



July 20, 2009

Makio Kawashima
Art e-Learning Center

Dear Makio Kawashima,

The International Child Art Foundation invites the Art e-Learning Center to provide a unique learning experience to students and teachers through the **Japan Arts Olympiad**, as part of the global 4th Arts Olympiad (2009-2012), the world's largest and most prestigious art and sport program for children.

The Arts Olympiad is a free global program of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF). Commencing in classrooms with structured lesson plans, the Arts Olympiad leads to school art competitions, and national celebrations of children's creativity and imagination. The Japan Arts Olympiad winners will be honored at the World Children's Festival to be held on the National Mall in Washington, DC in June 2011, and their artworks will also be exhibited in London in the summer of 2012 to celebrate the London 2012 Games.

The aim of the 4th Arts Olympiad is to promote the Olympic ideals of cross-cultural and inter-religious tolerance and cooperation. The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan introduces to the students the "artist-athlete" ideal of a creative mind and healthy body. Students produce paintings and digital art on the theme *My Favorite Sport*, which encourages athletically inclined students to be creative and inspires non-athletically inclined students to visualize their favorite sport and engage in that physical activity, breaking stereotypes and promoting wellness.

The Arts Olympiad is organized in about 100 countries through partners that include ministries of education, cultural institutions and art organizations. Nearly 3 million children participated in the 3rd Arts Olympiad. We estimate that approximately 5 million children in nearly 100 countries will participate in the 4th Arts Olympiad.

The Art e-Learning Center will have the following responsibilities:

- Distribute the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan to schools in Japan in September 2009, with the art competition deadline of March 31, 2010.
- Organize an exhibition in 2010 for a panel of judges to select one outstanding painting/drawing and one outstanding digital art, based on originality and creativity in addition to technical merit
- Send the Japan Arts Olympiad winners' works to ICAF by July 4, 2010
- Arrange for Japan's Delegation to participate in the World Children's Festival in DC in June 2011

Attached is an official invitation to organize the Japan Arts Olympiad. Attached also is the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan that is to be distributed to schools. We look forward to your acceptance of our invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.

Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.
Chairman

INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION



JAPAN ARTS OLYMPIAD

Invitation

FOR

Art e-Learning Center
Japan

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1. Purpose

The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) invites Art e-Learning to organize the Japan Arts Olympiad.

Every four years ICAF launches the Arts Olympiad – a global program that commences in classrooms worldwide with structured lesson plans, inspires national celebrations of children’s creativity in many countries, leads to the World Children’s Festival in Washington, DC, and culminates with Art & Sport exhibitions at major venues.

The Arts Olympiad results in original multi-media content creation by children, promotes their understanding of creativity and empathy as key attributes of successful learners and leaders, leads to co-creation of iconic content by children at the World Children’s Festival, and gives “voice” to the children through public exhibitions of their creative expressions.

The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan promotes the “artist-athlete” ideal of a creative mind and healthy body. Students produce paintings and digital art on the theme *My Favorite Sport*, which encourages athletically inclined students to be creative and inspires non-athletically inclined students to visualize their favorite sport and engage in that physical activity, breaking stereotypes and promoting wellness. Although any student may participate in the Arts Olympiad, only the paintings and digital art produced by 8- to 12-year old students will be accepted by ICAF as official entries.

The Arts Olympiad involves the entire community; it is at the community level that the program develops empathy invoked through art and team spirit instilled by sport to promote the Olympic ideals of mutual respect and tolerance.

More than three million children participated in the 3rd Arts Olympiad (2005-2008), making it the world’s largest art and sport initiative for children. As a result of the national and international implications of the Arts Olympiad, the United States Olympic Committee has granted an exclusive license to ICAF to use the “Arts Olympiad” and related marks.

2. 4th Arts Olympiad (2009-2012)

Based on the Olympic Game model, the Arts Olympiad is a four-year long celebration of children’s creativity and imagination.

In the fall of 2009, teachers administer the lesson plans and the students produce art on the theme *My Favorite Sport*. Schoolteachers are urged to include their students as judges to select their official school entries. In 2010, a national exhibition is held where a distinguished jury comprised of business, cultural and political leaders selects the national Arts Olympiad winners – one best painting/drawing and one best digital art.

