



# A Stellar Future Awaits

## PAFE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



### A message from the president

It's been a stellar year, and I'm happy to share my second annual report as president of PAFE. Our fiscal year began July 1, 2023, through June 30th, 2024, and during that time, we had a record-breaking gala that hit a milestone our founding leaders hadn't imagined would happen. This success is not just ours, but a shared victory with our community. It's a testament to the need in our school district, a community that comes together to fill that need and a profoundly relevant mission. Your role in this cannot be overstated.

Our work is rooted in three main programs: early childhood literacy, strategic initiatives selected each year with district leadership, and teacher grants to help them innovate in the classroom. I hope you'll take the time to browse the stories included here. They are a highlight reel of the past year.

We view these latest successes as an invitation to do more. Lately, our board discussions have entertained bigger questions that would amplify our impact. For that reason, we have decided to invest in a strategic planning process to ensure our efforts remain aligned with our mission while adapting to the evolving needs of our community. We must continue investing where we can make the most significant difference. If you are on our email list, you will have received a survey. Your input will help us make informed decisions as we shoot for the moon in the coming decades.

We have only begun.

Sincerely,  
Kendon Perry



**TEACHER GRANT HIGHLIGHT:**  
**The Space Planetarium Dome**

Students file into the planetarium dome with anticipation. The room is dark, aside from the soft glow of the projector on the ceiling. We gather around Mrs. Parnell-Stucks seated on the floor. After a few instructions and an introduction to the topic, the room goes completely dark. Suddenly, the constellations appear overhead, accompanied by a collective gasp. One of the third graders cries: "I see the Milky Way!"

As we stare into the starry sky, our teacher explains what stars are and how old they are. Someone yells, "A shooting star!" Everyone is mesmerized.

PAFE is happy to help Sagle Elementary School teacher Ashley Delucchi bring this program to life. Kindergarten through sixth grade students at both Sagle and Southside travel into a world of astronomy, geology, and geography. They learn about star patterns, constellations, and the universe.

At each grade level, the teachers meet Idaho science standards in a fun and memorable way. For example, Kindergarten students learn how the sun warms the earth. Third-grade students get an in-depth lesson about the planets. Fifth and sixth-grade students learn about the earth's geography, the universe, and stars.

The dome rotates between Sagle and Southside every other month to allow each school a full month with the materials. This allows time for all students to rotate through the program several times, meaning that almost 400 students are impacted by this grant.



*fig. 1* **TEACHER GRANTS AWARDED SINCE INCEPTION**

YEAR	AMOUNT	# OF GRANTS
2003	\$35,000	15
2004	\$72,000	34
2005	\$100,000	35
2006	\$100,000	33
2007	\$125,000	51
2008	\$170,000	57
2009	\$147,000	52
2010	\$167,000	65
2011	\$111,000	48
2012	\$77,800	45
2013	\$77,340	41
2014	\$75,000	32
2015	\$100,000	52
2016	\$107,008	46
2017	\$109,320	42
2018	\$102,950	34
2019	\$118,723	44
2020	\$112,926	42
2021	\$109,628	35
2022	\$111,166	46
2023	\$101,187	37
2024	\$109,550	39
<b>\$2,339,598</b>		<b>925</b>





## PAFE'S STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOR 2024/2025:

### Adapting to a Changing Educational Landscape

Every year, we listen closely to our district's needs to determine the focus of our strategic initiative. This year, community surveys and the insights from the "One Trusted Adult" program have pointed us toward a top priority: school safety. The Lake Pend Oreille School District currently employs two campus security officers, but given the vast geographical spread of our schools, adding a third officer has become essential. After careful consideration, our Board determined that this need falls within our mission and aligns with our commitment to ensuring a supportive learning environment.

The role of these officers goes beyond just security. JD McElroy and Keith Delahanty bring not only extensive law enforcement experience but also a dedication to forming meaningful connections with students, becoming trusted figures in their lives. Their work is as much about building trust and providing guidance as it is about physical safety. A secure school environment allows teachers to focus on teaching and students to focus on learning.

Our supporters make it possible to fund such critical roles, which in turn support educators in delivering impactful programs. This investment toward the 'One Trusted Adult' initiative, along with PAFE's Early Childhood Literacy program and teacher grants allow educators in the Lake Pend Oreille School District to have access to the tools they need, fostering an environment of innovation and support for every student.

