



ISSUE NO. 18

MAY 2017

# The Laker Educational Foundation

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



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## Letter from the Foundation Board

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Another school year has come and gone! Time does not stand still, nor does the Laker Educational Foundation!

We welcome our new development director, Kristi Nichols. The board is very excited to have such a talented person in this role. Her picture and bio is on page two!

Our spring grant cycle ended with some innovated grant approvals. We are planning our 4th annual Blue Jeans Bash, and we will be announcing our LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Math & LEF Klima Scholarship Award/Science recipients. We have been busy.

A bit of history about our scholarships. 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 purpose, the ideals and the principals for which the educational foundation stands. The annual selection took place and recipients were chosen by a group of math and science teachers. The students will be presented the awards at a ceremony in June at Prior Lake High School. We will post the winners' names and photos after they have received these prestigious awards!

During the month of June, we co-sponsor the Dan Patch 5K PACE and 1 Mile Club Run on Saturday June 24, 2017. Our youngest participant was a 4-year old a few years back! Should be a fun time for all. If you would like to participate, please register on our website.

As mentioned above, once again we hosted a very successful Blue Jeans Bash in October of 2016. We had a fabulous turnout and were able to raise funds to support our educational grant program. We will be hosting our 4th annual Blue Jeans Bash on Friday, October 27, 2017 at the MN Horse & Hunt Club in Prior Lake. Stay tuned for details! If you are interested in sponsorship or volunteering, make sure to let us know. Contact information is on our website.

Hope to see you at our summer and fall events!

*The LEF Board of Directors*

# New Development Director Chosen



*Kristi Nichols*  
*Development Director*

The Laker Educational Foundation has chosen Kristi Nichols as the new development director for the Laker Educational Foundation. This is a new position for the foundation.

Kristi has worked in philanthropy nearly 15 years, working for corporate foundations. Her experience included managing a corporate giving program that included strategic planning, grantmaking, internal and external communications, and employee engagement efforts.

Kristi is actively involved in the community at organizations including the Corporate Volunteerism Council-Twin Cities, Minnesota Council on Foundations, Grant Managers Network, Leadership Twin Cities, and the Minnesota Keystone Program. Kristi earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and Film from Augsburg College.

Kristi and her husband, Jeremie, live in Prior Lake. They have two daughters, one of which is attending Jeffers Pond Elementary School.

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



Artisan Coffee Bistro & Bar  
16731 Highway 13 S.  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
952.447.1188  
*Nan & Ben Peters, Proprietors*

## Honor a special teacher or staff member this spring

by treating them to a delicious breakfast, lunch or dinner. For every tax-deductible donation of \$20 made to the Laker Educational Foundation, your chosen staff member will receive a personalized greeting and a \$10 gift card to Artisan Coffee Bistro & Bar in Prior Lake.

**Deadline: May 31, 2017**

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



If you have a senior, consider 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 \$20 made to the Laker Educational Foundation, your chosen teacher(s) will receive a personalized greeting from your student and a \$10 gift card to Artisan Coffee Bistro & Bar in Prior Lake. **Deadline: May 31, 2017**

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



*You make a difference!*

# Grant Spotlight

## K'Nex Educational Building Systems

Sandy Timmerman, 5th Grade Teacher  
WestWood Elementary was recently awarded this grant.

A recent LEF approved grant, “K’Nex Educational Building Systems” uses real world math to motivate students and build the skills they need most. Sandy Timmerman, a 5th grade teacher from WestWood Elementary School, submitted the request.

The intent of the project submitted was described as follows:

“The K’Nex Educational System are building tools for students to use STEM and engineering skills to build structures and robots. As a teacher, we are looking for tools to provide students with E-STEM learning opportunities. We have also started Maker Space and these modules match the Maker Space initiative. These modules come in a variety of themes including: robotics, STEM Exploration Structures, Bridge Building, Renewable Energy, STEM Swing Bridge Building Set, STEM Roller Coasters, and Simple Machine Explorations. These systems can be used by grades 3-5. There are a variety of levels to meet the needs of regular education students as well as our SAGE Academy students. These systems also work for our Synergy students in talent groups. Our media center has a Maker Space area that is used daily by all grade levels during media time.”

