



Winter Newsletter 2018

## HoptemberFEST Success!

### *Growler Pull, Dessert Dash, and Auction Fun!*

The 2018 HoptemberFEST at Springcreek Homestead on September 20th was another successful event. The sun was shining, the beer and wine were pouring, and bidders were bidding.

With the support of Co-Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer, Dr. Hamilton Licht and Christina Carlson, the evening raised over \$25,000 for the Yakima Schools Foundation. The guest speaker for the evening, Omar Santoy, touched the hearts of the attendees when he spoke about the impact the Yakima Schools Foundation is making on the neediest students in the District.

This year two new activities were added: the Dessert Dash and Growler Pull. Guests bid in table groups and then bids were tabulated. The highest bidding table got first choice of a scrumptious dessert. They had to act fast because table two, three, and four were right behind them, jogging through the packed tent to get to the dessert table! Guests also had the opportunity to test their ring tossing skills at the Growler Pull table. With a table full of growlers, each participant threw rings and whichever growler their ring landed on, they got the growler and a certificate for a growler fill at various local breweries.

Thank you do all the donors, teacher volunteers, Classic Events Catering, Springcreek Homestead, and all the other helpers that made this event successful.



## Upcoming Events

### *"Tip Cup Masterpiece" Family Paint Afternoon*

Saturday, 12/1, 12:30pm -2pm

### *Yakima Lighted Christmas Parade*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00pm- 7:00pm

### *"Muffins with a Medium"*

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ Northtown Coffee

Tickets available on our website.

### *Celebrate Our Youth*

Spring 2019 - Date TBD

Thank you to Molina Healthcare who partnered with the Yakima Schools Foundation to donate school supplies to Martin Luther King Jr., Elementary School. The school was gifted paper, crayons, glue, scissors and other school supplies critical for student success.

What a great way to start the school year!



# Welcome to Our New Executive Director

## *A Happy Homecoming for Nicole St. Mary-Franson*

The Yakima Schools Foundation would like to welcome Nicole St. Mary-Franson as the new Executive Director for the organization. Nicole started the position in early August and is already hard at work making connections with the community and building partnerships with area businesses.

Nicole and her family have relocated to the Yakima Valley from the Seattle/Olympia area, and they are thrilled to be back in the sunny weather, closer to family and friends, and working in the community in which Nicole grew up. Originally from Harrah, Washington, Nicole was raised on a hop farm but attended school in Yakima. After graduation, she went on to attend Seattle University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English/Creative Writing. After working in the corporate world for a few years, Nicole returned back to school and received her Masters in Teaching from Heritage University through their satellite campus in Seattle. After teaching for four years, Nicole then received her Principal Credentials from Seattle Pacific University.



Having served as an elementary school principal for the past several years in the private sector, Nicole is looking forward to bringing her fundraising expertise and educational leadership skills to the Foundation. She is excited to collaborate with the Yakima Schools Foundation Board of Directors, the Yakima School District, and local schools to fund more teacher projects and initiatives to increase student learning. Nicole believes that the Yakima Valley is full of rich resources within the local business community, and she hopes to continue to cultivate these resources and direct them into support for teacher projects that serve the diverse needs of the students in our schools.

Nicole's passion for education and expertise in organizational advancement will serve her well as the Executive Director of the Yakima Schools Foundation. If you have any comments or questions, she can be reached at [Director@YakimaSchoolsFoundation.org](mailto:Director@YakimaSchoolsFoundation.org).

### [The Importance of Partnerships: WIAA and Panera Bread](#)

Thank you to our partners at the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association and Panera Bread in Union Gap. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Yakima Schools Foundation received 20% of the money brought in from meals purchased between 4pm-8pm. Another "thank you" to the WIAA for a discounted advertising spot in the 2B State Championship program to advertise our event to their visitors and doing public addresses promoting the fundraiser during the State Championship Games that day.

We appreciate the support of WIAA, Panera, and our other community supporters.

***"Muffins with a Medium"***  
*On Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>  
spend a morning with Physic  
Medium Melissa Henyan at  
Northtown Coffee.*

*Tickets can be purchased at our  
website:*

[YakimaSchoolsFoundation.org](http://YakimaSchoolsFoundation.org)

## Year- End Gifting Opportunity

Help us make an impact!

