



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 Dec 2011

Special points of interest:

Presidents' Message - Looking Under the Hood of a Pledge Drive.

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

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December 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3

News Of the Arts

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Looking Under the Hood of a Pledge Drive

A warm and heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who renewed or became new members during our fall pledge drive. While I do not yet have final totals to share, some interesting patterns are worth noting. On average, one out of every six families financially supports the arts each year – a ratio that remains fairly static.

Most responses came from families attending Oak Grove School. While I'm confident that this pledge sample does not suggest any less passion from Willowside parents for a vibrant academic environment, it provides some thoughts to consider.

Many families with older children attend the Oak Grove Union School District for the first time beginning with 6th and 7th grade. This is a transitional period for maturing students as well as parents. The relatively short two or three middle school years can exacerbate a feeling by parents to disengage a bit. In fact, research correlates a waning involvement by parents as children reach pre-teen and adolescent age.

It's important to remember, however, that numerous studies consistently show a direct correlation between parental involvement and student achievement. This translates to significantly higher test scores. In other words, our active engagement as parents impacts our child's academic performance, and remains a strong asset throughout high school.

The Arts Foundation is one place that provides a variety of opportunities to rekindle a connection to your child's campus – through volunteering in an arts classroom, assisting at an arts event or showcase, bringing your ideas to our monthly meetings, or perhaps assisting with a short term need. As a school supporter, advocate, or decision maker, your imprint helps strengthen the vitality of the learning environment.

Likewise, your donation keeps alive a community mandate for arts curriculum. It's an important link between a good - and a great - education. If you have not yet filled out a pledge form, *please* do so. Copies can be found at www.ogep.org. We hope to see you soon!

MONTHLY TOPIC

Pledge Drive Update

We are in the final stages of our annual Pledge Drive, and with pledge donations still coming in, **we are currently at \$41,325 or 64% of our goal of \$65,000. Please help us reach our goal!**

This year we are asking families to donate only \$99 per child to help us maintain a strong Fine Arts Program that engages every student in our school district. We invite you, your family, friends and relatives to contribute to The Arts Foundation/OGEP. **Consider your donation as a wonderful Christmas present for your family!**

Did you know that OGEP is a not-for-profit organization? **Your donations qualify as a tax deduction!!**

Pledge forms are available at the schools and online at www.ogusd.org. We thank you for your support. You are awesome!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MS. LAUREN CHRONINGER

GENERAL MUSIC INSTRUCTOR & CHOIR DIRECTOR

LCHRONINGER@OGUSD.ORG

542-3322

Ms. Lauren Chroninger teaches General Music to grades 4, 5 & 6 and directs the Choirs at both Oak Grove and Willowside. Ms. Chroninger earned a double major at Sonoma State University in both Jazz Studies and Music Education. During her sophomore year she had the opportunity and privilege of studying jazz vocals at the University of New Orleans with the *Marsalis* family! As a long time pianist and vocalist, Ms. C has performed with various elementary, high school and college groups. She also has toured various parts of Europe and Chicago with local choirs.

In 2008, Lauren completed her teaching credential as well as welcomed the birth of her beautiful baby girl, Lily. The following year she applied to teach at Willowside and was hired to direct Willowside's Choir and instruct 6th grade General Music. In 2010 her job was expanded to include the direction of Oak Grove's Choir and the instruction of General Music for grades 4 & 5.

Since then, she has welcomed the birth of baby #2, Jackson Morgan. Ms. C is thankful for her job and the wonderful community of Oak Grove Union School District. We are very fortunate to have an instructor with such talent and experience. Thank you, Ms. C, for everything you do for our students!



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



WINTER CONCERTS

Wednesday, 12/7/11, 6:30pm, Willowside gym

Thursday, 12/15/11, 6:30pm Oak Grove MUR

Get ready for two wonderful musical evenings at Oak Grove and Willowside schools with Choir Director Lauren Chroninger and Band Director Rick Clifford. The Willowside band is bigger than ever. You will notice a much fuller sound, especially in Mr. Clifford's original arrangement of *Do Re Mi*. The Oak Grove band is doing so well that they plan to perform *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, an arrangement for middle school musicians! The Choirs are looking forward to singing for family and friends. We are sure to hear music representative of the winter holidays, as well as classical and jazz pieces.

Come and show your support while having family fun. Hope to see you there!



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2011 AND DECEMBER 2011

11/29/11 @ 7:00PM—The Arts Foundation meeting at the District Office board room.

12/7/11 @ 6:30pm - **Winter Concert at Willowside School (gymnasium).**

12/15/11 @ 6:30pm—**Winter Concert at Oak Grove School (Multi-Use Room).**



Quilt square, left, created at 2011 Kids' Art Workshop held at Oak Grove School. This quilt raised \$350.00 which will buy arts materials for students this year. Right, preparing artwork for the Annual Silent Auction as well as having fun creating pieces to take home.

JANUARY 2012 AND FEBRUARY 2012

1/19/12 @ 3:45pm— Fine Arts Committee meeting, District Office board room.

1/24/12 @ 7:00pm—The Arts Foundation meeting at the District Office Board Room.

1/25/12 @ 6:30pm—Oak Grove Performing Arts Showcase for 3rd, 4th & 5th grades at **Willowside** school gymnasium.

2/15/12 @ 6:30pm - OG Fine Arts Showcase for 2nd grade at Oak Grove School (MUR).



ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

7th grade Art & Science Integration

Recently, Willowside 7th grade students learned observation skills that are critically important to scientists and artists alike. Fine Arts Program teacher Teresa Lewis and Science teacher Ms. Grima-Lowe collaborated to integrate Science and Visual Art in the study of diatoms, fungi and flowers. Students learned techniques of close observation and illustration. Ms. Lewis focuses on teaching the students to slow down and “draw what they actually see, not what they think they see.” (Drawing by 7th grade student.)



3rd grade Arts Integration

Third grade students study Miwoks Indians, native California animals and their habitats. In November each of the third grade classrooms at Oak Grove enjoyed an 80 minute workshop with storyteller/artist Ane Carla Rovetta.

After a dramatic storytelling of a Miwok legend about a native California animal, Ane Carla Rovetta instructed students in drawing the animal with pastels. This lesson represents the seamless way that the visual arts and theater arts can convey and enrich core curriculum in Science and Social Studies.



(Drawing by 3rd grade student.)

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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 last
Tuesday of each 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 PERFORMANCE Showcases: Assist the Fine Arts Program music, dance & drama specialists during rehearsals and/or Showcases. Help needed includes: move Orff instruments from Arts Room to the stage, make copies of 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!**