

SEP 16 2009

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'Loud and Clear' gives students poise in public speaking

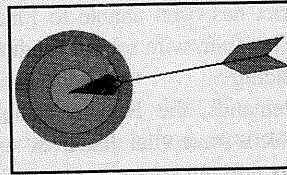
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In today's economy, effective communication and collaboration are key workplace skills. No worker is an island, and nearly every job entails communicating with others, presenting ideas persuasively, and thinking and speaking clearly.

The Sherwood Education Foundation (SEF) is pleased to help Sherwood students learn all these skills and more by sponsoring Loud and Clear, a public speaking program offered by the Oregon Children's Theatre that helps students achieve state benchmark standards in public speaking. Loud and

Clear trains teachers to coach students on oral reports and presentations and also provides a workshop for students, given by professional actors.

"We've had Loud and Clear in our classrooms for the last three years," says Susan Zumberis, Fourth Grade Teacher at Archer Glen Elementary School. "Every year, it was something the kids looked forward to; the coaches were professional, entertaining, and knew how to manage the class. The students had fun but also learned legitimate speaking skills. I clearly saw the carry-over of these skills to their



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Sherwood Education Foundation Corner

speeches in class. They were confident, clear, and had a much better sense of their audience. Without the support of SEF, I doubt we could offer this valuable program to the kids, especially this year. There's just

not a lot of extra money floating around."

Emily Conrad, Fourth Grade Teacher at Middleton Elementary, concurs. "We've had Loud and Clear at Middleton for the last four or five years, and it has been incredibly positive," she says. "The actors that teach the class draw in even the most reluctant public speakers to participate by providing engaging, fun activities. They have students give mini-speeches about their favorite foods or sports, something that the students are eager to share. The skills that the students learn stick with them. As

speaking assignments come up later in the year, students quickly recall the skills that they learned from Loud and Clear. Without SEF support, we would not be able to offer this valuable program to our students."

"Loud and Clear provides all students with useful speaking skills," adds Allison Bassich, Fourth Grade Teacher at Hopkins Elementary. "Children come away with an understanding the delivering a speech includes body language, gestures, and appropriate expression. It's a very valuable experience for the fourth graders."

The Sherwood Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the quality of education in the Sherwood School District. The Foundation raises money from local residents, businesses, and other sources and uses it to support key district-wide initiatives and teacher grants. To date, the Foundation has distributed more than \$500,000 to Sherwood teachers. To learn more about the Sherwood Education Foundation, or to make a donation, call (503) 825-5090 or write to P.O. Box 1514, Sherwood, OR 97140.