



SUMMER 2017

Awesome Times

The Official Newsletter of the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation

35 YEARS OF AWESOME

Thousands of children from the Salem-Keizer community and beyond converged upon McCulloch Stadium to run their hearts out to the sound of cheers from the filled stands.

The annual Awesome 3000 was May 6 – a milestone year as SKEF celebrated 35 years of investing in awesome kids. As one of the nation's largest timed-youth fun runs, the Awesome 3000 has become a rite of passage and an event the entire community marks on their calendar.

The first ever Reunion Run was held the morning of the event, with seven participants from past Awesome 3000s re-living their childhood and competing in a 3K run. David Rasca, the first to cross the Reunion Run



finish line comments, "I decided to run the day before because my kids were doing it, and when I picked up their packets and saw this year's neon yellow shirts it took me back to 1988 in 6th-grade when I ran my first Awesome. It was a sign that I had to do it. Back in 1988 it was my first running event I'd ever done, and I remember I was so excited that I was able to run the entire way without walking and that it was much harder than skateboarding! When SKEF added the adult run for the Awesome back in 2003 there was a large turnout, including myself. There's something about positive experiences that keeps folks coming back for more and that's evident for me with the Awesome 3000."

However, the Awesome 3000's impact extends further than the day-of activities. In the last three and a half decades, the Awesome 3000 has put millions of dollars back into the classroom through innovation grants for teachers in the Salem-Keizer School District. Whether it be rainwater trackers for STEM activities, new computers for an engineering based art class or curriculum for anti-bullying recess games, these innovation grants encourage fun and exciting new ways of learning, which directly impact the post-graduation success of students here in Salem-Keizer.

No event of this magnitude is possible without the planning of a dedicated committee, thousands of volunteer hours and generous sponsor donations, both monetary and in-kind. It truly takes a village to raise a child – and to put on one of Salem's most prized and family-friendly events.

"The Awesome 3000 is the event our community needed. Through this healthy event for all ages, we bring together aspects of the community including business, education community, volunteers, and families," said Harnisch.

Fun Facts

- 2,983 runners
- 638 volunteers
- Over 12,000 spectators

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

A Foundation of Opportunity Every Child, Every Day

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WHAT'S A BIRTHDAY WITHOUT A PARTY?

Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate a major milestone in SKEF's history.

It was an exciting evening with Tom Hewitt hosting the event and enamoring the audience with his witty humor. We wept and cheered to our 35th anniversary video and auctioned off many beautiful gift baskets donated by various community members, along with the Best in Show cake decorated by Hilary Brik-Morris. Our awesome volunteers made sure the evening was special for our guests, and The Flextones rounded out the evening by leading everyone in singing Happy Birthday to SKEF!

Thank you to the sponsors, donors and generous community members who made our 35th birthday party a success!



Thanks to our sponsors:



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT:



SKEF is honored to recognize Churchill Leonard Lawyers as one of our new Awesome 3000 sponsors. Churchill Leonard wanted to do a little more within the community and joined us at the Major Sponsor level for the 35th annual Awesome 3000.

David Leonard, senior partner with Churchill Leonard stated, "It is a privilege to support the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation in the support of children in the District for another successful year of the Awesome 3000. The participants showed hard work and dedication up to and through the finish line with smiles on their faces. We support the children and the families in our community in saying "Congratulations" to all those who organized, participated and supported the children and their families in this successful event!"

Thank you for supporting those who ran and innovation grants for classrooms through your sponsorship. We are proud to continue this rite of passage for Salem-Keizer students and look forward to our continued partnership with Churchill Leonard Lawyers.

Mission Statement

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.

Privacy Statement

Salem-Keizer Education Foundation never sells, loans or exchanges the names, addresses or other information about our donors or others who receive our mailings.

NEW PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT SciGirls

SKEF is a proud recipient of the National Foundation for Science (NSF) grant for the 2017-18 school year! Nationally, the grant was awarded to a total of 16 programs, with SKEF being one of just two programs located on the west coast.

In the fall, the grant will fund a new pilot program from SciGirls, which will expand upon our already existing SciKids program. The curriculum, produced by Twin Cities PBS, is geared towards young girls interested in science. The program addresses the gender gap here in the U.S. within job classifications having to do with computer science and engineering by sparking, strengthening and maintaining “tween” girls’ interest in technological career paths.

