

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: To engage our school community in the arts by financially supporting the education of our students in music, art, dance, and drama at Oak Grove and Willowside Schools.

E-Newsletter April/May 2012

Special points of interest:

Presidents' Message -

Please keep up to date on upcoming events and fundraisers by reading the newsletter and checking the district website [ogusd.org](http://ogusd.org)

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April/May 2012

Volume 1, Issue 5

# News Of the Arts

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

### Mark your Calendar!!

In celebration of spring, two wonderful events are coming up that reflect the warming of days and waxing sunshine:

**DIA DE LOS NINOS** — Get ready for this delightful family fun event. The **Arts Foundation** and the **Latino Parent Club** will be holding their annual fiesta to celebrate Dia de los Niños/Day of the Children at Oak Grove School on April 27th, from 4:00 – 7:00pm. The fiesta features authentic Mexican food, live music, dancing, a strolling Mariachi band, and lots of activities for the children – including a Jump House! This is a joyous celebration to honor all the children of our community.

Dia de los Niños helps support both the Arts Program at Willowside and Oak Grove Schools, as well as the Oak Grove **Primos Program**, recent winner of the 2012 Jack London award for innovation in education! For e-newsletter readers, please **see the attached flyer on page five in this issue** for additional information. Come show your support while having family fun!

**GALA AUCTION DINNER DANCE** — On Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-11:00PM, the Oak Grove Union School District will hold its **Sixth Annual Gala Benefit Auction** at the Dutton Ranch vineyard facility west of Graton. **This is the PTO and Arts Foundation's major fundraiser** to provide the school district with its enrichment programs. Examples include our Fine Arts program, Outdoor Education Programs (garden and physical ed.), the on-campus libraries, teacher supplies, and field trips, as well as special on-campus presentations.

**This event sells out every year**, so don't delay purchasing your tickets. A separate email will follow that includes a ticket order form, and FAQ and family donation information.

Proceeds from last year's Gala have sustained programs and services that currently touch every student in our district. Help us continue this success. Mark your calendar now for the most anticipated, fun-filled community school event of the year. We'll see you at the Gala!!

## MONTHLY TOPIC

**Oak Grove School** kicked off the *Books & Beyond* reading incentive program on March 9<sup>th</sup> with two performances by Broadway and film actor **Duffy Hudson**. These lively, funny 35 minute shows brought to life **Dr. Seuss** classics like *Horton Hears a Who*, *The Sneeches*, *The Zax*, and *What was I Scared Of?* Funding quality performances for our students is part of what Arts Foundation is about!



### Pledge Drive Update

With our added donations **we are currently at \$42,686 or 65% of our target. Please help us reach our goal!**

Pledge forms are available at the schools and online at [www.ogusd.org](http://www.ogusd.org).

We thank you for your support!

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### MS. STEPHANIE BARCLAY-ROMANO

#### DANCE INSTRUCTOR

This is the fifth year that Stephanie Barclay-Romano has taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade students a series of lessons in social dance. Students learn the basics of fox trot, waltz, salsa, swing and cha-cha. Each May, during Willowside's Open House/Showcase, her students perform and then hold student-led dance lessons for audience members. This is Stephanie's fourth year of teaching the Russian *Troika* to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, enriching their study of Russian settlement in Northern California. The component of folk dance is incorporated into their living history field trip to Fort Ross where students perform the exuberant and complicated dance.

Stephanie is a professional dancer and choreographer who began her career in classical ballet, performing with Oakland Ballet Company, Eglevsky Ballet and several other local companies. She stages theater productions for circus troupes, dance bands and vocal groups, and choreographs musicals for schools and theater companies around the Bay Area. Currently she is a staff member at Santa Rosa Dance Theater teaching ballet, tap and Broadway jazz. For the past twenty years Stephanie has combined her unique background in classical ballet, jazz, tap, ballroom and folk dance with her love of teaching.

Thank you, Stephanie, for teaching our children to perform and  
Appreciate the art form of dance.



