



THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Spring 2010

Councilmember Jessica S. Lappin Joins Kindergarten Students and Their Parents at PAAP Music and Dance Workshop *Receives Champion for Arts Education Award*

The halls of the [Yorkville Community School \(PS 151\)](#) were filled with the sounds of music and laughter on April 14th, when kindergarten students and their parents sang and danced together during a joyful [Parents As Arts Partners](#) (PAAP) workshop, supported by The Center for Arts Education.



CAE Board Chair Jill Braufman and Executive Director Richard Kessler present Councilmember Jessica Lappin with the "Champion for Arts Education Award."



Art teacher Joanne Wasti and PS 151 Principal Samantha Kaplan welcome Councilmember Lappin to the school's PAAP event.

Before the music started The Center for Arts Education (CAE) presented its "Champion for Arts Education" award to [Councilmember Jessica S. Lappin](#), District 5.

CAE acknowledged her dedicated support to help ensure this unique family arts education program continues in her district and applauded her ongoing efforts to preserve and protect arts programming as an essential ingredient in the quality, well-rounded education every child in every K-12 New York City public school deserves.

Councilmember Lappin recently introduced a critical City Council resolution that calls on the New York City Department of Education to ensure that every school has a certified arts teacher on staff. Despite state mandates requiring that all students complete instruction in the arts taught by a certified arts teacher, nearly 20 percent of high schools do not have any certified arts teachers on staff.

"Every child deserves arts education," said Councilmember Lappin. "The arts are a vital, though often a missing element of any well-rounded education. I'm happy to be able to work with The Center for Arts Education to help bring programs like Parents As Arts Partners to our schools."



Through the rhythmic study of movement, students and parents explore and experience music together in a fun and creative way.



Parents follow Councilmember Lappin's lead.

Parents As Arts Partners is a unique and evolving CAE initiative that fills a distinct niche in city public schools by involving parents and students in exciting arts programs.

Each school's program engages parents in hands-on, interactive arts education activities with their children, including workshops with teaching artists and school arts teachers, as well as visits to cultural organizations.

"We revitalized our Parents As Arts Partners program this year to more fully integrate the program within our current public engagement and advocacy efforts," said Richard Kessler, executive director, The Center for Arts Education. "This allows us to expand the legacy and reach of our teaching and learning programs, while building a constituency of engaged parents advocating for the arts in their children's education."

PAAP was created, in part, in response to research that demonstrates the positive impact of parental involvement on a child's success in school and the effectiveness of the arts as a means of cultivating that involvement.

Since establishing the program in 1998, CAE has invested in 1,230 PAAP programs in 535 schools. These schools have partnered with organizations ranging from theater companies, dance organizations and museums, to universities and community groups.

For more information about how you can support Parents As Arts Partners at a school near you, contact Lori Sherman, Director of Development, (212) 971-3300, Ext. 311 (lori@caenyc.org).



ArtsConnection teaching artist Chikae Ishikawa conducts the Parents As Arts Partners music workshop.