For the 2017-18 school year, the SciGirls curriculum will be implemented at Claggett Creek Middle School. Ten girls from the school will have the opportunity to participate in the pilot program and learn skills in the fields of mobile app development, robotics and e-textiles.

Female expert in the computer science field, , will mentor the girls throughout the nine-month program and guide them through virtual trainings and “google hangouts” where other girls participating in the program can connect and learn from one another.

To prepare for the program, Enrichment Academy (EA) Coordinator, Jodi Blackman, and EA Curriculum Coordinator Heather Nabb attended the SciGirls conference in March, held at Twin Cities PBS, and left with much more than training knowledge and a to-do list.

Heather is most looking forward to the new possibilities available for girls in Salem-Keizer. She comments, “After being completely inspired by the training at PBS that introduced the latest in STEAM learning technologies, I am thrilled to be able to bring this enthusiasm into the hearts and minds of local middle schoolers through this new program.”

Jodi states, “We’re really excited to bring this innovative program to the kids here in Salem-Keizer and educate them in a fun and exciting new way that will hopefully encourage more girls to stay in the field of computer science.”

Be on the lookout for updates and exciting stories from our “SciGirls” as they embark on this fun, innovative journey this fall.



SKEF WISH LIST

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baking sheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Half pint/pint milk cartons | <input type="checkbox"/> Hammers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single-hole punchers | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> Chess Sets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towel/wrapping paper tubes | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries – Lithium CR2025 3V | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colored construction paper | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 oz/16 oz mason jars with lids | <input type="checkbox"/> Ad space for Where the Sidewalk Begins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spoons | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 oz water bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre K – 2nd grade level books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber bands | <input type="checkbox"/> Balloons (regular size) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish translators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps (5 X 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> Pampered Chef “handy choppers” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USB Drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Postage stamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Canon DSLR Camera |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 rolling storage tubs (64 quart) | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries – AA | |

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jani Bennett

When it comes to volunteers, no one is more willing to undertake any task handed to her than Jani Bennett.

Jani first volunteered with SKEF at the 2016 Awesome 3000 and has been an invaluable asset to the organization ever since.

When she first started volunteering, she had no idea the level of involvement SKEF had in helping both the schools and the students. "I love all of the events SKEF puts on and seeing the kids' faces light up, so it's fun to be a part of that in some way. Valerie is wonderful, and my goal is to make her job easier through my volunteering."

And Jani does just that. Volunteer Coordinator Valerie describes her as "her third hand."

"Jani's approach to volunteering is different in that she strives to do more than just help with a specific task. To use an old farming term, she comes alongside me and shares the yolk, so it's easier for SKEF to accomplish its goals."

The 35th annual Awesome 3000 this year marked Jani's first anniversary with SKEF, and we hope to have her around for many more!





ASPIRE

Mentors Needed...
For students just like these!



What does an ASPIRE mentor do?

- Meet with student and encourage their interests
- Explore careers, schools and scholarship opportunities
- Proofread applicaiton essays
- Keep students focused on a timeline
- Help students at FAFSA filing time

Trainings held at 223 Commerical St. NE
Wednesdays: 12 p.m.
Second Thursdays: 6 p.m.
Contact Valerie Steele: (503) 364-2933



SKEF at WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

STEAM ACADEMY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS



July 24-28 & July 31-Aug. 4

Join us on Willamette University's campus this summer for two awesome weeks of innovative, hands-on STEAM activities geared towards middle school youth!



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Every spring, SKEF awards scholarships to deserving high school students as they prepare for their post-secondary journey.

This year, SKEF awarded an additional scholarship titled "Friend of the Arts." The vision of a former Salem-Keizer educator who firsthand saw the benefit of visual art education in the lives of young people and adults and wanted to extend an opportunity for a high school senior who plans on pursuing a career as a visual arts secondary-level teacher.

2017 Friends of the Arts Recipient: South Salem High School senior, Camaryn LaRaut

Camaryn's dedication to her academics, as well as mentoring younger classmates, sets her apart from her peers. She holds various leadership roles within the IB Visual Arts program as well as exhibits her art in the annual South Salem High School Spring Art Show. After graduation, she plans to attend Southern Oregon University to major in Visual Arts and minor in English and then continue to Western Oregon University to obtain her Master's in Education.

