

# THE INFORMANT

Newsletter of The Knowledge Center, Inc.

**Pro Amore Discendi – For The Love of Learning**

December 2008

Lubbock, Texas

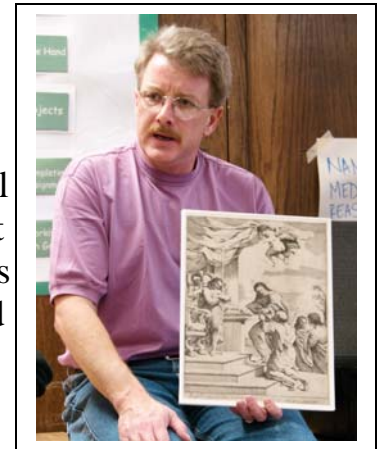
Volume 5 Number 2

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE** - The 17<sup>th</sup> Core Knowledge National Conference was held in Anaheim, California, November 20-22, 2008. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ruby Payne. Conference favorites included Frank Wang, Dennis Denenberg, and Jim Weiss. Presentations were made by several Lubbock area educators. These included teachers from **Bowie** (Rosemary Cardenas and Holly Stone), **Honey** (Karla Lewis), **Waters** (Dianne Ashby and Candace Tickle), **Roscoe Wilson** (Hattye Ramsey, Amy Rhodes and Angelica Rodriguez), **Lubbock Christian School** (Tina Scarborough), and **Lubbock Christian University** (Dr. David Boyer, Tonia Boyer, Dr. Jean Hines and Angela Ward).



**ART AND MUSIC** – Classical guitarist and art collector Christian Thomas Lee returned to Lubbock in November 2008. He made presentations to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the creative writing and intermediate art classes at J. T. Hutchinson Middle School. Mr. Lee spent most of the presentation time sharing original art and historical documents. He also responded to student questions related to the art and artifacts. The Hutchinson students will use selected art pieces as writing prompts in their class. Their writing pieces will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the award winning J. T. Hutchinson literary magazine. The magazine will be distributed in late spring.

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# CORE KNOWLEDGE NEWS



**ART EXHIBIT** – The students from J. T. Hutchinson Middle School displayed their art in an exhibit at the LCU Center for Academic Achievement in September. The works consisted of original paintings, drawings, and mixed media. The art students were then invited to display their work at the Louise Underwood Center for the Arts in October. This exhibit consisted of work created in conjunction with El Dia De Los Muertos (The Day of The Dead). This venue was one of the featured stops on the First Friday Art Trail.

**THE CIVIL WAR** - The Civil War came to life for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at Rush Elementary School as Don Smarto presented his artifacts from that time period. Mr. Smarto has been collecting these artifacts for over 30 years and loves to share them with students. Some of the artifacts included bullets, swords, slave chains, and personal soldiers' photo albums. While he was presenting his artifacts, Mr. Smarto had a Power Point that provided facts about the Civil War. The students were eager to participate and very interested in learning about the artifacts. Anytime Mr. Smarto asked for volunteers, almost every hand in the room went up. As the students were excited to be able to participate.



Keitha Lowe

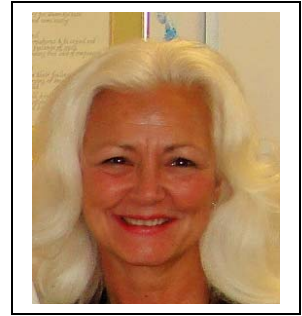
**PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION** – Photography students at J. T. Hutchison Middle School learned more about the history of the camera with award winning cinematographer Don Smarto. He kept the students' attention and interest with a PowerPoint presentation accompanied by actual cameras and photos from the specific time periods. Mr. Smarto talked about each major development of the camera from the first camera and photo, to current trends in photography. He also provided tips to these young aspiring photographers. Some of the cameras that he brought with him included a box camera, panoramic camera, spy camera, CIA camera, and a Kodak instant camera. Some of the more popular cameras with the students were the pocket watch camera and the Coke can camera. To end the presentation, Mr. Smarto reminded the students that "it all began with a box with a hole."

Keitha Lowe



# EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NEWS

**TEACHER AWARD:** Congratulations to **Mrs. Cindy Farley**. She was named the 2008 Regional Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Farley was nominated by her past and present students. Last year, she was recognized for her outstanding teaching of the humanities among the teachers of Texas. Mrs. Farley is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at J. T. Hutchinson Middle school, where she teaches English and creative writing.



**NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE -** Mae Simmons Park was the sight of a sculpture installation recognizing the Native Americans of the South Plains. The sculpture, *The Harvest*, was created by Lubbock sculptor Eddie Dixon with assistance from Kyle Pettit. The project was a joint venture between the City of Lubbock and Civic Lubbock Inc., and it served as a gift to Lubbock's Centennial Celebration. Students from Iles and Murfee elementary schools attended the dedication ceremony.

**ROMAN STUDIES -** Murfee Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> graders completed their unit on Ancient Rome with a PTA program entitled, *When in Rome*. The students revealed the many things they had learned about Rome by playing their own version of Jeopardy, complete with Julius Caesar serving as the game show host. The program incorporated the music, art, and language arts strands as well.



**INTERNATIONAL CULTURE DAY -** Waters Elementary students traveled around the world and back in time during their International Cultural Day. Students experienced cultures through their visitations to other classrooms. Each class was responsible for sharing knowledge about other countries and/or time periods through a variety of interactive presentations. This included Native Americans (K), Ancient Egypt (1<sup>st</sup>), China (2<sup>nd</sup>), Ancient Rome (3<sup>rd</sup>), and Europe during the Renaissance (4<sup>th</sup>). The 5<sup>th</sup> grade presented a living museum highlighting famous people in history. A highlight of the day was a visit to the Museum Gallery (provided by the TTU K-12 International Educational Outreach Center and Dianne Crowley)

where students were able to explore treasures of 14 different countries.

**STORYTELLING** – Jim Weiss will again travel to Lubbock to enhance students’ language arts experiences through storytelling. He will make presentations at elementary and middle schools in December. Mr. Weiss is an award winning storyteller and recording artist based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Recordings of his stories and books on tape are available through *Greathall Productions*.



**HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS** – Bill Perryman of *History In Person* will be in Lubbock to make presentations in March. He will enhance the study of social studies topics through his portrayal of historical figures. Mr. Perryman will visit several elementary and middle school campuses performing as William Travis, Paul Revere, Ben Franklin, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Perryman is a former classroom teacher and educational consultant. He is based in San Antonio and makes presentations to students and educators at schools and conferences throughout the state of Texas.

### 2008-09 SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 9-12, 2008**

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Friday, 12<sup>th</sup>

**Jim Weiss Storytelling**

Ramirez (8:30) and Iles (1:30)  
 Murfee (8:30) and Wheelock (1:30)  
 Christ The King (8:30) and Roscoe Wilson (1:30)  
 OL Slaton (9:30) and Hutchinson (1:15)

**March 2-6, 2009**

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Friday, 6<sup>th</sup>

**Bill Perryman – History In Person**

Bowie (8:30 Franklin)/Honey (1:30 Washington)  
 Christ The King (8:30 Franklin)/Lubbock Christian (1:30 Lincoln)  
 Waters (8:30 Washington)/Wheelock (1:30 Washington)  
 Hutchinson (9:30 Travis)/Roscoe Wilson (1:30 Lincoln)  
 Murfee (8:30 Revere)/Ramirez (1:30 Travis)

**Summer 2009**

**Summer Unit Writing Workshop - TBA**

**The Knowledge Center, Inc.**

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