### Willowside Jazz Band Huge Hit at El Molino High!



**El Molino High School** recently invited the Willowside Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr. Rick Clifford, to present a short set of music as part of their **Pasta and Jazz Fundraiser**. The percolating opening tune, *Oyo Come Va*, coaxed a number of dancers into the isles. By the time the musicians left the stage following a big band arrangement of Journey's *Don't Stop Believing*, the large crowd was on its feet cheering in appreciation. That response speaks volumes for the hard work, energy and dedication honed by Mr. Clifford and his amazing group of students. Congratulations to everyone!!

**Late Breaking News!!** The Willowside Jazz Band has been asked to perform at Coddington Mall on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm, for the California Teachers Association. This event is open to the public, so stop by to cheer on this wonderful ensemble!

**Save these dates!!**

**"HEART OF THE WINE COUNTRY"**

**PTO & ARTS FOUNDATION  
6TH ANNUAL GALA AUCTION and  
DINNER/DANCE  
5-12-12 DUTTON RANCH**

#### **WILLOWSIDE SCHOOL EVENTS:**

**5-7-12 SPRING CONCERT  
5-16-12 OPEN HOUSE &  
PERFORMANCE & ART  
SHOWCASE**

#### **OAK GROVE SCHOOL EVENTS:**

**5-10-12 SPRING CONCERT  
5-23-12 OPEN HOUSE & ART SHOWCASE**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL 2012

4/24/12 @ 6:30pm The Arts Foundation meeting at the District Office Board Room

4/27/12 @ 4:00pm Dia de los Niños Fiesta fundraiser at Oak Grove School

### MAY 2012

5/7/12 @ 6:30pm Willowside School Spring Concert at Willowside School Gym

5/10/12 @ 6:30pm Oak Grove Spring Concert. At Oak Grove School MUR

### MAY 2012, continued

5/12/12 @ 5:30 pm 6th Annual PTO & Arts Foundation Gala Auction/Dinner/Dance at Dutton Ranch

5/16/12 @ 6:30pm Willowside School Open House & Showcase at Willowside School Gym

5/22/12 @ 6:30pm The Arts Foundation meeting at the District Office Board Room

5/23/12 @ 6:30pm Oak Grove Open House & Visual Art Showcase at Oak Grove MUR

## ARTS HIGHLIGHTS



### PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASES

These evening performances include all students as they demonstrate their skills and creativity in music, dance and drama. They are directed by arts specialists, organized by the Arts Program coordinator, supported by classroom teachers, and funded by Arts Foundation.

### VISUAL ARTS SHOWCASES

These exhibits are held during Open House in the WMS gym and Oak Grove MUR. Artwork by every art student is on display, and represents one or two of the projects covered by the curriculum that year. The events are organized by visual art specialists, organized by the Arts Program coordinator, and funded by Arts Foundation.

### 8th GRADE POETRY READING and ANTHOLOGY

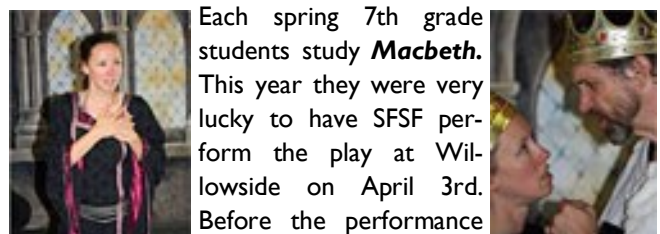
The Willowside Library hosted a **Poetry Reading** on April 12th featuring the selected work of ten outstanding 8th grade poets. Every 8th grade student will have a poem printed in the first annual **8th Grade Poetry Anthology** coming out in May. The Reading and Anthology is a collaboration between the Arts Program, WMS Library, Arts Foundation, 8th grade Language Arts teachers and poet Meg Hamill, **California Poets in the Schools** teacher.



### 4th GRADE CLASS DANCING THE TROIKA

Our 4th grade students enjoyed their real life experience field trip as they traveled back in time 200 years at Fort Ross. They were given Russian names, and were assigned duties to perform. All without the electronics of today! They enjoyed performing the *Troika*, a Russian folk dance they learned at school from the Arts Program dance specialist Stephanie Romano.

### SAN FRANCISCO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL



Each spring 7th grade students study **Macbeth**. This year they were very lucky to have SFSF perform the play at Willowside on April 3rd. Before the performance the 7th grade students were engaged in educational, fun, participatory workshops to learn in depth about the language of Shakespeare. This day was proudly funded by The Arts Foundation!

