

Governing Board Expansion

by Katharine Biele

The Salt Lake Arts Academy's Board of Governors is expanding with a greater understanding and appreciation of its role for the charter school. SLArts has sought to engage a dynamic mix of parent and community members with a goal of creating community partnerships.

SLArts was authorized by the State Board of Education in May 2002. While the school must follow the core curriculum and other laws affecting public schools, our charter status puts governance in the hands of a board.

The board must manage the property, business, and affairs of the corporation, and so is responsible for the hiring and retention of the school principal, and all matters relating to the \$1.5 million budget.

All meetings are open, and minutes are available to the public on the SLArts website. Membership is now at 13, with the principal as a non-voting member.

Members are:

Rachel Hancock, Board President

Diane Hill, Parent Member, Past President

Catherine Cargill, Vice President

Sarah Scott, Treasurer

Katharine Biele, Community Member

Karen McLeese, Community Member

Claire Turner, Community Member

Katy Andrews, Parent Member

Yvonne Jenkin, Parent Member

Jeff Scott, Parent Member

We would like to welcome our three new members:

Sol Garcia, Parent Member:

Sol is the Director of Human Resources for the Diocese of SLC. Before that she spent five years as the Director of HR for the Salt Lake Community Action Program, which runs Head Start programs. She has a masters in Organization Development and an undergrad in Political Science. She is a member of a number of local and national professional organizations. She also serves on the Board of Kearns St. Ann Catholic School. She is originally from Puerto Rico but has lived on and off in Utah since '84. She considers herself a "Utahn." She is the mother of two beautiful boys: Diego 12, who attends SLArts, and Esteban 9. She loves nature, hiking, and camping.

Jim Harris, Parent Member:

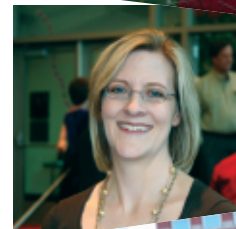
Jim, his wife Catherine Cargill, and their two daughters have lived in Chicago, West Virginia, Montana, and Oregon before settling in Salt Lake City 7 years ago. He has a BA in English and Writing from the University Illinois at Chicago and a MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana. He currently works for the Division of Water Quality as an environmental scientist, specializing in water quality assessment and watershed planning. Jim's daughters Esme and Miriam both attend the Academy.

Deeda Seed, Community Member:

Deeda is a community activist and organizer. She served for four years on the Salt Lake City Council and worked in a variety of administrative positions within city hall. Currently she is the development manager for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. She has two children: Noah, age 15, who is a SLArts graduate, and Joe, age 4.



Gala Fun!



Heading Into the Final Stretch...

A word from the principal, Amy Wadsworth

Although the Gala production unquestionably represents a high point in our year, we have an important last quarter ahead of us. This is the time of year when we lay the groundwork for our '07-08 school year. It is a time that we look both backwards at what we have accomplished as well as forward to setting goals and measuring our year's outcomes.

April marks our 1-year anniversary of being in our great building! It seems like a distant bad dream—that exhausting Spring Break '06 when we packed up one last time and settled into a real home that includes well-lit classrooms and a genuine dance studio.

We have completed the plans for a new playground that will include a playing field, basketball, tree-shaded patio, and game space. We begin our fundraising campaign this spring with a plan to have it completed by this coming fall!

Stay tuned for more details about this wonderful addition to our school home.

We have experienced an academically stimulating year. Our students have continued to outperform students across the state and the nation on standardized tests. They have earned a reputation for excellence in mathematics and science. (See the article in this newsletter about our Math Counts winning team.) Recently, we were identified by the Sutherland Institute as the #3 public middle school in Utah.

Next year, we are anticipating an expansion of our Science program that will include a Science Project fair,

participation in the Teton Science School, and creating a full year of science in the 7th grade.

We have reached out to our family community across the year with our village meetings. You have had the opportunity to meet in smaller groups to learn about our curriculum and meet the faculty. Our goal was to create a more intimate community for our families as well as for our students.

