Volume 8 • SPRING 2016

The Focus on Springfield Education Foundation

Investing in Successful Students

Arts Apprenticeships Provide Life-Changing Skills for Students

by Lauren Suveges, Lane Arts Council

Earth friendly. Heartfelt. Brave. These words describe the artwork and experiences of students participating in the second year of the innovative and successful Arts Apprenticeship program managed by Lane Arts Council and supported by the Springfield Education Foundation.

In March, Lane Arts Council showcased 16 Hamlin Middle and Gateway High School students and their artistic mentors at Emerald Art Center. The event featured a live performance of "Lean on Me" and several examples of the power of visual arts for self-expression. Students also spoke about their experiences working with professional artists.

One student, Ali, struggles with cystic fibrosis, and while her hospitalization could have kept her from participating, her mentor, painter David CP Placencia, wouldn't let that happen. David delivered art supplies to Ali and kept track of her progress via social media.

The night of the showcase, Ali shared her work and how painting helps her to process so many of life's difficulties. In addition to learning art and music techniques, students are mentored about the business side of being an artist.

At the Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield, students show the work they created during the 10-week Arts Apprenticeship program.

The Arts Apprenticeship program continues to empower students to build on their creative passions, fostering relationships to help students envision themselves in the professional world.

Ali was quite successful – she sold her first three paintings that night. Her principal and teachers beamed with pride and tears, but no one seemed prouder than Ali herself.

The Arts Apprenticeship Program is a collaborative effort managed by Lane Arts Council and supported by Springfield Public Schools, Springfield Education Foundation, US Bank, the Oregon Arts Commission and Springfield Rotary.

Please Join Us!

- **Gift of Literacy**
  Thursday, May 26, 2016
  Lane Community College

- **3rd Annual Honor Roll Society Reception & Alumni Awards**
  Honoring those donating $1,000 or more
  Thursday, June 2, 2016
  5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
  Sprout. 418 A Street.
  By Invitation.

- **Night of 11,000 Stars!**
  Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016
  Willamalane Center

Springfield Education Foundation

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5th Gala Fundraiser is the Most Successful Yet

Springfield High School's Mariachi del Sol performed at the 2015 Night of 11,000 Stars.

Last fall, about 400 people gathered at the 5th annual Night of 11,000 Stars to celebrate and support the nearly 11,000 students attending Springfield schools.

Held at Willamalane Center, the night featured innovative educators sharing information about their programs, funded by SEF donations. They shared how SEF donors helped inspire and engage their students.

A Thurston High School robot, funded in part with SEF support, moved around the center with a GoPro camera projecting images on a large overhead screen. Other highlights included a silent auction, oral auction, which featured a special paddle raise for students, and student-made desserts.

Thanks to the success of this event, we are reaching and impacting the education of almost every student in the school district.

The night successfully kicked off the annual fund campaign, netting $105,000. A special thanks to our Guiding and Gold star 2015 sponsors **Fred Meyer, Burrito Amigos, Kendall Subaru, Wells Fargo Bank and International Paper**.

Funding for Talented and Gifted Programs Expands with SEF

Students model the costumes they made for their Paper Plays, one of the "Learn Together Programs."

For the first time, the Springfield Education Foundation gave a gift of nearly $20,000 to grow and expand opportunities for the school district's talented and gifted students (TAG). "Investing in our brightest children and providing them with unique opportunities to keep them engaged and challenged is a wise investment. This is an underfunded program and underserved population," Ronnel Curry, SEF executive director said.

SEF works closely with district staff and TAG coordinator to ensure that our support inspires student learning. SEF funds go toward these and other TAG programs:

- Additional monthly "Learn Together Programs" that engage students and families with fun activities;
- Middle school geography bees;
- Summer engineering workshops;
- Destination Imagination; and
- Taking "Brain Bowl" teams to regional championships, which hasn't occurred in years due to lack of funding.

2015-16 Innovative Educator Grants Fund Music, Science, Art, History and More

The SEF Grant Givers award A3 teacher Jim Olsen (holding sign) $2,000 that will connect the Delgani String Quartet to his music students.

