



On March 5, 2013, the California Kindergarten Association lost a dear friend, Gretchen Ross, who passed away at her home in Windsor, surrounded by family. Gretchen's four-decade career in education began as an elementary school teacher. She later became a school principal and was one of the founding board members of the

California Kindergarten Association.

She served as CKA's president from 1998 – 2000. As an avid writer, she continued to serve as a member of the TAKE 5 Committee and summarized in TAKE 5 important early childhood research.

Donations may be made to The Living Room Center, 636 Cherry Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, www.thelivingroomsc.org.

PK1 - A Conference for Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade Educators

Thank you for a most AMAZING weekend of love, learning, laughter, and tools!!! I so appreciate all the effort it took by EVERYONE involved who pulled together to put this conference on!!!! I am a 1st time attendee and will happily and enthusiastically return!!!!

-- Stephanie Pasquale
Owner/Director/T-K instructor
New Adventures Preschool, Yuba City

This was our first year as PK1 and our 31st Annual Conference, held in Santa Clara over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, and it was outstanding! It was weekend full of



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JOIN CKA and become part of a network of educators who want early childhood education to be the best it can be! CKA members can look forward to:

- TKP Implementation
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- More offerings on our website's Members

learning, re-charging and FUN! It was a busy weekend, beginning with our Pre-Conference Institute on Friday, followed by our Art Exhibit Reception Friday evening, where our first Pat Rees Miller Award for Art Advocacy was presented to Louise Music, (put her title here) and then finally our two day conference Saturday and Sunday. We had almost 700 people attending our two keynote addresses and 36 breakout sessions and the hotel was abuzz with the energy only early childhood teachers can muster at 8:00 in the morning!

Our Saturday keynoter, Peggy Campbell Rush, kicked off the conference with a humor filled address that got all of us laughing and reminded us how important it is to fill our rooms with laughter as we do the very important work of educating young learners.

Our Sunday keynoter, Jim Gill, began our second day with an energetic participatory presentation about the importance of music play with children. Jim's enthusiasm was absolutely inspiring – as one participant noted – “he spent most of his presentation, literally, on his toes, he was so eager to share his message!

The 24th annual Young Children's Art Exhibit transformed the hallways of the hotel, giving our participants many creative ideas to take back to their classrooms. Thank you to the art committee for the countless hours of work they put in to create the exhibit each year, and another thank you to the teachers who send in the fabulous artwork. And of course, a tremendous thank you to all who attended! We are already looking forward to and working on next year - we hope to see you back for our 32nd in 2014!

University Credit - You may still earn three semester units of graduate-level professional development credit for work linked to the PK1 Conference. The cost is only \$200 (a \$79 savings from regular price). The process is simple to follow and Courses4Teachers takes pride in the quality of education and service they provide.

For more information please contact Karin Alexander at courses4teachers@courses4teachers.net

Only Portal

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What's New On Our Website?

- [Transitional Kindergarten with Debra Weller - March](#)
- [TK with Debra Weller - February](#)
- [TK Power Point Presentation at the Southern California Kindergarten Conference](#)
- [PK1 Conference Recap and 2014 Call for Proposals](#)
- [25th Annual Young Children's Art Exhibit](#)
- [Spring into Spring with Great Books!](#)
- [Unifix Cube Letter Hands-On Activities](#)

Membership in CKA benefits you! Just added to our Members Only portion of our website:

- [2013 PK1 Conference Handouts](#)

We're looking for Speakers for the 2014 PK1 Conference! The PK1 Conference Committee is now accepting applications to present at the conference on January 18th and 19th at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara. Please [click here](#) for a Call for Proposals. **We are particularly interested in areas related to PreKindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten.** Deadline for submitting applications is April 20, 2012.

Wanted - CKA Board Members!

The CKA Board of Directors will have openings in January, 2014. The Deadline for applications is May 1st. If you have ever considered giving your energies to CKA, [click here](#) for an application.

Introducing "Using Art to Learn"

At the 2014 CKA Young Children's Art Exhibit, noteworthy class projects in the categories below will be recognized with USING **ART** TO LEARN handmade ribbons. Below are the categories.

- Using Art to be appreciated
- Using Art to broaden ones perspective
- Using Art to celebrate special occasions or holidays
- Using Art to communicate with parents or the community
- Using Art to create and take risks
- Using Art to develop comprehension
- Using Art to discover hidden talents
- Using Art to enrich and increase vocabulary
- Using Art to express feelings
- Using Art to illustrate stories or ideas
- Using Art to learn critical thinking
- Using Art to learn letters or sounds
- Using Art to recognize, form or count by 1's, 2's, 5's, or



First 5 California & Water Cooler Joint Conference
April 10-11, 2013
Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel

This conference is designed as an opportunity for experts, advocates, early learning stakeholders, First 5 county commissions and other partners to highlight successes, strategic and promising practices and policies that are grounded in evidence-based research.

Early registration extended to April 1st. [Sign up today!](#)

[CKA on Facebook!](#)

Have a comment? Want to chat about early childhood 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 Tips" every week on Facebook!

Art Really Teaches (4th Edition)

Art Really Teaches includes color photos of art projects by 4, 5 and 6 year old artists, tips for framing art work, a project title index as well as

10's.

- Using Art to learn on the first day or week of school
- Using Art to learn shapes, sizes, textures and colors
- Using Art to learn to stay healthy
- Using Art to learn to thank others
- Using Art to learn with fingers, hands, arms or feet
- Using Art to learn with literature
- Using Art to learn with the Masters
- Using Art to learn with music and movement
- Using Art to learn with natural and recycled materials
- Using Art to learn with the students' own words
- Using Art to make new friends
- Using Art to recognize and create patterns
- Using Art to just relax
- Using Art to remember a class study trip
- Using Art to socialize with classmates
- Using Art to thank others

For additional information, call Linda Becker at (510) 223-6111 or email Linda at lfbecker@sbcglobal.net.

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