

No Longer Neglected

continued ▲ from front

Patterson has made it a priority to keep programs she thinks will improve student's achievement academically."

According to Dugas, the only schools that qualify for the federal grant were ones considered to be in the bottom five percent in the country, but she said King has made great strides in the past year, which simply can't remain unnoticed.

As part of the program, Turn-around and its partners will provide training and resources to King school including professional development, partnerships with community arts education and cultural organizations, additional art supplies and musical instruments and community engagement events.

Although most people don't correlate academic improvement with art, Dugas said it is really does help a child succeed in school, whether as an outlet emotionally or because they are using both sides of their brains to see things through two perspectives.

In the 1980s, King was renowned for a choir, which often



King School parents Heather Dugas, Galen Swain, Julie Davis and Trace Salmon have worked hard the past several weeks to prepare for the school's first annual "I Have A Dream" auction event, which will be held on Friday, May 4, at the North Star Ballroom.



King students Carman Sophia Sparks-Dugas and Atticus Salmon are excited about the upcoming school auction, which will help provide money for increased arts programs at the northeast Portland school.

toured around the nation. "There was also an intense tumbling program," she said. "It fed so beautifully directly into Jefferson, which was at the time a magnet school.

"As a school that has been neglected by its district, its neighborhood and by its community for too long, we are thrilled to be in a

position to showcase the incredible school King is becoming," said Werstein.

On May 4, parents, staff, community partners and other friends of King School will gather at the North Star Ballroom to help bridge the current funding gap, which separates King students from much needed arts programs like

visual artists-in-residence and choral groups, and to maintain King's African Dance program.

Organized by the King School PTA, the evening will feature a "1963" theme (celebrating the year of Dr. King's landmark speech at the Lincoln Memorial) and attendees are encouraged to come dressed in their best period attire.

"I am so proud my daughter goes there and to be in this neighborhood and see some of the sparks the school used to have," Dugas said. "And the auction is our way to celebrate our success, but also at the same time to raise

money for some of the things we do lack."

She said King school was originally named Highland, until students rose up and said we want our school to be Martin Luther King School.

"This was important, and it is important to us still," she said, adding the pride she withholds in the school's name.

"It is not that it is a gang banger school, but it is founded on how peace can resolve things," she said. "We want to bring those strengths back to invigorate the community again."

Auction items of the "I Have a

Dream" event will include dinners, health and wellness packages, legal services, vacation opportunities, symphony tickets, design and architectural consultations, and many other items and services donated from local Portland businesses.

"My hope for the future is that people will have the desire and the want to have their children go to King and be involved with the school," said Dugas. "We want people from in the community to come and see what an amazing thing we can do, and have done. Celebrate with us."

Tickets available via King School PTA website at kingpta.org/tickets.

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