

May 9, 2007
For Immediate Release

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GRANT HELPS BRING CHINESE ART 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 April 30, 2007. Extra-Curricular Tax Credit donations from parents and community members and the Hancock P.T.O also provided funding.

Mei-Kuei Chan Cruise, the artist, is an expert in Chinese Fine Arts. Mei-Kuei is working daily at Hancock Elementary School for four weeks to immerse our students in Chinese art and culture.

Mei-Kuei presented an opening performance on April 30 for the entire school. She shared many aspects of the culture of China including the language, customs, music, dance, art, calligraphy and fun activities. She is teaching Hancock students about the Chinese language, traditional dances, music and songs, and authentic arts and crafts of China. With the guidance of Mei-Kuei, Hancock students are working very hard to create their own Chinese artwork including traditional origami and masks.

Mei-Kuei and the students of Hancock will present all the artwork the entire school has worked to create in an all-campus Art Walk at Hancock Elementary School on May 24, 2007 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Immediately following the Art Walk, at 6:30 p.m., the entire 2nd Grade will join Mei-Kuei for a culminating performance of Chinese Art, Music and Dance. 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 attend, photograph and/or video the culminating Artist In Residence Program events at Hancock in the evening of May 24, 2007 for any follow-up articles that may be desired. Contact Curt Landon at Hancock Elementary to schedule times to view Mei-Kuei's sessions in class on May 21-24 or if any other information is required. Thank you for your time!