It is also through the remembrance of community members with passions for education that these scholarships are made possible. We are honored to award these scholarships to hardworking Salem-Keizer students in memory of Guido Caldarazzo, John Moe and Connor James.

2017 Connor James Recipients: Sprague High School senior, Christopher Gunn

Christopher knows what it means to be a proactive member of the community. His leadership within the Youth Legislature and his church Scout Troop have taught him the leadership and confidence skills needed to be successful. He plans on attending Brigham Young University-Idaho through a diversion program where he will serve a two-year long mission and then return to university to study pre-medicine with the intent of becoming a doctor in the United States Air Force.

Sprague High School senior, Kyle Rosenau

When it comes to being a team player, no one knows the importance of building up one another more than Kyle. As Varsity Captain of the Lacrosse, Football and Track teams, Kyle has demonstrated his exemplary leadership

skills as well as his effort to encourage his teammates and provide a fun sporting experience for all. He plans on attending Chemeketa Community College for two years and then transferring to Oregon State University to pursue a Bachelor's of Science in Engineering and Computer Science.

2017 John Moe Top Scholar Recipient: Community Transition Program senior, Jill Farren

Jill is a top scholar in her program and is recognized for her outstanding student behavior as well as exemplary personal and academic achievement.

Top Scholar: Amy Lorenzo Tyler

2nd Runner Up: Trevor Anderson

2nd Runner Up: Sydney Stratton

3rd Runner Up: Austin Ridenour

3rd Runner Up: Rachel Maddox

2017 Guido Caldarazzo Recipient: Sprague High School senior, Caleb Elliot

Caleb's dedication to his community shines through his volunteer work at the Food Bank as well as the American Red Cross. He is both the Sprague Football and Baseball team manager and plans on attending Central Oregon Community College where he will continue his exceptional work ethic as manager of the Summit High School football team.



LEMONADE DAY 2017: PUCKER UP!



By early afternoon, the sun broke through on Lemonade Day, a meteorological metaphor for the feeling shared by hundreds of junior entrepreneurs dotted along the Salem-Keizer map.

By any measure, the 2017 installment of the day set aside to showcase the business skills of elementary and middle school students was a shining success.

You could see it on the face of 8-year-old Lauren Daily, a home-schooled

bundle of energy who wisely set up shop in the parking lot of Keizer Nursery on River Road.

In addition to serving her recipe for strawberry lemonade and a concoction she called “tiki punch,” Lauren had tutus for sale and offered face painting.

Dressed in a hot pink tee-shirt and sporting a lei around her neck and an orchid in her hair, Lauren’s tropical motif attracted shoppers at the popular stop for gardeners.

Lauren, who wears an insulin pump, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes two years ago. A portion of her proceeds from Lemonade Day will help defray costs for a service dog to assist her in daily diabetes routines and checks. Listening to how cheerfully she explained the need, Lauren’s disposition can only be described as sunny.

On the south side of Salem, a gaggle of kids from Morningside Elementary were also offering their take on strawberry lemonade. Their stand, just outside Natural Pet Food & Supplies on Liberty Road, offered homemade dog biscuits, a bow to the impulse buyer at the busy Sunnyslope Shopping Center.

Morningside was one of 30 schools that officially participated in Lemonade Day. Their designated spokesperson was second-grader Olivia Weigel, who said that a portion of the proceeds were designated to be donated to the Willamette Humane Society.

Three students from Mari-Linn Elementary School in Lyons showcased their business acumen in downtown Salem with a carefully constructed and cleverly decorated stand they called Puckers Lemonade.

Seven-year-old twins Layla and Noah Yarnell, along with their pal Tyson Bellinger, offered lemonade variations with peach, raspberry and strawberry. Their special touch was an optional squirt of whipped cream. At \$3 for 16 ounces, many passersby on Liberty Street considered it a bargain.

Puckers Lemonade picked a prime location, setting up shop

outside the popular Archive Coffee and Bar, next to Ritter’s Homemade Foods.

Just a short walk away at the corner of Ferry and State streets, the proprietors of Friends Lemonade – Corallei Lockwood and Hannah Joachim from Wright Elementary – offered cupcakes to accompany three sizes of lemonade.

