



ISSUE NO 8

OCTOBER 2013

The Laker Educational Foundation

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



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Letter from the Foundation Board

October 2013

Greetings,

Each president and board of directors of the Laker Educational Foundation, since its founding in 2005, have built on its distinguished traditions and introduced new initiatives and new visions. Since its inception, the foundation has been dedicated to their mission.

This summer we partnered with local organizations to be part of the Dan Patch 5K, the first All Laker Weekend for Prior Lake High School alumni & friends and completed our largest fundraiser, the Summer Smash Benefit Gala. We were able to raise a substantial amount of money due to these partnerships, team efforts and dedication.

We will continue to pursue efforts to be able to offer the funding of grants to improve the lives of children in this community. Stay tuned for opportunities in the upcoming year.

Won't you join in by supporting our mission? Check out our website at www.lakerfoundation.org. There are many ways to get involved. "We can accomplish so much more by working together than we can by working alone."

Warm regards,

The Laker Educational Foundation

Grant Deadline Fast Approaching

(If the request falls within our mission, you are eligible)

Grant applications are accepted from teachers, staff, students and community members. The foundation reviews all applications and allocates funds that fall within our mission. The next grant deadline is October 30, 2013.

Last day to submit your grant request is October 30, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

Need help or have questions? Call 952.226.0063.

Applications can be found on our website: www.lakerfoundation.org



Summer Smash a HUGE Hit!

*(The Summer Smash Gala is an annual event
and proceeds benefit the foundation)*



The Orchestra - August 2013

The 5th annual Summer Smash Gala was held on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at the Epic Event Center in Minneapolis. An estimated 400 attendees and volunteers were entertained by “Q the Clique”, took part in raffles, auctions and games. The headliner for the event was “The Orchestra” (ELO, ELO PT II former members). Local jazz vocalist Patty Peterson was the emcee for the evening.

Prior to the band’s performance, a live auction was held with a special feature “Fund-A-Need”, the foundation’s designated need. During this portion of the live auction over \$8,000 was raised for a cart of Chrome Books for students that attend Bridges Area Learning Center. Dean of Students Dave Brown & student Tyler Duff were guest speakers.

The event was a success due to the tireless work of volunteers, including the Robotics team. We are grateful to all for your time & effort to make this benefit such a smashing success!

Stay tuned to our website www.lakerfoundation.org for further updates and plans for summer of 2014. It will be here before we know it!

Thanks to our Donors

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have donated to the foundation and all those who have volunteered their time and talents to help out at our events.

You make a difference!

October is United Way Month

The United Way is a coalition of charitable organizations that join together to pool fund raising efforts for non-profit groups. The national United Way organization serves as an umbrella for over 1,300 United Ways throughout the U.S., and each follows this basic model, with most United Way fund raising focusing on the workplace through employee payroll and employer matching funds.

Have you considered the United Way? All you need to do to designate a donation to the Laker Educational Foundation is to write our name and address on your pledge form. Just listing the Laker Educational Foundation, Prior Lake, MN works also. Even if you don't itemize on your tax return, you can take a deduction.

You can give securely online by credit card or you can mail a check to:
Greater Twin Cities United Way, 404 South 8th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Non-itemizing MN taxpayers can deduct 50% of charitable contributions exceeding \$500. To learn more about this law, visit the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Featured Grant

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



"Photo & Recording Equipment"

Rachel Olmanson, Art Teacher at St. Michael School, was recently awarded this grant.

Rachel submitted this project summary:

With access to technology tools, students will create multiple projects that will impact themselves and their community. First, students will create digital portfolios. One project each student will include in their digital portfolio is a video-taped discussion about their artwork using a green screen. The screen will allow images of their art to be seen in the background as they describe their work - just like backgrounds shown on news and weather reports. Students would also use portfolios to reflect upon and evaluate their work. Students will prepare artwork for worldwide display on Artsonia.

Some students will use this technology to create videos about character development to share across the schools.

Comments from the principal:

"Your investment makes a difference by providing students with opportunities to work and learn with the tools of our "connected" global and digital world."

Comments from the teacher:

"This has helped my students think of new ways to create work. It has also given them the opportunity to share all of their work during conferences. Students are extremely excited to use the green screen in creative ways. My students are talking about their work in a more reflective manner. A parent stopped in, who is a professional photographer, and noticed the green screen and lighting. He has now offered to come into class to teach the students some aspects of photography to include lighting, composition, etc. Thank you so much! This has made a huge difference in what I can do to help my students excel in some of the arts standards!"

This was the 241st grant awarded by the foundation and benefited approximately 150 middle school students.



Rachel Olmanson
Art Teacher

Get Involved...Stay Involved

The Laker Educational Foundation is an asset to the community.

www.lakerfoundation.org

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

The fall grant cycle has just begun. We are hoping to receive a multitude of grant requests 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 board approval is given, 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.

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.

A snapshot of some recent grants

Grant #256-13
 Replaced Ski Boots for
 Cross-Country Ski Classes



*"Thank you Laker Ed Foundation!
 Because of your grant we were able
 to make our archery camp a reality."*

*"We used our Archery Equipment
 for the first time on 6/25/13.*

*34 children ages 6 – 11 were
 able to learn and practice
 the correct form and
 technique of shooting archery."*



Grant #253-13
 Archery Equipment for
 Parks & Rec Classes



Comments were received from
 the Park & Recreation Dept. at
 the City of Prior Lake.

Grant #231-12
 Healthy Snack Cart



Grant #247-12
 A Mural Story