The schedule for the 4th Arts Olympiad is as follows:

March 31, 2010	Arts Olympiad school art competition deadline
April 2010	Catalogue and store the artworks received from schools
By June 2010	Organize an exhibition of 50 or so best artworks and form a jury comprised of business, cultural and political leaders to select Japan Arts Olympiad winners
July 31, 2010	Send the winning <u>national</u> artworks to ICAF
June 2011	Send national delegation to World Children's Festival, Washington, DC
June 2012	Send representative to <i>Children's Favorite Sport</i> exhibition to be held in London to mark the 2012 Summer Olympics (optional)
September 2012	Host <i>Children's Favorite Sport</i> [International] Exhibition in capital city (optional)
November 2012	Evaluate the Arts Olympiad and send ICAF a copy of the report

3. Costs

The Arts Olympiad is a free program of ICAF and the World Children's Festival is free and open to the public. ICAF does not charge any fee from its partner organization for the Arts Olympiad. ICAF also does not charge any fee from national delegations for participation in the World Children's Festival. However, the Art e-Learning center must secure the funding to support travel to and accommodations in Washington DC for their national delegations.

The expenses for organizing a national Arts Olympiad are modest, provided that the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan can be emailed to school principals. Some partners also send the lesson plan to after-school programs as well as orphanages and refugees camps. Some partners also organize the Arts Olympiad among street children and children suffering from mental or physical disadvantages.

4. Arts Olympiad Objectives

The Arts Olympiad sparks a global movement to advance children's creative development and encourage children to embrace lifelong creativity.

The objectives of the Arts Olympiad are as follows:

- Place the nurturing of creativity on center stage for educators and policymakers
- Break stereotypes by promoting the "artist-athlete" ideal of a creative mind and healthy body
- Reduce childhood obesity risks by inspiring non-athletically inclined children to visualize their favorite sport and engage in physical activity
- Showcase children's talents and creativity to boost their self-esteem and foster leadership development
- Develop bonds of creativity, empathy and co-creation among the world's future leaders at the World Children's Festival

5. Art e-Learning Center Responsibilities

ICAF in-country partners include ministries of education or culture, leading cultural institutions, national museums, and arts, sports and children's organizations. These partnerships are renewed every four years. The in-country partners organize their national Arts Olympiads and arrange their country's delegation's participation in the World Children's Festival.

The specific responsibilities of Art e-Learning are as follows:

- a) Disseminate the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plans to as many school and after-school programs throughout the country (September 2009)
- b) Catalogue and store mailed paintings and drawings as school finalists (December 2009/January 2010)
- c) Save the emailed digital artworks send by school as finalists (December 2009/January 2010)
- d) Form a national jury of business, cultural and political leaders for the selection of the Japan Arts Olympiad winners (March/April 2010)
- e) Organize an art exhibition of 50 or so selected best artworks so the jury can chose the national winners – one winning painting and one winning digital art (June 2010)
- f) Mail the winning painting and email the winning digital art to ICAF (July 2010)
- g) Send a national delegation to the World Children's Festival (June 2011)
- h) Send a representative to London where the *Children's Favorite Sport* Exhibition will be held to mark the 2012 Summer Olympics (June 2012)
- i) Help evaluate the impact of the Japan Arts Olympiad (November 2012)

5. The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan

The following actions will complete the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan, which is attached. (These actions require MS-word version of the lesson plan, which can be requested from ICAF):

- Insert mailing address to receive school finalists (painting or drawing)
- Insert email address to receive school finalists (digital artworks)
- Insert your logo along with ICAF logo
- Disseminate the lesson plan to primary and middle schools by mail and/or email
- Promote the National Arts Olympiad through press releases and stories in the national media, newsletters, blogs, etc.

6. National Celebration

The Art e-Learning Center is encouraged to host an Art & Sport exhibition, comprised of 50 to 100 school entries, where ICAF is recognized as a co-sponsor. ICAF will be pleased to feature your national celebration on its website and in its *ChildArt* magazine.

7. World Children's Festival

The partner will select a national delegation and arrange travel for the delegates to participate in the World Children's Festival in Washington, DC in June 2011. The delegation will include the National Arts Olympiad winners and their parents, and possibly their teachers. The Chairperson of the National Arts Olympiad may lead the delegation.

8. Program Evaluation

The partner will prepare an evaluation report, which provides best estimates of the total number of schools, and the total number of students, who participated in the 4th Arts Olympiad. Copies of media coverage of the National Arts Olympiad should be sent to ICAF. Finally, the Art e-Learning Center will suggest ways to enhance the 5th Arts Olympiad (2013-2016).

June 29, 2009

Dear School Principal:

The International Child Art Foundation invites your school to participate in a unique learning experience for your students. The **Arts Olympiad** begins with structured lesson plans in classrooms worldwide, leads to school art competitions, and culminates in the World Children's Festival in Washington, DC in June 2011.