The Arts Foundation/OGEP  
5299 Hall Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
Phone: (707) 522-0472  
Email: [Arts@ogusd.org](mailto:Arts@ogusd.org)  
Website: [www.ogep.org](http://www.ogep.org)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

*News of the Arts* publishes exclusively as an e-newsletter. In order for you to receive it, we need your email address. Please go to [www.ogusd.org](http://www.ogusd.org) and select "PTO Parent Directory Form" from the Quick links located on the left side of the District home page. Kindly complete the very brief form and submit. That's it!! The next edition will arrive in your mailbox.

## THE ARTS FOUNDATION:

### Directors:

Co-Presidents: John Kuntz & Donna Almy  
Treasurer—Beverly So  
Secretary—Jim Waliszewski  
Co-Secretary—Mary Feige  
Volunteer Coordinator—Alyssa English

### Members at Large:

Karen Smith  
Sandra Loehrer  
Ali Bennett

Superintendent—Kevin Harrigan

Fine Arts Program Coordinator—Vicki Arden

Arts Foundation meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of almost every month at 6:30pm in the District Office board room at 5299 Hall Road. **Note new time.**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### We Need Your Helping Hands!

In order to keep The Arts thriving we need your help. Please look at the list of options for ways to support our students. Get involved and make a difference!

[We currently need help with the upcoming Annual Gala Auction & Dinner held on 5/12/12. Please contact us at \[ogauction@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:ogauction@yahoo.com\).](#)

**Attend an Arts Foundation meeting:** If you have good ideas you want to share, attend an Arts Foundation meeting and join a subcommittee that works toward specific goals like **fundraising & special projects**.

**Volunteer for short term jobs:** Arts Foundation can always use help with **photo copying** and **distribution** at both schools, sign-ups, **running errands**, **2nd Cup coffee pick up**, and **small project coordination**.

**Fundraising Events:** Oktoberfest, Pledge Drive, Dia de los Ninos, Annual Gala Auction and Dinner.

**Oak Grove PERFORMING ARTS Showcases:** Assist the Fine Arts Program music, dance & drama specialists during rehearsals and/or Showcases. Needs include: move instruments from Arts Room to

the stage, copy Showcase programs, give a hand costuming students, working with our great custodians to set up and store chairs for the audience.

**Oak Grove VISUAL ART Showcase:** Work with Fine Arts Program coordinator and visual art specialists to install a comprehensive K—5th grade art exhibit for Oak Grove's May 23 Open House evening. Each grade level and classroom will be represented.

**Willowside Showcase:** Work with Fine Arts Program coordinator, and visual art specialists to install a comprehensive 6th—8th grade art exhibit for Willowside's May 16 Open House evening. Help set up for short drama and dance performances. Work with our great custodians to set up and store chairs.

**Please CONTACT us with your interests:**

**Alyssa English, Arts Foundation Volunteer Coordinator**  
[aenglish@neworganics.com](mailto:aenglish@neworganics.com)

or

**Vicki Arden, OGUSD Fine Arts Program Coordinator**  
[warden@ogusd.org](mailto:warden@ogusd.org)

**THANK YOU for giving of your precious TIME!**



# Children's Day Mexican Fiesta!

**Friday, April 27th**  
 at Oak Grove School  
 from 4-7pm

## \* Event Highlights \*

- Live Music
- Dancing
- A *Strolling* Mariachi Band
- (: Face Painting :)
- Kids Carnival
- JUMP HOUSE**
- (\$2 per entry OR \$5 unlimited wristband)

### - Free Admission -

Tickets may be purchased for \$1.00 each to use toward food and beverages.

Every 5 food/drink tickets purchased, receive **1 free dessert ticket!**

### Check Out The Menu!

Tamales	Corn on the Cob
Pozole	Agua Fresca
Bottled Water	Horchata
Chips & Salsa	Tostadas

\*Benefitting The Arts Foundation and ESL Primos Program

### \* Book Fair!

Don't forget to stop by the Oak Grove Library's Book Fair too!

### \* Guess what?

Tamales can be pre-ordered at the Oak Grove Office for pick up the day of the event!  
 (Please order by April 25)