

## Salem-Keizer Education Foundation announces the INAUGURAL AWESOME AWARDS

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### Our Mission

*The Salem Keizer Education Foundation is a catalyst for the enhancement of the education and development of all Salem-Keizer youth by providing resources for creative and innovative programs and materials, educating and mobilizing the community, and sustaining collaborative partnerships that support its goals.*

The Awesome Awards are our opportunity to celebrate human spirit, community, generosity and all things made possible because of you.

The Awesome Awards have been created to appreciate and celebrate the unsung heroes who quietly go about their work and make sure every child, every day has the opportunity to be awesome.

Recognition is important. It's a powerful way of celebrating people and letting them know they are valued.

Think of it as a BIG HUG from your community. We can build a better world by celebrating the people and qualities that we know to be awesome.

SKEF announced the first Awesome Awards at their annual Back to School Lunch on September 9th. Master of Ceremonies, Tom Hewitt, retired educator and Crystal Apple honoree told the stories of people, families and organizations who will do whatever it takes so that every child every day can be awesome.

In addition to celebrating all things Awesome, the 700 guests were inspired by Lou Radja and his powerful story about the African philosophy of teamwork and collaboration, Ubuntu. We are thankful to both Tom and Lou for an epic recognition for our community.



**First Tech Federal Credit Union** has been a champion for literacy and partner with Salem-Keizer Education Foundation for nearly a decade. They have created Literacy Incentives with bumper sticker drives and Sneak Peeks, provided leadership and resources to ensure the Awesome 3000, it's healthy messages and ties to innovation in the classroom continues. First Tech representatives are so engaged in our work, they participate in trainings on STEM programs like Mouse Squad, find resources for technology, and made sure that any child that wanted to have a Lemonade Stand during Lemonade Day, could.

### PRESENTERS



Tom Hewitt



Lou Radja

*continued on page 2*



**LifeSource Natural Foods** has generously supported healthy lifestyles and teaching children about agriculture and sustainability for many

years. In 2012, Life Source became more engaged with giving children opportunities to taste new foods. They have donated over 3,000 pounds of fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Helen Shafran hosts "Tasting Tables" handing out samples of fresh organic fruits and veggies every Thursday. Thanks to Helen, Roxanne Magnuson and Alex Beamer for their commitment to healthy lifestyles for our children.

**The Tijerino Family** walks their talk. This family of five have individually and collectively amassed over 2,600 volunteer



Justin Tijerino

hours in four different schools! Mom, Kimberley is a dual language science teacher at Parrish Middle School who began her support engaging summer school migrant students in the installation of greenhouses and gardens at Parrish. She has spent the last three summers, leading 120 students per year in sustainability, independence, work skills and teamwork.

Martin, Dad of the family, is a kindergarten teacher at Grant Community School, who after a day of teaching, volunteers in afterschool programs.

Justin, their son, a senior at West Salem High School joined his mom and summer school students in building Parrish and Grant gardens in 2012. His commitment to service spread to volunteering over 200 hours in summer camps.

Daughters, Gina and Faith Tijerino volunteer to teach afterschool programs.

**Norm Frink** is a passionate volunteer who has dedicated his life to literacy and service. As chair of the Salem Kiwanis

literacy committee Norm sought us out when he learned of our Bazillion Books for Kids.

Norm sorts books for hours a day, almost every day of the week. To date, he has sorted and distributed over 42,865 books to children in Head Start and Healthy Start and there is no sign of him slowing down! His collaborative style and superior reliability has inspired numerous other Kiwanis Clubs to join our mission to end book poverty.



To honor his commitment, the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation created the Norman Frink Literacy Champion Award. The first recipient, Norm was recognized at his beloved Kiwanis club meeting to coincide with Dr. Seuss Birthday.

Norm's passion has spread to his grandson, Joe Hiller. A senior, at St. Paul High School, Joe spent the summer sorting and boxing books to distribute to elementary schools in his district.

Norm and Joe are 50,000 books closer to ending book poverty and we think that's Awesome.

