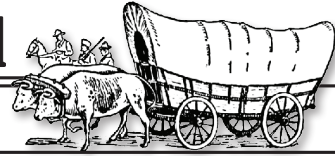


Friends of Bidwell

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Band on the Run!

Four years ago, the Bidwell Band ceased to exist. The elementary instrumental music program had been canceled several years before, and there were no entering 7th grade musicians. Eventually, there were not enough student musicians at Bidwell to warrant even one period of band in the regular school day. That was the day the music died at Bidwell, or so we thought. Furthermore, the Pleasant Valley High School Band was in danger of being eliminated. Without incoming 9th grade musicians from Bidwell, band sign-ups would fall below 35, and CUSD would not fund a period of band at PV.

When news of the impending demise of bands at Bidwell and PV became public, many community and school people found that to be unacceptable.

No solutions were evident. What could be done? Who would do it? Where would the funding come from? This became the main topic of discussion at the next meetings of the Bidwell Junior High School Foundation Board of Directors. It was concluded that somehow there would have to be a way to teach Beginning Band at Bidwell and recruit enough student musicians to restart the Bidwell Pioneer Band. The Foundation Board and the Bidwell Staff got creative.

Phase One of re-establishing the Bidwell Band: Although there was no money available to fund a Beginning Band during the school day, there was an existing non-music afterschool program which was funded. Bidwell Staff arranged for one of the activities to be learning how to play an instrument. Dan Holmes, PV Band Director, agreed to come to Bidwell after the regular school day to teach this class, and he recruited 7th and 8th grade students from Bidwell and 6th graders from McManus Elementary. This new instructional program received modest funding from BJHS Foundation. Monetary donations and used instruments were solicited from the Friends of Bidwell. The Chico Community Band donated several sets of surplus sheet music from its library.

The following year, Beginning Band was re-established during the regular school day and eventually there were enough promoted 8th grade musicians to keep the PV band alive!

Phase Two: After decades of service at PV and Bidwell, Dan Holmes moved on to other pursuits in the District. His replacement, Ryan Heimlich, has taken the starter Bidwell Band and continued to make it grow in quality and quantity. In the 2013-14 school year, the Band had 25 members and began to perform for school and public events. It became obvious that Mr. Heimlich knows his craft and is an excellent teacher and motivator.

Phase Three: The Bidwell Band sent several new ninth grade musicians to PV to continue populating the Viking Band and assure its viability. Mr. Heimlich continued to recruit and teach 7th and 8th grade students so that the Pioneer Band has grown from 25 to the amazing total of 45 members. As might be expected, this growing bunch of tooters, tweeters and thumpers was short on usable instruments and sheet music. That need was partially filled by a \$2,000 grant from the BJHS Foundation for instrument repair and purchase. The Band is making progress and is well on its way to great achievements. The calendar year 2014 ended with a wonderful Winter Concert at the PV Performing Arts Center featuring the full Pioneer Band and the newly-formed Jazz Band.

Chico for many decades. They accept donations of clothing and household goods, which are then sold locally at their thrift shop. All profits are returned to the community in the form of grants to needy organizations and causes. In recent years, these grants have averaged about \$80,000 annually.

Mr. Heimlich requested a grant to support the growing Bidwell Band and its need for instrument repair, additional instruments, sheet music and other supplies. **The surprise? In December, the Discovery Shoppe presented a check to the Foundation for \$10,000 to be used as needed for the Bidwell Band!**

Phase Five: There is no stopping the Pioneer Band now. It is firmly re-established and growing. With the help of those mentioned above, the music is back! It should be noted that success is also due to the hard work and dedication of the Bidwell students and the parents who encourage their participation in band. Learning to play a musical instrument can be a formidable task, requiring many hours of individual practice in addition to daily class time. All those individuals and organizations involved deserve congratulations.



Endowment Continues to Grow

The John Schulz Memorial Endowment Fund was established in 2007 with a \$2,000 grant from the BJHS Foundation General Fund. The purpose of the Endowment is to establish a permanent source of funding for Bidwell Junior High School. Eventually, we expect to be able to make annual grants to Bidwell classrooms and educational programs with Endowment interest and dividend income, without reducing the Fund's capital value.

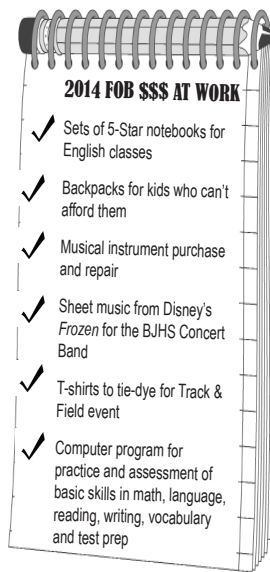
The BJHS Foundation is affiliated with the North Valley Community Foundation which manages our accounts. That service includes investing the JSM Endowment funds primarily in a combination of interest bearing accounts and stock mutual funds. Since 2007, the Endowment has grown with these investments and with donations from the many Friends of Bidwell. The Endowment value now exceeds \$25,000.

BJHSF Annual Report

In 2014, the BJHS Foundation continued its support of Bidwell classrooms and educational programs at an accelerated pace. We made xx grants for a total of \$xxxx. We have been busy making these grants since the establishment of the Foundation in 2005. To date, we have placed over \$35,000 into the hands of professional staff at Bidwell to support and enrich the education of thousands of Bidwell students.

The mission of the BJHS Foundation is to provide supplies, materials and equipment for Bidwell classrooms and educational programs. By 2005, cuts in school budgets left teachers and staff without sufficient funds to provide quality educational opportunities. For example, classrooms were being left short of books, teaching supplies, science lab equipment, technical hardware and software and physical education equipment. Needy students were without basic school supplies. One semester, the entire school was unable to purchase paper or other basic materials. For the past seven years, we have been able to fill these needs, thanks to our donors, the Friends of Bidwell.

In 2014, your Foundation again participated in the annual Annie B's Fund Drive. This fund raiser is sponsored by the North Valley Community Foundation. In addition to administering our bank accounts, the NVCF granted a 7% bonus to the funds we received during the Annie B's drive. Due to the generosity of the Friends of Bidwell and the generosity of the Discovery Shoppe, 2014 donations increased to \$14,000. We will be able to continue supporting the students of Bidwell in 2015 and the Endowment will continue to grow.



2014 FOB \$\$\$ AT WORK

- ✓ Sets of 5-Star notebooks for English classes
- ✓ Backpacks for kids who can't afford them
- ✓ Musical instrument purchase and repair
- ✓ Sheet music from Disney's Frozen for the BJHS Concert Band
- ✓ T-shirts to tie-dye for Track & Field event
- ✓ Computer program for practice and assessment of basic skills in math, language, reading, writing, vocabulary and test prep

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR 2015-16

Mike Christensen President
 Betty Barsuglia Vice President
 Marsha Sanders Secretary
 Linda Wilbur Treasurer
 Ann Castle Classroom Grant Coordinator
 John Watson Publicity Director

Members: Debbie Aldred, Dick Cory, Bill Dixon, Teresa Doyle, Ramona Flynn, Juliet Hauser and Carol Watson.

Associate Members: JoAna Brooks, Bill Carter, Dan Nguyen-Tan, Judi Roth and Mike Schulz

If you would like to support the Discovery Shoppe, you may donate items or shop at

