



South Whidbey Schools Foundation 2018/19 Annual Update

Building relationships between our community and schools to invest in learning experiences that inspire students in our ever-changing world.

2018/19 Classroom Grants

The Foundation funded 30 classroom projects and professional development requests for a record \$45,460.

S.W. Elementary School:

- 4th Grade Local History Connection
- Exploring Puget Sound's Ecosystem
- It's Cool to Be Kind
- Fly Us to the Moon Planetarium
- Salmon Leadership Project
- GAMEPLAN Music Curriculum
- Clay Curriculum
- Printmaking Printing Plates and Ink
- First Grade Morning Activity Tubs
- Global Cultures Experience: China, PNW Native American
- Mr. Good: Mad Fun Scientist
- Whale Watching Boat Adventure/Watershed/Microplastics
- PE Cougar Pride Posters
- Wilson for Whidbey Reading System
- Whole Body Listening

South Whidbey Middle School:

- Marine Engineering
- Jazz Program Enrichment
- Aquatics
- Drinking Water Project
- Camp Casey Experiential Education
- Literary Harmony
- Exploring Puget Sound's Ecosystem

South Whidbey Academy:

- Off-Island Learning Expeditions

South Whidbey High School:

- Global Cultures Experience: Russia
- Show Choir Microphones
- NCTM Regional Conference
- Music Survey Guest Presenters

All Schools:

- Guitars in the Classroom
- Ceramics Equipment Upgrade
- Chromebook Writing App

New focus, streamlined response are among Foundation changes

The 2018/19 school year was a transformative time for the South Whidbey Schools Foundation and it continues to fine-tune its support to enhance education amid shrinking enrollment numbers and subsequently, budgets.

Thanks to your generosity, the South Whidbey Schools Foundation was able to provide a record \$45,460 to fund 30 grants to enhance education.

Art, music and drama projects were requested most often followed by reading, writing and literature. Science, technology and math requests came a close third.

Professional Development Funding

The Board committed to increased, annual professional development funding in the form of a \$5,000 grant to the School District, with the intent that it be rotated among departments.

Last year's grant was used to help fund five District English teachers to attend the National Conference of Teachers of English (NCTE) in Houston, Texas last November.



SWSD English teachers attended a national conference last year thanks to a Foundation grant.



**South Whidbey
Schools Foundation**
Igniting a love of learning

"The convention was so much more than I expected," wrote high school English teacher Paula Ludtke.

"I discovered new novels appropriate for both struggling and advanced readers.

"I gained insight regarding ideas and lessons that other English teachers use in their classrooms across the United States and internationally...

"The trip to Houston was only four days, but the impact will be felt for many years," wrote Jennifer Gandarias who also teaches high school English.

"This will strengthen me as a professional and create more valuable learning opportunities for the students who pass through my door," she continued.

"As a team, it was delightful to see the renewal and invigoration happen. Being together, discussing a variety of ELA topics, and making plans for future

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Fifth and sixth grade students engaged in a hands-on Salish Sea Learning Expedition aboard the 61' research vessel *Carlyn*, exploring the Puget Sound ecosystem, water quality issues, and nautical science.



◀ High school choir students have new performance headset microphones provided by a grant from the Foundation. "They not only allow the audience to hear and fully experience the shows, but the singers perform better," according to teacher Paula Ludtke.

▶ South Whidbey Middle School eighth grade students gave a presentation on their water bottle project to reduce disposable plastics and the importance of recycling to the School Board last May.



It's Cool to be Kind

"The grant I received was titled "It's Cool to be Kind." I have been a primary school teacher for 25 years and have seen the importance of intentionally teaching young children how to be empathetic and give them tools to become friends with others.

Thank you so much for the grant that enabled us to connect literature to social skills."

– Karen LeWarne, Kindergarten teacher



First Grade Morning Activity Tubs

"These tubs actively engage our 60 students in self-directed activities before the school day begins. These materials create a learning environment for students to better transition from home to school."

– First grade teachers Sharla Matthews, Linda Moore, Michele Zisette

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lessons was the best professional development I had in my 22 years at South Whidbey. This is just the beginning. We have many plans for our classrooms and the reading culture of our school," she added.



New Logo, More Defined Mission

After a full-day planning retreat the following goals were outlined:

- greater funding for professional development,
- a new mission statement and logo,
- a streamlined grants process for year-round faster response,
- a discretionary fund for each school managed by the Principals,
- new fundraising opportunities/events,
- an online Wish List for donors,
- partnering with aligned interests such as the parent-led *Growing Our Potential* K-6 campaign,



- Better reporting of projects.

Our volunteer Board works hard to enhance educational opportunities for students. This is only made possible by generous donations from people like you and our local business community.

Thank you.

Dear Foundation Supporters,

Wow! What a year! Both students and educators benefitted from a record \$45,460 in donations which funded 30 grant requests... all due to your generous support.

