

2013 Competitive Grant Recipients

The Foundation's twelfth annual \$10,000.00 competitive grant opportunity was increased this year to almost \$25,000.00 due to past generous donations from the community and a \$5,000.00 grant from the Lake County Solid Waste Management District for grants that highlighted a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle theme.

The 2013 recipients of fifteen grants will impact over 2,800 students. The 2013 grant recipients are:

- Oak Hill teacher Amanda Hill (\$130.00) "*Bully Prevention Video/Tech Integration in the Classroom.*" A Blue Yeti microphone will be purchased to use during the filming of short videos about being a bully-free school by members of the Anti-Bullying committee. The microphone will also be used to create student & teacher-made videos and songs.
- Lake Prairie teachers Mary Ann Sytsma, Michelle Nichols, Nikki Chapranda (\$900.00) "*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 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.
- Lake Prairie teacher Dawn Johannsen, Lake Prairie School Leadership Team (\$2,595.00) "*Computation that's Outta This World.*" This is a math fact program that will help students increase fact fluency. Since all classrooms will utilize this program, there will be curriculum consistency across grade levels. The goal is to help each learner grow and develop a math fact foundation.
- Lake Prairie Art teacher Jill Sayers (\$2,785.94) "*Art Connects.*" This grant gives access to iPads in the Art room on a regular basis and will expand learning opportunities for students from animation to photography to writing to art creation.
- Three Creeks teachers Linsey Waterstraat, Jennifer Del Real, Trish Stanton (\$900) "*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 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.
- Kristen Hughes, Three Creeks Title 1 reading teacher (\$934.99) "*Time for Kids Nonfiction bookset: Challenging.*" This nonfiction book set will be used with fifth grade students who struggle with many aspects of reading and comprehension.
- Three Creeks teachers Mary Stinnett, Janet Bailey, and Julie Nomanson (\$1,000.00) "*Study Trip to Indianapolis.*" All fourth graders will be visiting the Indiana State Museum and Indiana State House. This will be a culminating event for a yearlong study on Indiana, according to the state standards.
- Three Creeks teachers Trish Stanton, Jennifer Del Real, Linsey Waterstraat (\$1,000.00) "*Trout in the Classroom.*" This grant through the Lake County Solid Waste Management District will provide fifth graders monthly lessons on trout habitat, life cycle, water testing, water pollution, etc. fostering an understanding of ecosystem connectivity and conservation ethics.

- Three Creeks teachers Kassie Hanger, Holly Carter, Katie Taylor, Susan Mitsch (\$458.98) “*Using VersaTiles to Create Versatile Accomplished Learners.*” This educational program is a logic based, brain-researched approach in which students activate and complete a puzzle based on a learning skill. The program reflects the common core standards, reinforces skills and concepts taught, gives immediate feedback to students, has hands-on activities, utilizes best practices, and is completely manipulative driven.
 - LMS teacher Megan McCollister Iussig (\$840.00) “*The Hero as Inspiration to Catch the Stars.*” This gives accelerated 8th grade language arts students the opportunity to see the Chicago play, *Peter and the Starcatcher*. The play will be the impetus of a project-based learning experience where students will explore the role of the hero and storytelling. Students will work collaboratively and will examine story structure in both classic and modern texts and common story elements- identifying heroes, settings, conflicts, and analyzing themes.
 - LMS teacher Megan McCollister Iussig (\$1,854.00) “*Dreaming Even Greener: The LMS Composting Initiative.*” This project supported by the Lake County Solid Waste Management District will create a school-wide composting program at LMS which will educate students about reducing and recycling lunchroom waste thus leaving very little left in the way for trash. Students will learn the basics of composting and will actively participate.
 - LHS teachers Mary Cusic, Steve Harker (\$2,400.00) “*Facets of the Bridges Program.*” This program “bridges” students’ middle school experiences into high school so that the transition is as seamless as possible. Students are selected for the program based on ISTEP scores. The facet for this grant is the Chicago Bike Excursion which lends itself to an interdisciplinary study in science, math, language arts, and social studies.
 - LHS guidance counselor Christina Thomas, teacher Joe Swanson (\$5,298.00) “*Red Devil Mentor Program.*” This program facilitates the successful transition of freshman students to LHS. In order to achieve this goal, student mentors meet with the entire freshmen class in small discussion groups during which they address issues relevant to being successful in high school. This grant funds mentor training at DePauw University and the professional contract with Mr. Brian Dobias.
 - LHS teacher/Literacy Coach Kendra McPheeters-Neal (\$2,146.00) “*Sustainable Collaborative Spaces.*” This project supported by the Lake County Solid Waste Management District allows students to work collaboratively and create a prototype for a custom piece of furniture to be made out of recycled bottle caps.
 - Tri-Creek Technology Specialist Dan Gibson (\$1,650.64) “*Mobile Media Production Studio.*” This project will provide around 900 elementary level students with tools to construct videos and radio show-type podcasts.
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