Center for Applied Research

With the growing state trend of assessing children's readiness for kindergarten, the Center has published a guide to states on the necessary considerations for implementing an appropriate kindergarten entry assessment, [Developing Kindergarten Readiness and Other Large-Scale Assessment Systems: Necessary Conditions in the Assessment of Young Children.](#)

Did you know you can help support CKA at no cost to yourself? Any time you shop on Amazon after following any link on our site (you'll find one on our home page) CKA receives a percentage of the sale and the price for the shopper remains the same. Thanks for your support and spread the word! Ready to get shopping? [Click here:](#)

[amazon.com.](http://amazon.com)

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!

Art Really Teaches 4th Edition

The new, 140 page 4th Edition is bigger and better! The new



Each teacher submitting artwork is invited to send a personal photo. These photos will be featured in a special display in the Art Exhibit.

Please send the art, Information Sheet(s), personal photo, and coupon(s) to: Pat Rees-Miller, CKA Art Exhibit Co-Chair, 10 Bella Vista, Belvedere, CA 94920.

New Law on Curriculum

In an effort to build a more tolerant atmosphere in the classroom and curb an epidemic of student bullying, schools in California will now be required to include historical contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and people with disabilities in their social studies lessons. SB 48, passed in 2011, went into effect in January 2012. The bill requires the State Board of Education and governing boards to adopt textbook materials and instructional materials that accurately portray lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) persons and people with disabilities. CKA has learned of several websites that include examples of lessons that are age-appropriate for kindergarten.

A link to inclusive resources is www.gsanetwork.org/fair.

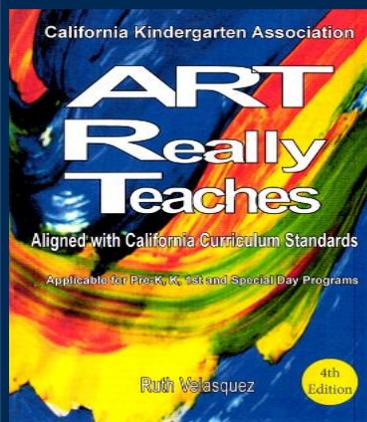
The Learning Network, an educational blog, offers materials, lesson plans, multimedia, teacher articles, and historical articles at www.learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/22teaching-and-learning-about-gays-history-and-issues.

A link to Amazon children's books is at www.amazon.com/LGBT-Childrens-Books/lm/R2RQKYZLJZ8VEQ.

Transition Kindergarten News from the Capitol

Transition Kindergarten advocates provided testimony at the Assembly Budget Hearing on Education Finance in Sacramento on March 13. Preschool California Legislative Advocates Susan Atkins and Kevin McCarty along with seven parents, service providers and teachers spoke in support of Transition Kindergarten. Among those in support of TK included: Judy Crenshaw (kindergarten teacher and CKA Board Member, Camarillo), Cheryl Lilly (parent, Antelope Valley), Felicia Jones (Families and Schools, Los Angeles), Melissa Vernon (parent, Gilroy), Jennifer Roggin (parent, Gilroy), Elizabeth Ruiz (parent, Norwalk), Vy Pham (parent, Santa Monica).

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 or www.firststagepublishing.com



Following the public input session, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education voted to reject the Governor's proposal related to Transition Kindergarten. In effect, the subcommittee's vote is in support of TK and supports keeping the current law SB 1381 in place. What a great show of support for California's youngest learners!

Parent advocates and teachers also visited several legislative offices on March 1 and March 13 urging legislators to support Transition Kindergarten.

A Day Without Child Care!

We received this YouTube presentation from the Humboldt County Office of Education. CKA is disseminating it with the intent of informing our members of a problem that affects us all. If you have any questions with regard to the presentation, please contact the Humboldt County of Education or the website at the end of the YouTube presentation.

The residents of Humboldt County, California, wake up one day to find that all their child care providers have mysteriously disappeared. The result? A good portion of the workforce has to stay home to take care of their kids! Chaos ensues. [A solution is proposed.](#)



We Want to Hear From You!

News articles and teacher discussions ask how you know if your classroom or school has a bullying problem and what to do about it. CKA Board members found some sample lessons from the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN). They propose a school sponsor a "No Name Calling Week" in January. Their lesson plans support "no bullying" and "no name calling" along with supportive literature to reinforce and guide discussions. What was not seen (perhaps it is part of a larger initiative by the NAESP and GLSEN) was actual instruction or directions recommended for teachers to take to prevent it from occurring and what action to take if it does occur.

CKA would like to hear from you, no matter what your grade level: What do you do to ensure your classroom is inclusive, friendly to all, supportive of individual differences, and a non-bullying atmosphere? Please respond to cka@ckanet.org and we will share in a Curricular Focus column this summer. If you submit your ideas, your name may be drawn to win some free classroom books for your children.