



The Focus [] on Springfield Education Foundation

Oregon Battle of the Books Teams Powered by the Springfield Education Foundation



The Book Worms team from Two-Rivers Dos Rios Elementary, above, was one of 52 Oregon Battle of the Books groups competing at the regional elementary school tournament held at Thurston High School on March 14, 2015.

“Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) is a really powerful way to introduce kids to the excitement and fun of reading. My daughter looks forward to the event every year and the 16 new books she may not have discovered on her own. She is on her way to becoming a lifelong reader and there is no doubt in my mind that OBOB played a big part in that,” said Kelli Warner, parent of a competitor. Her daughter, Ally, attends Thurston Middle School and has been on a

“She is on her way to becoming a lifelong reader...OBOB played a big part in that.”

Battle of the Books team for six years. That means she has read 96 books in addition to her school work!

Thanks to all the volunteers—including area superintendents, media personalities, donors and legislators—who served on the committee, moderated the

battles and acted as room hosts during the tournament.

The Springfield Education Foundation has supported OBOB since 2008 and literacy projects remain a priority for the board.



Celebrates 10 Years

Gift of Literacy encourages a love of reading among young children. Through community partnerships and the leadership of Springfield Rotary clubs every first-grader in Springfield Public Schools receives a new hardbound book and goodies at a special celebration in May.

Since 2005, 10,572 books have been distributed to 1st-graders and libraries and 25,302 items have been checked out with special public library cards.



A 1st-grader waits to open his special bag with his book inside.

Please Join Us!

Gift of Literacy
Wednesday, May 27, 2015
Lane Community College
Call for volunteer opportunities or a tour during the event.

Kendall's Drive for Education College scholarship Give-Away
Thursday, June 18, 2015
Kendall Toyota
5:30 pm

Shana's Jump and Run
Thursday, August 13, 2015
Silke Field
5 to 7 pm

Night of 11,000 Stars!
Thursday, October 15, 2015
Willamalane Center
5 to 9 pm



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Innovative Educator Grants Provide Keys to Learning

The Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) awarded 22 Innovative Educator grants totalling \$35,000 in November, impacting about 5,200 students and implemented by 57 teachers. Some of these creative grants connect with agencies such as Northwest Youth Corps, Willamalane Park and Recreation District and Ophelia's Place to bring robust, meaningful and educational programs to students.

"It's great to know that the grants are truly a source of funds that supplement an educator's tool belt. Due to a grant, my daughter has easier access to coding, reading, story writing and much more," Jamie Louie-Smith said about the grant awarded to her 9-year-old's classroom teacher Pat Gagnon.

At left, two Centennial Elementary students learn how to build basic LEGO Robot projects funded by an SEF grant. Students work in partners, learn to identify the objectives and perform experiments. They will advance to projects involving more engineering and computer programming.

2014–15 Innovative Educator Grants

School	Grant Title	Amount	Lead Educator
Agnes Stewart Middle	Supportive School Culture	\$3,000	Jeff Fuller, Principal
Centennial Elementary	STEM LEGO Lab	\$3,000	Jeremy Hugo, Teacher
Gateways High	Rise Higher	\$3,000	Paul Weill, Principal
Guy Lee Elementary	Farm to School Program	\$1,000	Heidi Vanbrunt, Teacher
Hamlin Middle	After School String Chamber	\$ 600	Karen Bodeen, Music Teacher
Hamlin Middle	Drafting Our Future	\$ 318	Ashley Lavelle, Art Teacher
Hamlin Middle	Middle School Debate Team	\$1,000	Kevin Wright, Principal
Maple Elementary	National Music Conference!	\$ 715	Andria Martin, Music Specialist
Maple Elementary	Focus and Engagement for Success	\$2,000	Hayley Orton, Teacher
Mt. Vernon Elementary	Differentiated Math	\$ 995	Pat Gagnon, Teacher
Page Elementary	Helping Students Learn English	\$3,000	Andrew Dempsey-Karp, Teacher
Page and Other Schools	Make It, Take It, Share It	\$2,791	Lori Hornfelt, Speech-Language Pathologist
Riverbend Elementary	From Our Watershed to Youtube	\$1,052	Eva La Mar, Teacher
Springfield High	Integrated Outdoor Program	\$2,000	Ivan Miller, Language Arts Instructor
Springfield High	Educators Rising	\$3,000	Leslie Watson, Cadet/Science Teacher
Springfield High	Healthy Lifestyles	\$ 984	Leslie Watson, Cadet/Science Teacher
Springfield High	Scientific Mystery Explorations	\$ 500	Sonja Ljungdahl, Teacher
Thurston High	Business Education Technology	\$ 968	Mike Michel, Teacher
Thurston High	Charms Office Web	\$ 600	Timothy Vian, Band and Orchestra Director
Thurston Middle	Middle School Band Warm-Ups	\$ 717	Matt Woodford, Music Teacher
Walterville Elementary	Keys To Success	\$2,819	Amy Page, Library Media Specialist
11 Elementary Schools	Pedestrian Safety Education	\$1,000	Emma Newman, Safe Routes to School Coord.

