

Join Us For This Year's Mukilteo Schools **FOUNDATION BREAKFAST**

Submitted by: **Kathy Pickus**



The Mukilteo Schools Foundation has supported Mukilteo students and their educators for 27 years. That support currently comes in the form of grants that are provided to teachers for classroom projects and scholarships to graduating seniors. The money that funds those efforts comes primarily from the proceeds of a fundraising breakfast that is held each year on Veterans Day.

This year's breakfast will be held at Mariner High School on Monday morning, November 11, as part of the school's 50th anniversary celebration. The featured speaker will be Sandra Veal, author of *Rising Son*, who will offer a presentation that is appropriate for the Veterans Day event. Her book tells the story of a U.S. soldier's secret and heroic role in World War II. Those wanting to support education in Mukilteo schools are encouraged to attend.

Organized in 1992 using seed money from a grant provided by U.S. Hayakawa Industries, the Mukilteo Schools Foundation is dedicated to supporting enrichment, innovation, and excellence in Mukilteo schools.

Over the years, that support has come in many forms. Several years ago, for example, the foundation focused on the area of literacy and undertook an effort to provide each Mukilteo fifth-grade classroom with a library collection of age-appropriate fiction and nonfiction books aimed at both boys and girls. That effort was later expanded to classrooms in other grades and to the Mukilteo middle schools.

The foundation currently uses proceeds from the fundraising breakfast to provide Mukilteo educators with grants of up to \$500 for classroom projects that are intended to improve student



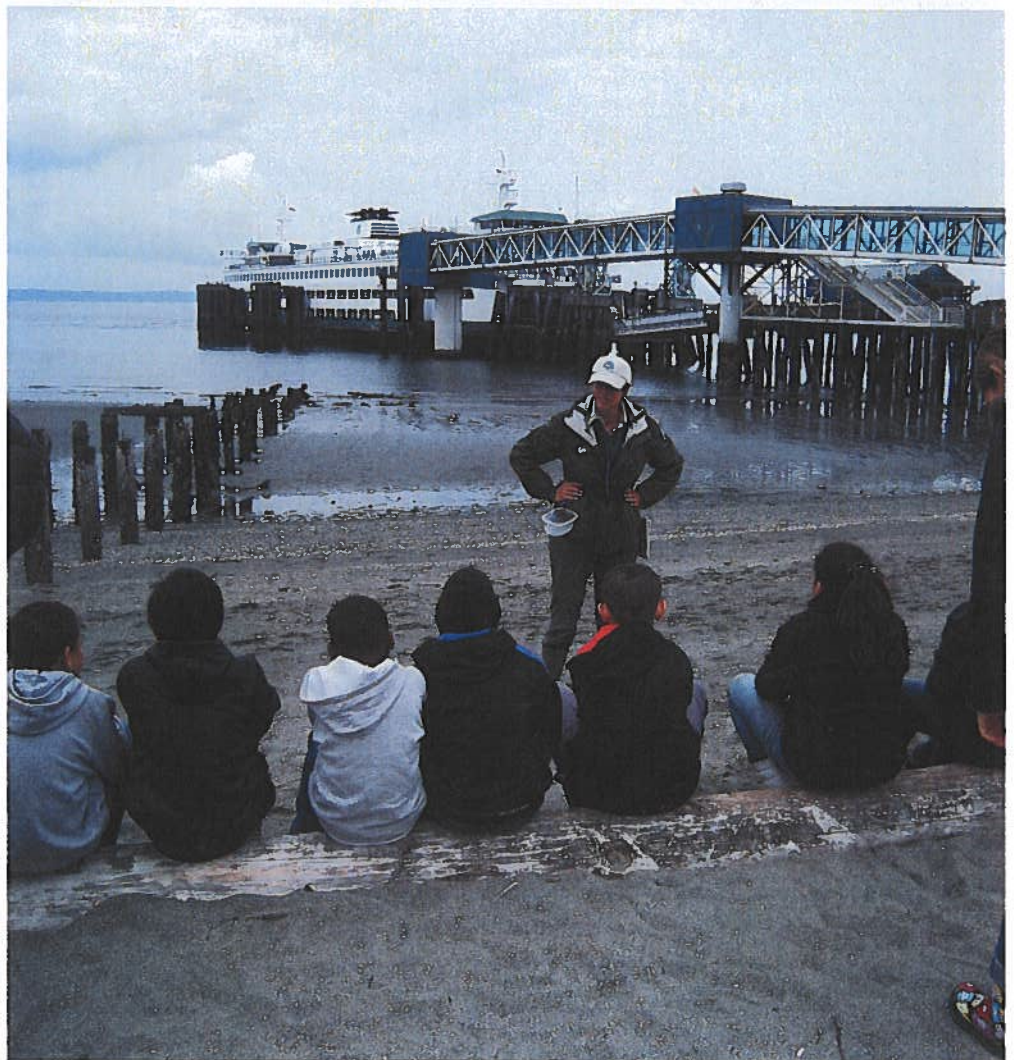
achievement. Last year, a total of \$20,000 of these grants were awarded to 46 teachers.

The classroom grants are used for a wide range of purposes. Students at Challenger Elementary were able to take a field trip to the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, thanks to those who donated to the foundation. Students at other schools also went on field trips to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, the Imagine Children's Museum in Everett, and to a concert at Benaroya Hall. The foundation also provided money so that fifth-graders at Horizon Elementary could attend IslandWood Environmental Science Camp on Bainbridge Island.

Donors at last year's foundation breakfast also provided money to help fund student attendance at Expanding Your Horizons, a program that inspires girls to explore careers in STEM fields, as well as money to help support events that encourage high school students to live drug- and alcohol-free. A foundation grant also was used to purchase chess sets for a school's chess club.

Money raised at the foundation breakfast also is used to provide scholarships. Last year, a total of over \$16,000 was awarded to 27 graduating seniors from Mukilteo high schools as a way to help them further their education.

The foundation started a tradition 14 years ago to feature a presentation by a local author during its annual fundraising breakfast. The Pacific Northwest is the home for many well-known and bestselling authors and, over the years, many of them have been featured speakers at Mukilteo Schools Foundation breakfasts.





Get tickets for the Foundation Breakfast at www.mukilteoschoolsfoundation.org.

Past speakers have included many names that readers will recognize, such as Erik Larson, the author of bestsellers such as *The Devil in the White City*, *In the Garden of Beasts*, and *Dead Wake*. Garth Stein, author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*; Nancy Horan, author of *Loving Frank*; and Robert Dugoni, author of the popular *Tracy Crosswhite* series, also have spoken at the breakfast, along with authors such as Carol Cassella, Deb Caletti, Pat Lynch, and Jane Porter.

This year's speaker comes from as close to home as an author can be. While writing *Rising Son*, Sandra Vea also is a counselor at Mariner High School.

Her book tells the incredible story of Masao Abe, a Japanese-American who was born in California, educated and trained to serve in the Imperial Japanese Army in the 1930's, was drafted into the U.S. Army only months before Pearl Harbor was attacked, and became part of the American Military Intelligence Service, where he was wounded in action while serving in the South Pacific. Masao literally was a soldier in no-man's land, who was as likely to be shot by his comrades in arms as he was by the enemy he faced, yet served his country with such distinction that he received the Medal of Honor.

You can get more information or to order tickets to the annual fundraising breakfast, visit: www.mukilteoschoolsfoundation.org. Your company also can become a sponsor and receive special recognition at the event!

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