Our final family village meetings will be held on April 19 for the 5th/6th grade parents and on the 26 for the 7th/8th grade parents. This final village meeting is your opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback about the school. We want to know what has been working and what could make our school better. I hope that you will take the time to come to one of these. Both meetings will be at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Our students—all of them—were the stars of an incredible performance at the Rose Wagner Theatre. More important than the product, however, was the process that they all experienced. Through their arts and humanities classes, they experienced what it is like to imagine, develop, and produce an idea. And while in the creation process, they also discovered the value of being together.

We have identified our theme for next year: "Finding Home" and are already laying the blueprints for our Gala that will be performed once again at the Rose Wagner Theatre next May.

SLArts 4th Annual Gala Breaks Barriers

by Katy Andrews

The 4th Annual Salt Lake Arts Academy Gala, held March 15 and 16 at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center was a fabulous showcase for our talented students, faculty and volunteers! Our brilliant arts teachers, Chris Lee, Judson Armstrong and Elizabeth Wilson once again brought out the best in our students—resulting in an entertaining and moving production. More than 1,000 people attended our three shows, including 350 at our Grand Finale fundraising evening. We provided 300 complimentary tickets to our families to ensure that all parents could see the show. This year's net profit to SLArts is \$24,908.08.

Many, many generous donors and volunteers made this wonderful event possible. MaryBeth Clark led the Gala Planning committee, with help from

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Up Close at the 2007 Gala

by Fiona Kuzmack

Normally, whenever I think of the word "fundraiser," I think of the word "competition" in which every "competitor" is fighting to sell the most and or get the prize. But at the Salt Lake Arts Academy, the fundraiser is the annual Gala in which the students get to perform, create, and work together. It's a fun and artistic way to earn money as well as a valuable lesson for the students in working with the different arts. This year the 4th annual Gala took place with the theme "pushing past barriers," and the performance took place in the time of the renaissance and reformation.

Being in the performance, I thought it was an invigorating experience. It was exciting to be backstage and thrilling to



be on stage, to be the center of attention. It was especially enjoyable to feel as though you were actually a renaissance priest or artist or monarch or even a common peasant for the few minutes you were on stage.

Since the students both wrote the outline for the script and the music, it was entertaining to see what had been composed. One of my personal favorites was the puppets used to represent a negative force of "barriers," following the theme.

Another artistic touch which made this particular Gala incredible was the triptychs made by each individual class. Each piece has the theme "pushing past barriers" (what a



surprise). The triptychs without a doubt played an important role in the Gala because they show what creative ideas the students have and that they can make ideas become a beautiful reality. The many different styles of art including tile mosaic, stained glass, paint collage, and other wonderful arts made them easily desirable.

Although this is my first year at SLArts and I don't know much about the previous Galas, I know enough about the school to know how stupendous it and it's curriculum is. It is a school that teaches the students to not be afraid of revealing their talents may they be math, literature, science, or art, and to let them step up to tell the world they have it. Three cheers for SLArts!!!

Gala Results...continued from page 1

Stacey Jo McLean, Tina Faust, Mary Troxell, Marnie Leary, Catherine Cargill, Nan Jorgensen, Marnie Leary, Heidi Ingham and Katy Andrews. The ten Triptychs created by our students with the help of volunteer artists were a big hit, and extraordinarily beautiful. A big thank you to the volunteers and students who created these unique art pieces. Mary Jo McMillen and Liz McLane helped organized the wonderful in-kind donations from family and friends and local businesses into fabulous gift baskets and mystery boxes. More than 50 parents volunteered in one capacity or another, from selling opportunity drawing tickets, to putting on make-up backstage. Our generous sponsors allowed us to start our week at Rose Wagner with all expenses covered, so that the proceeds from ticket sales, opportunity drawings and mystery boxes went straight to the bottom line. We received news coverage of the Gala from the Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret News and Channel 13-Fox.

The Gala committee will be sending an evaluation form to each family, and would very much welcome your input on plans for next year's event. Even better, if you would like to volunteer to be on the planning committee, contact Daphne Williams at 531-1173. Mark your calendars now for next year's Gala, set for May 1 and 2 at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center.

