

reach higher
hawthorne
elp

dig deeper

march 2015

newsletter

letter from the principal

Dear ELP Families,

ELP testing is stressful at best. We know that our ELP students are not all gifted in the same ways and in ways that can be measured by standardized tests. How is exceptional acting in a Shakespeare play or a stunning student art piece measured the same way mathematics and language arts are measured? Our district recognizes the need students have to explore and personalize their educational opportunities to be able to tap into their potentials.

Every year we have students apply and go to the Salt Lake Arts Academy or the Salt Lake Center for Science Education. Families select programs like Curriculum and Assessment or charter schools like the Open Classroom based upon their unique learning environments. All schools have ELP pullout classes. Charter schools with specialized curriculum and emphasis are very appealing. My grandson recently left the gifted program at Wasatch Junior High to attend a school that allows him to accelerate his academics and offers him intensive study in personal interests. This suits him.

There is not one academic path that works for everyone or supports all of our students' gifted strengths. I would hope that our families would never feel discouraged because some children are gifted in areas not easily measured.

We should all take pleasure in our children's unique gifts and talents and believe with our hearts that they have bright futures.

—Marian Broadhead
Hawthorne Elementary Principal

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why we volunteer.....

For 12 years, this community has helped guide and teach our two children as they have grown into confident, caring teens.

Our family has been given dedicated teaching and the generously shared talents of parent scientists, literature specialists, writers, artists, and mathematicians – along with more than our fair share of Band-Aids delivered with Janet Benton’s reassuring smile.

And many of my most treasured friendships have been with wise, witty, insightful thinkers less than five feet tall (though many are taller now).

But when we moved into the Salt Lake City School District so that our now 17-year-old could start kindergarten in Hawthorne’s ELP, no one thought to mention that this program involved a self-coined form of parent volunteerism known as “co-oping.”

When we learned about it in the weeks before school started, we weren’t sure that we could pull it off. And we weren’t sure we wanted to.

It quickly became clear though, that all those reliable parents in the classroom each week turned a large class group into a few small, personalized learning groups. Children had many encouraging adults helping them learn, and our teachers were free to plan more ambitious projects, more challenging curriculum.

Even better were “ah-ha” moments shared with eager faces as a new concept took hold or a thoughtful insight was offered. Our kids loved having us show up during their day. “That’s my Dad!” “That’s my Mom!”

And so we came, week after week, year after year. We scheduled around careers, a baby, caring for aging and ill parents. These kids have been worth it

– our own and yours.

Along the way my husband and I have flourished glue sticks, graded papers, comforted bruised feelings, helped prep actors, read books aloud, organized volunteers, and helped to foster the voice of young writers. I’ve had the privilege of working with our teachers and principal to advocate for the kind of advanced learning all our children need and have chaired groups in our program and at the district that I had never even known existed.

Other parents also have been inspired by their involvement, becoming teachers and school board members, incorporating wisdom gained in the classroom into their own research and writing. And parents joined with teachers to create our wonderful Spanish program, taught by Vicky Lowe.

We’ve all shared losses together, as teachers retired, friends moved, and exuberant teacher Dawn Savage died unexpectedly at the end of a day she had started by teaching second grade.

Today our daughter’s stories are peppered with moments shared with her pals Katherine, Amy, Heather, Jenn, Suzanne, Cindy, Yani, Annie, Diana, Brad, and Mr. Pahnke – moms, a dad, and a granddad who volunteer in her class.

Both of our children have been understood, befriended, and mentored by teachers and other parents. For all of us, the ties to Hawthorne run deep.

If it takes a village to raise a child – and I’m pretty sure it does – you have been that village for us. May your life be as enriched by the time you spend here as ours has been.

Marina O’Neill-James is the current Parent-Teacher Liaison and sixth grade co-op coordinator. She can be reached at marinaoneill@aol.com.

math update: mr. guy nickerson

In November, 20 Hawthorne fifth and sixth graders sat for a math competition (the AMC 8) that is targeted to an eighth grade math curriculum. About 85 percent of the students who take this test nationally are middle school students. To honor younger students who perform with distinction, the AMC 8 offers a level of national recognition, known as the Achievement Roll, for elementary school students who score in the top 20 percent of all students.

Hawthorne had far more students named to the AMC 8 Achievement Roll (10 sixth graders and three fifth graders) than any other Utah school. In addition to this notable honor, Sanjula Pingali and Celeste Litchfield were specially recognized for scoring in the top five percent of all students nationally.

At a more local level, BYU's math department separately honors those Utah students who score above the national average on the AMC 8 by naming them to the Utah Honor Roll. BYU's math faculty was most impressed that 90 percent of

Hawthorne's participants met this Utah Honor Roll benchmark. Professor David Wright referred to Hawthorne as a "truly remarkable elementary school" from the podium at the awards ceremony.

In January, 12 Hawthorne sixth graders participated in a MathCounts competition organized by the Salt Lake City School District. The event championship was won by a team consisting of Celeste Litchfield, Fiona Tsang, Joseph Bonacci, and Simon Peaslee. These students, along with Christopher Li, individually finished as 5 of the event's top ten scorers. In February, Hawthorne's MathCounts team comprised of Celeste, Christopher, Fiona, and Simon, performed well enough in a tough multi-district competition to be the only Utah elementary school invited to the state MathCounts tournament to be held in March.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding students and to all of the great teachers who have helped them to be counted among Utah's finest young mathematicians!

science fair wrap-up

Hawthorne Elementary School had an amazing science fair thanks to our judges and volunteers. Thank you for being a large part of our success!

