

# Actress to 'Adopt' King School

## White House picks northeast school for added resources

Martin Luther King Jr. School in northeast Portland has been selected to participate in a new arts education initiative that will include the support of actress Sarah Jessica Parker, a star from the hit TV series *Sex and the City* and other films.

King was named on Monday as one of eight elementary and middle "turnaround schools" across the county in an announcement from President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

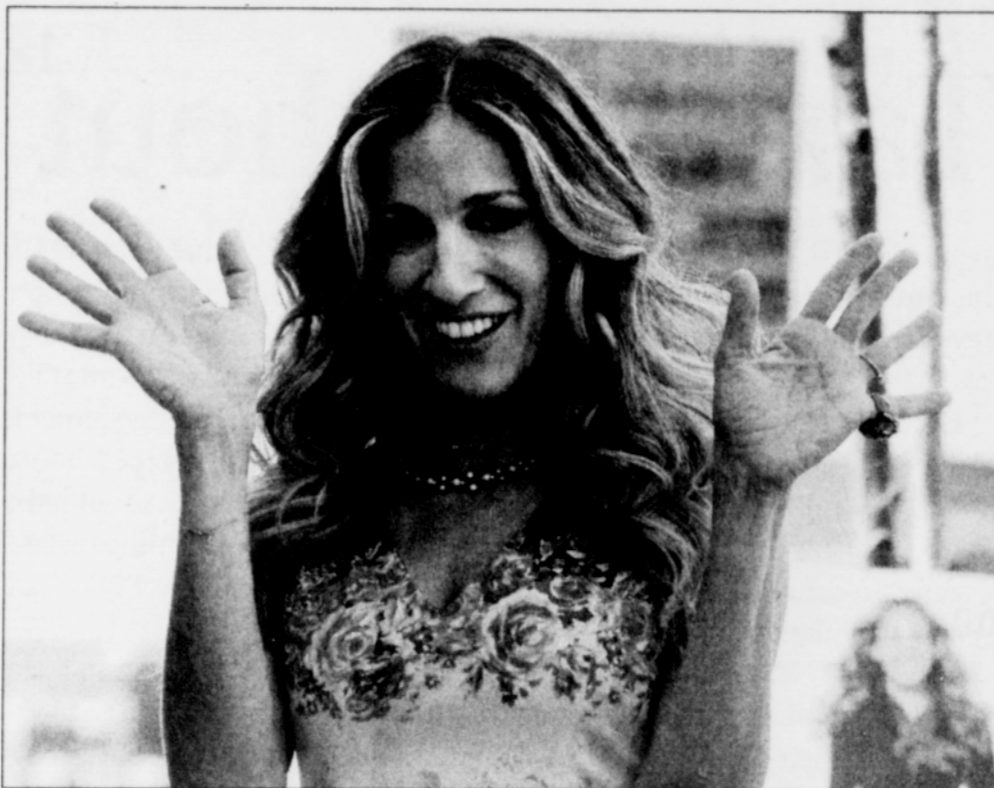
Developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Domestic Policy Council, the new public-private partnership is designed to narrow the achievement gap and improve student engagement

through the arts at low performing schools.

"The President's Committee is delighted King School, under the inspired leadership of their principal Kim Patterson will be participating in Turnaround Arts," said Margo Lion, co-chair of the committee.

"Ms. Patterson and her team have an exciting new vision for their school, a vision that acknowledges the vital role of the creative arts — art, music and movement — in building a school culture of engaged learning and academic success," Patterson said.

Research shows that when students participate in the arts they are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, have higher GPAs and SAT scores



Actress Sarah Jessica Parker has pledged to help arts education at King Elementary School in northeast Portland as part of an initiative by President Obama to turn around low-performing schools.

and show significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12. They are also more likely to be engaged and cooperative with

teachers and peers and are more self-confident and better able to express their ideas. These benefits are particularly pronounced in high-

poverty, low-performing schools, officials said.

The President's Committee and its partners will provide training and resources to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the other participating schools, including an Aspen Institute summer leadership program, in-school professional development, partnerships with community arts education and cultural organizations, art supplies and musical instruments and community engagement events.

"Working with King School over the next two years will be an amazing honor," said Parker. "I have seen the power of the arts transform the lives of students and I'm excited to help create an engaging, inspiring place for King children to learn. I look forward to helping Principal Patterson build momentum and create a well rounded arts environment, an essential component of a complete education for every child."

## No Reprieve for Tubman, Humboldt

### School board votes to close low enrollment schools

The Portland School Board affirmed Monday the closure of two north Portland Public Schools for the upcoming school year.

The board voted 6-1 to close Humboldt and transfer its students into Boise-Eliot School, and voted 5-2 to close Harriet Tubman Young Women's Leadership Academy.

The closures were recommended by Superintendent Carole Smith because of low enrollment, and proposed as a way to address a \$27.5 million funding gap after reductions in state and federal funding and lower-than-expected local property tax revenue.

Smith also proposed to fill the gap with \$9.5 million in cuts to cen-

tral academic and operational supports; the use of \$7.2 million in reserves, and \$10.4 million in school staffing reductions, which translates to 110 teaching positions.

"We've heard state legislators tell us that they provided stable funding for education, but not adequate funding," said Board member Greg Belisle, who expressed concerns over the speed of the process affecting both schools this year.

Although he supported the decision to close Tubman and consolidate Humboldt, he said PPS wouldn't be talking about the closures if there were better answers to the bigger question of statewide school funding.

Board member Matt Morton voted against the resolution. "We have had a number of people come forward to offer support," he said. "We should allow time to explore whether these partnerships can help."

Tubman students now must make

the decision of where they will continue their education. The young woman will have the option to continue at the Jefferson Middle College for Advanced Studies or attend the community comprehensive high school in their neighborhood attendance area. Middle school students at Tubman would attend their neighborhood K-8 or middle school.

School district staff are working with families to explore transfer options, and the school board said yes to an amendment to also allow the Tubman middle grade students to attend a school together as a cohort.

Humboldt students will attend Boise-Eliot school for 2012-13.

The school district said it plans to continue to hunt for solutions for over- and under-enrolled schools in the city, including the Jefferson cluster next fall, when a long-term proposal for the Humboldt and Tubman buildings will also be developed.

## Drive for Safe Medicine Disposal

To protect both families and the environment, a medicine disposal event will be held for residents of Vancouver and Clark County.

Prescription drugs no longer needed and left in homes increase the risk of dangerous and inappropriate uses. Proper drug disposal also is an environmental issue, and unused medications should not be flushed down the toilet or dumped down the drain.

All unwanted medications (controlled and non-controlled) will be accepted at the collection event, held Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Clark College's Purple Parking Lot #1 (by the soccer field), 1900 Fort Vancouver Way.

During last year's drug turn-in events, more than 380 people brought in almost 700 pounds of unwanted medications for disposal by the Clark County

Sheriff's Office, and more than 200 pounds of paper, cardboard, glass and plastic containers were collected and recycled.

This year's medicine turn-in is sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Clark County Department of Environmental Services, in partnership with PREVENT! The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Clark County and Clark College.

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