



ISSUE NO 10

MAY 2014

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:

Where has the school year gone? Our spring grant cycle has ended and we are gearing up for summer and our BIG event in October (*details in this newsletter*).

We are looking forward to announcing our second LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Math & LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Science recipients. 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 principals for which the educational foundation stands. The annual selection takes place by a group of math & science teachers and is presented at an award ceremony on May 27 at Prior Lake High School.

In June we partner with ISD 191's Educational Foundation to sponsor the Dan Patch 5K Pace and 1 Mile Club Run. The event is held on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Try it! Our youngest participant is 5 years old!

And then it's October, and we will be hosting our 1st annual Blue Jeans Ball. Mark your calendars for October 24, 2014 and check out the flyer at the end of the newsletter. Fun times ahead!

And lastly, we reflect back on this past school year and are so fortunate to have the resources to provide grants that enrich our children's lives every day. These grants would not happen without the generosity of the Prior Lake and Savage area community. We salute you!

Hope to see you at the Blue Jeans Ball!

The LEF Board of Directors

**Wondering how you can thank that special teacher
or support person in your student's life?**

Here's how...

Donate to the foundation via a gratitude greeting or a teacher tribute.

Everyone benefits!

(*details in this newsletter and on our website*)

Spring 2014 Grant Awards

21st Century Technology – Fab Lab

Students will learn to identify needs in their community and invent solutions by developing designs and creating products utilizing technology, software, and 21st Century manufacturing processes. Students will also learn business/entrepreneurial aspects of running a business by applying business skills and strategies to market the products to consumers. The funding from this grant will be used to acquire a new vinyl printer and cutter. This new device would be used in the Fab Lab for various student-centered projects.

6th Grade Science Lab Equipment

The sixth grade science lab will use this equipment for their final unit, which involves Energy, Waves, Sound, Light, and the Electromagnetic Spectrum. These topics are very broad and cover a huge chunk of the Physics needed for the Science MCA. Hands on learning are invaluable to student learning, especially in science. Students need to see it, touch it, and experiment with the topics in order to truly have an understanding on the science involved.

Green Ribbon Community Garden

In conjunction with PLSAS E-STEM and Green Ribbon School designations, the staff would like to build an outdoor classroom. This project consists of installing a vegetable garden and orchard at PLHS. The goal is to provide a scientific learning environment by planting, growing, and harvesting food. All successfully grown food will be used by PLHS in the school kitchen, food labs, or donated to charity.

Snowshoes for PLHS Physical Education Department

This grant will add 10 pairs of snowshoes to the high school's 32 pairs. This would enable all students in the class to participate in a snowshoeing activity.

Foreign Language Media

Current foreign language students do not have access to the extensive foreign language media available at Prior Lake High School. A region free DVD player will allow students to view DVD movies from countries other than the United States and Canada. It will also allow other programs to use the technology to show DVD's from other countries.

Do you wonder how grant awards are decided? Read on...

The spring grant cycle has come to a close and a multitude of grant requests have been received from school district staff and the community. The hard part is deciding on how to allocate the funds set aside to grant those requests.

After the foundation budget has been approved for the year, the foundation board allocates a realistic dollar figure for each grant cycle (fall & spring). Once the grant deadline has come and gone, a board sub-committee (grant review committee) reviews all of the applications received and uses a matrix of predefined criteria. Funds are limited and requests are in abundance.

The grant review committee brings their recommendations to a regular meeting of the foundation's board of directors. The board looks at each recommendation and either approves or asks for further documentation. Once all questions are answered and the board has given their approval, members of the foundation travel to each school with an award letter and certificate. It is gratifying to see the surprised look on the faces of the deserving staff & students.

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)



*Special thanks to Integra for letting us use their facility
for our calling campaign in February!*

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



Fong's Restaurant, Bar & Event Center
4770 Pleasant Street SE, Prior Lake
Proprietors: Cindy & Leo Le

Honor a special teacher or staff member this spring

by treating them to a delicious 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 Fong's Restaurant in Prior Lake.

Deadline: May 20, 2014 at midnight

To donate, visit our website and click on 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 Fong's Restaurant in Prior Lake.

Deadline: May 20, 2014 at midnight

To donate, visit our website or access this QR code on your smartphone.



You make a difference!



This fall, the Laker Educational Foundation decided to explore new fundraising options. We sent out a survey, reviewed the responses and think we've come up with an exciting event that will even entice those that have never attended one of our events before!

Come one, come all to our 1st Annual “Blue Jeans Ball”

We are looking forward to our event and found the perfect venue. We chose Green Acres Event Center in Eden Prairie. The following description doesn't do the place the justice it deserves...

