



ISSUE NO 7

APRIL 2013

# The Laker Educational Foundation

*Our mission is to encourage Creativity, Innovation and Excellence in Education*



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Mary Viereck, \*Kari Klima \*deceased

## Letter from the Foundation Board

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Where has the school year gone? Our spring grant cycle has ended, we are gearing up for our summer events (line up included at the end of this newsletter) and we are about to announce our first ever LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Math & LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Science recipients.

Inaugurated in 2013, the scholarships are named after the late Kari D. Klima, who was instrumental in starting the Laker Educational Foundation and exemplified the purposes, the ideals and the principals for which the educational foundation stands. The annual selection will take place by a group of math & science teachers and presented at an award ceremony in June at Prior Lake High School.

And June arrives. We have joined up with the Prior Lake VFW and Chamber to co-sponsor a fabulous weekend for all Lakers (past and present) to share in some fun activities. Mark your calendars for June 27-30, 2013! Should be a fun time for all!

August is just around the corner. The Laker Educational Foundation has been named as a beneficiary for the second year of the Summer Smash Gala. Hear all of your Electric Light Orchestra favorites at Summer Smash 2013 on Saturday, August 24. The headliner is The Orchestra, with former members of ELO and ELO Part II. The theme this year is "Electrifying Education".

Hope to see you at our summer events!

The LEF Board of Directors

**Wondering how you can thank that special teacher  
or support person in your student's life?**

Here's how...

Donate to the foundation via a gratitude greeting or a teacher tribute.

Everyone benefits!

*(details in this newsletter and on our website)*

# Spring 2013 Grant Awards

## Hidden Oaks &

### Twin Oaks Middle Schools

- E-Books for the Middle Schools Media Centers
- MicroGX Materials & Technology

### Five Hawks Elementary School

- SKIS - Skiing Kids in School
- Signing Time DVD Collection

### Jeffers Pond Elementary School

- Ipod Touches for Media Center

### Glendale Elementary School

- 21st Century Book Reports

### Bridges Area Learning Center/Edgewood School

- Parenting & Child Development Class

### St. Michael Catholic School

- SMARTboards

### Parks & Recreation, City of Prior Lake

- Archery Equipment

## Do you wonder how grant awards are decided? Read on...

The spring grant cycle has come to a close and a multitude of grant requests have been received from school district staff and the community. The hard part is deciding on how to allocate the funds set aside to grant those requests.

After the foundation budget has been approved for the year, the foundation board allocates a realistic dollar figure for each grant cycle (fall & spring). Once the grant deadline has come and gone, a board sub-committee (grant review committee) reviews all of the applications received and uses a matrix of predefined criteria. Funds are limited and requests are in abundance.

The grant review committee brings their recommendations to a regular meeting of the foundation's board of directors. The board looks at each recommendation and either approves or asks for further documentation. Once all questions are answered and the board has given their approval, members of the foundation travel to each school with an award letter and certificate. It is gratifying to see the surprised look on the faces of the deserving staff & students.

## *Make a difference by honoring those special people in our student's lives!*

### *Honor a special teacher or staff member this spring*

by treating them to a delicious lunch or dinner. For every tax-deductible donation of \$25 made to the Laker Educational Foundation, your chosen staff member will receive a personalized greeting and a \$10 gift card to Fong's restaurant in Prior Lake.

To donate, visit our website and click on the link on the home page or access this QR code on your smartphone.



If you have a senior, new this year is a "**Teacher Tribute**". Most of us have had one or two special teachers who have touched us deeply and changed the course of our lives. Some of these teachers know it, but others do not. This is a time to give them the recognition, honor and respect they deserve. For every tax-deductible donation of \$25 made to the Laker Educational Foundation, your chosen teacher(s) will receive a personalized greeting from your student and a \$10 gift card to Fong's restaurant in Prior Lake. To donate, visit our website or access this QR code on your smartphone.

## Featured Grant

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

### "iPad Lab for Bridges Area Learning Center"

Dave Brown, Dean of Students at Bridges was recently awarded this grant.

#### Brief History of Bridges Area Learning Center

Bridges opened in 2009 in hopes that we would be able to have a place for students who were not seeing success in a traditional school setting. To date, in the four years of operation, Bridges has been at capacity with students engaged in their learning, having a positive experience with their education and moving forward to obtaining their diploma. Last year graduation was a validating hallmark in that over 40 students graduated from Bridges receiving their Prior Lake High School diploma, having better and great options for their future.

#### Summary of the Grant Request

In working with over 100+ of at-risk students in our community and surrounding areas each year, teachers will have the means to engage their students with technology and its educational benefits. Our teachers will maximize their use and utilize their capability to enhance the educational experience of our students and, we have the infrastructure put in place including wi-fi capability.



#### Comments from Teachers:

*“Working with At-Risk students means maximizing hands on engagement in their learning. The LEF has partnered with us to step into the 21st century allowing our areas at-risk students to be more positively engaged in their classes and school with relevant work with technology.”*

#### Comments from Students:

*Being able to use iPads in my classes feels like I matter and am important to the school. It helps motivate me to be a part of class and do well!*



*Dave Brown, Dean of Students*

#### Comments from Dean of Students:

*“Our mission is to help at-risk students successfully progress towards acquiring their diploma to be gainfully employed or ready for post-secondary education. The LEF has provided a major community support in helping us achieve our mission!”*

#### **Please note:**

This grant was funded by the Prior Lake Optimist Foundation, the Prior Lake Lions Club and the Laker Educational Foundation.

This was the 237th grant awarded by the foundation.

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.



# Summer Events Line Up

## Dan Patch 5K - Saturday, June 22, 2013

### Promoting Education & Healthy Lifestyles

Certified 5K RACE and 1-Mile Run!

5K - 9am - starts at Lifetime Fitness Savage \*NE side at 140th St.

1 mile - 10 am - starts/ends in Community Park

Chip Timing \* Immediate Results!

9:00 am 5K RACE \* 10:00 am 1-MILE RUN

Check-in/On-site Registration from 8:00 am-9:00 am. Pre-register until 6/15/2013.

5K Registration \$20/adult \$15/student. Walk-in registration \$5 extra.

1-MILE Registration \$10/person. Walk-in registration \$5 extra.

All ages and abilities welcome - AWARDS in 10 categories!

## Prior Lake High School Alumni & Friends

### All Laker Weekend June 27-30, 2013

All past students, staff and friends are welcome!

Stay tuned & visit  
[www.Facebook.com/PLHSAlumni](http://www.Facebook.com/PLHSAlumni)

Thursday, June 27 - Bingo at the VFW 6:00 pm

Friday, June 28 - Golf Tournament at the Wilds Golf Club 1:00 pm

Saturday, June 29 - Laker 5K from VFW 9:00 am

Saturday, June 29 - Laker Reunion Event at VFW 2:00 pm

Sunday, June 30 - Pancake Breakfast at the VFW 8:00 am

## Saturday, August 24

### 7:00 pm

## Epic Event Center - Minneapolis



### “ELECTRIFYING EDUCATION”

*A benefit gala for the Laker Educational Foundation*

Featuring



Join us for Live & Silent Auctions,  
Heads & Tails, Raffle, Hors d'oeuvres &  
Cash Bar

**Purchase tickets at:** [www.summersmashgala.com](http://www.summersmashgala.com)