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### Media Release

## **W.L. Henry Elementary School Completes its First Right Brain Artist Residency**

*5<sup>th</sup> graders work with artist Caitlin Shelman to deepen their understanding of U.S. History through printmaking*

**March 26, 2014, Hillsboro, OR** – The Right Brain Initiative is a program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), a 501(c)(3) arts services agency serving Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. It is a private-public partnership that brings artists together with schools to infuse art into the curriculum—not replacing art education, but using art as a vehicle for increasing student engagement, enhancing meaning, and deepening understanding of core subjects.

Currently, seven elementary schools in Hillsboro are Right Brain partner schools: Free Orchards, Imlay, Jackson, Lincoln Street, Minter Bridge, Quatama, and W.L. Henry.

This is W.L. Henry’s first year of partnership with Right Brain, and their fifth grade classes, led by teachers Ben Fong and Shelly Panayiotou, recently completed the school’s pilot artist residency.

Right Brain artist Caitlin Shelman worked with students four times over the course of a couple of weeks as they studied U.S. History and the Declaration of Independence.

During their first session, students discussed their social studies unit and learned about printmaking and collagraph printing—which basically involves making a print out of a collage.

At the second session, students created self-portrait print plates in the format of collagraph, cutting cardboard shapes to make their faces.

The third session involved students printing two images from their self-portrait plates: one white print on black paper and one black print on color paper.

At the final session, students reviewed their essays and selected key quotes they wanted to share in the culminating project, which is a mural composed of each student’s self-portrait print and a selection of quotes in both English and Spanish, bordered by a key phrase from the Declaration of Independence. Ms. Shelman worked with volunteers to install the mural in the school library for all students to appreciate and enjoy.

As part of their introductory year, a handful of W.L. Henry teachers have been participating in Right Brain professional development learning how to integrate arts into all their curriculum. Next year, every class at W.L. Henry will participate in an artist residency.

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***Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence***

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