The Arts Unit

Program Overview

The Arts Unit, part of Specialist Programs, supports schools through the delivery of programs in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, reading, spelling and special events that:

- complement and extend school and local programs
- build capacity to deliver arts education
- offer high profile public performance, exhibition and competition opportunities.

Annually more than 44,000 students and 6,000 teachers directly access The Arts Unit’s programs and over 433,000 students are associated with The Arts Unit’s programs each year.

Key Programs

Ensembles

The NSW Public Schools Performing Ensembles in dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music have an outstanding reputation for their high standards and the quality of the performances at high profile events. In 2013, 833 students from 189 schools attended weekly rehearsals at The Arts Unit.

Festivals and Events

High profile events and festivals showcase public school students’ skills and talents in the arts. Over 3,600 student performers from more than 480 public schools across the state participated in the 2013 Schools Spectacular, over 8,700 took part in a State Music Festival and over 2,300 performed in either the State Dance or Drama Festivals.

Arts Initiatives

A range of initiatives are offered to engage secondary students who may otherwise disengage from school. 750 Aboriginal students, 98 boys and over 160 students with disabilities took part in dance workshops and performances. 12 students from refugee and/or non-English speaking backgrounds wrote and performed their own plays and 30 VET entertainment students were provided with work placements.

Professional Learning

Teachers access a wide range of arts-related professional learning, supported by high quality learning resources and information. Over 800 teachers attended 33 professional learning activities in 2013.

Literacy Initiatives

Speaking

This program holds debating, public speaking and spelling competitions and support programs across the state, fostering communication and listening skills. Over 12,800 students participated in 2013 programs.

Reading

The unit coordinates the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge which was completed by more than 246,000 students in 2013.

Further Program Information

The Arts Unit
Cnr The Boulevarde & Toothill St
Lewisham 2130

Louise Barkl
T 8512 1100
barkl.louise@det.nsw.edu.au

© January 2014
NSW Department of Education and Communities

www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au

Specialist Programs
Arts Unit Programs

Drama
Ensembles
Performances
State Drama Festival
Camp and Workshops for students
Multicultural Playwright Program

Dance
Ensembles
State Dance Festival and Performances
Student and Teacher Workshops
Aboriginal Dance, Boys Hip Hop and Disability Dance Workshops and Ensembles
Rural and Remote Dance Studio

Music
Ensembles – Instrumental and Vocal Performances
State Music Festivals
Camps
Teacher Workshops

Visual Arts
Operation Art
ARTEXPRESS
Student and Teacher Workshops

Debating
NSW Premier’s Debating Challenges
Years 5 – 12
Combined High School Debating Competition
Camps and Workshops for students

Public Speaking
Multicultural Perspective Public Speaking Competitions
Years 3 – 6
Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award
Years 7 - 10
The Plain English Speaking Award
Years 11 – 12
Camps and Workshops for students

NSW Premier’s Spelling Bee
Years 3 - 6

NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge

Schools Spectacular

Events
Special Event Production for Government and Corporate Events
Teacher Workshops
VET Entertainment Work Placement