

FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY



Enhancing, Enriching and Extending the Quality of Education Provided to Vista School

Renaming of the Teacher Excellence Award in Honor of Gail Neumann



Gail Neumann lived a life full of love and service. She served on the Vista Board for several years. After her time on the Vista Board, she continued her involvement with Vista School in many ways supporting students, teachers and staff. In 2017 the Vista Foundation was organized with Gail as a founding member along with Vista's Director, Sam Gibbs. Her commitment to education and educators throughout our community was an inspiration. She tenaciously sought ways to enrich and enhance opportunities for children everywhere. A focus for Gail, with regard to the Vista Foundation, was to recognize teachers who created rigorous, meaningful experiences for students on a daily basis. She proposed an award to honor these incredible educators. This award became known as the "Vista Foundation Teacher

Excellence Award". Each year the employees at Vista have the opportunity to nominate one teacher to win this \$500 award. Gail was instrumental in the selection process for the past two years as tremendously dedicated teachers were chosen as recipients.

Gail lived a passionate life, loving her family, enjoying travel, and serving her community. The Vista Foundation was very saddened to learn of her passing on April 7, 2020. During the Vista Foundation Meeting in September 2020, it was unanimously approved to rename the Vista Foundation Teacher Excellence Award to the Gail Neumann Teacher Excellence Award.

Vista School will forever be grateful for the lives Gail touched, the dedication and service she rendered so selflessly and for the many ways she helped them grow as a school!

-Kelly Geary

To make a donation to this award in honor of Gail Neumann please use this link:

<https://vista-school.square.site/product/the-gail-neumann-teacher-excellence-award-donation/118?cs=true>

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Scholarships
& Fundraisers

\$5,155.60

Total amount raised
this year due to COVID

\$25,000

Funding needed
20-21 school year

100%

of donations go to
benefiting Vista Students

Exciting Development For Vista School



Vista School is expanding! This new 100,000-square-foot expansion building, now under construction behind the current facility, will include a 510-seat theater; choral, instrumental and dance rooms; makerspace, technology and science labs; and a state-of-the-art counseling center. The Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on Saturday, January 16. Members of the school's arts programs performed for those participating at the event. They included: advanced orchestra, intermediate band and percussion and the school's song and dance performance group, Vista Rising Stars.



Technology, and History by highly qualified teachers...Vista broadens students' academic experiences by providing them with opportunities to explore elective coursework in visual and performing arts and technology." This new expansion will help to continue providing the students with a superlative academic experience while enhancing offerings in their arts and technology departments. The facility is set to be completed in summer of 2022. To view the Groundbreaking Ceremony, click here: <https://youtu.be/e2eT6IYfMCo>

The Vista School Foundation was created to raise funds to enhance, enrich, and extend the quality of education provided to Vista School students. The Foundation board allocates these funds to student scholarships, teacher excellence awards,

An Impressive Collaboration: Peter and the Wolf



This year, the Arts Department displayed their individuality all together in the production of *Peter and the Wolf*. Students of all ages were able to join in and present their talents in diverse ways, making this performance a very memorable and impressive collaboration.

Crystal Jaster, parent and Vista School Foundation board member stated, "I have been so impressed with the Peter and the Wolf performances. It shows how collaborative and what fantastic teachers we have at Vista. I'm impressed with the ballet dancers; even my 1st and 2nd grade daughter's dances were very well put together. The beautiful set painted by Mrs. Lorentzen and her art students, the simple but elegant costumes, and even the program artwork submitted by a student were well thought out. This is unique to Vista School and very impressive".

A big thanks goes out to our Arts Department for all the time and talent rendered with the successful production! The Digital Media class will be editing the video for the final production to be viewed April 16, on the Vista School website. Look for the link in the next issue!

Academics

We would like to highlight the Academic Department's Mathcounts members and coaches. They recently participated in this year's Mathcounts Chapter Invitational. Both members and coaches worked hard this year and it really paid off! Congratulations to Kennadi Warby taking 6th place and to the department for a job well done this year!