The attached Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan for 8- to 12-year-old students requires collaboration between the art teacher and the physical education instructor, so they can break old stereotypes by introducing students to the "artist athlete" ideal of a creative mind and healthy body. The schoolteachers are requested to:

- Introduce students to the collective powers of Art and Sport in order to combine the empathy invoked by art and the team spirit instilled by sport to make a student realize the connection between mind and body; between one's self and the surrounding world
- Encourage students to create their own artworks interpreting the theme, *My Favorite Sport* [Each student can make an original painting/drawing and/or digital art on a real or imaginary sport]
- Use the artworks to encourage athletically inclined students to be creative and non-athletically inclined students (typically prone to obesity) to engage in their favorite physical activity
- Organize an exhibition and form a distinguished jury to select one outstanding painting/drawing and/or one outstanding digital art, based on originality and creativity in addition to technical merit [Include your students as judges to the extent possible]
- Mail your school's entry or entries to the Art e-Learning Center by March 31, 2010

From the entries received from your country, our panel of prominent artists and educators will select national winners in each of the two competition categories in July 2010. If your student is a winner, then the student, his or her parents and you will be invited as your country's Official Delegation to the 2011 World Children's Festival. At the festival you will be honored as a champion of children's creativity and imagination.

The Arts Olympiad is a free program for your school and there is no fee for participation in the World Children's Festival. However, your school must raise funds from local sponsors to cover travel and hotel expenses for your delegation to the World Festival. Please visit www.icafo.org for information on our previous Arts Olympiads and festivals. You may be interested in our *ChildArt* quarterly magazine, a useful resource for teachers and an inspiration for students since 1998. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely yours,



Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.
Chairman

INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION



THE ARTS OLYMPIAD LESSON PLAN
Art & Sport for a Better World

Art and sport have the powers to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Art and sport speak to people in a language they understand. Art and sport can create hope where there was once only despair. They are instruments for peace, even more powerful than governments.

- Nobel Laureate Nelson R. Mandela

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Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan

I. PRE-COMPETITION ACTIVITIES

The activities suggested below will allow your students to develop connections between art and sport, express their opinions, and create their own individual artwork. You are free to use any combination of the activities described below and modify these to fit your curriculum.

Activity A: The Purpose of Art and Sport: This activity opens students' minds to possible connections between Art and Sport through a series of discussion questions.

Activity B: Thinking Beyond the Stereotype: This activity gives students a "hands-on" approach to breaking stereotypes by thinking outside the box.

Activity C: Building Peace through Art and Sport: This activity familiarizes students with the Olympic ideals, and how art and sport can help build peace in today's world.

Activity A. The Purpose of Art and Sport

Why do people create art? Why do people compete in athletics? Addressing these basic questions with your students will allow the students to think in detail about the issues. The following activity can help guide the discussion.

Have half the students of a class be "Artists" and the other half be "Athletes." Then, ask the students to develop and write down their own answers to two questions. (Artists get questions 1 and 2 and Athletes get questions 3 and 4):

- Qs. 1. *Why do people draw, paint, sculpt, dance, etc...?*
- Qs. 2. *How does creating Art make you feel?*
- Qs. 3. *Why do people run, play soccer, climb trees, etc...?*
- Qs. 4. *How does playing Sports make you feel?*

Once they have finished writing their answers, the students are put in Artist-Athlete pairs to discuss their responses with one another and to answer one final question: What are the similarities between why people create Art and participate in Sports? At the end, each group will present their answers to the class.



Activity B. Thinking Beyond the Stereotype

Many students falsely believe that everyone and everything fits into a particular mold. They may assume that athletes cannot create wonderful art and artists cannot be athletes. This activity is designed to encourage students to look beyond these assumptions and break stereotypes.

For this activity, several pieces of athletic gear (such as balls, bats, nets, gloves, etc.) and art tools (such as paint brushes, canvases, construction paper, etc) will be necessary. The exact type does not matter, as long as the object is defined as a tool in arts or sports.

Split the class into teams of three or four and give each group one of the objects. Ask the students to analyze the object for a few moments. Then, ask the students to create an art project using the sporting gear or a game using the art tools. Using the questions below, have students create a specific structure for each game or project, which they then may present to the class.

Art Tools: *How is this tool usually used?*

Create a game using the following rules: your tool must be used throughout your game, and you must not destroy your tool in order to use it in the game. Otherwise you are free to create whatever you imagine.

What is the name of your game?

What are the rules of your game?

How is your object used in your game?

How is its use in your game different than its general use?

Sporting Equipment: *How is this object usually used? It is associated with which sport?*

Create an art project using your object as either a tool or a part of a piece of art.

Describe the project below, but do not actually create the project.

What is the name of your project?

What materials do you need for your project?

What are the steps to making your piece of art?

How is your object used for your project?

How is its use different than its general use?

