

# news

from Ashland Schools Foundation

Our mission is to support quality education in the Ashland public schools through fundraising in the community.

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Check out the matching fund for all new and increased donations given during the month-long drive.

## Annual Fund Drive to Kick Off

Get Ready! The Ashland Schools Foundation’s Annual Fund Drive is about to move into high gear starting Monday, April 10 with a kickoff in Ashland’s downtown plaza at 3:30 pm. From April 11-27, volunteer callers will be seeking donations to support Ashland public schools.

The Annual Fund Drive is held once a year in April and is the main source of support for the Foundation whose goals are to provide educational support and enrichment grants to our schools as well as reduce class sizes whenever possible. Last year over \$250,000 was raised due to the generosity of our community. In an effort to expand participation, a group of private donors has set aside, above their current donation level, a limited pool of matching funds for new donations and increases in donations during the one-month fund drive.

Come join us downtown at the Kickoff for some fabulous music by the Ashland High and Middle School Jazz Bands and the Ashland High School Choir or take part in some chalk art fun led by high school fine arts students.

Special thanks to fund drive sponsors Windsor Inn and Sprint Wireless and to the many local restaurants and grocers. We appreciate your support.

## Reading is Elementary

SPOTLIGHT ON AN IMPACT GRANT

“It’s fun! It helps me to read better,” says Camren Rieg, a 2nd grader, about the reading support program taught by Cathy Murphy at Bellview Elementary School.

“From the start, I try to make it fun and exciting,” says Murphy. “If they are struggling, I find time to focus one-on-one with them.” Murphy, a 19-year teaching veteran at Bellview, last year made the switch from teaching upper elementary grades to teaching reading to Kindergarten through 5th-graders. Using initial and ongoing assessments of students, she provides small group

“Reading” continued on page two...



Cathy Murphy reads with a student at Bellview.

## About the grants

### EDUCATION SUPPORT GRANTS

These district-wide grants are used for restoring the most critical components lost in public education.

### SIGNATURE GRANTS

These school-wide grants are successful, on-going programs that are funded on an annual basis.

### IMPACT GRANT

These classroom-based grants are awarded to teachers for quality educational activities that directly engage students both inside and outside the classroom.

## Spring '06 Impact Grants

### AHS

Ayurvedic Indian Cooking  
Edible Forest Garden

### AMS

Sazón de Mexico

### BELLVIEW

Apple Valley Club  
Exploring Kindergarten Music  
Texture Arts

### HELMAN

Fostering Sustainability  
Science Inquiry  
Stories Alive

### WALKER

Budding Friendships, Intertwining Roots  
Westward Expansion

### WILLOW WIND

Willow Wind Garden Club

For more details on these and other grants, please visit our web site.

[ashlandschoolsfoundation.org](http://ashlandschoolsfoundation.org)

## Swinging to Brass at AMS

### SPOTLIGHT ON AN IMPACT GRANT

On January 30, Ashland Middle School Band hosted the Dallas Brass, one of the top Brass Quintets in the country, to a highly entertained crowd of over 850 people.

The middle school was singled out from over 250 middle and high schools all over the country at a Band Director's conference last summer. "They were looking for an inspiring and thriving program and found it here," reports Ashland Middle School Band Director Jenifer Carstensen. The Dallas Brass is unique in their mission to get into schools and work directly with students; both Ashland middle and high school students rehearsed with the Dallas Brass in workshops and were featured in the evening program.



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"High level music performed up close and personal is inspiring like nothing else," enthuses AMS Band Director Jenifer Carstensen. "After the concert, the band began working in small chamber ensembles. Right away, I could hear the impact the Dallas Brass had on the students. It helped them realize great sounds can come from small groups and that, with practice, they could sound incredible together. It was highly motivating!"

Bringing the Dallas Brass here was no small feat. "The fee for schools is \$7500. Ashland Schools Foundation provided the seed money to get the project moving forward. Without the Impact Grant, we would not have been able to consider hiring the Dallas Brass," comments Carstensen. "We also raised over \$3300 thanks to the ASF-Paddington Station Bags to Riches purse raffle." With money brought in through music clinics (serving 5 other area schools), donations from the Stratford Inn and Passport2Ashland, cash donations from the general public, and ticket sales, the Dallas Brass project raised money to help the middle school band purchase new equipment and provide scholarships for instrument rentals and private lessons.

"Reading" continued from page one...

and much needed personalized attention to students who may not get as much out of the larger reading groups in the classroom.

Murphy also oversees Bellview's DEAR – Drop Everything And Read – program started by the Lithia Springs Rotary Club. "We have 12 volunteers and keep getting calls from folks wanting to read [with students]."

With help from a grant through the Sid and Karen DeBoer Foundation, the Ashland Schools Foundation was able to increase reading specialists' hours at each elementary school from half-time to full-time this year. For Bellview, this is the first time in five years that they have had a reading specialist. "It's wonderful watching students grow. This program allows all students to be successful," says Murphy.

# No Artist Left Behind

SPOTLIGHT ON A SIGNATURE GRANT

One of the ways Ashland Schools Foundation supports schools is through school-wide Signature Grants. For the high school, this translates into funding equipment and materials critically needed for the fine arts program.

