



## ARTIST DAY January 31, 2020

Tomorrow is *ARTIST DAY* at Wilson Creek Elementary School (WCES). This PTO sponsored event brings artists to share their unique talents through hands on and enriching activities with our children. Please review this flyer which provides information about this year's presenters.

**Nancy Diaz:** Ms. Diaz is a retired Fulton County Art Specialist. She has over 30 years of experience in teaching kindergarten through Grade 5. Some of our students know her from substitute teaching. She states, "The joy of reaching the creative talents of young children enables their brains to explore all learning avenues as they mature." Ms. Diaz will conduct an interactive activity on a famous artist, Eric Carle.

**Laurel Crowe- Education Director, Georgia Ensemble Theatre and Conservatory (GET) :** Ms. Crowe has the pleasure of both directing professional theatre for young audiences productions (such as *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Junie B. Jones the Musical, and The Giver*) and educational youth productions (such as *Peter Pan, Mary Poppins*). She enjoys teaching voice, improvisation and scene study to all ages. Ms. Crowe is always looking for new levels of inspiration. She will lead students in an interactive workshop called "Jobs in the Theatre."

**Taryn Spires- Education Associate, Georgia Ensemble Theatre and Conservatory (GET):** Ms. Spires works in conjunction with the education department to develop art-based programs for local and global students. She has also been involved with production management, teaching artistry, and performance. Ms. Spires will be doing a story-drama based activity with Wilson Creek students.

**Michael Vine- Education Manager, Georgia Ensemble Theatre and Conservatory (GET):** Mr. Vine spent three years at the Tony-award winning Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA, and has lived in Atlanta ever since. He oversees the GET Acting Apprentice Company and directs annually in the Theatre for Young Audiences season. He also works as a freelance actor and director in Atlanta with companies like Actor's Express, Alliance Theatre, Out Front Theatre, and Marietta Theatre Company. He serves as a producer, actor, and director for Shakespeare on Draught, a company named "Best of Atlanta" in 2017 and 2018. Mr. Vine will facilitate theatre games.

**Brenda Laskey- Owner, The Dogwood Cotillion:** The Dogwood Cotillion teaches social skills for modern kids and current ballroom dancing. During *Artist Day* students will practice writing thank you notes or setting a formal dining table with a fun napkin folding challenge.

**Virginia Lago- Owner Virginia Lago Fine Art:** Ms. Lago is an industrial designer and custom pet portrait artist. She has over 30 years of experience painting using a variety of mediums and subjects. Her favorite is painting animals with oil paint. Ms. Lago will show students how to create pet portraits and guide as they paint their own.

**Amanda Jones- Owner Amanda Jones Art:** Ms. Jones is a local Johns Creek artist, with over 20 years of multidisciplinary art teaching experience. Over the years, students began to call her "Mama Jones" because she makes them feel good about what they create. She believes that every person can make and enjoy art with encouragement and instruction. Ms. Jones will be presenting on Linoleum Printmaking.

**Amanda Carman:** Ms. Carman is an independent illustrator and art teacher at the Johns Creek and Hudgens Arts Centers. She sells her work at conventions, art fairs, and takes commission work. Her work is primarily inspired by folklore, wildlife, and cozy slice of life scenarios. Ms. Carman will be presenting a lesson in designing original characters from simple gestural shapes.

**Matthew Kaminski- Atlanta Braves:** If you're a Braves fan, then you've probably heard Mr. Kaminski entertain the crowd playing his organ. He is a jazz musician, pianist, accordionist, and organist for the Atlanta Braves. He's been featured in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, the BBC, NPR's "Weekend Edition," and Fox 5's "Good Morning Atlanta." Mr. Kaminski will demonstrate his jazz talents with an interactive presentation then teach students some songs and chants.

**Aaron Lee and Kevin Michi- Karate Duluth Atlanta (KA):** Mr. Michi is a Program Director at KA, he has been training in martial arts for 16 years and teaching for 6 years. Mr. Lee is a karate instructor at KA. They will be teaching a karate class focusing on belief, leadership, and discipline.

**Chris Cole Harris – Actor/Storyteller:** A Georgia native, Ms. Harris has been in many feature films, television shows and theatrical projects in LA, including *N.Y.P.D. Blue* and *L.A. Law*. Locally, she works as a professional storyteller and a drama associate with the Alliance Theatre. Ms. Harris is also an expert milliner, designing and creating one-of-a-kind custom hats. She will engage students in an interactive storytelling session and let them create their own stories.

**Ed Harris – Performer and Producer:** Mr. Harris is a musician and performer who has written, produced and directed television, film and theatre. He was a Segment Producer for *Good Morning America* and produced the ESPN series, *Boating World*, starring John Davidson. He currently serves as a music producer and consultant to vocalists and show producers. Mr. Harris will share his knowledge of the piano and guide students in creating a jingle.

**Michael David Freeman:** Mr. Freeman is a screenwriter, illustrator, and animator, who had his script "The Reunion" optioned by film producer Linda Saetre (*March of the Penguins*). He was the concept artist of the book "The Organization," created several logos for The American Textile Company, start-up clothing companies, and UFC fighters. Mr. Freeman will be taking the children through the animation pipeline.

**Frances Walker:** Ms. Walker is currently studying fine arts at Savannah College of Art and Design. She has studied photography, ceramics, and creative writing; however, her expertise is in painting and sculpting with a focus on nature. During *Artist Day* Ms. Walker will share some of her work and guide students in creating art of their own using objects found in nature.

**Kid Chess:** Kid Chess is an after-school program that fosters friendly competition and helps students build confidence and critical thinking skills. Several volunteers from Kid Chess will be teaching Wilson Creek students the basics of chess at Artist Day.

**Amber Thompson and Lulu Goodyear- Tiger Tails:** Ms. Thompson is the marketing manager and event planner at Tiger Tales. Lulu is training to become a veterinarian; she assists with animal care. They will do a hands-on activity involving stuffed animals.