2014–17 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS UPDATED FOR 2015

Strategic Issue: How will the Springfield Education Foundation build a stronger role for itself in the Springfield community to impact all students?

1. Support district initiatives and connect community interest effectively to schools and programs.
2. Set long-term financial goals to increase support for students.
3. Utilize appropriate tools to measure impact of SEF grants and district initiative investments on students.
4. Enhance communication of SEF's impact.
5. Strengthen the organization and board structure and production.

SEF Board Chair Terry Beyer accepts a check from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce with Thurston Middle School students. Terry is in her second term leading the board.



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The Focus is published twice a year for donors, parents, Springfield Public Schools employees, educators, alumni and volunteers—supporters of Springfield Public Schools. To obtain an electronic version, please email ronnel@springfielddeductionfoundation.org.

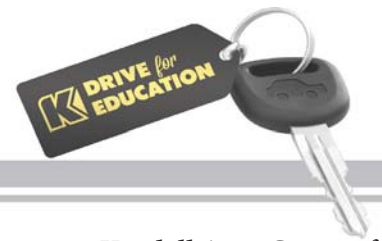


Getting Technical

When the SEF board made funding technology a priority this year, Thurston High School robotics programs were able to receive needed upgrades with the help of generous donations from Timber Products and Symantec. Investments have also been made in 3D printers for two middle schools, the Girls Engineering in Middle School after-school program (GEMS), and the Springfield High School automotive program. Last month's robotics open house at Thurston High attracted budding engineers from all over the district, including the girl at left.

A Douglas Gardens Elementary School kinder controls the robot in the challenge course at Thurston High School.

Kendall's 3rd Annual DRIVE FOR EDUCATION



During its Third Annual Drive for Education program, **Kendall Auto Group** of Eugene will be holding a random drawing to give away 20 scholarships to college-bound seniors, each worth \$1,000, with one student winning the grand prize of a scholarship AND a BRAND NEW Toyota! Go to the Kendall or SEF website for details. All applications need to be turned into the SEF office, 525 Mill Street, Room 219, by May 13.

Reaching Students in Need

With 66 percent of our students qualifying for free and reduced lunch (an indicator of poverty which increased 7 percent from last year), providing for basic needs continues to be a funding priority for SEF and our donors. We work with schools and community partners to help with necessities so children can focus on learning.

Food: Through a formal agreement with FOOD For Lane County, SEF is supplementing food needs for Hamlin Middle School students, and will soon be at Thurston High as well. Working in conjunction with Springfield's Belly-Full organization, a volunteer Rotary committee, SEF has been able to support school gardens, curriculum, resources and Springfield High's Snack Zone.

Clothing: For years, SEF donors have given to the PTA Clothing Voucher program that provides new underwear and shoes.



Transportation: Through an agreement with Lane Transit District, SEF provides bus passes at reduced cost for students who are responsible for getting themselves to and from school.

Brattain House: SEF supports many programs managed out of the Brattain House including the McKinney-Vento program for students without permanent shelter, the Clothing X-Change and the Family Involvement Advisory Team.

Meaningful Mentorships

After hearing from our principals that providing mentors was the #1 way for volunteers to help, SEF increased its efforts this year to recruit friends, colleagues, donors and associates to mentor students.



A 6th-grade Hamlin student listens to his adult mentor as they discuss his grades and future.

Guided by SEF board member Ed Baker, we have been connecting volunteers to mentoring programs at Agnes Stewart and Hamlin Middle Schools.

“Mentorship engages students with a caring adult in a conversation that allows students to reflect and take ownership of

their own education,” said Agnes Stewart Principal Jeff Fuller. “Mentors provide guidance and encouragement to ensure students are setting appropriate goals, identifying steps to achieve those goals and following through to be successful.”

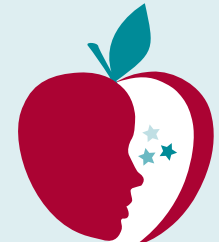
“Mentorship engages students with a caring adult in a conversation that allows students to reflect and take ownership of their own education.”

Mentors meet three times a year, or more if they wish, for 30 minutes with students after their report cards are issued. Each mentor is assigned three students.

If you have a few minutes to be a mentor and help change a student’s life, contact the SEF office at 541-726-3243.

“This was worth it because this gives me an early view of where I am heading and what I need to do”

—said one Agnes Stewart Middle School student about her experience in the mentor program.



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Springfield Education Foundation
525 Mill Street / PO Box 663
Springfield, OR 97477

541 • 726 • 3243

info@springfieldeducationfoundation.org
www.springfieldeducationfoundation.org