In the process of this activity, students will learn that objects can have specific purposes, but can often be used in other ways. Then, ask the students how this activity relates to people, and their purposes. Guide students to see that people, too, can have many skills - including being both artistic and athletic.



Activity C. Building Peace through Art and Sport

Divide the class into small groups to allow the students to work together to come up with their own visions of how art and sport can be used to create peace.

By blending sport with culture and education, the Olympics promote a lifestyle based on:

- (a) The balanced development of mind, body and character;*
- (b) The joy of effort;*
- (c) The value of role models;*
- (d) The value of teamwork; and*
- (e) Observing the ethics of tolerance, generosity, unity, friendship and respect.*

Suggested questions to ask the students: What do these ideals mean to you? Have you witnessed these ideals before when playing sports? How could they apply to Art as well?

II. ARTS OLYMPIAD COMPETITION GUIDELINES

School Art Competition

Organize an art competition on the theme *My Favorite Sport* into which the students combine the themes discussed in class. Encourage students to be creative with the topic, particularly those who do not see themselves as athletic. Ask the students to look deeper into the sport than just the actions themselves; ask the students to look at the message, movement, and values that are related to sports.

Students may choose to represent a native sport, or a sport they like to play or watch, or they may even invent their own sport. If possible, involve the athletics instructor – with enough energy and passion, the very act of making art can be an athletic activity!

Submissions must be in one of these two forms:

Traditional 2-Dimensional Art

A painting or drawing on paper, canvas, silk or any other two-dimensional medium, 18" x 24" (45 x 60 cm) in size;

or

Digital Art

Static visual work created using digital tools to imagine a sport, capture the image of a favorite sport, or a collage combining the two (300+ dpi)

Deadline

The School Entry must be mailed to the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) on or before March 31, 2010.

Selection of School Finalists

Please select a panel of judges, which may include local artists, teachers, or students, to choose one School Entry in the painting or drawing category and another in the digital art category. *Your judging criteria should give more weight to imagination and originality, rather than technical merit alone.*

Sending Finalist Artwork

The School Finalist painting or drawing should be mailed to ICAF. It is recommended that the artwork not be rolled up but packaged flat for mailing. The digital arts School Entry should be emailed to program@icaf.org.

III. DELEGATION TO THE WORLD CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Held on the National Mall in Washington, DC every four years, the World Children's Festival is the largest international celebration of children's creativity and imagination in the world. Any school can send a delegation to the World Children's Festival, a 3-day event in June 2011, which will be open and free to the public.

The Official Delegations to the World Children's Festival are National Arts Olympiad winners (one in painting category and one in digital art category), their parents or guardians, school principal or teacher, and local sponsor if any. The Official Delegations are required to be in Washington, DC for five (5) days. An exclusive one-day seminar is held for the Official Delegations right before the 3-day public festival, and the day after the festival the ICAF Awards Ceremony is held to honor the Official Delegations. There is no fee for participation in the festival. A local sponsor should be approached to support travel and hotel expenses. ICAF will arrange host families in Washington, DC for 5-6 days for the National Arts Olympiad winners and their parents.

IV. ICAF

An independent, apolitical and non-governmental organization, since 1997 ICAF has served as a leading national art and creativity organization for American children and as the premier international art and creativity organization for the world's children. ICAF integrates the arts with science, sport and technology for the development of children's creativity and empathy – preconditions for a better world. ICAF organizes the Arts Olympiad every four years, produces the World Children's Festival every four years, and organizes international exhibitions of children's artwork. ICAF publishes the ChildArt magazine to foster children's creativity and empathy so they grow up as global citizens and leaders.

Arts Olympiad competition on the theme: "My Favorite Sport"

School Entry Form for Painting/Drawing Category

Please fill this out completely and tape to the back of artwork



I. SCHOOL

School/Institution name	Name of Organizer	Organizer's email address
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Mailing Address

City	State	Country	Zip code
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Telephone (with area code)	Organizer's email	School/Institution's email
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How many students participated? Comments on the lesson plan?

II. STUDENT ARTIST

First name	Last name	Age	Date of birth
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Complete Mailing Address

City	State	Country	Zip code
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Telephone	Email address
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Title of Artwork	Medium
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I hereby certify that the attached "My Favorite Sport" entry is the original work of the student artist named above. I further understand that the child's artwork becomes entirely the property of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) and cannot be returned. I agree that the artwork may be published, exhibited or reproduced by ICAF, or sent by ICAF to other organizations for use, without further authorization from or any compensation to the child artist and his or her parent, guardian or teacher.

II. TEACHER AND PARENT

Name of Organizer/Teacher (please print)	Signature	Date
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Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)	Signature	Date
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