We had 163 individual student science fair projects from the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, and eight whole-class projects from the younger grades. Over 43 people from the community volunteered before, during,

and after the science fair, working hard to make it all happen.

We recognized 62 students with awards for their efforts, and sent 13 students on to represent Hawthorne Elementary at the district science and engineering fair. Congratulations to Ian Suarez, Mission Sargent, Afton Miller, Ashley Glenn, Chris Li, Garrett Riley, Jack Pronovost, Jonah Eves,

William Clingenpeel, Sharayu Senthilkumar, EP Simmons, Arundhati Oommen, and Elizabeth Zhang.

Good luck to Afton, Chris, Garrett, Jack, Jonah, EP, Arundhati, and Elizabeth as they go on to represent Hawthorne at the Salt Lake Valley Science and Engineering Fair on March 25. Way to go, scientists!

good masters! sweet ladies!

In February, Mrs. Edwards' third grade scholars transformed into children from 13th century England for the ninth annual performance of "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village." Having watched the play each year since kindergarten, the students were ready to put their mark on this year's production. Parent volunteers Rebecca Campbell and Amber Seppi compassionately guided

the young thespians through months of memorizing lines, developing stage presence, fitting costumes, and working together as a team. Performed as a series of related monologues from the children of lords, skilled craftspeople, "villeins" (serfs/slaves), and runaways, each student had their chance to star on the center stage. Bravo to all for putting on such a moving and thoughtful performance!



all the world's a stage

Over the week of March 23-26, the upper hall will be transformed into a kid-sized Shakespeare festival. Come and join Hawthorne ELP's students as they tread the boards (or the classroom carpets) and bring three of the Bard's plays to life.

The fourth graders are taking on the tragic tale of "Romeo and Juliet," the fifth graders will stir up some trouble with "Macbeth," and the sixth graders are in for a wild ride with "The Taming of the Shrew."

Performance Schedule:

Monday, March 23

***The Taming of the Shrew* only:**

10:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24

All shows:

10:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25 &

Thursday, March 26

All shows:

10:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m.



out of the mouths of babes

We asked some of Ms. Hendrick's kindergarten students what they liked best about co-oping parents. Here's what they said:

"We love it! I like when our moms and dads come because we have some time to be with them. Because if they didn't come, who would we be with? Just the school people?"

– Annie

"On Valentine's Day, my mom's the one who brought the cake!" – Brennan

"My mom helped me make a snowflake and she comes for math on Wednesday and Wednesday is my favorite day because it comes before Thursday and Thursday is gymnastics!"

– Lucy

"I feel good when my mom comes because it's really fun. She takes care of my siblings and makes my lunches, and when she comes to school, it's a good time for being happy."

– Andrew

"When my mom comes, it makes me feel happy, just like I have a warm blanket to sleep in."

– Lira

letter from the treasurer

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE FOR 2014-15!

Thanks to donations made on behalf of 137 of our 177 students, we have come a long way toward meeting our fundraising goals for the school year... but we are not there yet. Please consider what Hawthorne's ELP means to you and to your child, and if at all possible, contribute a little more to help us to make this year everything our teachers and our community are working to provide.

The Spanish program is solely funded by donations, and we are short by \$1665. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT to keep this incredible language enrichment program going through the end of the school year. If you consider what it would cost for your child to receive daily Spanish instruction outside of school, you realize what an incredible bargain it is! All we ask is \$80 per child for the year. Because not all families are able to contribute financially, we need other families to step up even more.

So far this year, ELP donations have paid for:

- Countless critical classroom supplies for all grades
- Scientist-in-residence study of genetics
- Kindergarten reptile show/presentation
- Current publications and Junior Great Books
- Special music instruction for fourth and fifth grades
- Math competition entry fees

- Professional development for our teachers
- Books for special units on architecture and China for second grade
- Field trips to see exhibits and Shakespeare productions

Still to come this year:

- Artist-in-residence mobile sculpture creation and installation
- Shakespeare!
- Year-end events and special projects
- MORE supplies, field trips, events, and experiences

PLEASE help us meet our goals for Spanish and general ELP for this school year. All of our amazing teachers are working so hard for our kids, and the financial support provided by families opens up opportunities for enrichment that make a difference for each and every ELP student.

Contact me with any questions, or to inquire about donations made to-date at treasurer@hawthorne-elp.com.

Thanks for all that you do!

Kathleen Wilson

2014-15 ELP Treasurer



Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Email address: _____

Student(s) Name and Grade: _____

Spanish Donation (\$80) _____

ELP Donation (\$45) _____

Additional Donations:

Unrestricted Amount _____

(Use where needed most)

For my child's classroom _____

Sponsor another student _____

Artist-in-residence _____

Science-in-residence _____

Other *(specify below)* _____

TOTAL 2014-2015 DONATION _____

HOW TO DONATE

Cash or check payable to Hawthorne ELP. Please include donation form and deliver to the ELP mailbox at the school's main office, or mail to: *Kathleen Wilson, ELP Treasurer, 1022 Windsor St, SLC UT 84105*

With PayPal via the orange donate button on the hawthorne-elp.com website *(please include a memo with any instructions when completing your transaction.)* You can pay with credit card or we accept PayPal payments and bank transfers, which enable us to put your entire donation to good use without the cost of credit card processing fees. Just log in with your PayPal account when making your donation!



Via smart phone

Scan this code with your QR reader to make a donation via PayPal.

All donations to Hawthorne ELP are tax deductible. A receipt will be given for total annual donations of \$250 or greater. Contact Kathleen Wilson at treasurer@hawthorne-elp.com for assistance with making your donation or for more information. All donations directly benefit our children.

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