Unparalleled innovation, thousands of volunteer hours, a commitment to feeding the brains and bellies of our community's children is what earned, **Sodexo** an Awesome Award. Sodexo, led in Salem-Keizer by Dave Harvey is an International Nutrition Services, but makes a difference as a true neighbor and friend at the most down to earth level. Not a month goes by without Sodexo adding resources, energy, leadership and elbow grease to make the lives of our children better. At the table with Marion Polk Food Share and SKEF on increasing the number of local fruits and vegetables in our cafeterias, making sure school supply depot shelves are as



John Stone and Dave Harvey (left to right)

stocked as the refrigerator, honoring our educators at the Crystal Apple Awards, sharing professional development and expertise when navigating Federal laws, the entire Sodexo team is a customer service icon. In partnership with SKEF, Sodexo provided over 112,000 free hot suppers to children last year. Feeding brains and bellies is truly Awesome!

The shelves shall not be bare, more drop sites added each year, and let's have fun while we do it, earned **Shannon Priem** an Awesome Award.



Shannon Priem, a communications coordinator at Salem Health has been the first and only School Supply Drive chairperson. Since it's inception, Shannon has led the effort to stock a permanent year-round school supply depot ensuring that every child, every day has the tools for school. Shannon has spent tireless hours recruiting businesses, helping them be creative about their drive and then harnessing hundreds of volunteer hours to sort, inventory and staff the depot.

Because of you, Shannon, and your tireless vision for student success and community engagement, we think you're Awesome!

## Congratulations!



Student board members, **Justin Hanes** and **Maddie Brown** graduated from the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership program. Justin and Maddie served one term on the SKEF board of directors and we are proud of their accomplishments and contributions to SKEF! ★

# Game On!



A whimsical 3D green pear navigates a treacherously-curved track, a military-style aircraft unleashes flaming orange artillery spray, and a hovercraft-car hybrid whips around sharp corners and springs from ledges to land on new track below. The vehicles and their other-worldly racetracks are the creations of high school students who took the week-long 3D animation class called Game On!

Graham Toms, a former Disney animator turned educator, traveled from Texas-based NewTek to teach local students how to use LightWave 3D animation software to design their own games. Over the five-day class, students began with a paper drawing of their game concept, and within a couple of days they were elbow deep into the technology that created Avatar, the Geico Gecko, and StarTrek.

The popularity of games helps engage teens, but the process helps them master concepts that can carry into fields as diverse as clothing design and medicine. "They're learning physics and science and design. Starting with the drawing seems retro, but the initial pencil design is something that frames the concept of everything. It's not purely about the digital age these days. If they can master the classics of science and math and English, technology will always expand but the core skills will give them the ability to adapt to new technology."

Sponsored by



Salem-Keizer students worked alongside Toms for the week, honing skills they can take to the classroom in the coming school year. The possible applications are endless – spanning subjects from art to math. "Gaming brings them in, but they end up learning far more than that," says Toms. "And I'm still a student. I'm teaching them, but then these kids show me something, some little trick or shortcut, and I say, 'Oh, that's cool!'" Asked if he plans to return to Salem-Keizer again, Toms didn't hesitate. "Absolutely," he said.

Game On! Students who missed this year's opportunity can watch for its return next summer. ★

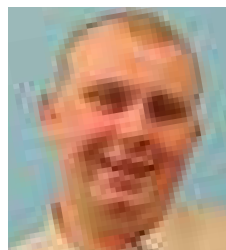
## Scholarship WINNERS



### **\$1,000 Guido Caldarazzo**

**Scholarship:** This year's Guido Caldarazzo Memorial Scholarship was awarded to a graduating McKay student, **Christina Caballero**. The scholarship honors the memory of Guido Caldarazzo, a long-time teacher, coach,

administrator, and community advocate. Christina, who started volunteering when she was 13 with Estella's Foundation for Foster Children, will use her scholarship while attending Western Oregon University to complete her pre-nursing degree. Ultimately, she hopes to be a Nurse Practitioner. She is inspired by her father, a mechanic and single dad to Christina and her two siblings.



### **John Moe Outstanding Student Award:**

This scholarship of \$1,000 honors local students for exemplary personal and academic achievement. This year's Top Scholar Award was given to **Joshua Fields**, a 2014 Salem-Keizer graduate of the Independent Living Program where he enthusiastically pursued volunteer and

work opportunities ranging from walking dogs at Marion County Dog Services, detailing school buses for the school district, and sorting bulk foods at Marion-Polk FoodShare. Work experience in food services at Willamette University has turned into full-time employment for Joshua, who hopes someday to become a trained forest firefighter.



