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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:

In the coming months, you will be able to visit Hidden Oaks Middle School and see student art displayed in a lunchroom art gallery, Bridges Area Learning Center students will be able to obtain their school yearbook free of charge, district elementary students will be engaged in reading using Nooks and beginning readers will be provided literature rich resources. Audio-books with CD players will be provided to struggling readers so they can access quality literature, increase their fluency, and successfully complete the fifth grade Newberry projects.

District elementaries will have access to the "Understanding My Friends With Autism" program which is an interactive video presentation with the objective of helping neurotypical youth understand some of the challenges that an individual who has autism may face each day. iPads will be a common sight in first grade classrooms at St. Michael's. The iPads will be used during Language Arts time to enhance reading, listening, and writing skills, and used in science class. Sensory Tools for CID/Lifeskills programs will provide students with a tool to help them self-regulate, organize and focus for learning. SAD sun therapy lamps will be used to help students suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder at the middle school level to increase attendance and overall student wellness.

It is an exciting time for staff and students to have the resources the Laker Educational Foundation was able to provide due to the generosity of the Prior Lake and Savage area community. These grants are enriching our children's lives every day. And these young lives are the basis for our community's future growth and prosperity.

The quality of our schools and community is vital for our future.

All the best in 2014!

The LEF Board of Directors

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)

You make a difference!

With your support we were able to fund the following in 2013:

Hidden Oaks &

Twin Oaks Middle Schools

- E-Books for Media Center
- Lunchroom Art Gallery
- Sensory Tools for CID/Lifeskills
- SAD Therapy Sun Lamps
- MicroGX Materials & Technology

District Elementary Schools

- Understanding my Friends with Autism
- Cross County Ski Boots
- Signing Time DVD Collection
- 21st Century Book Reports
- iPod Touches in Media Center
- Nook E-Readers
- Beginning Reading Resource Materials
- Audiobooks of Newberry Titles

Bridges Area Learning Center

- iPad and Chromebook Carts
- Student Yearbooks
- Parenting and Child Development Classes

St. Michael Catholic School

- SMARTBoards
- iPads in First Grade Classrooms

City of Prior Lake

- Archery Equipment

Important Announcement

The Laker Educational Foundation has decided to explore new fundraising options.

We are grateful that we were beneficiaries of Summer Smash these past two years and thank the Snouffer's for including us in their Gala.

Thank you to all who donated, participated or volunteered!
You are appreciated!



The results are in!

The Laker Educational Foundation conducted a recent survey to help us plan our future events.

The following responses were received and will be used in planning future endeavors:

- 45% prefer a spring event with 36% preferring fall
- Equal responses to all three fundraising/event ideas
 1. Dinner and wine tasting (craft beer tasting) at a local venue
 2. Gala type event
 3. Concert event with local artists/bands
- 68% would travel outside of the Prior Lake and Savage area but would prefer to keep it local
- 44% would pay up to \$40.00 per ticket and 1% would pay over \$100.00 per ticket
- And, where our work is cut out for us, the majority of those responding have NEVER attended one of our events.

Exciting times in 2014....stay tuned for details of upcoming events.

Featured Grant

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

"SKIS- Skiing Kids in School"

Deb Sunderman, Physical Education Teacher at Five Hawks Elementary School was recently awarded this grant.



Deb submitted the following project summary:

This grant request is to secure funds to purchase new cross country ski boots to replace the 20-30 year old boots. The intent of this project is to continue the cross country ski program at Five Hawks Elementary School. Five Hawks is the only school in the district to provide cross country skiing as a unit to supplement the fitness unit using the E-STEM model. We introduce cross country skiing to elementary students as a low impact aerobic exercise and a sport that people can continue for a lifetime.

Comments from the principal:

"I enthusiastically support this grant and the extraordinary efforts of Ms. Sunderman, giving our students the opportunity to be physically active while using the natural surroundings at Five Hawks. This unit has already benefited hundreds of students. With this grant, we will be able to continue to expose students to the outdoors, great exercise, and teach a skill they can take with them well into their old age!"

Comments from a district parent:

"As the parent of two kids who have learned to cross country ski via this program, I'm appreciative and amazed by this XC unit. Appreciative because without this unit my kids might never have learned to ski. In an age when kids seem to play less outdoors (especially in the winter), learning a healthy fun sport like this is so very positive on several levels. My kids LOVED the cross country ski unit."

Comments from the building secretary:

"Physical Education teacher Deb Sunderman has developed, implemented and fosters this program at Five Hawks. This cross country ski program is just one of the many ways that the physical ed department is unique to the PE programs not only within our district but also to other elementary schools in our area. Many of these students would not have the opportunity to be introduced to this activity if it wasn't for the physical ed program."



*Deb Sunderman
Physical Education Teacher*



This was the 256th
grant awarded by the foundation.

Spring Grant Deadline Announced

Grant applications are accepted from teachers, staff, students and community members. The Foundation reviews all applications and allocates funds that fall within our mission. The next grant deadline is April 3, 2014.

(If the request falls within our mission, you are eligible)

Last day to submit your grant request is **April 3, 2014** at 4:00 p.m.

Need help or have questions? Call 952.226.0063

Applications can be found on our website: www.lakerfoundation.org

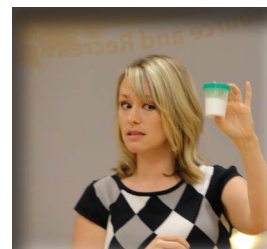


Club Prior was a recipient of a grant to fund nutrition classes to help the senior population in our community receive education on ways to improve their lives with cost effective alternatives to medicine that are within their control and easily accessible. "Foods for Great Energy," and "Change Your Nutrition to Reduce Aches & Pains" were the two classes held at Club Prior, with one during the day and one in the evening, to accommodate varying schedules. The class was free to our seniors.

Once the word got out, both classes filled quickly. Ninety seven people were in attendance. The classes were a huge success with Club Prior now researching offering additional health related classes.

At the "Change Your Nutrition to Reduce Aches & Pains" class began the session by asking "does anyone have aches & pains?" This brought a laugh from everyone. The instructor gave great nutrition tips, recipes and food choice ideas. Everyone left feeling good about taking charge of their health.

At the "Foods for Great Energy" class seniors learned that lack of energy is the main reason people go to see a doctor. Lack of energy can be caused by something like dehydration and poor food choices. Better food choices and recipes were offered to the class.



The highlight of each class was the visual concept of how much sugar is in our food. The class was extremely surprised to see the sugar content displayed in such a unique way!

Some comments from the classes included:

- I learned so much.
- This is information I can really use.
- This was a very valuable session.
- What I learned I can now implement in my daily life. This was great!
- Terrific presentation.
- Wonderful interaction with the instructor.
- Extremely interesting.
- The grant money was very well spent.
- Great question and answer time.
- I am armed with new information.



A comment from a gentleman that attended a recent class:

"Since attending the class, I have not taken any tums, my ears stopped ringing and I feel great. This was the best hour I have spent in a long time and I now follow something I learned at the class "if the farmer doesn't grow it, don't eat it!"

These classes empowered seniors of all ages and stages of their lives to initiate healthy habits and continue to be productive for many years to come.

Check it Out!

Did you see the articles in the Prior Lake American and the Star Tribune on the new lamps that will help brighten students' days at Twin Oaks Middle School? LEF funded this grant.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/blogs/239649091.html>

http://www.plamerican.com/news/sad-lamps-will-bring-happy-thoughts-to-twin-oaks-students/article_8bce9236-495a-52ff-a215-ef04126b4518.html

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.