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The Laker Educational Foundation

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



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Letter from the Foundation Board

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Because of your generosity and commitment, it has been a successful year. We are truly blessed to live in a community that has always placed a tremendous value on the education of its children. Your allegiance to continue the strong tradition of educational excellence and outstanding student achievement has been overwhelming.

We would like to take this time to briefly highlight the 2014 grant requests we were able to provide funding for: A new vinyl printer and cutter acquired for the Fab Lab at Prior Lake High School. The sixth grade science lab have some new equipment for the Energy, Waves, Sound, Light and Electromagnetic Spectrum unit. A green ribbon community garden at Prior Lake High School will have a vegetable garden and orchard for scientific learning, with all successfully grown food used in the school kitchen, food labs and donated to charity. Hidden Oaks will have a student run community garden and be exposed to a multitude of learning activities in relation to this project; team building skills, writing and advertising skills, work skills, and cooperative learning skills, while still addressing components of the science curriculum and core standards. All students in the high school phy ed classes will be able to participate in a snowshoeing activity. A region free DVD player was purchased allowing students to view DVD movies from countries other than the United States and Canada. We were able to provide monies to purchase print books, audio books, and chapter books for our bilingual students and their families, to be housed at the Prior Lake Public Library where all parents and children will have access to the materials. Special education students will be able to reduce noise to assist with sensory and auditory defensiveness and sensitivities by wearing noise reducing headphones. At Five Hawks, we were able to fund specially designed exercise bikes to be used by students that are active and profess to not like to read. Often it is not the act of reading that inhibits the student, it is the lack of movement (or the conscious effort to keep still) that impedes the students success. Lastly, students will collaborate, research, design and build wind powered generators, using what they learn in the electricity and magnetism unit in Honors 9 Science. These wind powered generators will give students hands on learning in engineering, focusing on green sustainable energy.

What an exciting time to be connected with the Laker Educational Foundation!

All the best in 2015!

The LEF Board of Directors

Our 1st Annual Blue Jeans Ball was held in October 2014



We held our 1st Annual Blue Jeans Ball on a beautiful fall evening in October. Our venue could not have been more unique. We held the event at Green Acres Event Center in Eden Prairie, MN.

Our fun-filled evening featured a social hour and silent auction followed by a buffet dinner with music provided by Patrick Ireland. Desserts were donated from Eileen's Colossal Cookies, Edelweiss Bakery, Perkins and Freddy's Steakburgers/Frozen Custard. Following dinner, LEF grant recipients spoke about what they were able to accomplish with funding from the foundation.

The DiamondBack Band took the stage and provided dancing music to end the evening.

Thank you to all who attended and gave so generously. It was a perfect night!

Stay tuned
for an
announcement
in 2015!



Featured Grants

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

“Read and Ride Program”

Shawn Beaudette, 5th Grade Teacher at Five Hawks Elementary was recently awarded this grant.

The Read and Ride program is designed to turn students into active learners in the classroom. Rather than sitting at their desks throughout the day, students ride specially designed exercise bikes while they are reading, or doing other school work. Research has shown that this increases student engagement in reading, and that reading proficiency increases for students that participate in the program.

Comments from Five Hawks Principal Tim Bell

I fully support the Read and Ride program for stationary bike reading stations in the classroom. The research is compelling with some schools citing a 39%-47% increase in reading rates for students who use the bikes for independent reading practice versus those who do not. Often it is not the act of reading that inhibits the student, it is the lack of movement (or conscious effort to keep still!) that impedes success. This program seems to fit well in the LEF's mission of enhancing learning for all in the ISD 719 community. It is innovative for us and will help our students.



Comments from Students

- *I think riding while reading has been helping me because I can get more energy out than when I am sitting.*
- *I don't get as distracted because the bike is comfortable and I get to move the whole time.*
- *I like to exercise and exercising helps me to focus.*
- *I am getting more reading done while riding the bike compared to when I sat at my desk or another spot in the classroom.*
- *I love how the bike is quiet and it is easy to use. I also like how there are resistance bands on the side of the bike so I can do some work with arms while I am riding.*
- *I think it is really fun because you are not just sitting still in the classroom.*
- *I really like it because when you are reading at your desk, you always want to move around, but you really can't do that. When you are on the bike, you can move your feet and your arms.*
- *I really like the screen on the front of the bike that tells you how far you have gone, and how many calories you have burned.*

With your support we were able to fund the following in 2014:

Hidden Oaks &

Twin Oaks Middle Schools

- 6th Grade Science Lab Equipment
- Foreign Language Media
- Community Garden

District Elementary Schools

- Noise Reducing Headphones
- Read & Ride Bikes

Prior Lake High School

- Vinyl Printer and Cutter
- Green Ribbon Community Garden
- Snowshoes for Physical Ed Department
- Wind Powered Generators

La ola del Lago Spanish Immersion Program at Edgewood School and El Bosque Encantado Preschool in Community

- Spanish Print Books, Audio Books, and Chapter Books to be housed at Prior Lake Library for the Community.

Spring Grant Deadline is Thursday, April 2, 2015...Details at www.lakerfoundation.org



"Snowshoes for Prior Lake High School Students"

Dorothy Nicholas, Physical Education Teacher at Prior Lake High School was recently awarded this grant.

The grant request was to secure funds to add an additional 10 pairs of snowshoes to the existing 32 pairs. This would enable all students in the class to participate in a snowshoeing activity at the same time.

Our goal is to introduce a new and valuable physical education skill while helping students to be more sensitive to their environment. We will be sharing these shoes with the environmental science students and the ECO team, who will occasionally use these at their meetings before school.

Students had the following comments

Snowshoeing was a great experience. I enjoyed it because it was something I had never done before. I also enjoyed it because it was a change of environment. It was nice to get out of the gym and experience new surroundings. It was certainly a hit in my class and I believe classes in the future will love it as much as I did! - Sarah

I really enjoyed snowshoeing in gym class. First, it was nice to be able to explore a little with my friends. I also loved going outside, rather than being in the gym. Finally, I liked that we were working out without really noticing it. Snowshoeing was one of my favorite activities in gym and I know that future students will enjoy it as well! -Morgan

Snowshoeing was one of my activities in my class. It was nice to have a change of environment and explore the area around the school. I liked how we could work out and relax at the same time. I think the rest of my class loved it as well. I hope future classes love it as much as we did!! -Camille

Snowshoeing was a very fun experience for me. I had never done it before so when the opportunity arose, I was so excited!! It was fun goofing around with friends while also getting a workout at the same time. Snowshoeing is a fun way to work out and I know that future students will enjoy it as well. -Ashlyn

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.