



California Kindergarten Association

E-News

31st Annual PK1 (Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st Grade) Conference January 18th -20th

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!](#)

There's Still Time to Register! Come and enjoy up to three days of activities that you will not want to miss, including and all day PreConference Institute, Keynote Speakers Peggy Campbell-Rush and Jim Gill, a transitional kindergarten strand, commercial and art exhibits and much, much more! [Click here](#) to download a copy of the conference brochure. Purchase orders are being accepted.

Administrators Free! Would you like your administrator to spend some time in kindergarten? Bring them with you to the conference **free of charge with four paid registrations from the same school.** All five registrations need to be received in the same envelope. Please write "administrator" at the top of the registration form. [Click here](#) for a list of sessions especially relevant for administrators.

Call for Pre-K, K, and 1st Grade Art!

Now is last chance 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 December 15th will have the opportunity to win a free 2013 *PK 1* Conference registration. Just download 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.

What's New On Our Website?

- [Setting the Stage for Mathematics Reform!](#)

Membership in CKA benefits you!
Just posted to the CKA Members-
Only portion of our website:

- [Exploring Math Concepts with Children's Books](#) - How children's literature is an important resource in mathematics instruction for young children.
- [Fact Sheet on Full-Day](#)

Kindergarten -- FDK is in place throughout the USA and is especially helpful when serving low-income children and English language learners.

- Fact Sheet on Class Size in Kindergarten -- budget cuts have diminished it, but CA needs CSR to keep up with other states
- Fact Sheet on Starting Out with Rubrics -- observations by trained educators -- YOU -- are found to be the most valid assessment of young children. Rubrics help children and parents understand what is expected.

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



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.

Math Resources for Teachers

CKA is committed to providing quality educational resources for early childhood educators. Did you see the recent Curricular Theme on "[Setting the Stage for Mathematics Reform](#)"? Next we will follow up with "Number Sense." Each Curricular Theme includes:

- Children's developmental stages
- Research with study guide questions for professional learning communities
- Lesson plans & activities for teachers of preschool, transitional kindergarten, traditional kindergarten, and first grade (each activity identifies preschool Foundations and K-1 Common Core State Standards)
- Resources, e.g., letter to parents, classroom poster, and print and media resources
- Video clips illustrating the topic

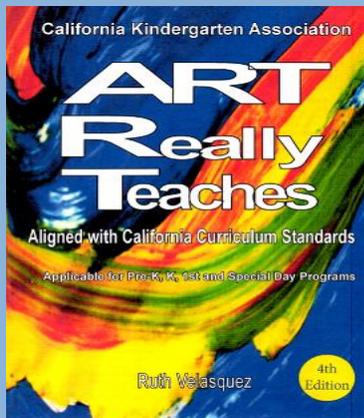
Most of these materials will be on our CKA website, but selected resources will appear on CKA's Members-Only Webpage. We welcome your comments, photos, and classroom ideas.

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 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

New Vaccination Law

In September Governor Brown signed a bill to require signatures for those opting out of vaccinations for their children. Previously, parents could enroll children in kindergarten only if they stated they had a religious reason for refusing immunizations.

Gov. **Jerry Brown** signed AB 2109 requiring parents who exclude their children from immunization requirements to submit a signed statement that they received information about risks and benefits of vaccines. The statement requires signatures of the parents and a health care practitioner.

Brown is directing the State Department of Health to provide a way for people whose religious beliefs preclude vaccinations from having to seek a health care practitioner's signature.

Brown noted that AB 2109 does not eliminate parents' current right to exclude their children from vaccinations but attempts to ensure that they have important health information in making that choice.

For a copy of the new law, [click here](#).

Kindergarten Absences

Take a look around your room -- missing something -- like students? A recent [Mercury News article](#) (9/26/2012) called attention to kindergarten absenteeism.

Counting excused and unexcused absences, about one in ten kindergartners nationwide is out of school for at least 10 percent of the year. In Oakland & Redwood City -- areas included in the *News* article -- K absenteeism rates were higher than any other grade.

K teachers know how important attendance is.

- In a 2008 study, kindergartners who missed 10 percent or more of school were the lowest achieving group in first grade.
- A 2011 Applied Survey Research study of 600 children in San Mateo & Santa Clara counties found that poor attendance in K & 1st grade may erase many of the benefits of preschool. Only 13 percent of children with poor attendance in K and 1st grade tested at grade level in reading as 3rd graders, compared with 77 percent of those with good attendance in those early grades.

What to do about it?

- CKA has long recommended making K compulsory so schools can use truancy procedures.
- Disseminate information to parents about the importance of

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good attendance and ways to help families get their children to school.

- Recruit "buddy families" to call each home every month about the importance of sending their children to school on time and the need to coordinate carpools.
- Enter students with perfect attendance at the end of each marking period into a bicycle raffle.
- Contact your local legislator to recommend mandating kindergarten.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the talking points (translations are available) and other resources developed by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and used by schools mentioned in the article.

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