You are invited to join in the mission of the Yakima Schools Foundation through a year-end donation. In this newsletter you will find an envelope contribute to the Yakima Schools Foundation. Simply complete the information on the envelope, include a stamp, and put it into the mail. All donations received before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 will be tax deductible for the 2018 calendar year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Remember, you can donate year-round on our website at: [YakimaSchoolsFoundation.org](http://YakimaSchoolsFoundation.org)

# Grants at a Glance

## 2017-2018



During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Yakima Schools Foundation awarded over \$28,000 in grants for projects and initiatives in the Yakima Schools District.

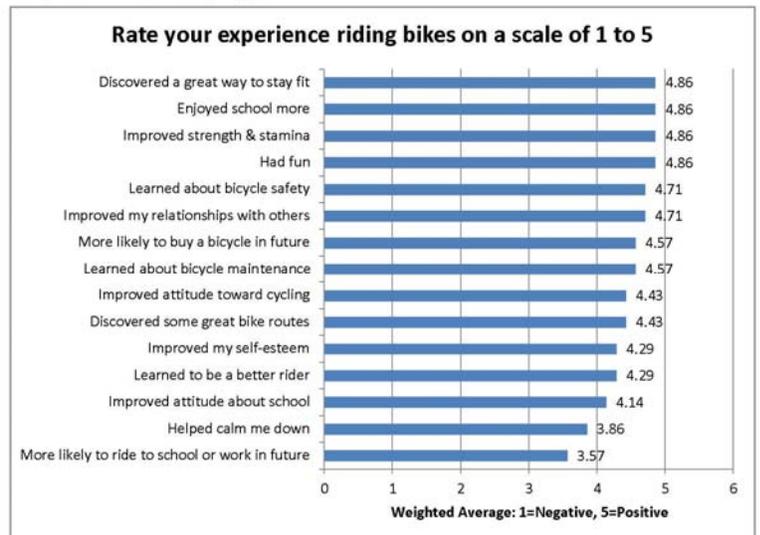
This years projects included funding for field trips to The Velveteen Rabbit, the Pacific Science Center, the Seattle Aquarium, Thompson Farms, and *Shrek, the Musical*. Other projects include funding Native Pride Dancers at McKinley Elementary and World Music Drumming at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary.

Our areas of funding included: Academic Achievement, Competitions, Field Trips, K-5 Art Leadership Literacy Math Performing Arts Physical Education Science Special Education, and Speech/Debate.

The Yakima Schools Foundation continues to strive to fully fund all the grant requests that we receive, however, we have been unable to do so. With your continued generous support, we hope to be able to fund more projects in the coming years.

### Grant Highlight: Bikes for Stanton

Educator Mike Stone from Stanton High School wrote a grant to YSF to fund a bike program aimed to provide a way to address student chronic misbehavior or absenteeism without resorting to punishment such as automatic withdrawal, suspension, behavior contracts, and detention. Instead of punishing students, the staff re-engages them by taking them on guided bike rides on the Yakima Greenway to exercise, de-stress, re-focus, be challenged, build relationships, and build confidence. By re-engaging them in this positive activity, students will, over time, grow to the point where, developmentally, they begin to make better choices about their conduct and future. Mike commented, "These kids don't need to be punished; they need exercise and to be re-engaged. They need a chance to develop positive relationships with classmates and adults. They need to play. They need to be challenged." The program is helping do all those things! Check out the graph from a student survey given in May 2018.



## Sunfair Parade 2018

The Yakima Schools Foundation was well represented at the Sunfair Parade on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Joined by members of the Leadership Team from both Eisenhower and Davis High School, the group paraded down Yakima Avenue chanting cheers of unity and inclusion. The large group of student supporters handed out pencils to kids along the parade route. There was also a special appearance of Mr. Pencil, worn by Board Member Harlan Hefner. He was a hit with the kids for sure!



**Yakima Schools Foundation  
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2018-2019**

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Executive Director

Nicole St. Mary Franson

Remember to "Like" us on Facebook to hear about upcoming events and updates.



*Yakima Schools Foundation*

On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Yakima Schools Foundation partnered With Inklings Bookshop for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gayle Wingerter Book Sale.

Gayle was a beloved former bookseller and educator. Gayle was passionate about books, and about her work as a teacher. Together, over \$400 was raised for the Gayle Wingerter Literacy Fund.