Last Day of School
May 26

Technology

This season has been filled with excitement, frustration and an incredible amount of student growth. Over 50 current and former Vista students participated in



the VEX Robotics Competition program at Vista for the 2020 - 2021 "Change Up" season. Each year teams of 4-5 students design, build, and program a competitive robot to compete in an engineering challenge that tests the students and drives them to excel. This year, our 10 VRC teams competed in three local tournaments against teams from all over the state of Utah. Nine of our ten teams were invited to State championship tournaments and two of our middle school teams qualified for the world championships. We are currently making plans to attend a special showcase tournament held at Lagoon Amusement Park in June. This season, our teams were presented 17 awards including tournament champion, judges, design, sportsmanship, and the most prestigious, excellence award.

This program is designed to engage students in STEM and build the 21st century skills they will need throughout their lives. We could not make this program available without the support of our sponsors and donors. Thank you for an amazing season!

-Jordan Bartholomew, Technology Department

The Arts

Don't miss the Performing Arts production of the musical *Disney's Frozen Jr.* - April 21-May 1 & May 6-8! This year Vista School will be showcasing the largest cast ever. The productions will be performed by 2 casts, the Middle School Cast and the Elementary School Cast. Tickets are now on sale. There will be a limited amount of tickets available. We ask that you PLEASE only view the show once so that others have the opportunity to enjoy performances in-person. Click below for tickets:

[Middle School Cast](#)

[Elementary School Cast](#)



Scholarships & Fundraising Information

It's easy to contribute to Vista School through the Vista School Foundation. You may donate once or on a monthly basis. No amount is too small! 100% of the donations go directly to benefiting Vista School students! Donations are graciously accepted in these simple ways:

-Give By Cell: **Text VISTA to 56512** to make a donation

-Donate directly at the school's website by clicking here: [Donate Now](#)

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact the Vista School Foundation at vistaschoolfoundation@gmail.com

Scholarships Awarded

The arts department was recently awarded three dance scholarships:

2 Students - scholarships to attend a dance masterclass

1 student - scholarship to compete at the Releve dance competition

Congratulations to these students and thank you for your donations in making this possible.

**Scholarships are awarded to all departments throughout Vista School. These include: Academic (History, Language Arts, Math, Science), Technology, & Art (Band, Dance, Strings, Theater, Visual Arts, Vocal)*

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE NEWLY NAMED GAIL NEUMANN TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARD



Dear Foundation Members,

Thank you for making the Teacher Excellence Award possible. Working with students is a great privilege and responsibility, which I take seriously. Being awarded with the Teacher

Excellence Award helped me to feel seen, appreciated, and also honored. Constantly I evaluate myself to determine what I can do better -- how I can be a more effective teacher. Being given this award helped me to pause and consider how far I have come as a teacher, instead of just focusing on where I want to be. This award is a wonderful way of honoring the hard work and dedication of teachers. It was humbling to be chosen, and it was incredible to be a part of honoring the excellent teachers who were awarded last year. Thank you for this experience.

With gratitude,
Twila Kay, Language Arts Department - *presented 2019*



The Teacher Excellence Award came at a very important time in my life. The year I received the award was one of the most difficult years I have had as a teacher to date. And truthfully, I was ready to hang up my hat. When they called my name up to receive the award, I was blown away. To be honored alongside one of my own child's favorite teachers, was a true honor. Additionally, receiving the cash award was so

exciting. I was able to put it away for an emergency. And little did I know, one was right around the corner. It turned out to be a fun emergency as I was able to (at the drop of a hat) visit my sister who was living back east to help her out during COVID and the spend much needed time together-just me and my sister. It was magical. I will be forever grateful to the foundation for taking great care and concern for our well being. I felt special and loved and appreciated. I will never forget the important part Gayle Newman played in making sure that I had custom made m&m's and a beautiful certificate and flowers. Little did I know that would be the last time I was able to see her. I know our Foundation truly cares about our teachers, staff and students and their love radiates through this wonderful award. Thank you.

Kalynn Snow, Math Department - *presented 2019*

APRIL
13



Foundation Board
Meeting

We are looking for new members! If you would like to join the Vista School Foundation board, please contact Dana McConnell at vistaschoolfoundation@gmail.com

Join!