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ZIONSVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS EDUCATION GRANTS

With funding from the Zionsville Education Foundation (ZEF), local students will learn about building schools in far away lands, will practice the ancient art of stained class, will use the latest technology to collect and report scientific findings and will become published authors and illustrators. These projects represent just a few of the twenty innovative educational ideas that received funding from ZEF on Monday, December 14.

In all, ZEF awarded more than $37,000 in educational grants to teachers in Zionsville's schools during its fall grant cycle.

"The generosity of the Zionsville community allows us to continue to provide wonderful and unique educational opportunities to our students even in these challenging times," said ZEF Board President Julie Redman.

A committee comprised of ZEF Board members, community members and educators gives careful review to each grant proposal received. The grant committee makes its recommendations to the ZEF Board which awards grants based on the available funds. ZEF grants provide funding for academic excellence and innovation; community and school partnerships; and leveraging external grants.

"We are proud and excited to award these additional funds to teachers who continue to find new ways to help our children learn and grow," grant committee chairperson Peggy Edwards said.

Funding for each grant cycle is based directly on the level of financial support that ZEF receives from donors throughout the year. ZEF is currently accepting donations in honor of any ZCS employee through the "Eagle Honors" program. Recipients of an Eagle Honor receive notification of the donation made on their behalf and are listed in the ZEF annual report. For more information on the fall grant recipients or any other ZEF program, please contact Executive Director Lynn Kissel at 733-4805 or lkissel@zcs.k12.in.us. Form more information on ZEF or the grant process, please visit www.zionsvilleeducationfoundation.org.

SUMMARY OF THE FALL 2009 GRANTS

1. Carving Careers. (Anthony Abrams, ZWMS; $2,627.50) Purchasing a Craftsman CNC will be a great addition to the Industrial Technology course. It will also help establish an engineering club. Club members will be involved with a mock company, designing and producing products for consumers. The mill will generate products for other clubs to use for fundraising.
2. iCan with an iPod. (Jill McCune, PVE; $916.00) The iPods allow special education students to learn how to email, blog, research on the Internet, listen to music or view pictures as a way to calm themselves down, use pictures on the iPod as visual cues to remind them how to appropriately act in social situations, and use pictures to express themselves.

3. Beautiful Books for 4th Grade Authors. (Deborah Milam, Stonegate; $920.00) Utilizing artists, Bonnie Maurer and Bonnie Stahlecker from Young Audiences of Indiana, 4th grade students will compose poems, construct books, and publish poems.
4. Stained Glass Masterpiece. (Sarah Daniels, Stonegate; $2,828.00) Local artist, Rita Wrighton, will work with 120 students to create a stained glass window while educating them on the art of stained glass. The completed windows will be installed surrounding the doorway of the Stonegate Library.
5. Seeing Through New Eyes, Flip Video in the Science Classroom. (Stephanie Compton, PVE; $3,449.30) The purchase of fifteen flip videos will allow all science/technology students at PVE to take data through video and pictures. The cameras will also give the students a new tool in presenting information and sharing their thinking.
6. "If Goldilocks Can, Then Why Can't We?" (Amanda Livengood, Stonegate; $549.00) A first grade classroom will purchase a nonfiction leveled classroom library, as well as a leveled library mobile storage cart and additional fiction leveled readers. This will allow students an opportunity to independently select texts based on their interests, as well as their independent reading level.
7. Building Literacy Immersion. (Amber Witherbee and Kim Riley, Stonegate; $1,300.00) This project will allow a more literacy-rich environment by providing more non-fiction literature, resource materials, audio books, comfortable seating, and magazines in an organized way that invites students to become involved in their own literacy development.
8. Reading is Fun. (Vicki Watson, Stonegate; $568.52) This grant will be used to purchase additional popular books needed to update this classroom's current library. The special education students and other students who are not reading at grade level will use these books in hopes of facilitating improvement in their reading skills.
9. Increasing Non-Fiction Literacy in the Classroom. (Deb Brooks, Eagle; $642.05) This grant enhances classroom library by purchasing non-fiction reading materials, including biographies, autobiographies, reference, and informational books.
10. Math in the Garden. (Natalie Hines, PVE; $603.08) Fourth grade students who struggle with math will learn the academic and practical skills needed to create their own garden. They will be active in the process of planning, constructing and maintaining the garden with their math skills.
11. Stained Glass Artist in Residence. (Scott Miller, PVE; $2,225.00) Artist, Rita Wrighton, will work with students to create mosaic patterns that would be transferred to concrete stepping stones and large stained glass windows.
12. One Book…Two Schools…Three Cups of Tea: Uniting A Community Through Reading
    (Carrie Sanders, ZWMS and Sarah Seligman, ZMS; $7,670.00) The media centers of both schools will purchase several classroom sets of The Young Reader's Edition of Three Cups of Tea, an inspirational true story about Greg Mortenson's decision to help impoverished children learn to read and write, forever changing their lives, his own, and countless others in the world who have

been moved by Mortenson's work. The students and staff at both schools will read and discuss the book, engaging in cross-curricular activities that will bring the events and lessons they read into their everyday lives here in Zionsville.

13. Living in Colonial Times Through Literature. (Jane Green, ZWMS; $920.00) This grant will fund novels that will complement the 5th grade social studies program. While studying colonization of the United States, students will use leveled novels and link the fictional accounts with the facts which they will be studying in their textbooks.
14. Mimio Pad Magic. (Mellissa Stringham, ZWMS; $1745.00) The Mimio Pad is a piece of technology that works in collaboration with the current Mimio software. With this new technology, the teacher can write on the white board from anywhere in the room. This allows the teacher to walk around the classroom while demonstrating new skills to help give more individualized attention to struggling students.
15. SHARBADE. (Holly Hook, ZWMS; $1,430.00) This grant requests equipment needed to play SHARBADE, a fast-paced team sport. This will help develop students' physically and socially. It will help develop muscular strength and endurance which are two components of fitness.
16. Chinese Program: Together We Will Get Higher Achievement (Wendy Yuan, ZCHS, ZMS, ZWMS; $695.00) This grant funds guest speakers, purchases classroom dictionaries, Chinese club art crafts, holiday celebration decorations, Asian shuttlecocks, and some Chinese games and a moon cake mold from Chinatown to supplement the Chinese language program in ZCS.
17. Hoosier Knowledge Cart. (Amber Witherbee, Stonegate; $1,210.00) This grant funds materials for the 4th grade class to be able to access information about famous Hoosiers, including books, maps, pamphlets, newspapers, and articles.
18. Probing Our Physical World. (Andy Seward, ZMS; $2,932.00) This project allows science students to use Passport probes and sensors to measure and collect their own authentic data. They will analyze their data, make inferences, draw conclusions and better understand physical laws of the universe.
19. Listen Up! (Deb Krupowicz, PVE; $3,750.00) Listen Up! provides equipment that will allow children to listen to a variety of materials being read, to write their own books, to create audio to accompany their books, and to simultaneously practice their own reading aloud and their speaking skills while recording teacher-selected read-aloud selections for younger students and their peers.
20. Get Up and Move It! (Kathleen Swayze, ZMS; $304.00) This grant will fund workshops taught by Laurie Cutsinger, a Young Audiences dance teacher, to the General Music classes and the Life Skills students. Through listening and observing, all students will be able to demonstrate a form of dance, and they will experience and learn about new types of music.

TOTAL for 2009 Fall Grants: $37,284.45