

## Arts support urged by PCAC

Written by Penny Dockins

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“What does not exist in the environment cannot be developed.”

—Schinichi Suzuki

In these financially difficult times, budgets—including that of Holyoke’s school district—are being cut or reordered. It is easy to sort the basic from that which seems attractive but not essential.

However, there are many studies in which results show the positive and strong impact that education and participation in the arts have on the study and achievement in other subjects. Phillips County Arts Council (PCAC) Board counts study and participation in the arts as basic.

As advocates for the arts, members of Phillips County Arts Council seriously advise against decreasing specialized arts education in time or quality, especially for elementary age students. This decrease could be seen either in limiting class time with the specialized arts teacher or adding on more subject matter for the already fully occupied classroom teacher.

Suzuki, quoted above, developed a method of education for children 3 years old, enabling them to play the violin. He based their education on the natural method by which children learn their first language—that is, on long term modeling and practice.

The PCAC Board stands ready with the support of its general membership to cooperate in any feasible way with the school administration and faculty.

We join with voices, such as Lincoln Hayes’ letter to the editor, in encouraging your support and participation in the arts.

PCAC Board

Penny L. Dockins, President