

August 18, 2008
For Immediate Release

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GRANT HELPS BRING AFRICAN ART AND MUSIC TO HANCOCK ELEMENTARY

Hancock Elementary School is pleased to announce that it has received a matching grant of \$2000 from the Arizona Commission on the Arts (including funding from the National Endowment for the Arts) for an all school Artist in Residence Program that began on August 1, 2008. Extra-Curricular Tax Credit donations from parents and community members and the Hancock P.T.O also provided funding.

Keith Johnson, the artist, is an expert in the music and art of West Africa. Keith is working daily at Hancock Elementary School for four weeks to immerse our students in the culture of Africa.

Keith presented an opening interactive performance on August 1 for the entire school. He shared many aspects of the culture of Africa including the language, geography, customs, music, instruments and folk tales. He is teaching Hancock students about the African language, traditional music and instruments, songs, and authentic arts and crafts of Africa including jewelry and stamp art. With the guidance of Keith, Hancock students are working very hard to create their own African artworks and instruments including traditional rain sticks and gourd rattles.

Keith and the students of Hancock will present all the artwork the entire school has worked to create in an Art Walk in the Multipurpose Room at Hancock Elementary School on Thursday, August 28, 2008 from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Immediately following the Art Walk, at 6:00 p.m., the entire 6th Grade and the Hancock World Drumming Club will join Keith for a culminating performance of African Art and Music. The Art Walk and the Final Performance are both open and free of charge for parents, teachers, community leaders, and the general public to attend.

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To Print and Television Media:

The media is encouraged to photograph and/or video the culminating Artist in Residence Program events at Hancock in the evening of August 28, 2008 for any follow-up articles that may be desired. Contact Curt Landon at Hancock Elementary to schedule times to view Keith's sessions in class on August 25-28 or if any other information is required. Thank you for your time!