

## **For Immediate Release:**

**Title : Syar Donates \$60,000 to Healdsburg Public Schools**

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The Syar Foundation and Syar Industries, Inc, recently donated \$60,000 to the Healdsburg Education Foundation towards two key funding priorities of the HUSD. Following a recent tour of the Enrichment Program classes at Fitch Mountain Elementary School campus, the Syar Foundation Board of Directors made the decision to fund the remaining \$40,000 needed to complete the \$100,000 fundraising goal for the 2009-2010 pilot HES Enrichment Program.

The Syar Foundation Board also toured the new Construction and Sustainability Academy (CASA) at the Healdsburg High School campus which generated a gift of \$20,000 from Syar Industries, Inc. This gift is the largest CASA donation to date, and brings the total raised for the program to \$72,000. With Syar's established reputation in the building industry, this gift compliments their vision of compatibility with our students.

"The continuing generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Syar is reflected in these recent gifts to our Healdsburg public schools, and truly shows their commitment to the youth of our community," states HEF Board Member, Jo Ann Bursick. "Their value of education and shared ideals for the success of our youth is evident in this gift of partnership."

Syar's support of the Elementary School Enrichment program gives our students the opportunity to learn their core subjects in an applied manner. Central to this project is the impact it will have on the future of our youth by teaching them critical thinking, investigative, and problem solving skills. Enrichment classes in Lego-robotics, chess, drama and art allows students to engage in investigative and creative learning which results in significantly higher test scores.

"Thanks to the Syar Foundation and our other Enrichment donors, we were able to complete this year's program on a high note!" says Amber Stringfellow, Principal of Fitch Mountain Elementary campus. The results and benefits of this program are outstanding and have sparked interest for creative projects for student learning outside the classroom. Most important, the students are having a great time learning. We are so fortunate!"

The Syar Industries, Inc. gift to the new Construction and Sustainability Academy gives the final "nuts and bolts" for project completion. Launching this fall, students will be introduced to a renovated working technology environment and greeted by new teacher, Mr. Kirby Bobo. With over 20 years experience in the construction industry, Mr. Bobo, shares his knowledge of carpentry, electrical, plumbing, welding and environmental regulation.

“We are all very impressed with Mr. Bobo’s desire to impart his construction knowledge and passion to students. I think he is going to be an excellent match for CASA and HHS,” said new Healdsburg High School Principal, Chris VandenHeuvel.

The Construction and Sustainability Academy (CASA) is a 21<sup>st</sup> century construction technology program designed with the backing and advice from local building industry leaders. CASA will not only help Healdsburg students gain the skills they need to achieve construction trade jobs after high school, but prepare them in environmental studies, design and architecture, with the core technical building and computer skills needed to pursue these fields in college.

“The Syar Foundation and Syar Industries, Inc. has an established history of donating to our public schools”, states Pamela Swan, HEF Executive Director. “They were major donors towards technology for the Healdsburg High School and Junior High School library renovation projects. These current gifts will have a significant impact on student learning and further demonstrate Syar’s long-term commitment to our students and community.”

Information on the Healdsburg Education Foundation can be obtained by contacting Executive Director, Pamela Swan at 433-1223 or pswan@hefschools.com. Individuals are invited to view the projects and gifts of time, materials, or donations are always welcome.

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