



Justin Veloso teaches music to preschoolers.

SPRD enhances music education

Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) Community Preschool housed at Sisters Elementary School has added an enhanced music education element to their weekly schedule. Through a grant from The Roundhouse Foundation and a partnership with Sisters Folk Festival, the preschool program will have guest instructors twice a week and purchase some instruments and books for a more robust approach to music.

Through Sisters Folk Festival, Sisters High School (SHS) graduate and professional musician Justin Veloso will attend both preschool classes and work with the students on basic rhythm and movement skills once a week. In addition, Sisters High School Americana Project students will be in the classroom an additional day per week to demonstrate singing with the young students.

Veloso graduated from SHS in 2006 and recently returned to Sisters after living in New York City attending school at the New School of Jazz and Contemporary Music and working on his music career. He is a sound artist and percussionist. His wide variety of talents and interests have given him opportunities to play and tour with a wide variety of musicians. Veloso has been looking to expand his teaching program to younger students, and this grant has enabled him the opportunity.

"I am really excited to start exposing these really young kids to some basic rhythmic ideas, different types of music and different instruments," Veloso says. "I think that through listening and experimenting with music and instruments together they can start to develop their

individual social intelligence. I hope the exposure turns them on to pursuing music as they get older."

The initial grant is for a six-week trial program. After the trial, an assessment will be done to determine the effectiveness of the music program and if it will continue. Curriculum and other notes will be kept throughout the trial period to allow for the preschool staff to replicate the program. Through part of the grant, the preschool was able to purchase rhythm instruments and a variety of books and CDs to assist in the music lessons.

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— Justin Veloso

"We are thrilled to have these musicians come in and work with our students – and the kids are loving it," says Valerie Selig, lead teacher for the preschool program.

There is still space available for both the 3- and 4-year-olds class and the 4- and 5-year-olds class through the SPRD Community Preschool. Registrations are accepted throughout the year on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the SPRD Community Preschool or to register your child visit www.SistersRecreation.com or call 541-549-2091.

O'NEILL: New City hire hails from Olympia, Washington

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impressed with everyone's ability and willingness at City Hall to do a myriad of things.

"I like the challenge of performing a variety of duties," he said, "and not specializing in just a few key areas."

O'Neill, a native of Washington state, graduated from Linfield College with a degree in accounting. While at Linfield, he played football for four years as a wide receiver. He began his accounting career with a public accounting firm in Lake Oswego, leaving to return to Olympia, Washington where he was born and raised, to work in his family's landscape supply business.

O'Neill's roots in Olympia run deep. His great grandfather worked for the Olympia Brewing Company, carting out the malt from the brewery

to sell to local farmers. His grandfather and father carried on the tradition. O'Neill remembers as a child riding in the trucks that delivered the malt.

"I like the challenge of performing a variety of duties, and not specializing in just a few key areas."
— Joe O'Neill

His dad started to backhaul manure from the farmers to the truck shop, where he would mix it with dirt and sell it. When the brewery closed, O'Neill's father diversified from just the dirt/manure mix to all kinds of landscaping materials.

His parents still live in Olympia, and he has two older sisters, one in Olympia and one in Camas.

O'Neill became familiar



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Joe O'Neill.

with Central Oregon during numerous trips to visit two of his college roommates, in Terrebonne and Bend. He also has a brother-in-law who lives in Bend.

When he and his wife were looking to do something different and the job became available in Sisters, they were delighted to come here. They were very fortunate to find a house to rent right here in town, where they live with their two daughters, aged four and one-and-a-half.

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