

NEWS RELEASE
April 17, 2009

Garrett Lakes Arts Festival

Skip Case, Executive Director
301-387-3082

www.artsandentertainment.org

Subject: GLAF Provides Arts Education Opportunity for Garrett County's Elementary Students

More than 1,000 elementary-aged students enjoyed a jazz and tap experience provided by Garrett Lakes Arts Festival on Thursday and Friday of last week (April 16 and 17). The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in the Garrett County school system were transported to Garrett College to participate with the Dave Leonhardt Jazz Group and the Shelley Oliver Tap Dancers. The performance and demonstration acquainted the children with concepts, instruments, improvisation, and styles of jazz and involved audience participation through singing and percussion. The students especially loved the question and answer session. By the end of the hour-long program, youth were jiving to the jazz and tapping to the tap. Many hands went up when students were asked if they wanted to pursue instrumental and/or dance instruction.

According to Skip Case, Executive Director of Garrett Lakes Arts Festival, "GLAF's mission is to enrich our community with high-quality performing arts and arts education. We consider high-quality performing arts to consist of nationally, regionally or locally recognized artists in the fields of dance, music and theater. Our arts education is focused on making available to our elementary through high school students experiences that enhance their appreciation and understanding of the arts. Opportunities are selected, in accordance with the fine arts Voluntary State Curricula (VSC) in dance, music and theater. Garrett Lakes Arts Festival continues to maintain a close relationship with the Garrett County Board of Education, which not only embraces GLAF's offerings, but also financially supports the bussing necessary to transport students to our performance venues."

Beginning in the spring of '06, GLAF committed itself to reaching all fourth graders of Garrett County in an across-the-board effort to expose the students to arts education, outside of the classroom. The concept of reaching ALL students in an entire grade level makes sure that no child misses out on an opportunity that may spark an interest in the arts. According to Case, "Last week we were able to provide a jazz and tap experience for every 3rd, 4th and 5th grade student in the Garrett County elementary schools. In the summer we will provide week-long art and voice workshops. In October GLAF will present Shakespeare to our Middle School students. Who can say what a life-influence it might have on just one child?"

If that is the case...GLAF's efforts are to be applauded and celebrated.

Arts Education opportunities are made possible, in part, by a kind donation from Howard and Audrey Naylor, and by the many businesses and individuals that believe in, and support the efforts of Garrett Lakes Arts Festival. For further information about the organization, or to contribute towards its arts education endeavors, contact the GLAF office at 301-387-3082 or visit www.artsandentertainment.org.