When grant requests arrive in my email, it's exciting to read through all the creative learning opportunities our teachers design for their students, and the passion with which they do their jobs.



Later, when reading the follow-up reports, it is deeply gratifying to learn how students were affected by these experiences. ***We are thankful to donors like you who make this happen!***

Our volunteer Board works hard to expand and enhance what we offer to our community's public schools. One goal last year was to be more intentional in funding professional development (a requirement for staff, yet often significantly underfunded by the state). We now provide \$5,000 a year for this purpose. Last year six English teachers were able to attend a national convention.

This school year we are also providing \$17,000 in discretionary funds allocated proportionally to each school campus, so that Principals can respond quickly to small requests as needs arise. Of course, the majority of funds will still be used for teacher-requested classroom grants.

Visit our new *South Whidbey Schools Wish List* on our website. You may find a shared passion and be inspired to support a project with your gifts of time or money or both.

You can directly enhance the education of children on South Whidbey by making a meaningful donation in the enclosed envelope or by giving online via our website.

As always, we welcome your questions, ideas, and involvement.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelly".

Shelly Ackerman, President
South Whidbey Schools Foundation



P.S. Save these dates in 2020:

Monday, March 2 at Gordon's on Blueberry Hill Restaurant... Five top local chefs plus emcee Jim Freeman will provide a delicious, informative and entertaining dining experience. Limited to 40 patrons. Reservations are \$200 a person made via a link on our website at www.SWSFoundation.org

Saturday, May 30 at Freeland Hall... join us for our annual fun-filled **Foundation Gala.**

Here's what's being funded this year...

So far, the Foundation is slated to fund 24 grants ranging from global culture experiences, to new library books, to an Adventure Education trip.



Photo by Wendy Leigh/South Whidbey Record

When the *Lady Washington* tall ship pulled into Langley Marina this September, the South Whidbey Schools Foundation provided swift funding so that Elementary School students could have an enriching nautical and historical hands-on experience.



More than 90 fifth grade students learned about Pacific Northwest indigenous culture and language from an education representative of the Swinomish Tribe. Students practiced simple Lushootseed phrases such as greetings, saying their name, plus important native plants such as cedar and huckleberries, and of course, *tig^wicid* - thank you!



The School Farm Culinary Program requested funds for specialty kitchen supplies so students could learn to prepare fresh, healthy meals.



The Foundation funded supplies for *The Sparkle Effect*, an inclusive cheer squad of students with and without disabilities - the first on Whidbey.

Financial Recap for 2018/19 School Year

In fiscal year 2018/19 the South Whidbey Schools Foundation disbursed \$45,560 in grants, plus an additional \$1,100 for 11 new teacher classroom stipends.

The Foundation received donations totaling \$61,769. Coupled with fundraising efforts of \$15,099 and interest of \$20, our general fund revenues totaled \$76,888.

Expenses and grant disbursements out of our general fund totaled \$60,170.

2018/19 Grants Awarded in Academic Areas

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Arts, Music, Drama | \$ 15,723 |
| Writing, Reading & Literature | \$ 9,638 |
| Science, Math & Technology | \$ 8,777 |
| History, Humanities & World Cultures | \$ 4,694 |
| Social Emotional Learning/Counseling | \$ 4,879 |
| Special Education | \$ 1,250 |
| Other | \$ 500 |
| Total..... | \$ 45,560 |

SWSF Balances (All Funds)

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance: | \$ 96,692 |
| Ending Fund Balance: | \$134,056 |
| (See below for sub-totals) | |
| General & Endowment Accounts: | \$ 61,424 |
| Extra Mile/Mentorship Awards Fund: | \$ 3,027 |
| Designated Funds Total: | \$ 69,604 |

Designated Funds

Donations and disbursements through Designated Funds helped to support the following school-related programs during this last school year:

- SWES Library Fund
- South Campus Student Store
- Growing our Potential (K-6)
- Hometown Heroes
- SWMS/HS Bands
- Natanya Johnson Memorial Scholarship
- Discover Aptitudes Scholarship
- School Farms Program
- SWHS Soccer Programs
- UBG&CC Members Scholarship Fund

Thank You to Our 2018/2019 Donors...

Your contributions enhance the educational experience of South Whidbey students!

Individual Contributors:

| | |
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| Gail Alexander | Susanna & Roger Herndon/Parker |
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Business Sponsors of the 2019 SWSF Annual Gala

Special thanks to major gala sponsor:
Whidbey Island Bank,
a division of Heritage Bank,
for their continued support.



Thank you to our
Gala Table Sponsors



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|-------------------------------|---|
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**THE POOLMAN
 Family**



With gratitude for a job well done...

Jean Shaw, South Whidbey Schools Foundation's biggest cheerleader and community liaison, has moved into an honorary emeritus position on the Board.

