

# Ockley Green Arts Magnet Grows

## Student and parent involvement rises

Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland is thriving and growing with the arts this year. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, a magnet program was established to attract students to the arts and technology component of Beach, Chief Joseph, Ockley Green and Jefferson schools.

Certified arts teachers, technology equipment and renovations to the Ockley Green building were included in the program. The auditorium was transformed into a theater, a recording studio will be placed in the band room, and a multimedia lab of digital equipment and laptops will be available to all students.

There has been increasing and consistent research on the impact of arts education on student achievement, school climate and parent involvement. It shows Ockley Green student test scores have risen since spring 2005 an average of 10-15 points. Student discipline issues have decreased substantially while parent involvement has increased.

The arts are only one major factor in the change happening at this middle school. State-of-the-art technology, computer labs, and innovative teaching tools like the Smart Board are changing not only the way students are taught, but more importantly, how they communicate their own learning and accomplishments.

Word gets around. Students from other schools in the area have transferred into the Ockley Green program because of what the school has to offer. Additionally, Ockley Green is accepting kindergarten through grade eight, beginning in the fall. Parents have already completed applications for their elementary students.

Jorge Cruz, a 1999 graduate of Ockley Green Middle School, is now director of



Dance class students Freddy Jackson (from left), Nathaniel Jones, Dequandre Johnson, Maranda Brown and Denaya Brazzle are finding success in the new arts and technology curriculum at Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

after-school programming. Over 50 percent of the students at Ockley participate in his program that supports teachers' curriculum and has additional en-

hancements to the school's arts programs, such as African drumming and drill team.

"Students can take two arts electives

every day, but they still may not get the classes they had hoped for," Cruz said. "Our program offers more opportunities beyond the school day."

Carrying around his drumsticks during lunch, one student expressed his passion, saying, "My dad was a musician. I'm going to be one, too."

