

# Schools awarded funding for ArtsSmarts Program

Schools on the Northern Peninsula and in Southern Labrador have been awarded funding for the ArtsSmarts Program.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council received 44 applications from schools requesting some \$243,000 in funding. The evaluation committee awarded \$85,000 to 18 schools throughout the province.

Launched in 1998 by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, ArtsSmarts is a national initiative to promote the engagement of young children in the arts through school-based projects.

ArtsSmarts aims to do the following: Integrate art throughout the standard school curriculum; develop intellectual and communication skills in children through active participation in the arts; and enhance appreciation for culture and art within children.

The successful applicants are:

■ Straits Elementary in Flowers Cove, which will work with artist Julia Pickard to create drawings and paintings which depict the flora, fauna, rocks and strata of Newfoundland. There will be particular emphasis on the limestone barrens in Flowers Cove and the surrounding area.

■ St. Lewis Academy, St. Mary's All-Grade and St. James Integrated, which will launch a project called 'Support for Celebrating Our Culture Through Song and Dance'. Students in K-7 in the three schools will take part in activities that integrate the student's social studies, religion, and language arts studies with storytelling, song writing and traditional dancing. The project will be under the guidance of Jim Payne and Fergus O'Byrne.

■ Mountain Feild Academy in Forteau will integrate art with the natural science curriculum for Grades K-6. Students will design and create a mural with tiles impressed with flora, fauna or sea creatures found from nature in the Labrador Straits.

■ St. Francis Elementary in Parsons Pond will involve students in K-6 working with artist Joan Foster to design and hook rugs which will reflect aspects of their community history. This project will integrate the curriculum outcomes in social studies and