

Dallen Cook

Creative Arts

Arts Link Conference Reflection

The Arts Link Conference was awesome! The idea was to show that you could take just about any lesson and teach it through the arts. The standard they picked focused a lot on Social Studies. The lesson was on creation stories and focused on an Australian story called the "Sun Mother". In the conference we go to see how this same lesson could be taught in 4 unique ways through each of the arts.

In the visual art portion we made stamps that looked like the art the aboriginals made. We drew a picture of whatever we wanted, an animal was suggested because that was part of the story. When we had our picture drawn we made a stamp stencil that made it so our drawing was the part of the stamp that didn't get ink. This made our picture use negative space. I liked this lesson simply because everyone's art came out well. You didn't have to be great at drawing for your piece to look good. This makes it so that kids who are working can gain confidence and not focus on how good others work looks.

In the dancing part we acted out the parts of the animals and their relationship to the sun mother. The teacher was very energetic and knew how to commit. It was because she was so into it that it was fun. We danced around as wind, acted strong as a tree, and ran swift as rivers. She had effective music that went along with the dance that suited the mood of each part. The teacher also allowed the leader to be switched around often so that no one person was in control at all times.

The teacher still had the lead but students would also be lead by students. I feel like if I did a lesson like this everyday I would be exhausted.

In theater we worked with facial expression and body shape. There were a few activities that we worked on to try to tell a story through freeze frames. The teacher would give us an emotion and we would have to portray it with more than our face. We did this several times, alone and in groups. These kinds of activities allow student to work together and alone all in one lesson. Alone I could portray sadness and worry. As a group we had to form an elephant with 10 people. Each took a certain creativity to make.

Finally we went to music where we created the music that surrounds the story. During this lesson we had to create a theme for the sun mother as well as use various instruments to make separate sounds during the play. I loved that the teacher knew how to remove certain keys from the xylophones to make the sounds easier to harmonize. It was also really cool to see how easy it is to make a short little jingle that sounds good. When the students came I thought they would have a hard time with this but it just took a little decisiveness to pick a tune. This conference showed how easy it is to incorporate the arts into everyday lessons. This was a class that could take a whole unit to go over, but some of the activities can be incorporated into everyday classrooms.