"In my case, our 7 year old cameras finally died; without them we don't have a [photography] course. Thanks to your grant, we could go on," says Michael Walsh, Ashland High School's photography teacher.

"ASF is the only source of funds for equipment," adds Ashland High School art teacher Linda Thurow. "Since art requires a lot of consumables making it expensive to teach, and because we're hit with funding going down each year, we've had to limit the variety of each course's projects. With the Foundation's grant, we bought a potter's wheel, airbrush equipment, and stained glass material, allowing us to expand the curriculum. Your donations are helping us survive on a budget that is no longer adequate!"

The art department works to engage all students and enable them to find expression through many art forms. Mark Schoenleber's History of Rock and Roll course, also supported by the grant, does this especially well. "It's a wonderful class!" says Ryan McGinnis, a junior at the high school. "It's cool. At the end of the semester, he takes us to a recording studio. He makes copies of our music to give us and to show other classes."

"Kids connect to art; music is an even faster connection," comments Mark Schoenleber. "To watch the kids light up and groove, it's pretty exciting."



Kids who may not be as musically oriented discover they can write and perform in music ensembles.

## I want to support great schools!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

CityStateZip \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

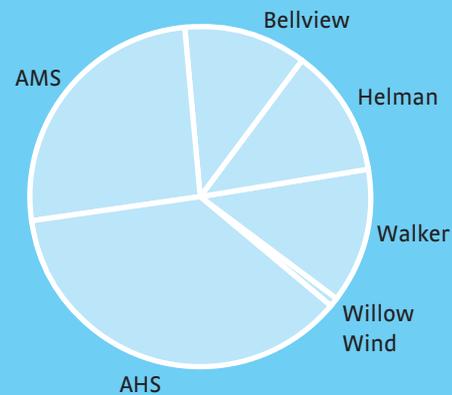
### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Ashland Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit public benefit corporation, organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Your tax-deductible donation made through December 2006 will be used in support of educational programs this coming school year.

## ASF Funding

BY SCHOOLS FOR 2005 - 2006

AHS	\$84,840 (\$76/student)
AMS	\$59,770 (\$84/student)
Elementary	\$84,933 (\$87/student)
Bellview	\$26,966
Helman	\$28,305
Walker	\$29,662
Willow Wind	\$2,000



I'd like to contribute:

- \$50     \$25     Other \_\_\_\_\_
- My check payable to ASF is enclosed.

I'd like to contribute by:

- Visa     M/C
- One time contribution
- Monthly contribution

of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd like to make a gift of stocks and/or wish to include ASF in my will. Please call.
- I'd like to volunteer/help out in the Foundation's fund drive. Please call.

## Buy-in for Books

Donor support from these businesses and our monthly sponsors\* provided books for AHS and AMS this year.

Ashland Daily Tidings  
Ashland Eyecare  
Ken Loftus, Optometrist  
Ashland Financial Solutions  
Maura Van Heuit, CFP  
Ashland Greenhouses  
Ashland Homes Real Estate  
Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant  
Cheryl Bottimore - Broker  
Gateway Real Estate  
Greenleaf Restaurant  
Lisa Sclan Cooper, C.P.A.  
Lithia Motors, Inc.  
Medford Mail Tribune  
Paddington Station  
People's Bank  
Real Estate Depot  
SOU's School of Business Faculty  
Travel Essentials  
Tree House Books  
Umpqua Bank  
The Web-sters

\*See monthly sponsors at  
[ashlandschoolsfoundation.org](http://ashlandschoolsfoundation.org)

## Gifting Legacies

### SPOTLIGHT ON A LEGACY DONOR

Ashland Schools Foundation was thrilled to receive its first Legacy Donation from Joan Spear, 24-year resident of Ashland and long time volunteer to Ashland schools.

A former psychotherapist, Spear got involved with Ashland schools because she knew the schools needed help. "I value education and wanted to contribute. Although I went to school in the East, I am connected here," remarks Spear.

The Endowment fund is currently at about \$210,000. Spear's legacy gift will, upon her death, add an estimated \$100,000 into the fund – a fund that preserves capital and uses only interest income to help stabilize funding. Thanks Joan!



Ashland Schools Foundation was thrilled to receive its first Legacy Donation from Joan Spear.

### WHAT IS A LEGACY DONATION?

A Legacy Donation refers to any gift given to the ASF through the provisions of an donor's will or trust. Joan's gift is termed a "Charitable Remainder Trust" - a sizeable gift of stock or cash is given by a living donor to the Oregon Community Foundation Trust on behalf of Ashland Schools Foundation. That gift, in the year it was given, is immediately recognized by the government as a tax-deductible donation. Throughout the life of the donor, tax-free interest income is drawn and given back to the donor. When the donor passes away, the principal (original donation) is then turned over from the Oregon Community Foundation Trust to the Ashland Schools Foundation.

This is just one of many ways you can make a gift to support education for generations to come. If you are interested in discussing a Legacy Donation, or a gift to the endowment fund, please contact ASF at 482-8197.

Acorn Design ([acornology.com](http://acornology.com)) — Donated graphic design services for identity and collateral materials  
Printfast — Provided a generous discount on all printing

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