

Arts Educator: Stephanie Galloway

I am writing to nominate Stephanie Galloway to receive the Arts Educator award for 2011. To say that Stephanie teaches music and dance at Pine Forest Charter School is a gross underestimation of the caring guidance and performance excellence she brings to the school community. As a mother of a budding French horn player, I know firsthand her ability to entice, encourage, mentor and promote music using her infectious love of its many different styles.

The students at Pine Forest are incredibly fortunate to have Stephanie teach them general music, choir, beginning and intermediate concert band, jazz band, world drumming, folk dancing and recorder. In 2011 she took students to experience performances in such venues as: All State elementary choir; regional middle school choir; regional jr. high band; all state jr high choir and all state elementary band. She conducts the PFS 6-8 grade mixed choir as well as both beginning and intermediate sections of marching band. In addition, Mrs. Galloway instructs students in 5-8 grades in the art of world drumming, rhythm and movement. She collaborates with our primary and middle school teachers in teaching folk dancing, musical notation and recorder playing. Recently, she has taken PFS students to perform at Flagstaff City Hall, Heritage Square, and to local senior living homes where students have provided musical entertainment for the residents as well as instructed the seniors in music, all with Stephanie at the helm. She also took performing groups to Heritage Square, NAU music education classes, the lobby of Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra performances and she sent a quartet to regional band competition where they received a "superior" rating.

On top of her "duties" as music director for the school, Stephanie fostered true community in 2011 by involving Pine Forest families in Friday morning sing-a-longs and world drumming circles where I am a happy participant learning to harmonize with my sons. She organized for children to perform at The Peaks, directed the school talent show, arranged and played with a combo of musicians for a school folk dance, and most impressively to me, she taught the children to dance with ribbons around the maypole, creating intricate weaves that neither trap nor entangle the participants within.

In addition to her work with Pine Forest, Stephanie has been the musical director and accompanist for three shows with NAU Theater in the last year. She provided accompaniment for Broadway singers at a local school fundraiser and has trained to lead a threshold choir and participates in Flagstaff Threshold Choir. And as if her schedule isn't full enough, fitness enthusiasts in town learn dance moves in Zumba and NIA classes alongside the Yoga and Pilates classes Stephanie also teaches.

As a professional musician, Stephanie annually provided piano accompaniment for visiting movement art teachers and has organized local musicians into folk

music groups which accompany our school folk dances. She also provides leadership in the planning and implementation of school wide festivals which involve music and movement arts.

Mrs. Galloway wrote a grant last year, which was funded, for the World Drumming program. Pine Forest purchased conga drums and other percussion instruments and Mrs. Galloway continues with the instruction of our students in this World Drumming program, as well as taking this program to other local schools.

Pine Forest School would not be where it is today without Stephanie Galloway's efforts, enthusiasm and love for the arts. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share briefly my experience. It is with great admiration and a dose of humility that I suggest the Arts Educator award go to Ms. Stephanie Galloway.