Together, we're shaping a safe, enriching educational experience for all.



fig. 2 **TOTAL EXPENSES \$826,412**

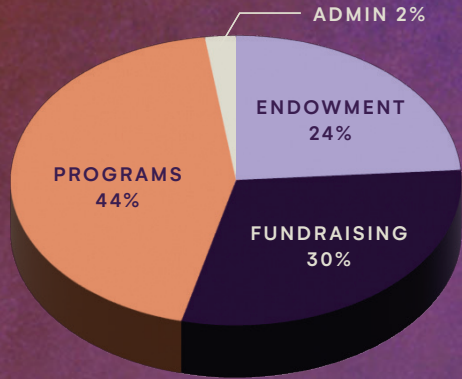
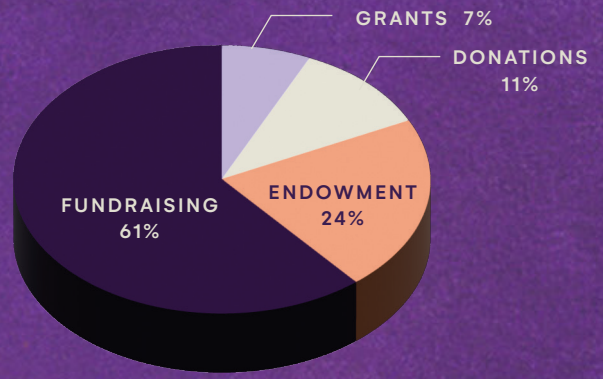


fig. 3 **TOTAL REVENUE \$1,005,000**



**GRANTS RECEIVED:  
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024:**

We sincerely appreciate the generous support from the foundations and organizations that provided substantial funding to the Panhandle Alliance for Education this fiscal year, helping to drive our programs and initiatives forward: Avista Corporation/Foundation, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation/Montana Rail Link, Equinox Foundation, IAEYC, Idaho Community Foundation, Innovia Foundation, STCU, and Union Pacific.

**2024 Summer Gala Recognition**

The 2024 Summer Gala, A Stellar Future Awaits, was held at the breathtaking Cape of Art property on the Hope Peninsula. This year’s event was a resounding success, made possible by the generous support of Christian and Gulia Groenke and other gracious homeowners who shared their stunning venue. We are most grateful for these event sponsors: Lighthouse, Inc., REALM Partners, Mountain West Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services, The Alpine Shop, Family Health Center, Trinity at City Beach and Dr. Jim & Geraldine Lewis.

\*2023 Gala proceeds are included within the fiscal year for this report (July 1 2023 to June 30, 2024).





## COLLEGE 101:

### Getting seniors ready for what comes next!

The transition from high school to college can be one of the most anxiety-inducing times for a young adult. Big decisions with seemingly big consequences are being made.

College 101 addresses seniors and first-generation college students considering their next steps. Jeralyn Mire, SHS Post-secondary Transition Counselor, and Angela Dail, College and Career Advisor, have created this course content to support and better explain this process through a PAFE Teacher Grant.

The class (which can be used for years to come) covers applications, financial aid, scholarships, finding the right fit, registering for classes, successful study tips and tricks, emails, and college site visits.



We attended and observed the scholarship class. Students were given time to search for scholarships and begin applying. Their homework was to apply for at least two scholarships. Sandpoint High School graduates Tiffany Brown (Class of 2022) and Evan Dickinson (Class of 2023) returned to SHS to present and share their experiences. It was a chance for students to learn from their peers and ask practical questions like, “How do you manage school and a job?” “How do you manage your budget?” and “What if you have a boyfriend or girlfriend?” (The advice they gave was not to make decisions based on a boy or girl.) College 101 helps students arrive at college better prepared than the other incoming freshmen.



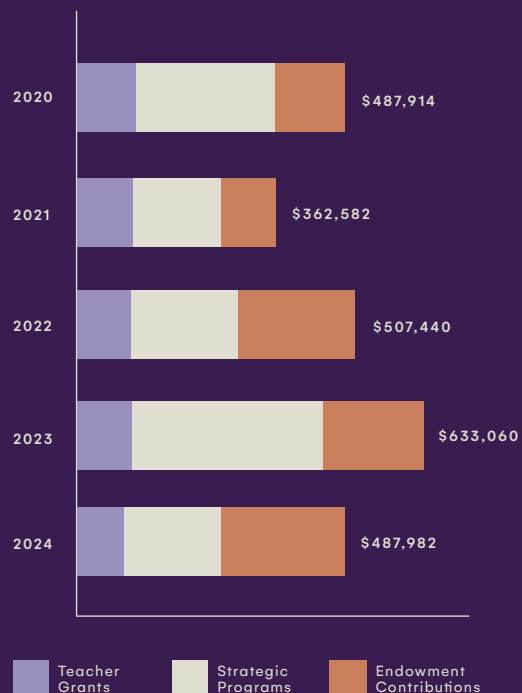
## Our Mission

Our mission is to promote excellence in education and broad-based community support for the Lake Pend Oreille School District. As an independent organization, we will create and sustain an endowment to provide resources in support of effective teaching, learning and school management.



PAFE Board of Directors & Staff

fig. 4 PAFE PROGRAM AND ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS



PANHANDLE ALLIANCE  
for EDUCATION