

TRI-CREEK EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.



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"Everyone can help...create a spark in the mind of a child."

PRESS RELEASE

November 11, 2010

Innovative programs are continuing to be a part of the curriculum for Tri-Creek area students, thanks to the support of the Tri-Creek Education Foundation, Inc. The Foundation's ninth annual competitive grant opportunity in the amount of \$10,000.00 will impact over 2,800 students.

Lynn Bochart, Foundation Director and the Chairperson of the Foundation's Grant Committee, introduced the 2010 grant recipients at the Tri-Creek School Corporation Board of School Trustees' meeting held Thursday, November 11, 2010. Each teacher described their project along with the goals they plan to achieve. The 2010 grant recipients are:

- Lake Prairie Elementary teacher Mary Ann Sytsma (\$1,050.00) and Three Creeks Elementary teacher Patrice Martin (\$1,050.00) "*Rendezvous with a Comet.*" In preparation for a mock space mission that will take place at the Challenger Learning Center at Purdue University Calumet, all fifth grade students from these two schools will spend several weeks learning and practicing the many tasks they will be responsible for while on this mission. They will focus on following directions, sequencing, problem solving, listening skills, task analysis, and working cooperatively as a team: All tasks needed for a successful space mission.
- Lowell Middle School teacher Megan Iussig (\$1,801.00) "*Classic Literature with a Twist: Shakespeare from Hamlet to Simba!*" This is a project where the seventh and eighth grade MERIT classes will study the literary elements of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and apply them to the retelling of this story in both the Broadway musical production of *The Lion King* and the graphic novel of the story by Manga Shakespeare. This grant will cover the admission fee for students and chaperones to attend *The Lion King*.
- Lowell High School teacher Dara Veazey (\$540.00) "*Lowell History Fourth Grade Textbook.*" High school students will participate in Language Arts, Social Studies and Science classes to research a history of Lowell. Students will write, edit and create lessons for a fourth grade textbook that they will teach and then evaluate the effectiveness of the lessons they created.
- Lake Prairie Elementary teachers Jill Sayers and Nikki Chapranda (\$800.00) "*Creative Company.*" This is an after-school art honors program for fifth grade students selected from Lake Prairie, Oak Hill, and Three Creeks Elementary Schools. Students selected will meet after-school one day a week to work on special art projects such as ceramics, stop animation, glass fusing, FIMO sculptures, jewelry, watercolor painting, silk screening, and cartooning over a ten week period.
- Lake Prairie teacher Jill Sayers and Oak Hill teacher Pat Larsen (\$795.00) "*YAM (Youth Art Month).*" Funds will be used to purchase one complete mesh display panel to display student artwork for the parents and public to view during special events.

- Three Creeks Elementary literacy coordinator and interventionist Karen Robison (\$1,128.00) *“Weekly Reader Connect.”* This grant will fund the web participation in Weekly Reader Connect, a program that is rich with non-fiction text, high level activities, academic vocabulary, high student engagement with access from home. This website supports efforts to create literate children in a way they love to learn...through technology.
- Lake Prairie Elementary art teacher Jill Sayers (\$1,200.00) *“iLearn.”* This grant will purchase iPod Touches and applications that students can utilize in the art room. These devices can be used as a tool for learning and/or remediation giving students access to learning apps/software, podcasts, video podcasts, and teacher created lessons.
- Oak Hill Elementary teacher Kimberley Quasney-Bober (\$675.00) *“Move All Year Long.”* This grant will be used to purchase Basketball Skillastics, Volleyball Skillastics, and Fitness Xtreme Skillastics. Skillastics games can be set up in thirty seconds and allows 100 children to be moving at one time. A positive experience is provided for all, while promoting lifetime physical activity.
- Oak Hill Elementary teacher Jane Fedler (\$961.00) *“Photo Essays.”* Digital cameras will be purchased and used by fifth grade students to create photo essays in the computer lab. This project is to motivate and grow writers through the use of technology.

According to Mrs. Bochart, “The Grant Committee had the difficult task of reviewing seventeen grant applications totaling almost \$35,000. Every application we received highlighted wonderful projects that would bring excellence and innovation into classrooms.”

Gifts in any amount are appreciated and can be made in the donor’s name or in the name of a loved one. Since the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are qualified to be tax deductible.

For more information about the Foundation, please contact:

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