The foundation received the following comments from WestWood Principal Karen Zwolenski:

*“Our mission at PLSAS is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever changing global community. We know that proving students with E-STEM opportunities will develop creatively, inquiry, and innovation, the essential skills required for our future in a global community.”*

The following comments were received from students:

- Iqra said, “I think K’Nex helps you learn by challenging your brain. It really tells you a lot about levers and screws.”
- Logan shared, “I enjoyed the K’Nex project because it made our group think, and it really gave us a creative activity. It was very fun!”
- “My name is Zuhayb. I think the K’Nex helped me by building my E-STEM. I enjoyed building cool structures.”
- Ethan commented, “When I finished building the drill I felt satisfied. I know that a screw is a drill, so the drill looked like a screw. After we made the drill we made a car, which is a wheel and axle type of simple machine.”
- Kyla said, “I think the K’Nex helps you to learn because they make you think and help teach you your own skills to engineering. Something I learned about simple machines is that simple machines and engineering are like the same thing almost. All they do with the K’Nex is make it so I can understand it, and I’m only in 5th grade. I can’t believe it. It was so much fun, and I really want to do it again.”



# 2017 Spring Grant Awards

## Weighted Blankets and Vests

Students will use blankets and vests to utilize as sensory tools in order to help increase their self-regulation and promote calming, focusing and organizing effects to promote optimal learning.

## Stand 2 Learn

A standing desk station in each 3rd-5th grade classroom will be provided which allows students an opportunity to improve their self-regulation, increase their focus and energy and allow for movement during instruction while promoting optimal learning.

## Active Seating/Flexible Learning

An assortment of active seating/flexible learning options will be purchased for the benefit of all students in the classroom. This grant includes 24 active seats and two student standing desks. Students can maintain low-level physical activity which is linked to higher academic performance.

## LEGO Engineering Kits

The Lego WeDo 2.0 kits had an overwhelming response. The teacher has been asked to pilot and participate in a research study through Lego Education in London. As part of this study, she is receiving some kits to try with students and would like to have a few more kits to really expand their learning.

## Outdoor Learning Equipment

This kindergarten team asked for two Home Depot pitcher pumps and 1 set of Kodo Outdoor Ramps. These will extend children's learning by allowing them to use Laker learning traits and E-STEM skills such as collaborating, designing, problem-solving and experimenting.

## Pre-K Maker Kit (MakinMaker)

Makers Kit will give the opportunity for an enhanced educational experience; explore creating and learning in the following areas: electricity, robotics, multiple dimensions, simple machines, solar power, and building structures.

## 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.

*All grants that the Laker Educational Foundation has funded can be found on our website:  
[www.lakerfoundation.org](http://www.lakerfoundation.org)*



If you shop at Amazon, you can now help support the Laker Educational Foundation simply by shopping on Amazon through AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support us every time at no cost to you.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to LEF. Directions and link can be found on our website: [www.lakerfoundation.org](http://www.lakerfoundation.org)

**The Laker Educational Foundation website: [www.lakerfoundation.org](http://www.lakerfoundation.org)**

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.

# Events Line Up

## Dan Patch 5K PACE and 1-Mile Club Run Saturday, June 24, 2017

Certified 5K RACE and 1-Mile Run!

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

CHIP TIMING \* Immediate Results! 1 mile: 10am - starts/ends in Community Park

*Sponsored by Dan Patch Days \* Lifetime Fitness \* Subway \* Twin Cities Orthopedics \* Sam's Club  
\* Foundation 191 and Laker Educational Foundation*

" PROMOTING EDUCATION and HEALTHY LIFESTYLES "  
RACE \* 10:00am 1-MILE RUN

Check-in/On-site Registration 8:00am-9:00am. Pre-Register until 6/20/2017

5K Registration \$20/adult \$15/student. WALKINS \$5 extra.

1-MILE Registration \$10/person. WALKINS \$5 extra.

All ages and abilities welcome - AWARDS in 10 categories!

Register on  
our website!

## Annual Blue Jeans Bash Update

We held our 3rd annual Blue Jeans Bash on a beautiful fall evening at the MN Horse & Hunt Club.

Our fun-filled evening featured a live and silent auction, games including heads & tails and back by popular demand, a dessert dash!

It was an awesome evening enjoyed by all. Planning is already underway for our 4th annual event. Stay tuned!

Thank you to all who attended and gave so generously. It was a perfect night!



Save the Date!  
October 27, 2017!  
Details to follow!

