



ISSUE NO. 13

MAY 2015

The Laker Educational Foundation

Our mission is to encourage Creativity, Innovation and Excellence in Education



2015 Board of Directors

President

Lori Frank

Vice-President

Mallory Stoll

Secretary

Tim Bell

Treasurer

Steve Mangan

Past President

Doug Scalia

Directors

Kim Churchill

Jan Crimando

Dee Dee Francis

Pat Heaney

Deb Jondro

Sasha Kuznetsov

Mary Nagarajan

Dr. Cory Goracke-Postle

Amy Weimerskirch

Ex-Officio

Dr. Sue Ann Gruver

Endowment

Paul Wick

Advisory Board

Lori Anderson, Bob Barsness,
Julie Christensen, Martha Hoover

Jen Laurienzo, Cindy Le,
Marjee Righeimer, Steve Sammis,
Steve Shimek, Mary Viereck

Letter from the Foundation Board

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Where has the school year gone? Our spring grant cycle has ended, we are planning for our 2nd annual Blue Jeans Ball, and we are about to announce our third year LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Math & LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Science recipients. We have been busy!

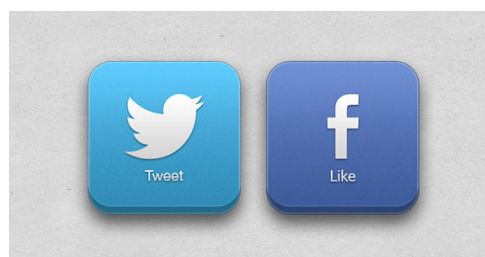
A bit of history about our scholarships. Inaugurated in 2013, the scholarships are named after the late Kari D. Klima, who was instrumental in starting the Laker Educational Foundation and exemplified the purposes, the ideals and the principles for which the educational foundation stands. The annual selection will take place by a group of math & science teachers and presented at an award ceremony in June at Prior Lake High School. We will post the winners' names and photos after they have received these prestigious awards!

During the month of June, we co-sponsor the Dan Patch 5K Pace and 1 Mile Club Run on Saturday, June 27, 2015. Our youngest participant was 4 years old a few years back! Should be a fun time for all!

As mentioned above, we had a very successful Blue Jeans Ball in October of 2014. We had a fabulous turnout and were able to raise funds to support our educational grant program. We will be hosting our 2nd annual Blue Jeans Ball on October 23, 2015 at the MN Horse & Hunt Club in Prior Lake. Stay tuned for details! If you are interested in sponsorship or volunteering, make sure to let us know. Contact information is on our website.

Hope to see you at our summer and fall events!

Laker Educational Foundation Board of Directors



Make a difference by honoring those special people in our student's lives!



Artisan Coffee Bistro & Bar
16731 Highway 13 S
Prior Lake, MN 55372
952.447.1188
Proprietors: Nan & Ben Peters

Honor a special teacher or staff member this spring

by treating them to a delicious breakfast, lunch or dinner. For every tax-deductible donation of \$20 made to the Laker Educational Foundation, your chosen staff member will receive a personalized greeting and a \$10 gift card to Artisan Coffee Bistro & Bar in Prior Lake.

Deadline: May 31, 2015

To donate, visit our website and click the link on the home page or access this QR code on your smartphone.



If you have a senior, consider a **"Teacher Tribute."** Most of us have had one or two special teachers who have touched us deeply and changed the course of our lives. Some of these teachers know it, but others do not. This is a time to give them the recognition, honor and respect they deserve. For every tax-deductible donation of \$20 made to the Laker Educational Foundation, your chosen teacher(s) will receive a personalized greeting from your student and a \$10 gift card to Artisan Coffee Bistro & Bar in Prior Lake.

Deadline: May 31, 2015

To donate, visit our website and click the link on the home page or access this QR code on your smartphone.



You make a difference!



*Kari D. Klima
1962 - 2011*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world: Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has!

- Margaret Mead

Approximately ten years ago, a small group of thoughtful, committed people gathered to construct a new learning support framework for all of the residents in the Prior Lake & Savage area. The outcome of their collaboration was the then-named Prior Lake/Savage Area Educational Foundation (PLSAEF). Today, the foundation is called the Laker Educational Foundation (LEF).

The foundation's original mission was simple and remains the same ten years later: Encourage creativity, innovation, and excellence by raising, managing, and allocating financial resources to enhance learning for all who reside in, or are served by the ISD 719 community. Included in the initial steering committee of residents, was a very dedicated, hard-working woman by the name of Kari Klima. After the foundation was established and during its early years, Kari was one of the key representatives. Eventually, Kari was appointed as the executive secretary and continued to influence the foundation's growth and its positive impact on learning at all levels within the Prior Lake/Savage area- from preschool to senior citizens.

