

Music and Arts Partners keep arts in school

LOGAN KELLY
Sports Editor

What would school be like without the group of so-called "band geeks," who are always perform at school assemblies and who always seem to be in the band room. Imagine a life with canned orchestra music blaring as the droves of students march into the gym looking for their spots on the bleachers. It would be a very different from the feeling of live orchestra music.

In 1995 the Strings program almost collapsed and could have possibly made the above scenario a reality. In an attempt to save the struggling program, the district assembled a task force to come up with solutions. The task force consisted of five members: Karen Pixton, Barbara Richmond, Dana Edvalson, David Buddi and

Lynne Detrick. The group recommended a parent-run organization be formed as one of the solutions.

The original five members from the task force started a program called "The Music Boosters." "Each member threw \$25 into a hat. We started with just \$125," Lynne Detrick, Executive Board Member and Membership Coordinator, said.

The task force was able to save the Strings program. Now, going by the name of Music and Arts Partners or MAP, they have successfully granted over \$300,000 to art and music programs around in the district. MAP changed their name from Music Boosters to the Music and Arts Partners to better reflect the true intentions of helping all of the arts programs. Over 250 families sponsor the

program at various levels. Donations from corporations such as the Marie Lam from Charitable Foundation and the Juan Yung Trust have also been secured. The organization is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service to be a 501c3, non-profit organization.

Building on their original five members, the organization now has tripled their board size to 15 members.

MAP has sponsored such things as bringing pianists John Nilsen and Michael Allen Harrison to schools, giving 30 violins to a primary school Strings program, and bringing a top class conductor in to help join the West Linn middle schools and high school choir together.

"MAP has provided me with the funds I needed to

jump-start the new fiber arts class. Their support has helped me create a wide variety of fiber media available to the students, such as knitting, embroidery, weaving and spinning," Diane Gauthier, Fine Arts teacher, said.

Started as a task force to save a struggling arts program, MAP has grown. Any arts teacher in the district, from kindergarten to grade 12, can apply for a grant.

The arts help to create well-rounded students. Students who take music, score higher on their SAT's, and if the arts are not continued in middle school, parts of the brain literally shut down. It is our goal to give students as many different arts opportunities as possible and to keep the arts

in our district thriving," Sarah Wright, MAP co-president, said.

"The arts are what we look at most when understanding what a society has valued throughout the ages," Lynn Pass, art teacher, said. "People can be involved in the arts throughout their lifetimes—it enriches our lives!"

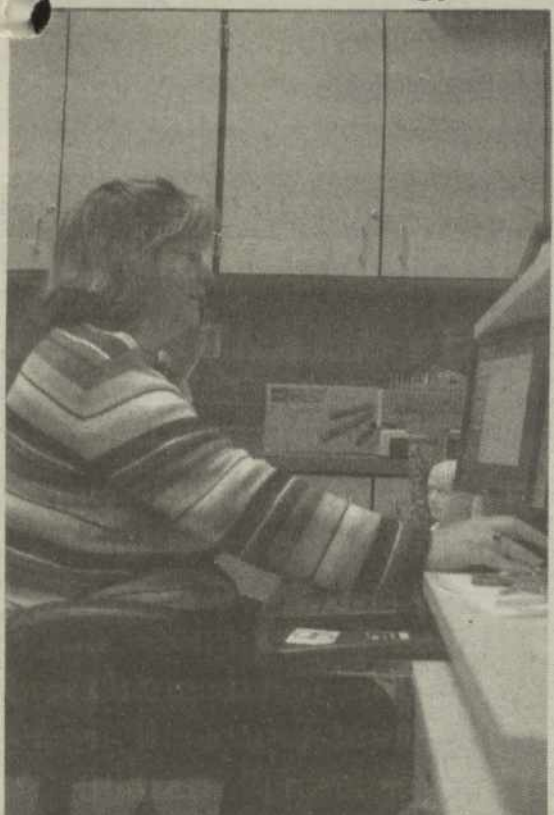
Scientists have also proven that without music and art, a developing child has a greater chance of being challenged in math. This district almost lost a crucial program which aids in the development of students and an organization stepped up to the plate.

"MAP's hopes to have a long relationship with the district as an organization which truly supports—financially, emotionally and physically—the arts in all of our schools," Pass said.