“Green Acres, An Enchanting Event Center in a Historic Barn™, is the perfect venue to create beautiful and unforgettable memories in a magical, old-world setting, conveniently located in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. You will mingle amongst crystal and candlelight chandeliers, antique jukeboxes, an extravagant Italian fountain, and old fashioned player pianos. Cozy seating areas around fireplaces bathed in warm light help make for a relaxed yet elegant setting.”

Come and see for yourself!

It's the Place to Be in 2014!

*Details on our website and on the flyer
under the event section of this newsletter!*



Featured Grant

The following is just one example of how our Foundation gives back to the students in the community.

"Audiobooks of Newbery Titles"

Heather Zehnder, Special Education Teacher at Jeffers Pond was recently awarded this grant.

Brief Description of Newbery Titles

The John Newbery Medal is a literary award given by the Association for Library Service to Children. The award is given to the author of "the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children." Named for John Newbery, an 18th-century English publisher of juvenile books, the Newbery was proposed by Frederic G. Melcher in 1921, making it the first children's book award in the world. The Newbery and the Caldecott Medal are considered the two most prestigious awards for children's literature in the United States. When the winner is announced each January, bookstores sell out, libraries order copies and teachers add the book to their lesson plans.

Summary of the Grant Request

The project will be implemented with 5th grade students receiving special education services. The students will be given the opportunity to read the books at given times at school and also bring the books home to read. The students are required to complete six Newbery projects a year. They will check out a new book each time a Newbery project is assigned. I would like to expand this project in the future to allow other 5th grade students who struggle with reading to access the books as well.

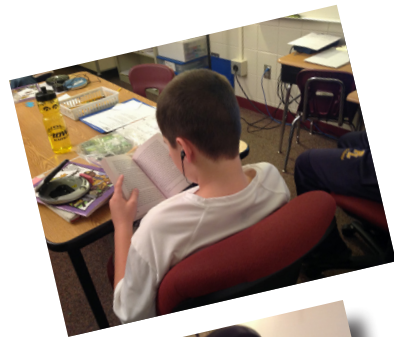


Comments from

Special Education Teacher Zehnder:

"Audiobooks are perfect for students who struggle to read to access quality literature. By listening to audiobooks, students are able to comprehend Newbery books. This also gives them the opportunity to increase their fluency and to read the same books as their peers. I have a student with an emotional/behavioral disorder who also has a learning disability in reading. After bringing the audiobook home, he came in to tell me all about the story. I've never seen him so excited to read! I overheard another student say he was going to read his book in the car on a two hour road trip."

"These types of comments I have never heard from my students before. In addition, the students are staying more engaged in reading tasks while at school and are asking when they can work on their Newbery books."



*Heather Zehnder
Special Education Teacher*

Comments from Jeffers Pond Principal Warner:

"The Newbery books are excellent literature samples for students, but are not always easy to read for some of our special needs students. Using audiobooks as an alternative allows for students to be independent in their reading, much like their peers. This independence builds motivation and allows students to truly gain more meaning and understanding of high quality literature. We are excited for the opportunities of the project and truly appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this grant."

This was the 273rd grant awarded by the foundation.

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 - Saturday, June 21, 2014

Promoting Education & Healthy Lifestyles

Certified 5K RACE and 1-Mile Run!

5K - 9am - starts at Lifetime Fitness Savage *NE side at 140th St.

1 mile - 10 am - starts/ends in Community Park

Chip Timing * Immediate Results!

9:00 am 5K RACE * 10:00 am 1-MILE RUN

Check-in/On-site Registration from 8:00 am-9:00 am. Pre-register until 6/15/2013.

5K Registration \$20/adult \$15/student. Walk-in registration \$5 extra.

1-MILE Registration \$10/person. Walk-in registration \$5 extra.

All ages and abilities welcome - AWARDS in 10 categories!

1st Annual Blue Jeans Ball - Friday, October 24, 2014

“The Place to Be in 2014”

1st Annual

DINNER * RAFFLES * SILENT AUCTION
BONFIRE * LIVE MUSIC

The Laker Educational Foundation
invites you to our

“Blue Jeans Ball”

Friday, October 24, 2014
7:00 to 11:30 pm

Green Acres Event Center
14150 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie

“The Place to Be in 2014”

Tickets \$45.00 per person and on sale at
www.lakerfoundation.org

For more information 952.226.0063

The Laker Educational Foundation logo is located in the bottom right corner of the poster, featuring the word "LAKER" in a blue box above a stylized wave graphic and the words "Educational Foundation" below it.