Last fall, SEF awarded 24 Innovative Education Grants totaling $49,060 and impacting 6,618 students at 14 schools. Since 2004, SEF has funded 246 grants totaling $308,000, helping to build bright futures for 32,000 students. These grants help increase participation, test scores and attendance while also recognizing teachers and educators who go above and beyond for their students. Awards are made on merit of the program and scored by volunteers without knowledge of which school, classroom or teacher is involved.

School	Grant Title/Amount	Lead Educator
A3	Blacksmithing and Metallurgy/$2,000	Andrew Hunt, Science Teacher
A3	The Art of the String Quartet/$3,000	Jim Olsen, Music Teacher
Agnes Stewart Middle	Students at Work/$930	Jody Tuntland, Educational Assistant
Agnes Stewart Middle	Supportive School Culture/$3,000	Kate Mather, School Counselor
Briggs Middle	Chromebooks for Science/$2,998	Kelli Ngariki, Math & Science Teacher
Gateways High	Historical Fiction & American History/$600	Jared Williams, Teacher
Gateways High	Project Phoenix Fridays/$3,000	Paul Weill, Principal
Gateways High	Sew Ready to Learn!/$2,998	Shannon Baimbridge, Admin Secretary
Gateways High	STEM and Renewable Energy/$2,573	Holly Ellingson, Science Teacher
Guy Lee Elementary	Farm to School Education Program/$1,000	Jennifer Robinette, 3rd-Grade Teacher
Hamlin Middle	Exploring Chinese Art/$250	Angela Brewer, L.A./Social Science Teacher
Hamlin Middle	The After-School String Chamber/$2,000	Karen Bodeen, Music Teacher
Maple Elementary	Mastering Math Facts 4 School & Home/$3,000	Marisa Silver, Teacher
Page Elementary	Social Skills & Behavior Monitoring/$2,936	Caitlin Andersen, Behavior Specialist
Ridgeview Elementary	The Study of Aquaponics in Kindergarten/$519	Treva Thompson, Kindergarten Teacher
Riverbend Elementary	Writing from the Inside Out/$2,720	Eva La Mar, 5th-Grade Teacher
Thurston High	Personal Experiences through Literature/$1,800	Alyssa Dodds, English Teacher
Thurston High	LinguaFolio to Go/$2,793	Dionne Hasforth, Spanish Teacher
Two Rivers–Dos Ríos Elem.	Genius Hour in 2nd Grade/$2,855	Danielle Smith, 2nd-Grade Teacher
Two Rivers–Dos Ríos Elem.	Growing Greatness in Math/$2,995	Kate Lode, Special Education Teacher
Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elem.	Engage in Full-Day Kindergarten/$3,000	Cheryl Dixon, Kindergarten Teacher
Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elem.	Chromebooks to Enhance English Learning/$1,650	Sarah Ferren, English Language Teacher
Walterville Elementary	Tinker Time/Design Dilemmas/$932	Katie Stocks, 1st-Grade Teacher
Yolanda Elementary	Rhythmic Development Through World Music/$483	Kristin Woodford, Music Teacher

Building Bright Futures with You! Volunteer Today.

If you have some time and expertise, consider joining a ***dedicated, passionate, talented and FUN group*** of volunteers. Please call Ronnel at 541-726-3243. Exciting, rewarding volunteer opportunities await on the marketing, events, programs and alumni committees.

Aquaponics Provides Hands-On Learning to Ridgeview Kinders

The study of aquaponics keeps kinders engaged in science.

by Kelli Warner, SEF Board Member

With full-day kindergarten, teachers now have the ability to introduce additional curriculum to bolster learning in science, math and social studies. With support from the Springfield Education Foundation, kindergartners at Ridgeview Elementary School are studying the water cycle and the life cycle through aquaponics! Teacher Treva Thompson was awarded an SEF Innovative Educator grant last fall to purchase an aquaponics kit. This has enabled students to see and learn how waste from the classroom's five goldfish turns into nitrates and ammonia, which feed lettuce plants growing above the tank, and in turn purify the water and keep the tank clean! This hands-on project has ignited the students' curiosity to explore, touch and analyze plant and animal life. The students also created a colorful hallway display to show what they are learning. What great lessons we help support!

"The fish help the plants grow, then the plants make oxygen and help clean the tank. That's really neat because Mrs. Thompson doesn't like cleaning the tank!" – *Samuel, Ridgeview kindergartner*

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Important Dates

Springfield Education Foundation

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