

# RESOURCE OF THE WEEK



## Celebrating Small Successes

**As we begin to approach the final weeks of the school year**, it is helpful to reflect on small moments that kept you motivated and made you smile. Whether it is a piece of artwork from a student, a small interaction with a parent, or the mutual support felt between you and your coworkers, these moments are what help us continue to inspire and educate our students. There is a **fluidity between personal art practices and teaching practices** as we navigate teaching and living in the same spaces. We can embrace that connection, rather than seeing them as at odds with one another.

No matter what the circumstances of our personal and professional lives were or currently are, no one is making it through this experience seamlessly. Do your best to shake off any feelings of inadequacy, stress or guilt. **With heavy doses of courage, resilience and perseverance**, we are making it through to the end of the school year.

### Celebrate how far you have come!

*We know how to own our mistakes,  
let's confidently own and celebrate our successes.*

### With Students...

- "Ah-ha" moments.
- A student feeling excited to enter your virtual classroom.
- Learning from their tech skills.
- Feeling connected.
- A student-- you weren't expecting to hear from-- sending you a completed piece of art.
- Inspiring art making in the whole home.
- An unexpected note of thanks from a student or parent.

### With Your School Community...

What is one action you took to strengthen your school community?

What is one example in which you provided mutual aid to a colleague?

### With Your Teaching Practice...

#### Learning new:

- Methods of Communication
- Digital Platforms
- Art Making Processes
- Collaboration Skills

### With Your Personal Art Practice...

- Discovering and revisiting art making processes.
- Sharing your work.
- Adding to your professional portfolio.

### Other Accomplishments...

Is there any other area of your life that you are celebrating?

# Preparing for the Final Stretch

*The final weeks of the school year are typically hectic times for art educators;*

Clearly, none of this will occur in the usual fashion, if at all. This is likely to have an emotional impact on us all, as we acknowledge the many traditions that our students and their families will miss.

wrapping up assignments,  
creating portfolios,  
planning art exhibits,  
decorating for school-wide events,  
completion and graduation ceremonies,  
staff gatherings,  
deep cleaning of our teaching spaces,  
and more.

Now, **take another moment to appreciate** the many ways that you have routinely contributed to your school community as each and every school year winds down.

**List some of those things. Look at that list.**

## Re-imagine

### *End-of-the-Year Traditions*

**Given our current context, how might we:**

- Put on an exhibition of student artwork?
- Compensate for missed field trips?
- Celebrate the accomplishments of the school year?
- Create a plan to manage the materials in our art spaces?
- Create closure with the school community?
- Say goodbye to our students and send them off for summer?

**Choose one event or tradition** that you can still help to make happen given our current reality. Perhaps, you will choose a platform in which to create a virtual exhibit of the art your students have created this school year, pre & post school closures. Perhaps, you can **collaborate with colleagues to plan a virtual completion ceremony** for your kindergartners, 5th graders, 8th graders or graduating Seniors.

## Come together to create closure

*Choosing one ambitious goal to help your school community come together*

and close on this very unusual end of a school year can allow us to let go of all that we could not control, and **allow us to look forward** to the summer and some time to rejuvenate.

[Visit Lynden Sculpture Garden Virtual Hub for more resources](#)

We know that whatever the 2020-21 school year holds, we are not going back to the "old normal". There will be a "new normal" that is still uncertain. Know this. **What you have accomplished during this time has been preparing you for what will come next.**