Sadly, in 2011, after a valiant battle with cancer, Kari Klima passed away. She left an indelible mark on our community through her leadership of the Laker Educational Foundation and her passionate causes. She was always a strong advocate for education in any form. She was especially focused on the subjects of science and math. To honor Kari and her legacy, the Laker Educational Foundation established the LEF Klima scholarships in 2013. After the science and math departments choose their high school senior science and math student winners, we award both students with a \$1000 scholarship to the college or university that they will be attending in the fall. This year's 2015 LEF Science Scholarship and 2015 LEF Math Scholarship's have yet to be announced. As these students move forward and people in our community benefit from the programs supported by the Laker Educational Foundation, Kari would be proud of her positive efforts to indeed change the world in which she lived.

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund or to the Laker Educational Foundation, please access our website:
www.lakerfoundation.org.

Spring 2015 Grant Awards

Library Makerspaces

This library makerspaces project consists of supplying materials that allow students to build, create and explore. These makerspaces complement our district E-STEM initiatives by encouraging students to use engineering skills in creative ways. The project provides opportunities in all elementary schools.

Inspiring Entrepreneurship and Innovation

We funded the purchase a Canon EOS Rebel T5i DSLR camera to be used to create high-quality images to recreate using Fab Lab technology. We also funded a light box to assist in producing quality, intricate decals, t-shirt designs and signs.

Raptor Data Integration

Student exposure to real time data (Bald Eagle Blood Lead Levels) and analysis of the blood level data from 2010-present to look for trends and possible sources of lead entry into the environment. Students also attend two capstone presentations on the concept of bioaccumulation and effects on populations and communities. Students observe and gather evidence of adaptations, feeding habits, and behaviors of real raptors. The program encompasses the district E-STEM focus.

Sandwiches

The 8th grade students will be assembling sandwiches to donate to the Sandwich Project of Minneapolis. The students hope to assemble 5000 sandwiches to donate.

7th Grade Math Exercise Balls

Exercise balls will be incorporated as substitute chairs in 7th grade Math Class. The balls help students to focus and get some exercise in the process.

Lets Go Fishing-Scott County Area Chapter

Scott County will provide seniors and the disabled, fishing and boat excursions on Cedar Lake. The funds will be used to purchase equipment.

Outdoor Classroom For Nature-Based Kindergarten

We are funding an outdoor classroom space to integrate nature into the kindergarten classroom. Playing in nature creates endless opportunities for discovery and creativity.

Read and Ride

The Read and Ride program is designed to engage students in learning through a combination of movement and reading. Research has shown students who ride while reading are better able to release frustration, which is often a learning block, and helps to increase reading proficiency in riders. During the last grant cycle, we funded five of these bikes to Five Hawks Elementary with huge success.

Read and Pedal

In every classroom there are active students who profess to not like to read. Many times it is the student's lack of constructive movement that can impede their learning and success with reading. This program is designed to engage these students and increase reading proficiency using different equipment than the Read and Ride program.

Thanks to our Donors

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have donated to the foundation
and all those who have volunteered their time and talents to help out at our events.
(A complete list of donors can be found on our website)

All grants we have funded can be found on our website: www.lakerfoundation.org

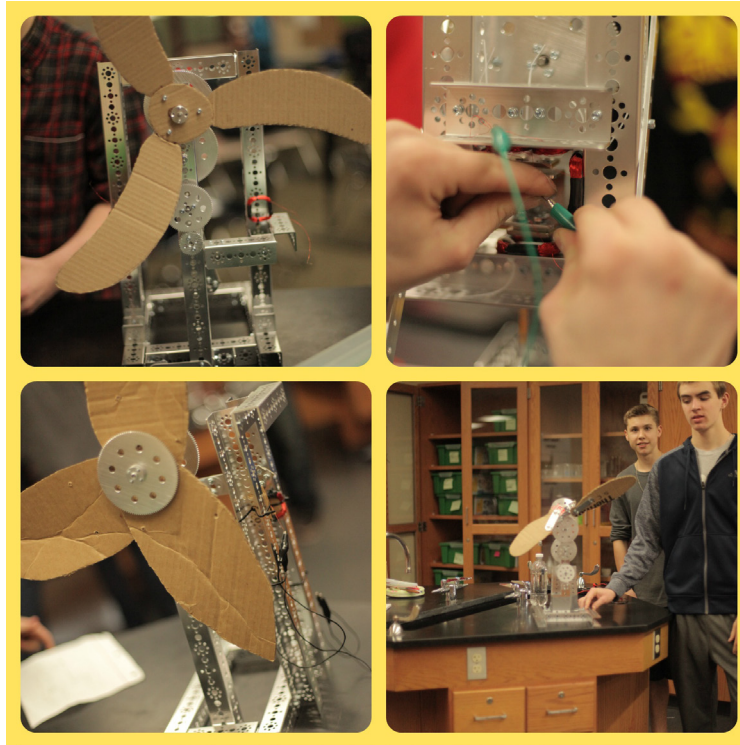
Featured Grants

The following are examples of how our foundation gives back to the students in the community.