The unique education our children enjoy at SLArts is truly made possible by supportive families and community members. Thank you for all that you contribute to our school!



Math Does Count!

by Sarah Sanberg

Three cheers for our four mathletes, Brady Bowen, Kate Coursey, Eliza Hale, and Helena Tremblay who took 3rd place in the State Math Counts Competition! The competition is a combination of individual test taking and team problem solving, emphasizing speed and accuracy.

Saturday March 24 was the state final for Math Counts. Last February, SLArts sent 8 students to compete at the region level. Joining the team at region were four individual competitors: Izzy Wasburn, David Harrison, Kayla Cone-Uemura (gr 6) and Holland Bosarge. Our team came in 5th place, barely qualifying to go to state. (The top 4 teams from each region are invited to state, and then 5th place teams are invited in order of performance as space permits.) So we were especially pleased with our fabulous performance at state.

The state awarded trophies to the top 10 individuals and the top four teams. It's worth mentioning that the only females who received trophies at this event were SLArts students. Other team trophies went to West, 1st place, American Fork Jr., 2nd place, and Midvale Middle, 4th place.

"I hate giving up a Saturday, and the T-shirts are ugly, but other than that it's fun" said Eliza. Brady enjoyed the pizza for lunch. Helena noted the pointy shape of the trophy and pondered its use as a weapon. Kate liked it when the West team stood up to accept their trophy and their t-shirts, which are designed to spell out W-E-S-T when they sit in formation, instead read W-E-T-S.

Our school has been well represented at math competitions this Spring. March 20th was the Utah State Math Competition. This is a more traditional test-only event held at the University of Utah. SLArts sent an 8th grade and a 7th grade team. Brady Bowen, Kate Coursey, Eliza Hale, David Harrison, and Izzy Washburn composed the 8th grade team. Holland Bosarge, Bryson Christensen, Sarah Clark, Sierra Gentry, and Lya Yang represented the 7th grade.

Schools in more rural areas have not sent in their scores, so we don't know the results yet. SLArts competitors for all events were picked based on an in-school Math Counts-type competition last January.

Looking Ahead

APRIL

- 9 - 13 Spring Break
- 16 Governing Board Meeting 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Registration materials for '08 school year are mailed home
- 19 Shadow Day for new students 8:45-11:30
5/6 Parent Village Meeting 5:30
- 24 Friends of the Arts Academy planning meeting 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Mid-term
- 26 8th grade girls leadership day
7/8 Parent Village Meeting 5:30

MAY

- 3 Registration for new students 8:00-1:00
- 4 "Art a la Carte" 9:00-12:00
- 9 "Les Miserables" at PTC for 100 lucky students!
- 11 Spring Salon 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 14 - 24 CRT - testing weeks
- 25 - 28 Memorial Weekend
- 30 8th Grade Project Night

JUNE

- 1 Lagoon Day for 7th/8th graders
- 4 End of Year Celebration for 5th/6th graders
Rehearsal/luncheon for 8th graders
7th grade leadership day
Short Day-Students are released at 12:40
- 5 Short Day - Students are released at 12:40
8th grade promotion at the Main Library Auditorium 1:30 p.m.
(8th graders do not attend school in the morning)
- 6 Last day of school - Yearbook (a real one!)
Day Students are released at 12:40

8th Grade Graduation by Wanda Gayle

Math whiz, drummer, singer, songwriter, dancer, pianist, classical guitarist, visual artist, athlete, actor. These may sound like grownups with cool jobs but they are actually just some of the amazing eighth graders at SLArts this year.

These young people and their talented classmates will graduate on Tuesday, June 5 at 1:30 in the auditorium at the Main City Library.

Some of this year's class started SLArts in the sixth or seventh grade and some even came just this year. But seventeen of this year's graduating class have been at SLArts ever since the fifth grade. They are the first students to complete all four years at the arts academy, which was founded in **2003 with just 100 students.**