



DOMESCHOOL TIMES

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This issue is dedicated to Jill Gruenberg

Community building comes together

Campaign kicked off to finalize funding

As the 2016-17 school year comes to a close, our families and staff have been excited to see the expansion of the Takilma Community Building (TCB) taking shape. This project to improve the Dome School's home not only gives our kids their own dedicated classroom space but also serves to open up the heart of the building for more dinners, movie nights, meetings, yoga and dance and theater classes, and much more. A true community building.

Tomorrow, May 18, marks the anniversary of our groundbreaking ceremony for the project. In one year, this several-decades-in-the-making dream has become reality; Phase 1 of our expansion project, closing the addition in, is nearing completion.

But the question on everyone's minds remains: Will Phase 2, completion of all interior work, be complete in time for the 2017-18 school year? The answer is a resounding "We sure hope so!"

The good news is that we have secured more than 80% of project costs. The bulk of this has come from right here in our community, including direct financial contributions, in-kind service gifts, and donations at our numerous fundraisers. These have been supplemented by grants from generous local foundations.

But the not-so-good news for our current timeline: the nearly 19% of funding still to go. We will continue to write and submit grants, but we can't rely on these.

On Earth Day, we kicked off what we're calling our 30/50/70 campaign—30 Ways to Raise 50K in 70 Days. Importantly, these are ways that people can get in return for giving. Examples include purchasing items



(Photo by Ryan Forsythe)

West Sii-ide! The siding is added to the west side of the Takilma Community Building addition, Monday, May 8.

(t-shirts, trucker caps, *Takilma Common Ground* anthologies, etc.), paying admission at special events such as concerts, and also supporting local businesses (the Galloping Goose, Ida's Blueberries, and Diggin' Livin' are a few donating portions of sales). The full list of "Ways to Raise" can be found on our website, at www.domeschool.org/campaign.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Dome School Times*, long-time community member Stephanie Moor goes into greater detail about what she sees as the need for this project.

Steph is a dedicated and integral part of our community, and has been helping to fundraise for numerous projects and non-profits throughout the Illinois Valley. While our staff can certainly speak to the benefits the new classrooms will have for our students, Stephanie speaks to the value of the building for the community, those who will benefit from our ability to really expand use of the space—not only now but well into the future.

For those who can't help any more financially, it's still critical that we get the

word out on the campaign to as many people as possible. We ask everyone to share this information with family and friends, like our Facebook posts and spread the news on social media, share newspaper ads and articles, or just go ahead and call your good friends Oprah or Ellen DeGeneres to feature us on their shows.

Now is a critical time for the project. We appreciate any help in closing this funding gap, and getting the expansion completed, for our children and our community. Thank you so much for your consideration.



(Photo courtesy Ashley Beckman)

Kindergarten class displays their Earth Day Banner. Emma says, "We collected sticks and leaves and moss and pinecones from outside and glued them on a big piece of paper we got from the recycling box. It says EARTH."

Primary pupils ponder prime peaks of past year

Our younger elementary class recently reflected on their year! What they learned, how they've grown, and what they liked best:

"I really had fun just doing math! I like doing really hard addition, and I like doing so many problems." - *Clarysage, Age 8*

"I want to be an actor when I'm older, and I want to act in big plays and a couple of the most main plays. When I act, it just makes me feel like I'm actually in the story. And I really like doing the games in acting, it's really fun! It's like warm-ups to me before I'm in the big, big plays. In 'Alice in Wonderland,' I am the Princess of Hearts (instead of the King of Hearts)!" - *Alalana, Age 7*

"I try to write books! I like writing because I like to write stories. Writing is fun and I'm learning how to write - and I'm good at writing!" - *Kailen, Age 7*

"I used to think Read-a-Thons were boring because I was really bad at reading. I thought that I'd never be able to read, and I was scared to admit that I didn't like to read, because it was really hard. But I've been reading a lot lately and feel like I'm going to be able to read really well now. I've read almost two hundred books in these last two months! I think I'm gonna make the 200-Book Challenge! I believe in myself now." - *Lucy, Age 9*

"I had fun when I was building with the clay, because it feels fun on my hands." - *Kamy, Age 7*

"We learned about African queens and other things, like African countries! Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Swaziland! We learned about Wangari Maathai, the woman who planted trees in Kenya." - *Airabella, Age 8*

"I like Life of Fred math because it's math! I like math." - *River, Age 7*

"I remember that there's a star out of our solar system that's called Betelgeuse, and if our sun was an orange, and if there's an orange inside of a soccer field, that soccer field would be Betelgeuse!" - *Kailen, Age 7*

"I'm excited to go back to the beach this week and camp out!" - *Cooper, Age 8*

"First I thought, 'I hate reading and I'll never be good at this.' But now I think that reading is everything I want to do! It's read, read, read, read, read!" - *Clarysage, Age 8*

"I really like drawing! I don't care if what I draw is good or bad, it's just fun." - *Alalana, Age 7*

"Ice skating was awesome! I ice skated around the rink three times in a row, not holding on to the edge and not falling down." - *Albert, Age 7*

"Theatre is passionate for me. Acting feels like, just ... ME! So much ME! I want to be an actor when I grow up. When I act, the words just sway and it's relaxing to me. For instance, I'm going to be the White Rabbit in our play, 'Alice in Wonderland,' and I feel like, I may mess up, but that doesn't matter because it's so fun. It's just so much fun! And I love watching all my friends act, too, and it's just fun to watch, and so fun to do." - *Lucy, Age 9*

"I like reading!" - *Bela, Age 7*

"I like to go hiking and see banana slugs! All banana slugs look like bananas, but they're really not bananas. But Lucy just found banana slugs on our hike in the redwoods and picked it up, and said, 'Say hello to my little banana slug!'" - *Lori, Age 7*

Kindergarten commits to conservation

On April 22, the Dome School celebrated Earth Day with a family friendly festival. In honor of the day, our Kindergarten students reflected on ways they can be more earth-conscious.

I Can Take Care of the Earth By...

- "Riding my bike with my sister." - *Tulsi*
- "Growing a garden." - *Keenan*
- "Planting trees!" - *Lilac*

- "Cleaning up trash from the river." - *Breeze*
- "Recycling bottles and cans and paper." - *Johnny*
- "Not cutting down all the trees." - *Rio*
- "Teaching people how to be good and how to help each other." - *Rosemary*
- "Guarding the plants and animals." - *Asher*
- "Planting flowers and food with my mom." - *Ezra*
- "Respecting it and being nice to it." - *Emma*

- "Keeping the water clean for the fishes." - *Myis*
- "Picking up trash." - *River*
- "Being nice to the animals." - *Samara*
- "Giving plants chicken poop, water and lots of love." - *Paisley*
- "Growing food in my garden with mommy and dad." - *Tristan*
- "Cleaning up trash, planting plants, and don't throw trash in the ocean." - *Django*

Thanks so much for your service, Jill!

As noted above, this issue of the Dome School Times is dedicated to Jill Gruenberg, who has served the Dome School in numerous capacities for decades: as a Special Education preschool teacher, a music and movement teacher, and, most recently, as one of our regular preschool teachers. This is not a complete retirement, as Jill will continue with music classes at the school. But we'd be remiss if we didn't mark the occasion and offer our sincerest thanks to Jill for her many years of service to the school and our students. Thank you, Jill!

Several of this year's Barter Faire posters were designed by our students! Check them out soon around town.