

2014 Competitive Grant Recipients

The Foundation's thirteenth annual \$10,000.00 competitive grant opportunity was increased this year to almost \$16,000.00 due to past generous donations from the community and a successful annual Labor Day 5K run/walk.

The 2014 recipients of seventeen grants will impact every student in some way. The 2014 grant recipients are:

- Lake Prairie teacher Sheryl Buche (\$845.00) "*Coding in Kindergarten.*" Five Dash robots will expose kindergarteners to coding, which will help develop problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills while introducing them to real world, 21st century career paths.
- Lake Prairie Student Support Advisor Kimberly Harris (\$1,078.00) "*A-Maze'ing Minds-in-Motion.*" This scientifically proven and published program promotes the daily use of exercises in a maze format. The program focuses on building and strengthening the vestibular system of students of all ages, thus increasing their learning potential.
- Lake Prairie PE teacher Kristan Stone (\$200) "*Scooter City.*" This project turns the gym into a small city with students cruising around town on their scooters. The lesson focuses on how to be a good citizen.
- Lake Prairie teacher Sheryl Buche (\$1,804.25) "*Seating for the 21st Century Student.*" Forty stability balls and thirty-five wobble seats will be used as an alternative to chairs in the kindergarten rooms. Using this alternative seating will give students the opportunity to move while building core muscles and balance which will improve focus and learning.
- Lake Prairie teacher Samantha Luchon (\$1,147.00) "*WittFitt Stability Balls: Education in Motion.*" Thirty WittFitt stability balls will be used as an alternative to chairs for these third grade students. Research has shown that there is a link between movement and academic performance.
- Lake Prairie Art teacher Jennifer Lusinski (\$600.00) "*Lake Prairie's Recycled Bottle Cap Mural.*" This project will show students and the community how recycled items such as bottle caps can be turned into a beautiful art mural. All Lake Prairie students will be involved in the project.
- Oak Hill teacher Becky Blackman (\$747.00) "*Listening Our Way to Fluency.*" This project is to increase student fluency and reading using iPods in a Guided Reading listening center. Students will listen to authors read books and will also record themselves reading books.
- Oak Hill teachers Amanda Hill and Nicole Nigh (\$1,077.00) "*SPRKing Students with Sphero.*" This project uses I-pads and Spheros, a new device that fuses technology with robotics. It sharpens students' math and science skills while encouraging collaboration among peers and grade levels in a project-based learning environment.
- Oak Hill teachers Amanda Haskins and Christina McDermott (\$1,077.00) "*SPRKing Students with Sphero.*" This project uses I-pads and Spheros, a new device that fuses technology with robotics. It sharpens students' math and science skills while encouraging collaboration among peers and grade levels in a project-based learning environment.

- Three Creeks Student Support Advisor Christa Werling (\$250.00) “*TC B.E.A.R.S. ‘Paws’ for Positive Character.*” This grant supports Three Creeks’ school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support plan. It includes methods to increase academic performance, decrease problem behavior, and create a positive school culture.
 - Three Creeks teachers Mary Stinnett, Janet Bailey, D’Ann Habas, and Sarah Taylor (\$1,250) “*4th Grade Study Trip to Indianapolis.*” This is a culminating Indiana History activity that allows students to experience the Indiana State Museum and the Indiana State Capital.
 - Three Creeks teachers Karen Robison, Amanda Cataldo and Kim Summers (\$140.00) “*One More Story.*” This web based project allows kindergarten students to listen to high quality literature using computer pods and I-pads.
 - Three Creeks teachers Joanna Tinich, Karen Darnell, Michelle Hubbard (\$360.00) “*Sumdog Math and Reading.*” This grant pays for ninety paid subscriptions for first grade students. This online program encourages learning while applying technology in math and literacy.
 - Lowell Middle School Art teacher Jill Sayers (\$600.00) “*Brick by Brick.*” Legos will be used for students to work collaboratively to create large images that show radial symmetry and to also use for props for students to create their own stop animation videos.
 - Lowell Middle School teachers Tara Dransoff, Tammy Gordon, Laura Eller, and Amy Kotelles (\$2,500.00) “*Children Can Make a Difference.*” This project allows 6th grade students to travel to the Indianapolis Children’s Museum and encounter real world examples of children that make a difference through a wide variety of museum exhibits.
 - Lowell High School teacher Amanda Czyszczonek (\$1,765.00) “*Steele’s Turtle Cam.*” This is a cross curricular and grade level project that will increase student engagement through science and writing. Live streaming video feed to Steelee the turtle’s underwater and basking areas will allow teachers to have an educational recourse for their students.
 - Lowell High School teacher Denise Smith (\$319.00) “*Kuta Software – Add Infinite Algebra 1.*” A three year site license will be purchased for this software program that will benefit all ninth grade Algebra 1 students. This program allows ease of creating student assessments and can be used as a tool to make adjustments as needed for supporting students’ needs/weaknesses.
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