

Saturday Live Continues Traditions in 2013

Despite a cool start to the day, Saturday Live was a fabulous day for our schools! For the past 21 years, thousands of volunteers from our community have donated hundreds of hours to make this the magnificent event that it is for public education. As the sun came out, many children ventured across the troll bridge, enjoyed delicious treats, and took part in over 100 carnival activities. The Billings community came out in full force to support our schools with over 10,000 people strolling through Pioneer Park at Saturday Live.

This year over sixty school groups brought home \$92,500. The school groups will use this money for library books, uniforms, musical instruments, field trips, and much more. Saturday Live is often a school's biggest fundraiser for the year. The business and education community continue to step up and support this event by contributing money to help put the event on.

The sponsorship dollars raised for the Education Foundation are used to fund the Partners in Education program, Classroom Grants, Reading Rocks, and student and teacher scholarships. **Thank you for continuing to support Saturday Live!**

Educator for a Day

Join the Education Foundation for the 7th Annual Educator for a Day program. On November 21st, we will invite business, community, and government leaders into our elementary, middle, and high schools. As a guest educator, you will spend the morning learning about the schools' accomplishments and challenges, observing day-to-day activities, and sharing your thoughts and views with a principal.

Next, join us for lunch to offer suggestions, ask questions, and generate ideas to help further educational opportunities for our children and our community. We recognize your time is valuable and have planned the "day" so everything will be completed by 1:00 p.m. Your participation could be a powerful catalyst for ongoing partnerships between the private sector and public schools that will affect our youth and community far beyond this one day event.

To register as a guest educator, visit the Foundation's website at www.efbps.org or contact Julie Whitworth at 245-4133



Check Us Out on Facebook!

Follow the Education Foundation on Facebook!

Stay updated on the events and happenings at the Foundation, as well as the impact donors are making in our classrooms.

www.facebook.com/educationfoundationbps



Thank Montana Teachers

Want to thank your teacher in a big way? Well now you can!

This fall the University of Farmers Education Foundation wants to help you thank a special teacher who has impacted your life. The foundation is giving away \$25,000 to teachers in Montana. Here is what to do: go to www.thankmontanateachers.com and thank your favorite Montana teacher. Pass that thank you along using Facebook and other social networks. During October, every Montana teacher that is thanked will have an opportunity to submit their name to win one of ten \$2,500 grants. In November, proposals will be posted on www.thankmontanateachers.com where everyone gets to vote, once a day, for the grant they feel is most deserving. In December, the top ten will be awarded with a \$2,500 grant.



Student Scholarships – Investing in Our Future

Educators and longtime lovers of music, Steve and Lorraine Marsh, created a scholarship award for students pursuing music in college. The Marsh Music Scholarship provides \$1000 to a graduating senior from Billings West, Skyview or Senior each year. The scholarship benefits students who are pursuing a degree in music at a school within the Montana University System. Lorraine Marsh shared, "Steve and I are proud to give a student scholarship each year to support a student who has a passion for music. By providing a deserving student a scholarship to attend college, we are investing in their future and in our future. As retired educators, we know one of the greatest gifts in life is an education and the support to continue to pursue a higher education."

This year's recipient, Lauren Reineking, is attending the University of Montana and pursuing a degree in music. "The Marsh Music Scholarship not only recognized my dedication to music in high school, but gave me financial aid to pursue my dream of becoming a musician," shared Lauren.

Classroom Grants Corner

"Science Water Testing", submitted by Mr. Toby Hill of Skyview HS, was selected this spring as a 2013-14 Classroom Grant Award Winner. Mr. Hill is starting a new curriculum of environmental science in his classroom and wants to incorporate technology into student labs. The testing procedures used by Mr. Hill and his students did not incorporate any current technology and were outdated by more than 10 years. Mr. Hill shared, "field experience is so important to science and this grant will allow for students to perform relevant water quality testing. The students will have hands-on opportunities while learning the different components of water quality. This new technology will increase student learning and retention as they use the new Spark Monitor and other sensors to perform inquiry based labs." Not only will Mr. Hill be able to use the new science equipment in his environmental science class, but also in his earth science and biology classes. This Classroom Grant will be used for many years in Mr. Hill's classes.

"The Education Foundation Grant has given my students the ability to do real world research in the class and in the field. The technology is preparing them for success in higher education and the workforce. Thank You Education Foundation!" Toby Hill, Science Educator, Skyview High School



**Remember
to vote by
November 5th
for SD 2 Bond
Issue.**



Support the Foundation

**You can now support the
Foundation through on-line
giving on our website:
www.efbps.org.**

Partners in Education is a community-wide partnership between schools, businesses, and community members dedicated to ensuring the success of all students and schools in Billings Public Schools. The purpose of Partners in Education is to build mutually benefiting partnerships between schools and businesses that result in school improvement, teaching excellence, student achievement, and appreciation of common goals. The opportunities for partnerships are endless. Our goal with each partnership is to meet the needs of a school by matching the resources a business is able to contribute such as classroom volunteers, funding, or supplies. There are several benefits to having a partnership at your school or for your business. Many schools get additional support through the partnerships such as tutors, mentors, and enrichment activities for students. Students also get the chance to meet other adults in the community and to learn about different career choices. Likewise, employees have an opportunity to interact with young students and learn about the schools in their community. Many employees enjoy the opportunity to do something positive for the schools and to be given time by their employer to do so. Partners in Education would like to thank our current partners for creating strong bonds in our community between education and business. These connections make a direct impact on students, educators, parents, employees, and businesses.



Partnership Spotlight

Through the Partners in Education program, Mission Ridge and Arrowhead Elementary continue to work together to create great learning opportunities for students and residents. Throughout the past few years, Mission Ridge residents have volunteered in the Family Resource Center to work with students in the areas of reading and math. This year, nine residents are volunteering on a weekly basis at Arrowhead. In 2011, Mission Ridge residents worked with the Arrowhead PTA to raise funds to update playground equipment for the students through a fundraiser held at Mission Ridge.

Over the last year and a half, the residents at Mission Ridge have taken on new projects in partnership with the school, in addition to volunteering. This summer, several residents donated funds to support a 21st Century Classroom at Arrowhead. Mrs. Tiffany Hall, 1st grade teacher, and her students were the recipients of this gift that provided 1 to 1 devices, as well as interactive technology for student learning. Residents had an opportunity in September to visit the classroom and learn what the students are working on. Additional visits are planned throughout the school year.

Mission Ridge residents recently worked with Mrs. Peila, 3rd grade teacher, and her students to help them with research for an inquiry based writing project. Students interviewed residents about how technology has changed their lives. The focus of the students' inquiry based project is change. The students are anxious to share their reports with the residents. Many residents commented, "We need to do this more often!" and students asked, "When are we coming back?" The Education Foundation thanks Arrowhead Elementary and Mission Ridge for expanding their partnership to benefit our community's students.

A very special *"THANK YOU"* to our many Partners in Education who are making a difference every day in a student's life. Sometimes we forget that one small act can have a lasting impact on a child. Please share with the Education Foundation how your partnership is making a difference

