

*Dear Parents, Students, & Community Members*

*We are delighted and very proud to announce the addition of an afterschool arts program for teens to the Dairy Barn's list of educational programs. I would like to take a few minutes to tell you a little about the Dairy Barn Arts Center past, present, and future, and share with you the impetus for this new program. For those who may not be familiar, The Dairy Barn was constructed in 1914, and became the Dairy Barn Arts Center in 1978. In that time, we have adhered to the mission set forth by our founders. This mission includes offering "educational programs that nurture and promote area artists and artisans; develop art appreciation among all ages; (and) provide the community access to fine arts and crafts from outside the region". In 2014, we embarked on a journey into the second century. Through a large scale capital campaign, we have begun working on a vision of the Barn for the future. As of January 2017, we have renovated the Sauber Gallery, completely revamped the art and ceramics room into a large and functional ceramics studio, and clad our "AEP" wing in beautiful hard wood floors. Currently, the back of the building is under massive construction. Once completed, we will have a big beautiful new entrance lobby, a brand new very spacious gallery shop, a multipurpose room for an additional classroom/studio/meeting space, a catering kitchen, an outdoor patio, a digital studio fitted with cutting edge photography equipment and editing software, and a brand new second floor fully equipped fiber arts studio!*

*With the addition of these dedicated studio spaces, we are able to provide more in depth arts programming for people of all ages. In addition to more classes and workshops and expanded camp programs, we have created an afterschool arts program for students in 8th through 12th grades. We believe that this program will serve a vital purpose in our community. As many of you know, the arts in the schools are often limited. While our local schools do an exemplary job of providing art education, producing quality arts programs with wonderful and dedicated teachers, with only so many hours in a school day, there is only so much time that students can spend in their art rooms. We believe that many students can benefit tremendously from immersion in the arts in a formal and dedicated manner. Art education has been shown again and again to play a crucial role in education. Studies have shown that children who participate in arts programs have a tendency towards higher academic achievement over all. The arts also develop and promote creativity, critical thinking and leadership skills. We believe strongly in the value and importance of art education and could not be more proud to bring our local students this opportunity.*

*This program is in its infancy and we believe we will have a successful pilot beginning February 14. We have received funding to support the founding of this program, and we are offering the pilot program to students tuition free. This means a 10 week arts training program where students can learn about and develop their craft, have access to competitive opportunities and build a portfolio they can add to a college application, tuition free. We are so excited to present the youth of our community with this opportunity, and feel confident this program will be a tremendous success. We hope that your student will join us in becoming the newest members of our Dairy Barn Community.*

*Sincerely,*



*Lyn Stanton*

*Education Director*

*The Dairy Barn Arts Center*

*"The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create."*

*—President Barack Obama*