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**RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY**

**POLICY ISSUE/SITUATION**

Tonight, the Board recognizes the following individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Beaverton School District and the community.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Volunteer Partnership Recognition – Beaverton Christian Church**

Beaverton Christian Church has built a relationship with Fir Grove Elementary School to create a very unique and supportive partnership. For the past two summers, Beaverton Christian Church members have worked hard to spruce up the school grounds in order to better the community.

Their generosity also extends into the classroom; Church members collect and donate school supplies to offset the cost to Fir Grove parents. Beaverton Christian also supports Fir Grove staff, last year they purchased three wish list items for each teacher and this year surprised the entire staff with holiday gifts.

The Beaverton Christian Church and Fir Grove Elementary School partnership is fostered through a relationship between Principal Erica Marson and Educational Pastor Scott Gassoway. For the past two years, the two leaders have met in August to discuss pivotal events that happened during the last school year and plan for the upcoming school year. The two leaders also serve on the school's Community Engagement Committee and as a team, set goals for increased community involvement.

"I look forward to this meeting every year. I truly value our partnership with BCC and look forward to many more adventures together." - Erica Marson

Thank you, to all of the many volunteers at Beaverton Christian Church for their dedication and commitment to the success of students at Fir Grove Elementary.

**Prudential Spirit of Community Award Top Middle Level youth volunteer – Cody Grater**

Cody Grater, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Meadow Park Middle School has been selected as one of two of Oregon's top Middle Level youth volunteers in the 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. As a State Honoree, Cody will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., for a series of national events this May.

Cody helped his former music teacher clean and organize her classroom every summer since he was in the fifth grade, and last year helped her move to a new school and paint the walls of her room a bright and cheerful color for the incoming students. Cody says he helped his former teacher because she inspired him to keep making music. Cody assisted with the transition in the new music room by moving instruments, cleaning out items, and painting. The best part of helping his teacher, Cody said, was "imagining the kids that were going to walk in the first day of school and see their dusty music room transformed to a place where they can smile and grow." Cody has also helped collect clothing for orphans during the holidays, and worked with an elementary school chess club for one hour a week during the school year.

Based on his number of volunteer hours, Cody has also qualified for the President's Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their local communities.

Congratulations, Cody, and thank you for all of your service to your community.

**Portland Tribune/Comcast Regional Spelling Bee Winner – Divya Amirtharaj**

Divya Amirtharaj, a sixth grader at Meadow Park Middle School correctly spelled “rapscallion” and “hegemonic” to win the ninth annual Portland Tribune/Comcast Regional Spelling Bee. Divya beat 55 other spellers in 12 rounds.

Divya won a \$100 American Express gift certificate from Comcast, a Webster's Third New International Dictionary, a one-year subscription to the Encyclopedia Britannica Online Student Edition and an all-expense-paid one-week trip to Washington D.C., in May to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Congratulations, Divya and good luck in Washington, D.C.!

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Beaverton Christian Church, Cody Grater and Divya Amirtharaj for their contributions to the School District.