

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FUND

Grand Ronde students get creative spark through
Artist in Residence

Artist Paul Bennett demonstrates painting techniques to a group of Grand Ronde Elementary students at a recent workshop sponsored by the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

Where do ideas come from? What's it like to be a professional artist? What would you create on a 3-foot by 3-foot paper?

Those are the questions students at Grand Ronde Elementary recently got the chance to ask — and answer — while working with professional artist Paul Bennett, of Sisters. Bennett spent a week at the school as an Artist in Residence thanks to a grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

Bennett worked with students in kindergarten through fifth grade. He talked with students about how he gets his ideas and how he uses art to express himself. In the meantime, school children got the chance to create along side him. Their big paintings were displayed in the gym for the school's year-ending awards ceremony.

"This has been such a positive experience for the kids," said Amy Egli, a first and second grade teacher at Grand Ronde Elementary and chair of the school's Arts for Learning team. "Children learn how to express themselves. Everyone can be successful in art. Students' self-confidence goes way up."

Bennett is the second artist who has come to spend time with Grand Ronde students as the result of the Community Fund grant. Sally Strom, from Newport, spent a week earlier in the school year teaching oil pastels and acrylic painting. Strom also worked with teachers to help them with their art curriculum.

Next fall, artist Shannon Rey, of Sheridan, will work with children to cre-



ate a moveable mural for the school.

The Community Fund grant also supplied money to buy materials for a puppet making workshop that Terisha Walls, the schools' music teacher, ran in February. Children in all grades made puppets, which were then worked into the spring musical concert.

"We believe education is the key in turning things around for kids," said Ed Pearsall, Tribal Council Secretary and a trustee of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. "This grant allows the school to offer exciting learning opportunities. We're happy to be a part of that."

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde also have helped the school enhance its math and reading programs through the \$33,208 Community Fund grant awarded to the school this year, and an earlier grant for \$17,232. The grants also allowed the school to hire an additional instructional aide.

"The arts offer a wonderful experience for children," Egli said. "It helps them grow as learners and find success."

Grand Ronde students get artistic during a classroom session with Artist in Residence Paul Bennett. Student art was displayed in the school gymnasium for all to see.

Photos by Justin Phillips

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FUND:
for more information and application forms
log on to www.thecommunityfund.com

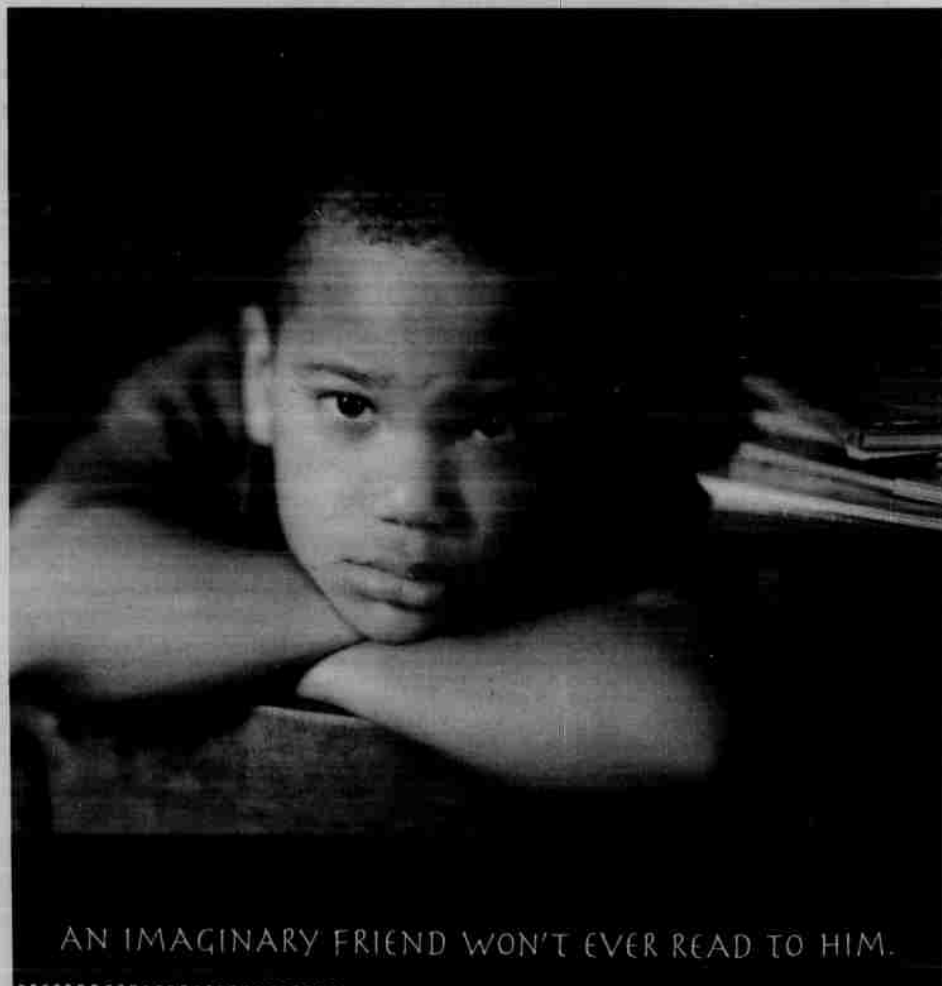
New records set for "Down by the Riverside"



Volunteers from all over the state participated in the largest *Down By The Riverside* ever! The May 20th event took place at 86 public areas and riverside locations. Approximately 2,700 volunteers collected 136 tons of litter and debris and also completed the following list of achievements.

- Cleaned up 104,530 pounds of man-made litter and debris.
- Removed 169,075 pounds of natural debris from wetland and natural areas.
- Removed close to 7,500 pounds of illegally dumped tires.
- Planted over 750 trees, shrubs, and native plants in parks and natural areas.
- Volunteers leveraged \$198,341 worth of services to the State of Oregon.

For more information on Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV), call 503-844-9571 or 800-322-3326 or visit www.solv.org



AN IMAGINARY FRIEND WON'T EVER READ TO HIM.

The purchase of books and expansion of the SMART reading program in a partnership with the Blazers is just one example of how Oregon benefits from the Grand Ronde Tribes and Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The Community Fund gives 6% of profits from Spirit Mountain Casino to local schools, health care, environmental protection, and other worthy programs. Since its 1997 inception, thousands of Oregonians have shared in the benefits of the Community Fund, proving that the spirit of giving something back is alive and well at Spirit Mountain.



www.thecommunityfund.com