

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 February/March 2012

Special points of interest:

Presidents' Message - Thank you! Thank you!.

Please keep up to date on upcoming events and fundraisers by reading the newsletter and checking the district website ogusd.org

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February/ March 2012

Volume 1, Issue 4

News Of the Arts

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

The Arts Foundation is pleased to acknowledge two recent gifts to our organization. The **Graton Community Projects** committee selected our group from several nominees for a generous donation of **\$250.00**. The members are drawn to projects that resonate in the greater community, and events like Oak Grove School's *Dia de los Ninos Fiesta* drew enthusiastic interest. The Arts Foundation proposed a music or drama presentation co-sponsored by GCP that would be open to Oak Grove families and all Graton residents. We will keep you posted as details emerge.

Speaking of Oak Grove School, the **Oak Grove Student Council** sponsored a movie night on Friday, January 20th. Members selected the Arts Foundation to receive proceeds from this event as a way to thank the organization for programs it funds. Families attended in spite of a good rainstorm, and final earnings netted **\$363.08** for our organization!! We are very honored; there is no finer complement than being acknowledged by the students!

MONTHLY TOPIC

Some of the members of **Oak Grove Student Council** at Jan. 20th **Movie Night** with teacher-advisor Mrs. Eagle.

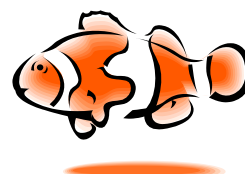


Pledge Drive Update

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

Pledge forms are available at the schools and online at www.ogusd.org.

We thank you for your support.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MS. JANET GREENE

ORFF MUSIC AND MOVEMENT INSTRUCTOR

Janet Greene, MA, is the K-3 Orff Music and Movement teacher at Oak Grove School. The Orff approach integrates singing, creative movement, folk dance, rhythmic speech, drama and playing in an ensemble of xylophones, percussion and recorders. Through her collaboration with classroom teachers, Janet is always looking for ways to bring music and dance into the language arts, science and math curriculums. Her article "Classical Music Connections," recently published in the *Orff Echo* music journal, describes her integration project at Oak Grove School. From her many years of teaching and research Janet believes that all children are musical, and that music, dance and the other arts enhance learning in all disciplines, develop creative thinking, problem solving, concentration, emotional and social skills.

Janet received a Fulbright and Austrian Government grant to attend the International Special Course at the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria. She has shared her interest in Orff and curriculum integration with teachers and students in Bali, Bhutan, South Africa and Thailand, and at many American national conferences. Janet was a lead teacher for the *San Francisco Symphony Keeping Score Program* for classroom teachers. She currently offers Orff courses at Mendocino College, and the San Francisco Orff Course. She enjoys playing the harpsichord, accordion, and her new instrument, the ukulele.

Thank you, Janet, for teaching our children wonderful music and dance skills as well as instilling a deep appreciation of the arts.



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

SAVE THE DATE!! SAVE THE DATE!!

OAK GROVE 2ND GRADE PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

We hope you can join us on February 15th at 6:30pm in the Oak Grove multi-use room for the **2nd grade Performing Arts Showcase**.

The students will perform Orff instrumental and vocal music and dance under the direction of Janet Greene, as well as vocal music with Andrew Deveny of the Mr. Music Program.



DIA DE LOS NINOS

April 27th 4:00pm at Oak Grove School

Get ready for a wonderful family fun event. The Arts Foundation and the E.L. Parent Group will be holding their annual fiesta to celebrate the Dia de los Niños/Day of the Children. The Fiesta features authentic Mexican food, music, dance and lots of activities for the children. Let us celebrate all the children of our community. Look for more information in the coming months and remember to order your tickets in advance.

Dia de los Niños helps support both Los Primos Program and Arts Education at Willowside Middle School and Oak Grove Elementary School. Come and show your support while having family fun.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Alyssa English aenglish@neworganics.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2012

2/15/12 @ 6:30pm—2nd Grade Performing Arts Showcase at Oak Grove School (MUR).

2/28/12 @ 7:00pm—The Arts Foundation meeting at the District Office Board Room.

MARCH 2012

3/7/12 @ 6:30pm - 1st Grade Performing Arts Showcase at Oak Grove School (MUR).

3/9 @10:00 am—Duffy Hudson presents **Dr. Seuss** for grades K-5 at Oak Grove School (MUR).

3/27 @7:00pm—The Arts Foundation meeting at the District Office Board Room.

ARTS HIGHLIGHTS



Willowside Winter Concert Rings in the Season

In case you missed it, the fall Willowside Winter Concert was a rousing success. Performing to a packed SRO house (extra chairs needed next time!), band leader **Rick Clifford** and Choir instructor **Lauren Chroninger** masterfully conducted students through a diverse repertoire of seasonal, popular, and obscure gems. The Muse (Greek goddesses of creative arts) was certainly in attendance this night judging by the performances and interactive audience.

Ms. Chroninger's *Chamber Singers* and *6th Grade Choir* sang beyond their years to achieve sophisticated harmonies that held the listeners collective breath. It was a seductive alchemy which left the audience spellbound. Taking that energy and ratcheting it up in a whole other direction, Mr. Clifford's *Jazz Band* ascended the stage and rose to the occasion! From the opening strains of Tito Puente's *Oye Como Va*, the groove was on – and the audience knew it! With synchronized movements from punctuating trumpets and shuffling feet captivated by rhythm, these students conveyed a collective musical joy that left all exhilarated. It was a grand send-off that hung in the air as families spilled out into the night.

It is our school district's good fortune to have Ms. Chroninger and Mr. Clifford inspiring our students through their talent, guidance, and musical passion. In the future, we hope to begin providing video shorts from special events in our e-newsletter. We'll keep you posted.



3rd/4th/5th Grade

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE A BIG HIT!

On January 25th, the 3rd/4th/5th grade students held a performing arts showcase featuring Orff instrumental and vocal music, movement & dance directed by music specialist Janet Greene, and vocal music and dance directed by Lauren Chroninger, 4th, 5th & 6th grade music teacher.

The students performed a lively repertoire featuring jazz, rags, as well as songs written by George and Ira Gershwin. We thank all of the performers, teachers and staff for their hard work in producing such a great evening. We also wish to thank all the families in the audience who generously donated over \$740 in our "Arts Buckets" to help sustain arts curriculum in our district!



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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 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 7 pm in the District Office board room at 5299 Hall Road.

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!

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**.

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

or

Vicki Arden, OGUSD Fine Arts Program Coordinator
warden@ogusd.org

THANK YOU for giving of your precious TIME!