Technology Department lends helping hand to students, teachers

HILLI CIAVARELLO
Staff Reporter

Ever wonder how the computers get fixed or the printers get unjammed? Students might not know that the Technology Department staff keeps an eye out for all the mishaps of modern day technology. Angie Hammond, Information Technology



Angie Hammond, Information Technology Specialist, continually checks e-mail to answer questions from students and staff. The Tech Department receives hundreds of e-mails each week asking for assistance.

Photo by Cole Fiala

Specialist, and Jon Ares, Media Tech Aide, and their seven, application only, tech aides keep the unwanted viruses from making our computers sneeze.

"The only thing we don't like dealing with is the unexplained—the things that we can't fix," Hammond, Technology Department chair, said. But there isn't much they can't fix. Throughout the day students and teachers receive help from these tech gurus on everything from fickle mice to stupid Smart Boards.

"They are completely committed to making

sure the technology in our classrooms work. They know that it just doesn't make sense for an expensive piece of equipment to have a faulty light," Gary Eppelsheimer, science and photo teacher, said.

They also have a way to help students and teachers using the thing they know best, technology. By making, "Techbytes," a computer help folder on their desktop, students and teachers can get help without getting up themselves or adding to

the 50 e-mails a day that Hammond and Ares already receive.

"Techbytes is a good place to start, when you don't understand what you're doing," Hammond said.

In addition of being committed to helping students and teachers understand technology already available to them, they also strive to secure the best technology possible for the school. Things like Smart Boards, an interactive whiteboard and document cameras, cameras that allow

3-D objects to be shown to an entire classroom, have been brought to the school to enhance learning.

"A good classroom used to have a chalk board and a TV. Now we want a data projector and a Smart Board in every room to make learning a little more interactive for students," Ares said.

The only thing that truly bothers the Tech Department is vandalism. Things like dismantling mouses, switching keys on keyboards, and others things

have been happening more often than they would like.

"Students are only cheating themselves, because the money that could have gone to a new digital camera or a new printer now has to replace something that didn't have to be broken in the first place," Ares said.

Even with the negative aspects of their job, the duo knows that the only thing that's worse than a broken computer is a confused student or teacher that they can help.

Students dislike assigned reading in class

DIANA SIMPSON
Contributing Writer

"And now Harry, let us step out into the night and pursue that flighty temptress, adventure." The lights are dimmed, the room is deathly silent. Sitting with bated breath, book in hand, you turn the page and delve in to the unknown of the next chapter; fingertips tingling with anticipation... Is this you?

Recently, one english class from each grade were given a survey, to discover their reading habits and opinions on book-related topics. Of the 73 students polled, 31 said they dislike the books assigned to read in school, 34 said they make a habit of reading for pleasure, and 16 listed the *Harry Potter* series as their favorite books.

Though most of the student's answers were quite varied, there seemed to be a few patterns. All grades, 9th through 12th, agreed that a good place to read is on their beds, where it's nice and quiet. All but the sophomores fessed up to having discussed what

they read with friends and family- the resounding answer from the 10th graders was that they don't have the time for it.

On the other hand, there

were also some definite differences shown between the classes. Sophomores and Juniors strongly dislike the books in the curriculum, while Freshman and Seniors

are more neutral in their opinions. Also, the lower-classmen prefer to read magazines in their free time, while upper-classmen enjoy novels better.

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
What grade did you learn to read?	1st grade (57%)	1st grade (46%)	1st grade (57%)	1st grade (37%)
Favorite children's book?	Captain Underpants	Magic Tree House series	Cat in the Hat	Clifford and-Goodnight Moon
Opinion on books in classes	Some are okay (44%)	Dislike them (50%)	Dislike them (58%)	Some are okay (42%)
Favorite genre?	Action	Fantasy/Mystery	Sci-Fi/Romance	Fiction/Fantasy
Books vs. Magazines	Magazines	Magazines	Books	Books
Do you read for pleasure?	Yes (57%)	No (54%)	Yes (50%)	Yes (58%)
Have you re-read assigned books?	No (77%)	No (85%)	No (79%)	No (84%)
Where do you find what you read?	Public & School libraries	Bookstores	Friend's recommendations	Bookstores
Do you discuss what you read?	Yes, with family	No, not enough time	Yes, with friends	Yes, if it was good
Favorite place to read?	Living room	Bed and other quiet places	Bedroom	Bedroom
Favorite book?	Harry Potter	To Kill a Mockingbird/Harry Potter	Harry Potter	Princess Bride/Harry Potter