An optional dollop of lemon frosting was free for the asking.

The students said a portion of the proceeds would assist Girl Scout Troop 10206 in Salem.

Corallei and Hannah were among 595 kids who registered for Lemonade Day on Saturday, May 20th, 2017.

By the time the sun set, business success stories were being shared with family, friends, neighbors and the many mentors who helped kids be their best selves.

Thanks to our sponsors:



gift shop & smoothie bar

Unique Gifts & Jewelry
Inspirational Books
Home Decor
Local Artisans
Great Kid Items

Where the Sidewalk Begins helps support the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation and the 42,000 students throughout the district.

233 Commercial St. NE Salem, OR 97301
Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
(503) 364-2933
info@skeducationfoundation.org

@WheretheSidewalkBegins
@wtsb_skef

Help us reach every child, every day



Why become a monthly giver?

Becoming a monthly giver means SKEF will have a foreseeable source of income we can rely on to support our programs and the kids who flourish from them.

Monthly giving is the easiest way to support SKEF. Here are some benefits:

- You are in control. You can start by mailing in the form on this page, change, increase, decrease or stop anytime by phone at 503-364-2933.
- You will have peace of mind knowing more of your gift will go directly to support kids.
- You will receive less mail because we don't need to send you reminders.
- You will never have to find another stamp or write another check.

Your donation will go directly to support every child every day to be able to participate in:

- AVID Field Trips
- K-12 Salem-Keizer Art Show
- Instruments for Kids
- Free Hot Suppers
- Enrichment Academy
- Lego Robotics
- Salem-Keizer Spelling Bee
- Awesome 3000
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- School Supplies
- Summer camps
- Awesome Youth Sports
- Bazillion Books for Kids
- Gardens
- Scholarships
- ...and much more!



Please sign up today to be a Monthly Giver!

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM DONATION FORM

Yes! I want to donate to the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation.

MY INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE # _____

IT'S EASY TO GIVE

PLEASE ACCEPT MY:

MONTHLY DONATION OF:

\$5.00 \$10.00 \$20.00

OTHER \$ _____

Please deduct my checking account by using: *(signature required – sign below)*

A voided check or

A check with your first monthly gift

Please use my Debit/Credit Card:

VISA MasterCard Discover

American Express

Credit Card# Exp. Date

Signature

I/We authorize Salem-Keizer Education Foundation to deduct the above amount from my checking account or credit card on the 25th of each month.

MY ONE TIME DONATION OF: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Salem-Keizer Education Foundation

Thank you for your support!



MARION COUNTY FAIR

Join us at the Marion County Fair July 7 & 8 on the STEAM Stage for fun activities centered around Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math!

Friday, July 7th is Awesome Day at the Fair. Kids wearing their Awesome 3000 shirts get in free!

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Saturday, July 8, 2017 at approx. 9:00pm

Join us for a free screening of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone at Salem's Riverfront Park.

Before the show watch owl demonstrations by the Chintimini Wildlife Center and stop by the SKEF bookmobile for a free book.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The SKEF Board of Directors welcomed new board members and thanked several more for their years of dedicated service.

Retiring from the board and moving on the SKEF Advisory Council are Patrice Altenhofen, Jodi Hack, Monty Miller, Lisa Norris, Spencer Rockwell and Jordan Willey.

Joining the Board of Directors are Deni Brooks Hoover, Surgical Services Director at Salem Health; Elaine Harvey, VP Business Banking Relationship Manager at Key Bank; Russell Schutte, Project Manager at CB Two Architects; Jim Sparkman, Principal Broker and Owner at HomeSmart Realty Group, and Ryan Gelbrich, State Farm Insurance.

Thank you all for your dedication to every child, every day.

Save THE DATES • 2017

JUNE 17

**Awesome Day at
Volcanoes Stadium**

JUNE 26

Summer Block Party

JULY 5, AUG. 2

First Wednesday

JULY 7, 8

Marion County Fair

JULY 8

Movie in the Park

AUG. 1-31

School Supply Drive

AUG. 25

Ty Curtis School Supply Drive

Benefit Concert – Half Penny

SEPT. 2

Oregon State Fair

SEPT. 12

Back to School Lunch

OCT. 19, 20

Urban AgFest

NOV. 2

Crystal Apple Awards