

Plano ISD Education Foundation Press Release

For Use at Will

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PACE and PISD Education Foundation Engaging Young Learners in Arts Education

(Plano, Texas) The youngest learners in the Plano Independent School District are engaged in visual and performing arts activities as a result of a generous grant that is funding the Wolf Trap program.

The Plano Arts and Cultural Endowment (PACE), in partnership with the Plano ISD Education Foundation, has donated a \$10,000 grant for the second year to support the Wolf Trap program for three- and four-year old students who attend Barron, Beaty, and Pearson Early Childhood Schools and the Head Start Program.

Wolf Trap is a program developed by the Kennedy Center and administered by Big Thought in the Dallas area. Through the generosity of PACE and the Plano ISD Education Foundation, the Wolf Trap program has provided artist teachers to these four campuses. Each artist works with a single teacher and (or they all her not sure so added his) his/her students for several weeks to incorporate visual art, music, theatre, and or dance as an enhancement of the district's curriculum.

A major focus of the Wolf Trap program is to train early childhood educators in the use of performing arts techniques and strategies that help young children learn basic literacy, social, and academic skills and concepts. The program promotes reading readiness and literacy through multi-week residencies which use drama, music and movement to teach basic skills. During the work sessions, artists and teachers partner to create, refine, and assess the effectiveness of art-based lessons.

Head Start teacher Marcia Mauch, said, "I have had the opportunity to have a Wolf Trap instructor in my classroom of four-year old students. She was an inspiration to the children and to me. I learned skills and strategies each time that continue to help me to teach cognitive skills through movement, song, and dance."

Ms. Mauch also stated, "I found great joy in the teacher's approach and that was carried on to the children. Each child was encouraged to use his or her imagination and to feel great about being creative. We can always use joy, creativity, and fun as we learn together. I appreciate the chance to have been included in this arts program."

Since established in 2000, PACE has provided more than \$260,000, mostly in grants, to organizations such as the Plano Courtyard Theatre, Art Centre of Plano, Cultural Arts

Grant Program, Plano Civic Chorus, Plano Men of Note, Plano Symphony Orchestra, Plano Repertory Theater, The Classics, and the Plano ISD Education Foundation.

“Having an organization like PACE in our community has been a wonderful addition to the growing arts facilities and groups that we have in Plano,” said Ralph Stow, who serves as chairman of both the PACE Board and the Plano ISD Education Foundation Board.

He added, “We are delighted that PACE and Plano ISD Education Foundation are collaborating to bring this fine arts education to these very young students. The Wolf Trap program is a wonderful introduction to the fine arts and compliments the outstanding arts curriculum and teachers who work with students in the district’s elementary, middle, high school, and senior high school programs.”

Serving on the PACE Board with Mr. Stow are directors Bobby J. Baggett, Jim Boswell, Alan L. Bratton, Russ Coolik, Charles P. Miller, James Muns, Linda Paulk, and Robbie Robinson.

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ADD BOILER PLATE ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

I would say plate about PACE too but not sure if they have one

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization with the mission to generate private support for priority projects identified by Plano ISD not funded by tax dollars. The Foundation provides grants to educators, programs that support academic enrichment to Plano ISD students, emergency assistance for teachers and staff members in crisis, as well as programs aimed at recruiting and retaining quality teachers