"A founding member of the SWSF, Jean Shaw is a real gem of a human being," said Board President Shelly Ackerman.



"This organization and our community, have been blessed by her ever-present optimism, high energy and get-it-done attitude.

Her bright eyes, quick sense of humor, and loving

voice make being in her presence a magical moment. We are excited to crown her 'Emeritus Community Ambassador,' she added.

The retired South Whidbey teacher will be honored at the May 30 Gala.

We also salute former Board member **Hope Richards Mason**, a South Whidbey public schools graduate who wanted to give back to her community, even though she now lives in Seattle.

"Hope has been key in making our annual Gala Dinners such a success with her marketing skills and connections and willingness to pitch in," said Ackerman.



Remembering Former Board President Dave Haworth

We were saddened by the passing last year of **Dave Haworth**, the first President of South Whidbey Schools Foundation – a position he held for many years.

Dave was passionate about supporting education in South Whidbey schools and infused his years on the Board with excellent guidance and gentle humor.

The tradition of wearing festive hats and bringing balloons to surprise teachers with their classroom grant awards originated with Dave.



Welcoming Three New Board Members

The South Whidbey Schools Foundation welcomes three new Board members this school year to constitute a full 15-member Board for the first time in many years.

High school teacher **Jennifer Gandarias** and third grade teacher **Susan Milan** joined the Board this Fall.

Joining the Board in January is **Charlie (Chuck) Currier**, newly elected member of the South Whidbey School Board.

Board members **Chris Gibson** (a former Board President) and long-serving Treasurer **John Riley** will complete their positions at the end of the school year and will be honored at the May 30 Gala.



Jennifer Gandarias



Susan Milan

Brewer and Ballog Receive Teacher Awards



Colleagues voted for **Sue Ann Brewer Mays** to receive the 2019 Teacher Extra Mile Award for 'revising our school library, and for creating an inviting space and multiple ways for students and teachers to interact. She engages students who report that 'the librarian' recommended yet another great book.'

"Sue seamlessly bridges the nuances of Middle School and High School staff needs. She has a unique ability to see a problem and offer assistance in a comforting and efficient manner. Her grace under pressure, competence, patience, and ever ready willingness to help, in yet another year of change, make her the ideal candidate for the Extra Mile award."

Schools Foundation President Shelly Ackerman also presented longtime (and now retired) high school science teacher **Greg Ballog** with the 2019 Teacher Mentorship Award.

"Mr. Ballog goes out of his way to help me and other students in the class. This year, he lent me his personal computer when mine broke.

"He has taught me to be curious, inquisitive and to appreciate my education," wrote a student.

A colleague added that "Even though he is leaving SWHS after this academic year, Greg's impact will be felt by a generation of students."



2019 SWSF Gala Smashed Records for Donations Raised!

The 2019 South Whidbey Schools Foundation gala surpassed all previous records and netted \$33,763 in donations.

The sold-out event was held for the first time at the historic, waterfront Freeland Hall.

In place of a keynote speaker, student presentations were the main focus of the evening. With polished poise, students shared how Foundation supported programs enhanced their education, and in some cases, helped them identify potential careers.

Emmett Racicot, Aiden Flores and Mia Hamilton spoke about the Salish Sea Expedition sailing program which taught students what types of scientific measurements are taken to help monitor the health of Puget Sound.

Molly Nattress spoke about the Global Cultures Program. Carter McKnight explained the duties of a student Salmon Ambassador. SWSF Board student representative Sam Baesler spoke about the guest musicians in the high school band program; and Carli Newman reported about the success of the Math Olympiad.

Emcees and auctioneers Jim Freeman and Sue Frause conducted a spirited live auction of donated items and experiences.

South Whidbey Schools Superintendent Jo Moccia closed the evening with a new after-dinner game involving donated gift cards.

Bids to support educational areas once again brought in the most money as attendees raised their 'paddles' to bid for areas that they are most passionate about supporting.

Next year's Gala will again be held at Freeland Hall on Saturday, May 30.

"We look forward to fine-tuning the evening to make it even more enjoyable than last year," said Board President Shelly Ackerman.



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www.SWSFoundation.org

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Thank you!

Ignite a love of learning by donating to the South Whidbey Schools Foundation!



Your donation enhances the education of students here on South Whidbey.

Look Inside... to see how the South Whidbey Schools Foundation puts your donations to work by funding innovative classroom projects which enhance student education.

SAVE THE DATE...
6 p.m. on Monday, March 2
at Gordon's on Blueberry Hill



Chefs from five top South Whidbey restaurants are collaborating on an evening of culinary delights to support the Schools Foundation.

Emcee Jim Freeman will add his own sparkle to a lively evening of interacting with the chefs as they share their techniques.

Purchase tickets online via a link on our website at www.SWSFoundation.org