



November 11, 2009

Dear School Principal:

The International Child Art Foundation invites you to organize the **4th Arts Olympiad** in your school and to provide your students the opportunity to compete to represent your country at the **World Children's Festival** to be held on the National Mall in Washington, DC in June 2011.

Organized every four years, the Arts Olympiad is the "Olympics" of children's creativity. Commencing in classrooms worldwide in the coming months with structured lesson plans, the Arts Olympiad will lead to school art competitions and exhibitions in 2010, followed by the 2011 World Children's Festival to honor the Arts Olympiad winners from nearly 100 countries. The 4th Arts Olympiad will culminate in 2012 with exhibitions of the winners' artworks in London to celebrate the 2012 London Games and in Rio de Janeiro to celebrate the 2016 Olympics.

The attached Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan will encourage students' creativity, develop their empathy, and introduce them to the "artist-athlete" ideal of a creative mind and healthy body: *Mens sana in corpore sano*. The lesson plan can take between 2 to 5 class periods later this year or in early 2010. Teachers are requested to:

- Encourage students to create their own artworks interpreting the theme *My Favorite Sport*
[Each student can make an original painting/drawing and/or digital art on a real or imaginary sport]
- Use the artworks to encourage athletically inclined students to be creative and non-athletically inclined students to engage in their favorite physical activity, and thereby reduce childhood obesity risk
- Constitute a panel of judges which include local business leaders to select your School Finalist Artwork, one outstanding painting/drawing and/or one outstanding digital art
[local business leaders when involved may sponsor the travel to Washington for the World Festival]
- Mail your school finalist's entry or entries to the ICAF by March 31, 2010

From the school entries received from your State prominent educators and artists in Washington DC will select State winners in each of the two competition categories by August 2010. If your student is the national winner, he or she will represent your country at the 2011 World Children's Festival – the largest international children's celebration in the world. At the festival you will be honored as a champion of children's creativity and imagination.

ICAF does not charge any fee for the Arts Olympiad. The World Children's Festival is also free and open to the public. Although ICAF does not provide any financial support for travel, etc., we are able to arrange for host families for the festival week as well as provide visa support if required. The Arts Olympiad is organized in many countries by ICAF's partners that include ministries of education, arts organizations and cultural institutions. If ICAF has a partner in your country, then the School Finalist Artwork are to be sent to the partner. Please confirm your interest in the Arts Olympiad via an email to program@icaf.org so we can inform you if the Artwork should be sent directly to ICAF.

We look forward to your participation in this important global program.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashfaq Ishaq'.

Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.
ICAF Chairman

ARTS OLYMPIAD LESSON PLAN

Art and sport have the powers to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Art and sport speak to people in a language they understand. Art and sport can create hope where there was once only despair. They are instruments for peace, even more powerful than governments.

- Nobel Laureate Nelson R. Mandela

The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan meets the National Arts Education (Visual Arts) Content Standards 3, 5 and 6, and the following related Achievement Standards: (a) Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas to convey meaning (*regarding a student's favorite sport*); (b) Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristic and merits of their own work and the work of another (*student involvement in judging the school entries*); and (c) making connections between visual arts and other disciplines (*sport*).

The U.S. Olympic Committee has granted the ICAF an exclusive to use the "Arts Olympiad" mark. The "artist-athlete" mark, the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan and the programmatic elements included therein are the property of ICAF. No reproduction or external use is allowed without written permission of ICAF.

Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan

Refresh that part of thyself which is most wearied. If thy life is sedentary, exercise the body; if stirring and active, recreate thy mind.

- Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

I. PRE-COMPETITION ACTIVITIES

The activities suggested below will allow your students to develop connections between art and sport, express their opinions, and create their own individual artwork. You are free to use any combination of the activities described below and modify these to fit your curriculum.

Activity A: The Purpose of Art and Sport: This activity opens students' minds to possible connections between Art and Sport through a series of discussion questions.

Activity B: Thinking Beyond the Stereotype: This activity gives students a "hands-on" approach to breaking stereotypes by thinking outside the box.

Activity C: Building Peace through Art and Sport: This activity familiarizes students with the Olympic ideals, and how art and sport can help build peace in today's world.

Activity A. The Purpose of Art and Sport

Why do people create art? Why do people compete in athletics? Addressing these basic questions with your students will allow the students to think in detail about the issues. The following activity can help guide the discussion.

Have half the students of a class be "Artists" and the other half be "Athletes." Then, ask the students to develop and write down their own answers to two questions. (Artists get questions 1 and 2 and Athletes get questions 3 and 4):

Qs. 1. *Why do people draw, paint, sculpt, dance, etc...?*

Qs. 2. *How does creating Art make you feel?*

Qs. 3. *Why do people run, play soccer, climb trees, etc...?*

Qs. 4. *How does playing Sports make you feel?*

Once they have finished writing their answers, the students are put in Artist-Athlete pairs to discuss their responses with one another and to answer one final question: What are the similarities between why people create Art and participate in Sports? At the end, each group will present their answers to the class.

Activity B. Thinking Beyond the Stereotype

Many students falsely believe that everyone and everything fits into a particular mold. They may assume that athletes cannot create wonderful art and artists cannot be athletes. This activity is designed to encourage students to look beyond these assumptions and break stereotypes.

For this activity, several pieces of athletic gear (such as balls, bats, nets, gloves, etc.) and art tools (such as paint brushes, canvases, construction paper, etc) will be necessary. The exact type does not matter, as long as the object is defined as a tool in arts or sports.

Split the class into teams of three or four and give each group one of the objects. Ask the students to analyze the object for a few moments. Then, ask the students to create an art project using the sporting gear or a game using the art tools. Using the questions below, have students create a specific structure for each game or project, which they then may present to the class.

