

august 2015



art in
action

Art in Action is a 501(c)(3)
non profit organization.

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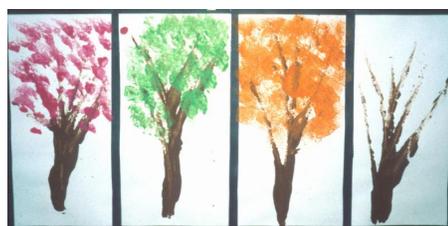
VOLUNTEER

STAY CONNECTED:



from jeffrey dollinger, executive director

It may be hard to believe, but it is already back-to-school for many of our Art in Action schools. Anticipation and excitement are especially evident in our kindergarten parent docents who are not only starting an educational journey for their eager young children, but are also passionately ensuring that those young minds have full access to art education.



We look at kindergarten as the ideal time to start to engender a lifelong love of, and confidence in, art making and art history. Last year nearly 10,000 kindergartners received this vital exposure at just the right time. An added bonus was that many of these young students were taught by parents (or grandparents) volunteering in the classroom. And this is where the power of Art in Action really kicks in. Studies have shown that "when parents are involved in their children's education at home they do better in school and when they are involved at school, children go farther in their education." (National Committee for Citizens in Education). By training parent volunteers to confidently teach art to their children, we serve double duty: we give kids access to art and we give parents access to their children's education. [Back-to-School continued](#)

fall training sessions for docents and teachers

Our experienced trainers make implementation of the Art in Action program even more successful. We encourage docents and teachers to attend a training session in Menlo Park or via webinar. See the [schedule](#) for all program-level training dates and [register now](#).



In these sessions you will:

- Learn to teach critical thinking through art discussions.
- Receive helpful tricks and tips for each lesson.
- Explore the online lesson website and how to get more support.
- Build an art community with colleagues and new friends.
- Learn how to integrate our program with STEM curriculum.

meet our new partner: box.com

We are excited to have been chosen as a featured non-profit organization at the [BoxWorks 2015](#) conference in San Francisco from September 28-30. In addition to the visibility this will provide for Art in Action, conference attendees will volunteer to assemble ARTboxes for our schools during the event.



meet our new sales managers

We welcome Anne Lansdon and Jennie Fernandez who are responsible for expanding the Art in Action program to schools locally, regionally and nationwide. Anne and Jennie come to Art in Action with a combined 20 years of management and sales experience in the education industry. If you don't have Art in Action in your school or you're looking to add more classrooms, our [sales team](#) can help with your needs.



[Anne Lansdon](#)

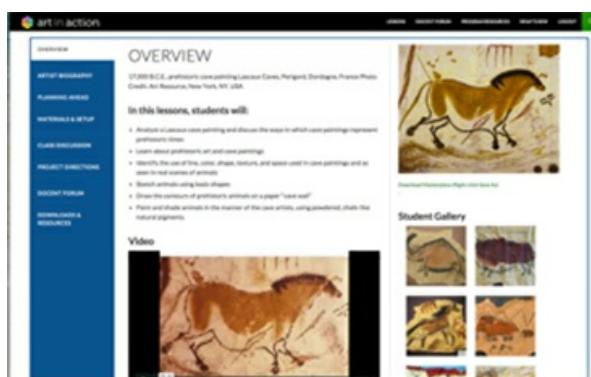
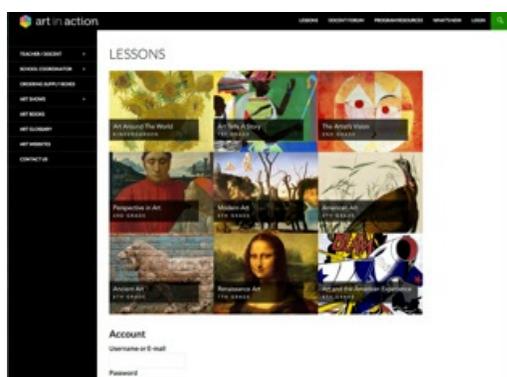


[Jennie Fernandez](#)

a new look for our lessons

Our Program team has been working hard this summer on getting our new cloud-based lesson website ready to go. With this new interface, Art in Action schools can look forward to:

- intuitive navigation with an updated look
- new easy-to-use video player
- downloads and images easy to find
- updated question-driven discussion section
- streamlined login process
- printable "teaching notes" - short, portable summaries of the lessons



5 back-to-school tips for docents and school coordinators

New school year, new students, new challenges...Here are some quick tips to help you get started on another exciting year teaching Art in Action.

1. Check in with your School Coordinator on a regular basis for news from Art in Action. For example, your School Coordinator will have your login access information for our updated lesson website portal by the end of August.
2. Build your classroom team. Reach out to your teachers and other parents in your child's classroom to see who is interested in helping with Art in Action. Are there parents new to the school? Art in Action is a great way to get them involved.
3. Get the Art in Action dates on the calendar! Plan to teach your first lesson in September. Don't worry about scheduling conflicts that may arise in later months; schedules can be changed.
4. Are your supplies in order? Some schools order materials from Art in Action. If you want the convenience of prepackaged materials, you can [order](#) an ARTbox for your classroom.
5. Have a plan for displaying and storing student art. Ask your teacher for a permanent bulletin board in the class or string a wire across the room to hang art with clothes pins. Keep a box or portfolio to store art that is not on display.

free art lesson focuses on endangered species

For this month's lesson we look again to the ocean for inspiration. Learn about whales and endangered species, discuss qualities of photography and create a 3-D whale!

Click [here](#) for this free art lesson.



Northern Humpback Whale, Cole, 1879