***Congratulations also to the rest of the John Moe Outstanding Student Award honorees:***

First runner-up: **Landon Oliverson** • Second runner-up: **Lyle Romans** • Second runner-up: **Katelyn Landis**  
Honorable Mention: **Jaylee Wayne** • Honorable Mention: **Jamie Gordon**

# Awesome Essays

## WORTH \$529 FOR COLLEGE

Twenty six kindergarten through senior high students told us why college is awesome and the Oregon College Savings Plan awarded them with \$529 college savings plans at this year's Awesome 3000.

"Helping kids achieve their goals and become better prepared educationally is something the Oregon College Savings Plan cares deeply about," Michael Parker, Executive Director of the Oregon 529 College Savings Network, said. "Every child deserves a chance at a college education, and supporting creativity and strong writing skills is a big step in the right direction."

"Partnering with Oregon College Savings Plan and linking the strong academic goals of the Awesome 3000 on our 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary is a powerful message to our students," Krina Lee, Executive Director of Salem-Keizer Education Foundation, said. "SKEF's role in supporting academic achievement is linking these amazing organizations with our children. It's a game changer for 26 college bound students."



### KINDERGARTEN

**Liora Donahue**  
Pringle  
**Sawyer Nelson**  
St. Joseph School

### 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

**Jackson Buckingham**  
McKinley  
**Mia Madland**  
McKinley

### 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

**Ruby Anne Garver**  
Auburn  
**Mark Seare**  
Chapman Hill

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

**Izabella Gutierrez Crazybull**  
Yoshikai  
**Milo Kingsley**  
Harritt

### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Eliana Berg**  
OLE  
**Dara Elkanah**  
Pringle

### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Itzel Garibay**  
Washington  
**Juliana Mclaughlin**  
St. Joseph School

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Asherah Davidow**  
Crossler  
**Karina Paniagua Ramirez**  
Claggett Creek

### 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Daniela Ruiz**  
Straub  
**Kaitlin Oakes**  
Walker

### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Alexander Burger**  
Claggett Creek  
**Hannah Sonnen**  
Walker

### 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Benjamin Beckstrom**  
West High  
**Ada Solariv**  
West High

### 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Caitlin Kepler**  
North High  
**Julissa Monter**  
North High

### 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Justin Tijerno**  
West High  
**Jeremiah Davis**  
West High

### 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Lauren Trevis**  
West High  
**Matthew Gaviolo**  
Sprague

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

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**BBSI**

**WAP**  
WESTERN AMERICA

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**OREGON**  
COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

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 Brenda Young

# New Board of DIRECTORS, MEMBERS & OFFICERS

Join us in thanking SKEF's 2014-15 Board of Directors, which includes three new members!

- **Jodi Hack** brings previous board experience with Oregon Community Foundation, Chemeketa Community College Foundation, and YMCA. She is the Communications Coordinator and Competitive Grant Writer for the North Santiam School District and in 2011 was awarded Stayton's First Citizen Award by the Chamber of Commerce.
- **Samuel Pino** brings previous board experience as well as a background in volunteering in Salem-Keizer schools and working as a Spanish instructor. He is the Language Access Supervisor at Salem Health.
- **Monty Miller**, who comes from a family of teachers and owns a local business, shares SKEF's belief that education is the foundation for a better community. He is the owner of Half Penny Bar and Grill in South Salem.

## 2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Brent Neilsen**, President
- Jeff Aeschliman**, VP Finance & Governance
- Spencer Rockwell**, VP Development & Sustainability
- Mary Jean Sandall**, VP Mission & Quality Assurance
- Tyler Massey**, Awesome 3000 Co-Chair, VP at-Large
- Jordan Willey**, VP at-Large
- Chuck Swank**, Treasurer
- Diane Childs**, Secretary
- Patrice Altenhofen**
- Bruce Anderson**
- Chris Brantley**, School Board Liaison
- Joe Egli**
- Jackie Franke**
- Lisa Harnisch**, Awesome 3000 Co-Chair
- Avigain Hernandez**
- Mary Paulson**, School District Liaison
- Lisa Norris**

## 3 WAYS TO SUPPORT SKEF

- 1 Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to SKEF when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com).
- 2 You can help Salem-Keizer Education Foundation earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!
  - Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to SKEF at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number 83096
  - You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
  - If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- 3 Recycle your used Ink Cartridges with us. Please bring us your used ink cartridges and we turn them in for school supplies to fill the depot! Drop them off at Where the Sidewalk Begins, Monday-Saturday from 8:30-5:30 at 233 Commercial Street, NE.



