

Felix's artistic passion to live on

NSAA outdoor art studio to be dedicated to Felix Boller's memory

By Jennifer Bergen
News Graphic Correspondent

Grafton — Felix Boller's kind, generous spirit lives on — in the family he loved, the friends and teachers he moved and the community he inspired through his vibrant life and courageous battle with cancer, a journey that ended last summer.

Now, Felix's passion for art will live on in a special outdoor garden for artists — to be dedicated in his memory — at North Shore Academy of the Arts in Grafton, where 8-year-old Felix was a student of many artistic talents, including stage performance, costume design, painting and singing.

"This outdoor art studio will be special to me," said Becky Boller, Felix' mother, "because NSAA provided an arena for him to forget about feeling sick and enjoy himself. It was really special to both of us. Plus, Felix always wanted to show others

Two fundraisers planned

Feeling artistic? Want to be inspired and help, too? All proceeds from the following two fundraisers will benefit the creation of North Shore Academy of the Art's Outdoor Art Studio in honor of Felix Boller:

■ **A Splash of Fun for Everyone:** Friday, June 12, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Kids can get creative at NSAA, while parents are invited to enjoy a night out on the town. Donations are \$20 for one child, \$30 for two and \$40 for three or more children, and will be collected at the door

■ **Garden Art for Felix:** Friday, June 26th, from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. at NSAA. For a suggested donation of \$15, students will create and decorate garden art, including birdhouses and stepping stones

For more information, call 377-3514 or e-mail info@NorthShoreAcademyOfTheArts.org.

new techniques he learned or paintings he had done, because he loved art so much."

A talented art student by all accounts, Felix wished to become an art teacher when he grew up. In NSAA's Outdoor Art Studio, students will be able to hone their artistic talents, surrounded

by outdoor beauty, and be inspired by the memory of a boy who loved to sculpt, draw and paint every day of his life.

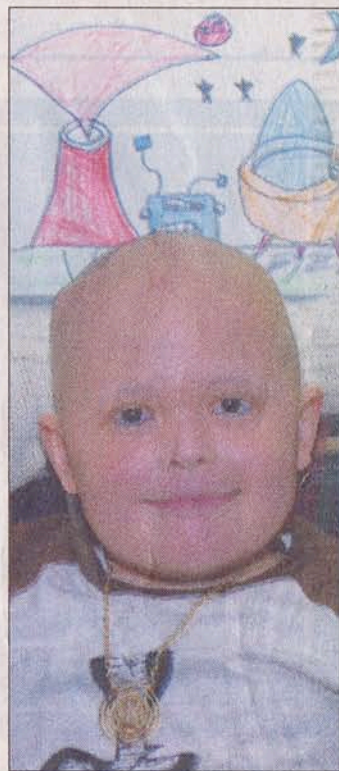
"Felix was one of those students who inspired others, both because of his special artistic talents as well as for his beautiful, kind spirit," said NSAA Founder Sheri

Bestor, who is working with NSAA's Paula Christensen, Angela Mack, Jenny Frontier, Urszula Cholewinska and Sue Cibulka on the project.

"The outdoor classroom will be for students to create, sing, paint, learn, reflect...to pursue the arts," Bestor said. "It will be a peaceful place to discover and nurture the artist within."

NSAA's goal is to unveil the outdoor classroom, which is planned within its current green space adjacent to the Grafton Public Library, in spring 2010 as part of NSAA's 10th year anniversary celebration. NSAA students who take spring and fall classes, summer art camp, Imagine Me Preschool or any class with the ability to take its materials outdoors will be able to enjoy the space. Plans include a bricked patio lined with landscaping provided in partnership with Quality

See **FELIX**, Page A5



File photo

An outdoor art studio at North Shore Academy of the Arts is to be dedicated to Felix Boller, a young Cedarburg artist who died of cancer last year.

Felix: Splash for Fun for Everyone fundraiser planned

Continued from Page A1

Landscaping of Grafton. Grafton library visitors and all community members may also use the garden for a quiet place to read, rest and relax.

To help raise funds for the project, NSAA is planning A Splash of Fun for Everyone!, a creative night for kids — which will simultaneously give their

parent(s) the chance to enjoy a night out on the town.

"We want to help us keep Felix's memory alive as we provide a memorable, fun evening for children and their parents," said Angela Mack, NSAA's marketing director.

Fundraising will help defray the costs of landscaping, as well as classroom equipment and supplies such as benches, tables,

easels and garden art.

To aid the effort, Felix's classmates and Thorson Elementary teacher Allison Voeller have raised funds for the project, and Thorson's Scout pack 3836 is currently making small benches and donating their labor to help clear the site. And Zink the Zebra Foundation has donated a \$500 bench.

"North Shore Academy of

the Arts has always been a source of inspiration for those who become involved," Bestor said. "From the experienced, nurturing teachers and staff to the students full of blossoming talents, one can always expect to feel inspired at NSAA. This garden will be created in memory of a very special boy and dedicated to the creativity in all of us."