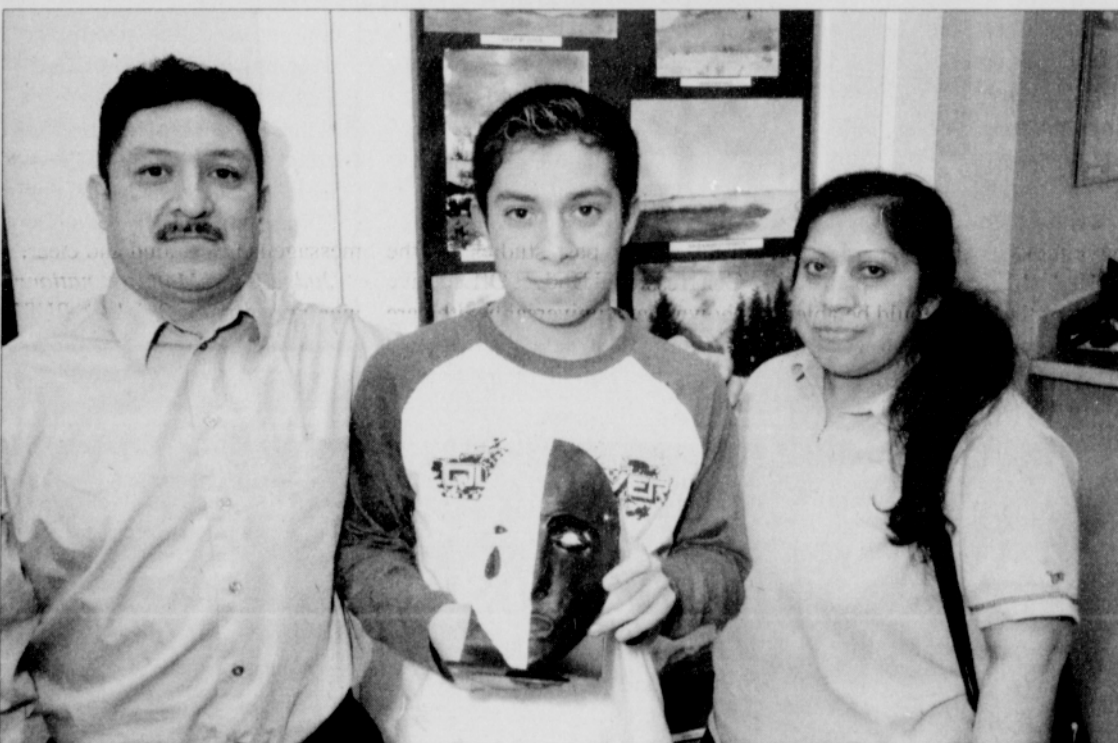


PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Johnny Garcia, a burgeoning artist and Roosevelt High School sophomore, joins his parents Jose and Luisa, to display his animation clay sculpture during an art reception last week at Albina Community Bank in the St. John's neighborhood.

## Young Artists Find a Gallery

The work of over 100 Roosevelt High School students is on display through the end of May at Albina Community Bank's St. John's branch, 8040 N. Lombard. The variety of art, including

paintings, ceramic masks and tiles was created by students in a Roosevelt art program, created last year and taught by Rick Graves.

Albina branch manager Renee

Andre said the bank is giving young artists a chance to grow their confidence and share Roosevelt's talent with the community, and look forward to sharing the space for other groups.

### Dear Deanna!

My pastor, who happens to be my husband's best friend, has wrecked our church. He divorced his wife and a year later, married his wife's first cousin. Half the church doesn't care and others are trying to fire him. It wouldn't be so bad but the pastor has children who now have to deal with their aunt becoming their step-mother. I don't support this but I'm forced to choose sides because of my husband's friendship with him. What do I do? --Praying for Peace; Paoli, Penn.

### Dear Praying:

Jessie Jackson went half on a baby but he claimed to be a preacher man not a saint. If the pastor was legally divorced then he's privy to marry a cousin, a chair or a cardboard box. Yes it looks strange and there may be more to the story such as why he got divorced and did the cousin play a part. As a Christian wife, you're committed to support



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### Dear Deanna!

I'm a confessed womanizer with many dates and don't plan to change. I feel I should be given a pat on the back for being honest

about who I really am. Instead, people call me a dog, they call me a player and women are upset when things don't go their way. Why do the honest guys have a hard time when the liars are on easy street? --Dwayne P.; Memphis, Tenn.

### Dear Dwayne:

You're a fool with commitment issues and slim respect for women. Your behavior is not responsible and is nothing to brag about. When it comes to love, life and relationships, there is no honesty among cheaters, no points for players and no high fives for infidelity. A liar is only on easy street until they are revealed and then all heck breaks loose and they truly deserve it. Do yourself a favor and get a new game because this one is weak.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

## Pier Park, New Pool Funded

Pier Park Pool in the St. Johns community may continue to serve generations of north Portland residents.

The pool was pulled from the scrap pile from last year's city budget after a wave of protests on word it was going to close this

year, but the Parks Bureau facility is now supported into the future with Mayor's Tom Potter's recommended budget for 2006-07.

The mayor's budget also taps \$3.8 for a new indoor pool at the East Portland Community Center, which would become Portland's

only public pool east of 82nd Avenue.

"This is an excellent proposed budget for Portland Parks & Recreation," said City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. "It maintains our staffing levels and reinvests savings into tackling our deferred maintenance."

## Candidate Loses Public Money

(AP)—Portland Auditor Gary Blakmer has ruled that council candidate Emilie Boyles is ineligible for public campaign money and has demanded that she return \$145,000.

Blackmer ruled that Boyles violated the public financing code by taking out a year's lease on her southeast Portland campaign headquarters—a former restaurant that she planned to use after the cam-

campaign for a food bank she runs. Among other expenses, Boyles paid her 16-year-old daughter \$12,500 for Internet marketing work. Candidates must pay the going market rate for such work.

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