# volunteer spotlight

## Austin Gwinup

For a quiet, unassuming guy, Austin Gwinup inspires big, boisterous praise:

**“Phenomenal work ethic.”**

**“Really fabulous.”**

**“Super conscientious.”**

Those are just the first few comments people make when talking about the 18-year-old volunteer who runs SKEF's Bazillion Books For Kids bookstore a couple of afternoons a week. The self-taught artist and video game enthusiast is racking up retail experience that he hopes will help him land a job while he saves money for school. His long-range goal is to attend the Art Institute of Portland.

Austin first came to SKEF while finishing his GED at Downtown Learning Center and talking with Tricia Ratliff at HOME Youth and Resource Center about his career aspirations. HOME serves about 800 at-risk and homeless youth each year with help ranging from meals and showers to work experience. It's easy to hear Tricia's enthusiasm when she talks about Austin's success. “We're really excited about the success that's come about for Austin through our program - things you obviously hope for but that you can't necessarily plan for. He's really doing a fantastic job.”

He started in the back room of the bookstore, quietly sorting the massive pallets of books that come into the program to



be distributed to local children in need. He surprised even himself when he quickly gained the confidence to move to the front of the store, helping customers and cataloging books in the computer-based inventory system. “He grew from somebody who happily

and quietly did what was asked of him, to someone who takes initiative and anticipates what needs to be done, and now he's teaching new volunteers and taking them under his wing,” says Tyke Hagedorn, the manager of SKEF's retail programs.

Austin had previous retail work experience under his belt, but says his time at Bazillion Books for Kids has given him a chance to learn more advanced skills. He hopes those skills will help him land a job to support himself through a couple of years at Chemeketa Community College and ultimately through a degree program in graphic or digital design. An aspiring artist who already has one downtown gallery showing to his credit, Austin says, “Not only do I want to make and program the games, but I want to do the visual artwork.” ★

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Volunteer with family, friends, and co-workers!**

Help us in school gardens, sort and deliver books, plan events, become a mentor, or run an afterschool club. Volunteer opportunities are available to match your schedule.



Call (503) 364-2933 for more information.

## Krina's COLUMN

*I love September! It's the start of fall, the start of brisk mornings and warm afternoons, and most dear, is the fresh start that every child has with a new school year ahead of them.*

*As always, we are able to invest in our children because of you. This year, we are focused on that, and reminding you, our community, what happens for local kids because you care.*

*Because of you, over 1900 children had summer learning, summer lunch*

*and access to free books and open libraries.*

*Because of you, thousands of kids kindergarten thru high school seniors at 26 schools will benefit from afterschool Enrichment. They will have access to homework help, healthy suppers, and amazing opportunities to find their passion. It might be cooking, legorobotics, astronomy or toymaking, nevertheless the opportunities are boundless.*

*Because of you, 600,000 free books have been distributed statewide through Bazillion Books for Kids. We will end book poverty together.*

*Later this month, we will award out over \$40,000 to teachers and programs benefitting the entire district. That is made possible because of the tremendous success of the Awesome 3000. 3,465 kids participate in one of the country's largest timed youth runs because it's a community rite of passage with a medal and tshirt for show. If they only knew it meant new technology, vision screening, college trips and great science programs all year long....*

*I know that you would do whatever it takes to help the child in your life find their passion and have endless opportunities to succeed. So will we. ★*

# Summer LEARNING



For 1900 Salem-Keizer kids, the summer break from school meant time to head back to the classroom for summertime learning. Delving into free books, building toys, growing a vegetable garden, exploring astronomy, or learning to be a newspaper reporter: these are some of the dozens of sports, science, art and other summer learning opportunities SKEF offered this year at Grant Community School.

