



ISSUE NO 5

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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 2012

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 our mission.

Most recently, the Foundation was named as beneficiary to the Summer Smash Gala, founded by local residents Tom & Kathy Snouffer. We were able to raise a substantial amount of money due to this partnership, team effort 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 25, 2012.

Last day to submit your grant request is October 25, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Need help or have questions? Call 952.226.0063.

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

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!



The 4th annual Summer Smash Gala was held on Saturday, August 18, 2012 at the Epic Event Center in Minneapolis. An estimated 430 attendees and volunteers were entertained by Patty Peterson and moZiak, took part in raffles, auctions and games. The headliner for the event was The Guess Who.

Summer Smash a HUGE Hit!

(The Summer Smash Gala is an annual event of Tom & Kathy Snouffer. This year they designated the foundation as the beneficiary)



Prior to this Canadian 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 i-Pad's for special needs students in the school district. Speech, Lanuguage & Pathology teacher Karen Russell was the guest speaker.

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!

Get Involved...Stay Involved

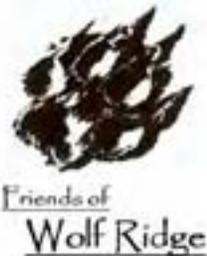
The Laker Educational Foundation is an asset to the community.
Click Here for Ways to Get Involved!



Golf Highlights

Despite a cool September afternoon, the sun was shining for the Prior Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the Laker Educational Foundation and the Laker Hall of Fame 2012 Golf Tournament.

There was a good turnout at this fun event, held at the Wilds Golf Course in Prior Lake. Proceeds directly benefited local businesses, educational programming and the Laker Hall of Fame.



Dodge, Duck & Donate

**Homecoming is Friday, October 5 at Dan Patch Stadium.
Watch the game (7:00 p.m. vs. Kennedy) and then stay to play dodge ball.
Muss from the K102 Wake-Up Crew will emcee the family friendly game.**

The Laker Educational Foundation (LEF) is sponsoring the dodge ball game with proceeds benefiting Friends of Wolf Ridge, a committee dedicated to raising funds to keep the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center program going for all 5th graders.

Register now and save; \$10/person or \$35/household; walk-ins \$15/person, ages K-12 & adults.

[Click here to register.](#)

Featured Grant

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



"i-Pads to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)"

Karen Russel, Speech, Language, Pathology Teacher at Grainwood Elementary School was recently awarded this grant.

Karen submitted the following project summary:

It is our hope that by using the iPad2 and its apps we are including students with ASD in the development process of improving academics, social communication, social skills, regulating emotions, managing their schedules, and organizing their daily activities. Using the iPad2 and its apps to support our students can be highly motivating, provide them respect, allow them to become more independent rather than dependent, and provide a lifetime tool across many environments.

How will this help students?

The iPad2 will allow our students with ASD to learn to become more independent with reading, writing, math, communication, regulating emotions, social understanding and organization skills by using apps in both special education and regular education settings. The iPad2 will encourage and promote equal opportunities for students with ASD in the mainstream classrooms while interacting with their same aged peers.

Students with autism and Asperger's (high functioning autism spectrum disorder) tend to be visual learners who gravitate toward technology and screens to quickly navigate and master programs. Students have a monthly newspaper called the Grainwood Galaxy. Students use the newspaper as a way to let the community know how the students are using the iPad2 and its applications at school.

Comments from principal:

"The i-Pad's provide a tool to deliver cutting edge instruction to students receiving speech-language services and to students in our communication interaction disorder (CID) classrooms receiving services for communication and social skills development."

Comments from teacher: Karen Russell

The use of the ipad has been a successful and exciting process for me and the students I work with. It's amazing to see students motivated and engaged while using the ipad. I have experienced the "power" of what this technology does for students and it makes my heart soar to see them excited about learning. I am so thankful for our Laker Education Foundation and what they do for people like me.



*Karen Russell
Speech, Language Pathology*

This was the 194th grant awarded by the foundation.

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 check-off 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 the 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 ([click here](#)) 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.

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.