Ms Stefania Giannini,
UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education

Mr Ernesto Ottone Ramirez,
UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

Dear National Coordinators,
Dear Teachers and Students,

Heartfelt greetings on the celebration of International Arts Education Week, which will take place from 25 to 31 May 2020!

Since ASPnet’s origins in 1953, learning in and through the arts has always been an important approach in addressing UNESCO’s values of global citizenship, sustainable development, intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. During the successful ASPnet webinar, held two weeks ago, we heard touching and inspiring stories of resilience and creativity in continuing learning under COVID-19 lockdown.

The crisis has highlighted the importance arts education plays in learning in general and especially during this particularly challenging time. One of the speakers at the webinar, Nevenka, a 14-year-old student from Argentina said: “Art is fundamental for me, it helps our mental health and allows us to reenergise ourselves”. Nevenka sums up for everyone, me included, the need to raise awareness of the importance of Arts Education.

We are delighted that so many of you have responded to our call to share your activities and good practices to celebrate International Arts Education Week. So far, we have received over 80 contributions from almost 30 countries. We encourage you to continue to send us your contributions, to form part of a platform for sharing and learning with and from each other on Arts Education.
Each and every contribution demonstrates that Arts Education is not only limited to subjects such as drama, art, music and dance. Art, and learning in and through art, also play a vital role in interdisciplinary projects, and in extracurricular activities such as band, orchestra, choir, exhibitions, and events.

Therefore, we dedicate this issue to highlighting a small selection of inspiring practices from the ASPnet community. These practices show that learning in and through the arts contributes to GCED, ESD, cultural diversity and heritage education and thus to SDG 4.7.

In this regard, we are very honoured to receive special messages on this occasion from two Assistant Director-Generals of UNESCO, Ms Stefania Giannini (Education) for the ASPnet community in particular, and from Mr Ernesto Ottone Ramirez (Culture) for schools around the world.

With this, I send you my best wishes, and I will be keenly following your contributions and activities during International Arts Education Week!

Stay safe. Stay CONNECTed!

Julie Saito ASPnet International Coordinator

UNESCO´s celebration of International Arts Education Week

Find out how UNESCO and the world are celebrating!
Good practices in Arts Education from ASPnet around the world

Armenia
Yerevan “Heratsi” High School

Singing online during confinement
#friendship #joy #resilience

Germany
Heinrich-Hertz-Schule Hamburg

“One Picture a Day keeps Corona away!”
#criticalthinking #globalcitizens #creativity

Argentina
Escuela de Danzas Aida V Mastrazzi

La Danza
#expression #dance #resilience

Republic of Korea
Daejeon Jeil High School

To my friends all over the world
#solidarity #globalcitizens #outofschool

United Arab Emirates
Asma Bint Al Noman High School

Art in our School
#creativity #challenge #diversity

Spain
Escuela de Música Antón García Abril

The hymn of joy unites us in confinement
#singing #joy #friendship
Peru
Colegio Peruano Alemán Max Uhle

Virtual Tribute to Mother’s Day 2020
#mothersday #teamwork #performance

Greece
Ralleio Gel Thileon Peiraia

“Ecclesiazousae” /“Assembly Women”
#drama #genderequality #teamspirit

Canada
The Winnipeg Cultural Diversity Project

Embracing our Cultural Differences
#culturaldiversity #globalcitizens #cultureofpeace

Mexico
Jardín De Niños “Ignacio Manuel Altamirano”

I am art
#socio-emotionallearning #empathy #artisticexpression

Slovakia & Japan
Twin project between Slovakian and Japanese schools

Arts Mile Project - Climate Change
#interculturallearning #climatechange #teamwork

Portugal
Agrupamento de Escolas da Batalha

A vision of our heritage through Minecraft
#digitalart #heritage #interdisciplinary
Cyprus
Lykeio Apostolon Petrou & Pavlou

Hambis, the printmaker of Cyprus
#culture #artists #filmmaking

Hungary
Debreceni Kazincy Ferenc Általános Iskola

Time-gate - Clock project
#craftsworkshop #developingskills #creativity

Mongolia
Mongeni Complex

Developing children’s talents from an early age
#extracurricularactivities #aestheticeducation #diversity

Lebanon
Rafic Hariri High School

Recycled Art
#ESD #creativity #recycledart

Austria
UNESCO Welterbe Mittelschule Bad Goisern

Teaching and learning with living heritage.
Design and creation of a “Glücklerkappe”
#art #livingheritage #design

Belgium
Campus Comenius

Teaching and learning with living heritage.
Hanga printing in art and math classes
#culturaldiversity #livingheritage #art
Get inspired by global arts contests within UNESCO ASPnet

**Opening hearts and minds to refugees**

*Children’s world house of love and hope for all, Montenegro*

**My School Protects Me**

*Warm Spring, China*

Click to watch the video of the International Arts Week

**What else is UNESCO doing?**

UNESCO’s Culture Sector has an overview of arts education [here](#).

UNESCO’s COVID-19 education response includes a series of Education Sector Issue Notes. Note 6.1 addresses “[Harnessing culture in times of crises”](#).
Messages of solidarity from UNESCO ASPnet schools

Malawi
Lakshita Dutt

Morocco
Khalid Elzeen

Meet our ASPnet Team member: Erik Eschweiler

Read his message here

Biography

We encourage you to send us your messages of solidarity in words, pictures, videos and art works. Your experiences and innovative ways to learn, out of schools and within your families, can contribute to build and strengthen our network.

Please send to aspnetinaction@unesco.org and attach the consent form.

The ASPnet Team
Julie Saito, Fouzia Belhami, Melanie Seto, Katja Anger, Simon Wanda, Helene Darne, Kangni Chen, Erik Eschweiler, Alba Moral Foster

Get connected: https://aspnet.unesco.org Contact us: aspnetinaction@unesco.org