Classes like toy-making and LegoRobotics are lots of fun, but summer learning fills a serious need as well, feeding bellies and brains while keeping kids' thinking caps on and geared up for the coming school year. The National Afterschool Alliance says the long summer break can cause backslide in academic and social skills that kids gained during the previous school year. Most students lose at least a couple months' worth of reading skills over the summer – skills they have to work to regain again in September. But students who stay engaged in summer learning will tend to do better come September when class is back in session.

SKEF is a recognized leader in after-school and summertime learning, and summer finds us in high gear, offering everything from fort-building to basketball for kindergarten through fifth grade, and high-end science programming like the Game On computer animation class for high school students. Summer camps were at capacity,



Senator Ron Wyden and Oregon Dept. of Education Superintendent Rob Saxton serving lunch at Grant Community School

drawing students from across the district and drawing dignitaries who celebrated the success of our extended learning programs.

As a partner in the SL3 initiative, SKEF supported summer learning, summer lunches, and summer libraries by helping to keep 15 school libraries open on Wednesdays so families had access to summer learning and free books. Thirteen of the sites also served lunch. Senator Ron Wyden donned an apron and helped serve lunch at Grant Community School on July 2, alongside Oregon Dept. of Education Superintendent Rob Saxton.



In our district, where over 60% of students rely on free and reduced school meals to meet their nutritional needs, summer learning nurtures our students in multiple ways, avoiding what otherwise might be long summer months of nutrition gaps and summer learning slides. With kids safely on campus in the summer, growing vegetables and building Lego robots, eating lunch, and taking home free books, we make sure we're continuing our ongoing investment in awesome kids, not just during the school year, but always.

Of course, just to be sure we're sneaking in plenty of learning opportunities that also feel like summer fun, we also hosted a **Build It** booth at the Marion County Fair. Kids used foam shapes to build and create while also learning basic design and engineering principles. Not to be outdone, our School Gardens team brought home several first- and second-place ribbons for their vegetables and flowers. ★



# Save THESE DATES

## 2014

SEPTEMBER 9

**Back To School Lunch**

12:00 pm

*Salem Convention Center*

SEPTEMBER 17

**Grants Reception**

4:00 pm

*Early College High School*

OCTOBER 23

**Harvest To Table**

5:30 pm

*Scenic Valley Farm*

OCTOBER 23-24

**Next Generation**

**Garden Party**

*Parrish Middle School*

OCTOBER 24

**Witches Night Out**

4:00 - 8:00 pm

*Where The Sidewalk Begins*

NOVEMBER 5

**Holiday Open House**

4:00 - 8:00 pm

*Where The Sidewalk Begins*

NOVEMBER 13

**Crystal Apple Awards**

7:00 pm

*Elsinore Theatre*

DECEMBER 3

**Holiday Open House**

6:00 pm

*Where The Sidewalk Begins*

DECEMBER 6-7

**Lego Robotics Tournament**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Stephens Middle School*

## 2015

JANUARY 20

**Martin Luther King**

**Day of Service**

FEBRUARY 13

**Why I Love Oregon**

**Essay Contest**

FEBRUARY 27

**SKEF hosts Greeters**

*Location TBD*

MARCH 11

**Spelling Bee**

3:00 pm

*Crossler Middle School*

MARCH 13-14

**ShamROCK Festival**

3:00 pm - midnight (13th)

11:00 am - midnight (14th)

*State Fairgrounds Pavillion*

APRIL 4

**Shoot For the Stars**

5:00 pm

*Salem Convention Center*

APRIL 22

**Earth Day Events**

*TBD*

MAY 2

**Awesome 3000**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

*McCulloch Stadium*

*Bush Pasture Park*

MAY 3

**Lemonade Day**

JUNE 30

**Awesome Day**

6:30 pm

*Volcanoes Stadium*

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH



**Thursday  
October 23, 2014**

*At Scenic Valley Farms, 12423 River Rd NE*

5:30 pm Social Hour

6:30 pm First Course Served

*featuring seasonal and local ingredients prepared  
by Chef Daryl Gossack of Loustic Catering*

\$50/person • Live Music • Free Parking On-Site



A BENEFIT FOR  
SALEM-KEIZER  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

*thanks to*

