

Support Wind & Oar

## January 2017 Newsletter

### 2017: A Great Start!

- Heading into the new year we THANK YOU: Friends & Supporters
- Merlo Station High School (Beaverton): 4th year and 5th boat
- George Middle School (Portland) Making Progress on 3D Relief Map
- Two Bevin's skiff projects begin in February

#### Partner Highlight: Merlo Station High

The 2017 school year marks our fourth year working with Beaverton’s Merlo Station High School. Learning of [Wind & Oar’s](#) focus on project based STEAM education through a local news article and conversation with a colleague, Principal MaryJean Katz saw a good match for Merlo’s curriculum. Noting Wind & Oar’s ability to bring in knowledgeable teachers and woodworkers who share an overarching interest in STEAM, Katz initiated the first project with Wind & Oar in the spring of 2014.

Photo of Kate Blazer, Social Worker, Matt Harmon, School Psychologist, and MaryJean Katz, Principle, all of Merlo Station High School, Beaverton, OR.

Hot chocolate day! L to R, Social Worker Kate Blazer, Psychologist Matt Harmon, and School Principal MaryJean Katz.

Over time, Principal Katz found space in the Merlo building that offered a classroom, and workshop space, (the school’s loading dock).

“Boat Geometry” takes place over two periods each school day and student’s earn math and applied arts credits toward graduation. Thus far, four beautiful boats have been completed and construction began on the fifth boat, a Herreshoff Columbia Dinghy, in November. This will be the second 7 month project in which students use traditional wooden boat building skills.

Principal Katz notes it is remarkable to see students respond to this hands-on educational opportunity. Students frequently discover interests, abilities - and enthusiasm that had been untapped until this educational experience.

For the future, Principal Katz envisions a stronger connection between Merlo Station programs, including the work with Wind & Oar, with post-high-school educational institutions, providing educational continuity for student success in college and careers.

Wind & Oar looks forward to many more years of this partnership. Our collaboration has set the stage for Wind & Oar to replicate the success with other schools and youth-serving organizations in the Portland Metro area.

#### Merlo Station High School: 5th Boat Project Started

Students at Merlo Station High School in Beaverton started their 5th project in four years! This seven-month project is building the Herreshoff Columbia Dinghy, a classic lapstrake design from the early 1900s. Beginning in late November, the class is now well along in drawing the lines of the boat - a process called lofting - to a full-scale 2D plan for the boat.

In addition, they are becoming familiar with various tools needed to make those all-important first moves in actually building the boat.

It's learning by doing. Stay tuned for more updates. And, don't forget, measure twice (sometimes more!) and cut once!

"Lofting" or drawing lines of the full-scale Herreshoff Columbia Dinghy.

While one group does lofting, another gets familiar with tools.

#### George Middle School Progress on 3D Relief Map

It's been a busy first semester for the 54 sixth-grade students enrolled in *Intro to STEAM*, at George Middle School in Portland. The students are learning the the geography of their neighborhood, as they construct the first half of a scale model 3D relief map of St John’s. The second half will be completed by the spring semester classes.

After planning, you build! One section of the St. John’s neighborhood 3D relief map under construction.

Geography skills are STEAM skills: applying math, science, technology, engineering and art to understanding and communicating the importance of place. Here students are gaining context for the place they call home, Portland's northernmost neighborhood, St. John's.

Funded through a generous Gray Family Foundation geography grant and a PGE Foundaton STEM grant, student learning has been enhanced through field trips and visits with community partners: the BES Water Quality Lab and Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Wind & Oar would also like to thank the folks at Knife River for allowing a stop over to view St John's from across the Willamette on Hwy 30.

Every day brings new skills, discoveries, and smiles. We'll keep you posted on their progress! Follow us on FB, Instagram, Twitter and our website.

Collecting and analyzing elevation data.

#### Upcoming Projects

Two more Bevin's skiff projects begin in February: the first, with our longtime partner in Hillsboro, Farmington View Elementary. This will be our 4th project with the school's entire 5th grade class, which was first sponsored by the Old Bofie Foundation and is now funded through the school!Ns amazing PTA. Younger siblings look forward to the chance to build the project, an integrated exploration of the Tualatin River watershed, boat construction, and related engineering, highlighted each year at the school's STEAM night.

George MS rowboats, built in spring and summer 2015.

And, George Middle School 7th graders begin work on a Bevin's skiff, during their science class. This is the third year of engagement with George Middle School and the 4th boat, made possible in part through a generous Metro *Nature in the Neighborhood* grant awarded to the school in the spring of 2015.

We're excited to once again work with these wonderful communities.

Wind & Oar looks forward to bringing more [STEAM](#) educational programs, classes and projects to the greater Portland Metro area. Be on the lookout for spring and summer projects and opportunities.

Learning to row in advance of launch day; Spring 2016

#### Many many thanks!

We could not do what we do without the incredible support of our board, partners and most importantly friends and donors who give so generously, providing the unique opportunity to engage and inspire young people through the art, science, and craft of building wooden boats!

Word of the Month  
"Lofting"

Wind & Oar Boat School  
"It's bigger than the boat!"

Donate Now!

Every dollar helps - and matching funds from your workplace help even more!

To learn more about our programs and impact, and how you can contribute to STEAM education for underserved youth, please go to [www.windandoar.org](http://www.windandoar.org), follow us on [FaceBook](#) & [Twitter](#)

Wind & Oar is a 501c3 Oregon nonprofit organization.

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