

## Portland conference attracts student writers

Thirteen 7th and 8th grade students from Sunridge Middle School attended the Oregon Writing Festival in May thanks, in part, to a \$1,400 grant from the Education Foundation of Pendleton.

The Festival, held at Portland State University, required an overnight stay and bus transportation. The grant made this part of the trip possible.

"Students came away from the festival with excitement for writing and with new ideas to inspire them," according to Christina VanNice, SMS teacher.

The full day conference attracted 866 other students from across Oregon. Roland Smith, Oregon author, spoke to the students about his work. In other workshops, students were able to share a piece of their own writing, hear writing from other students and participate in two workshops where they created new pieces of writing.

No trip to Oregon's largest city would be complete without a visit to Powell's bookstore. VanNice termed Powell's a "book lover's paradise."

On the way home, a flat tire on the bus gave the students two more hours to share their experiences prior to arriving home.

"We listened as many of the students shared writing that they had heard during their group share sessions," she added. In addition to this bonus sharing time, the students also read the books they had purchased at Powell's.

The middle schoolers "came away from the festival with excitement for writing and with new ideas to inspire us," VanNice added. Many students "talked about the six word memoirs they wrote and the difficulty of choosing just six words to embody an idea."

In summary, VanNice noted, "Just as in the past, having a new audience for their writing seemed to invigorate these students and spark a desire to continue working on and improving their own writing."



Sunridge Middle School students bought several books at Powell's.

## OUR MISSION

*The purpose of the Education Foundation of Pendleton is to encourage and support curriculum enrichment, supplemental learning experiences, and other projects which may be deemed necessary and timely for the benefit of students in the Pendleton School District 16R. Through its work, the Foundation promotes public awareness and seeks to broaden the support of the community for its public schools. Funds for professional development are not a priority but may be considered.*

*Contributions/gifts to the Education Foundation of Pendleton are tax deductible. Also, because the Education Foundation is a qualified Oregon Cultural Organization, you would be eligible to receive a tax credit on any subsequent matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust – a dollar for dollar reduction of your Oregon state income tax liability.*

*To utilize this tax credit, contact the Oregon Cultural Trust at 503-986-0088 or go to: [www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org).*

## 2016 Spring Grants Total \$10,711

**\$500** The Pendleton High School Spanish and French Department students were to travel to Eugene the first of May to attend the University of Oregon Foreign Language and International Studies Day. About 30 to 40 students were expected to attend. The conference provides students with an exposure to other languages and an opportunity to explore possible foreign language careers. (\$500 in addition to \$1,000 granted last fall) *[Special circumstances caused the cancellation of this activity.]*

**\$2,000** In late May, 95 students in the Honors Biology class at PHS had the opportunity to participate in one of three overlapping 2-day field trips to the Oregon Coast. Students visited two aquariums, explored the sandy beach and tide pool habitats, and rode in a research vessel in Yaquina Bay. This fun, educational trip allowed students to explore our coast as they saw and touched many of the organisms studied in class as well as being able to participate in a few of the activities performed by working marine biologists. (\$2,000 in addition to \$2,000 granted last fall.)

**\$1,500** In April, 22 ECMC (Education Credit Management Corporation) students at PHS attended the Spring Best Practices meeting at Western Oregon University. ECMC is a national program designed to help students realize their potential by investing in, creating and providing innovative education solutions that support schools and improve educational outcomes. In addition to the meeting, the students visited a number of other colleges.

**\$841** Pendleton's nine classes of fourth graders had the opportunity to tour local history by learning about the artifacts, treasures and information at the Heritage Station Museum. Tours were scheduled in the spring.

**\$1,000** In late spring, approximately 270 sixth grade students at Sunridge Middle School participated in "Shakespeare and Violence Prevention" put on by the Shakespeare Walla Walla Anti-Bullying program. They viewed a performance of "Twelfth Night" to open the dialogue on day-to-day violence and then participated in hands-on anti violence workshops, connecting the play's themes with real-life scenarios.

**\$2,500** Approximately 12 Pendleton High School students enrolled in Foods 3 and 4 and who participate in the FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) club, attended the FCCLA State Leadership Conference April 5-7 in Portland. The conference provided numerous opportunities in education, leadership and personal enrichment. The main focus was competing in the culinary competition. It provided students an opportunity to showcase their skills. Safety, sanitation, knife skills, accuracy, time management, teamwork, and creativity were put to the test.

**\$1,000** In May, seven students at Hawthorne Alternative School, who graduated this spring, were provided an opportunity to attend a one-day activity at Silverwood Theme Park near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Silverwood has created an event to test the principles of physics and science using rides, games and other attractions.

**\$1,370** Twelve Sunridge Middle School students who were selected based on writing talent, interest in writing, and the ability to represent the school district attended the Oregon Writing Festival in May at Portland State University. Student writers from around the state gathered to share their writing, participate in workshops and attend presentations by nationally-known professional writers.



Students netted and examined crabs in Yaquina Bay.



Students caught and released shore and porcelain crabs found in tide pools and under rocks in the Devil's Punch Bowl area.

# Grilling for Grants 2016 will be held Nov. 5 at Washington School

Mark your calendars for November 5, 2016 and join us at Washington Elementary School for the Education Foundation of Pendleton's second annual Grillin' for Grants, our fundraiser to add to our grant and endowment funds.

You will have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal, bid on auction items donated by businesses and individuals, and tour the newly opened facility. The tri-tip will again be grilled by Dan Greenough and his colleagues. Side dishes will be prepared by PHS teacher Kristin Swaggart and her culinary arts students.

Last year's fundraiser netted over \$20,000, half of which was invested in our endowment fund and the other

half awarded in additional grants. Between 2010 and 2015 EFP awarded \$61,750 in grants to enrich the education of Pendleton students, averaging \$12,350 per year.

This past year EFP awarded a total of over \$23,000 in grants. The dramatic increase was the result of the additional money raised at our first Grillin' for Grants in October 2015. Without our sponsors, donations, and attendees, this would not have been possible.

Join us on November 5! Tickets will again cost \$25 and will be on sale after Round Up at the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and the school district office. Watch for updates on this great event!

## **SPONSORS ARE NEEDED**

**Multiple levels of sponsorships are available for those interested in helping to further support this great event. Sponsorships are vital to our fundraising event. Sponsors receive recognition at our event, on flyers and advertising, as well as on our website and Facebook page. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Jan Peterson-Terjeson at [janpt422@gmail.com](mailto:janpt422@gmail.com).**



*District Art Show features artwork done by K-12 students.*



*Elementary music students sing Tuesday evening at Art Show.*



*Strings students perform at District Art Show.*



*Greg Holden teaches 4th graders in Byrd School House at Heritage Station.*

## **You can help**

The Education Foundation is seeking donations of items for both the live and silent auctions at Grillin' for Grants 2016. Interested donors should contact Steve Muller at [zekemuller@gmail.com](mailto:zekemuller@gmail.com). Some suggestions for donations include:

- Artwork, handiwork, or collectibles
- Gift certificates or gift cards
- Professional services (legal services, carpet cleaning, landscaping, etc.)
- Tickets to sporting, musical, drama, or other entertainment events
- Themed gift baskets (gardening, reading, coffee, etc.)
- Getaway packages (cabin, vacation home, bed & breakfast, etc.)
- Lessons (music, art, golf, horseback riding, etc.)



*Fourth graders create paper quilt blocks at Heritage Museum.*



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## Donors give \$5,776 December 8, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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**THANK YOU to our contributors who have helped to make these programs possible!**

*Please cut here and return with your donation toward enriching education for Pendleton students.*

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