Art Tools: *How is this tool usually used?*

Create a game using the following rules: your tool must be used throughout your game, and you must not destroy your tool in order to use it in the game. Otherwise you are free to create whatever you imagine.

What is the name of your game?

What are the rules of your game?

How is your object used in your game?

How is its use in your game different than its general use?

Sporting Equipment: *How is this object usually used? It is associated with which sport?*

Create an art project using your object as either a tool or a part of a piece of art. Describe the project below, but do not actually create the project.

What is the name of your project?

What materials do you need for your project?

What are the steps to making your piece of art?

How is your object used for your project?

How is its use different than its general use?

In the process of this activity, students will learn that objects can have specific purposes, but can often be used in other ways. Then, ask the students how this activity relates to people, and their purposes. Guide students to see that people, too, can have many skills - including being both artistic and athletic.

Activity C. Building Peace through Art and Sport

Divide the class into small groups to allow the students to work together to come up with their own visions of how art and sport can be used to create peace.

By blending sport with culture and education, the Olympics promote a lifestyle based on:

- (a) The balanced development of mind, body and character;*
- (b) The joy of effort;*
- (c) The value of role models;*
- (d) The value of teamwork; and*
- (e) Observing the ethics of tolerance, generosity, unity, friendship and respect.*

Suggested questions to ask the students: What do these ideals mean to you? Have you witnessed these ideals before when playing sports? How could they apply to Art as well?

II. ARTS OLYMPIAD COMPETITION GUIDELINES

School Art Competition

Organize an art competition on the theme *My Favorite Sport* into which the students combine the themes discussed in class. Encourage students to be creative with the topic, particularly those who do not see themselves as athletic. Ask the students to look deeper into the sport than just the actions themselves; ask the students to look at the message, movement, and values that are related to sports.

Students may choose to represent a native sport, or a sport they like to play or watch, or they may even invent their own sport. If possible, involve the athletics instructor – with enough energy and passion, the very act of making art can be an athletic activity!

Submissions must be in one of these two forms:

Traditional 2-Dimensional Art

A painting or drawing on paper, canvas, silk or any other two-dimensional medium, 45 x 60 cm (18 x 24 inches) in size;

or

Digital Art

Static visual work created using digital tools to imagine a sport, capture the image of a favorite sport, or a collage combining the two (300+ dpi).

Deadline

Your school finalist's artwork must be mailed on or before **March 31, 2010** to the International Child Art Foundation, P. O. Box 58133, Washington, DC 20037, USA.

Selection of School Finalists

Please select a panel of judges, which may include local artists, teachers, or students, to choose one School Finalist in the painting or drawing category and another in the digital art category. *Your judging criteria should give more weight to imagination and originality, rather than technical merit alone.*

Sending Finalist Artwork

The School Finalist painting or drawing should be mailed to ICAF (packaged flat and not rolled up) or ICAF's partner or representative in your country. Email ICAF to find out where to send the School Finalist Artwork. If ICAF has no partner or representative in your country, then finalist digital art can be emailed to program@icaf.org or a CD could be mailed along with the painting/drawing to ICAF. The attached "School Finalist Artwork" form should be completed for both categories in any case. This form could be taped to the back of the painting/drawing. For digital art, the form can be scanned and emailed to ICAF.

III. DELEGATION TO THE WORLD CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Held on the National Mall in Washington, DC every four years, the World Children's Festival is the largest international celebration of children's creativity and imagination in the world. Any school can send a delegation to the World Children's Festival, a 3-day event in June 2011, which is open and free to the public.

The Official Delegations to the World Children's Festival are National Arts Olympiad winners (one in painting category and one in digital art category), their parents or guardians, school principal or teacher, and local sponsor if any. The Official Delegations are required to be in Washington, DC for five (5) days. An exclusive one-day seminar is held for the Official Delegations right before the 3-day public festival, and following the festival the ICAF Awards Ceremony is held to honor the Official Delegations.

There is no fee for participation in the festival. A local sponsor should be approached to support travel and hotel expenses. If so requested, ICAF will try to arrange host families in Washington, DC for your country's Arts Olympiad winners and their parents and teachers.

IV. ICAF

An independent, apolitical and non-governmental organization, since 1997 ICAF has served as a leading national art and creativity organization for American children and as the premier international art and creativity organization for the world's children. ICAF integrates the arts with science, sport and technology for the development of children's creativity and empathy – preconditions for a more just, prosperous, and nonviolent world.

ICAF organizes the Arts Olympiad, produces the World Children's Festival, and organizes international exhibitions of children's artwork. ICAF publishes the *ChildArt* magazine to foster children's creativity and empathy so they grow up as global citizens and creative leaders. For information on previous Arts Olympiads and World Children's Festivals, or to subscribe to *ChildArt*, please visit www.icaf.org.

School Finalist Artwork
4th Arts Olympiad

I. SCHOOL

School/Institution name	Country
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Mailing address

City	State	Country	Zip code
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Telephone (with area code)	Organizer's email	School's/Institution's email
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How many students participated?	Comments on the lesson plan?
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II. STUDENT ARTIST

First name	Last name	Age	Date of birth
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Mailing Address

City	State	Country	Zip code
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Telephone	Parent's name	Email
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Title of Artwork

I hereby certify that the attached "My Favorite Sport" entry is the original work of the student artist named above. I further understand that the child's artwork becomes entirely the property of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) and cannot be returned. I agree that the artwork may be published, exhibited or reproduced by ICAF, or sent by ICAF to other organizations for use, without further authorization from or any compensation to the child artist and his or her parent, guardian or teacher.

II. TEACHER AND PARENT

Name of Organizer/Teacher (please print)	Signature	Date
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Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)	Signature	Date
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