“Wind Powered Generators”

Brian Olson, Science Teacher at Prior Lake High School, was recently awarded this grant.

Students collaborate, research, design and build wind-powered generators using what they learn in the electricity and magnetism unit in 9th grade Science. This project supports 21st century environmental education.



Comments from Students

- *It was very enjoyable to do. It was very useful in the sense of making and using solenoids.*
- *I liked the wind generator project and it helped me to learn more about electromagnets and generators. I enjoyed working on my generator in the week given, and I think it helped me to learn things that I didn't know prior to the project. I also liked the engineering portion of this project that involved designing a generator and building it.*
- *It was very interesting and fun to make the generators considering that I didn't have a great knowledge of electromagnets before this lesson.*
- *The wind generator project was my favorite project of the year, so far. At first I was a little disappointed because it seemed hard, but it eventually became fun. Each day was filled with a new problem but because we could physically see what we had done it was easy to work through. This project involved real world problems and how to find solutions.*
- *I thought it was a fantastic project, learned a lot, and felt very accomplished at the end of the day.*
- *It was a lot of fun! Hands on working really kept me motivated and made the class a lot more fun instead of sitting down and going through lessons!!*
- *At first I was a bit intimidated by the generator project, and I was skeptical about how much we could do on our own without any previous knowledge about generators or how they work. But as the project went on, I grew to absolutely love it, and became very proud of all our progress. Our generator may not have been the best, but we learned a ton and it was fun to try and fail, and try again, then see the progress!*
- *It was a lot of work and thinking through...and doing over and over. But it was a lot of fun and a good way to learn how generators work and magnetism/electricity.*

"Spanish Books for the Prior Lake Library"

Katie Moras, Director, El Bosque Encantado,
was recently awarded this grant.



As the educational options of our community broaden, so does our need for additional educational materials for students and their families. Recently, the Laker Educational Foundation was excited to be able to award a grant that will be used to purchase Spanish language print, audio and chapter books for our bilingual community that will be available for check-out from the Prior Lake Library in the near future.

Students at La ola del lago Spanish Immersion at Edgewood School and El Bosque Encantado Spanish Immersion Early Learning Center and their families will be able to utilize these materials along with all families in the community.

Offering our students and their families additional Spanish resources will not only increase their excitement about reading, but also foster a culture where the entire family can learn another language together.

A quick overview of materials ordered consists of concept books, rhyming stories, poetry anthologies, fiction and nonfiction books, picture books, multicultural titles, Alma Flor Ada titles, Frog and Toad in Spanish, picture dictionaries and bilingual dictionaries along with story book sets. The list is phenomenal. Stop in to the Prior Lake Library and check them out!

In partnership with the Prior Lake Library, patrons can listen to teachers from La ola del lago and El Bosque Encantado read stories in Spanish. Stay tuned for details!



The foundation is located in Prior Lake and Savage, and its mailing address is P.O. Box 840, Prior Lake, MN 55372. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity under the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions are tax deductible, subject to limitations in applicable law. No goods or services are provided to any donor in exchange for contributions. Unless otherwise specified, contributions to the foundation will be used for its general charitable purposes and endowment. This disclosure is made under Minn. Stat. 309.556.

Events Line Up

Dan Patch 5K Pace and 1-Mile Club Run Saturday, June 27, 2015

9:00am Dan Patch 5K Pace and 10:00am 1-Mile Club Run (Check-in/ On Site Registration is from 8:00am-9:00am). Whether you are a competitive runner or a running enthusiast – the Dan Patch 5K and/or 1-Mile Club Run is for you! The route will begin at Lifetime Fitness and is designed to show you the scenic sites around Community Park in Savage.

Pre-Register before June 15th and save \$5.00! The cost for the 5K is \$20 for Adults and \$15 for Students. Cost to register for the 1-Mile Club Run is \$10 per person. A FREE t-shirt will be given to all pre-registered runners. All ages and abilities welcome! There will be Awards given out in 10 categories!

2nd Annual Blue Jeans Ball Friday, October 23, 2015

Our 1st Annual Blue Jeans Ball was so successful; the board unanimously approved hosting our 2nd Annual Blue Jeans Ball.

Our venue will be the Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club, located in Prior Lake, MN. Details are being ironed out. We will update our website as the event is finalized.

It will be the “Place to be in 2015”

Save the
Date!



Photos from our 2014 Blue Jeans Ball