



ISSUE NO 14

OCTOBER 2015

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,

Never in its history has there been a more exciting time to be connected with the Laker Educational Foundation. Because of your generosity and commitment, it has been a successful year. We are truly blessed to live in a community that has always placed a tremendous value on the education of its children. Your allegiance to continue the strong tradition of educational excellence and outstanding student achievement has been overwhelming.

If you haven't heard, we will be hosting our **2nd annual Blue Jeans Ball on October 23, 2015. The event will be held at the MN Horse & Hunt Club in Prior Lake.** We are very excited about the event and hope you are as well. The details are located on the events page of this newsletter. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, do so soon. A limited number are available.

At the end of this month, we will be reviewing all of the grant requests received. It's then up to the grant committee to come to the board with recommendations on how funds will be allocated.

Busy times ahead! To all of you who have given so generously and worked so diligently to ensure the foundations' success, we offer our heartfelt thanks!

Hope to see you at the Blue Jeans Ball!

The LEF Board of Directors

Fall Grant Deadline Announced!

(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.

Last day to submit your grant request is **October 29, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.**

Need help or have questions? Call 952.226.0063.

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

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.

(A complete list of donors can be found on our website)



L to R: Mark Belden, Maria Bellden, Lori Frank, & Sara Wintheiser

Mark Belden, Maria Belden & Sara Wintheiser from Speiker & Company in Prior Lake, presented a check to Lori Frank, President of the Laker Educational Foundation. The proceeds were raised at the Fall Community Fest and a home football game. The funds were part of a fishbowl game the employees of Speiker & Company put together and 100% of the proceeds were donated to LEF.

We are very appreciative. Thank you!

Featured Grants

The following are examples of how our foundation gives back to the students in the community.

“Raptor Data Integration”

A group of teachers from Hidden Oaks & Twin Oaks submitted a grant request in the spring titled “Raptor Data Integration. The grant review committee was intrigued. We decided to get an update as follows:

“Engaging in the integrated program with The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota enables us to provide connective experiences for our 7th grade life science students in the areas of real time data analysis, the study of raptor characteristics, adaptation/evolution, energy levels within living systems, and environmental contamination. All of these topics are directly linked to Minnesota state standards. We have previous experience working with TRC as they presented to our students once a year regarding the characteristics of raptors for the past nine years. The opportunity to engage in this new integrated program enables our students to become more proficient in their knowledge of living systems and their interactions along with data analysis skills. The curriculum communicates to students the direct impact humans have on our local environment as they analyze lead levels in bald eagle blood samples. Our middle schools are excited to have our students engage in these opportunities.”



A big thank you to ISD 719 teachers Jennifer Clemmerson, Allison Fasking, Keith Lillquist & Todd Kemper.

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.

"Library Makerspaces"

Kelly Iverson-Egge, Library Media Specialist, was recently awarded this grant.

Summary of the grant request:

This library makerspaces project consists of supplying materials that allow students to build, create and explore. These makerspaces complement our district E-STEM initiatives by encouraging students to use engineering skills in creative ways. The project provides opportunities in all elementary schools.

Student Comments

- This is awesome!
- Do we get to build again today?
- Look what I made!

Kelly's Comments

We LOVE our makerspaces!

Our Laker Educational Foundation grant allowed us to begin our makerspaces, and we have since gotten additional funding from our buildings, PTC groups and Kids' Company.

Teacher Comments

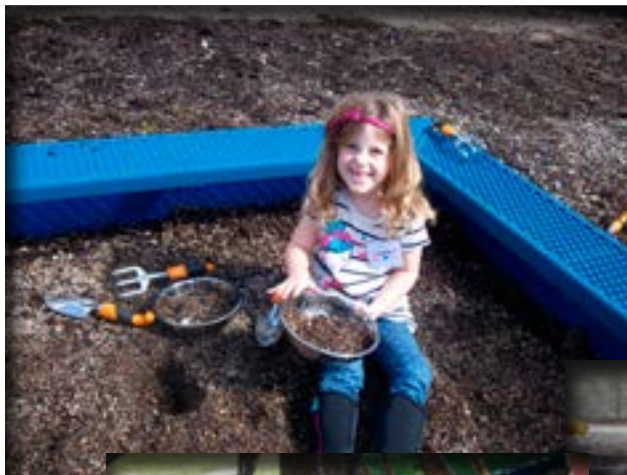
- The kids look so engaged!
- This aligns really well with our ESTEM curriculum.
- Our makerspace allows students to be 21st century thinkers.
- Students are working together cooperatively and building on each other's ideas.



"Outdoor Classroom for Nature Based Kindergarten"

Leah Bulver, kindergarten teacher, was recently awarded this grant.

We funded an outdoor classroom space to integrate nature into the kindergarten classroom. Playing in nature creates endless opportunities for discovery and creativity.



The kids love the space and it is being utilized by all WestWood kindergarten students every day!



My kindergarten students thrive in the outdoor classroom. It is a space where they are experiencing hands-on learning every day--catching insects, cooking a leaf stew, or playing a make-believe game. It has been exciting to watch them build friendships, learn cooperation, and be creative in their play.

- Leah Bulver, ISD 719 Teacher

"Community Garden"

Eve St. Mane, special education teacher, was recently awarded this grant.

"Some teachers get apples...I get tomatoes! Thanks guys!"



It has been wonderful watching the plants grow from seed to maturity. With our grant dollars we purchased organic soil, planting trays, and various garden tools, including soaker hoses for watering throughout the summer. We cleaned out the weed filled planter along the cafeteria and freshened it up with 4 cubic yards of choice organic soil! Next came the planning. We had to determine how many plants could grow in the space we had allotted. "Is this math class or science class?" "I think it's a little of both!" We planted tomatoes, peppers, kale, eggplant, carrots, and cucumbers, along with a lot of herbs, in the community garden. Some of the students snuck in a few left over science experiment sunflowers!

"Can we experiment to see who can get their seeds to sprout first?" "The scientific method to the rescue. We made a science experiment out of a group of seeds by trying different growing methods. They kept the variable plant, and we planted those started in organic soil. We tried all kinds of things, including starting plants in the plastic bags taped to the windows!

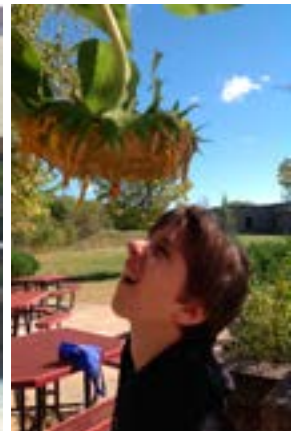
"This is a lot of work!" "This plant needs more water." "The herbs aren't sprouting!" "My sunflower is the tallest!" "I want a salsa garden!" those were just a few of the phrases heard throughout this process.

The work started with filling close to 800 seedling trays with dirt, and then planting seeds in each. We set the trays in the greenhouse, and checked them daily, monitoring not only for even watering, but also for overwatering. Determining which plants did best in the "hot house" and which plants preferred a cooler environment. Once the seedling started to sprout it was game on! When they began to get overcrowded in the seed trays we transferred the plants to recycled milk cartons to give the roots more room to expand, and the plant more room to grow. When the weather warmed up, they were ready to be planted in the ground. The dirt was delivered, and while we were all excited, we also knew moving the dirt from the parking lot to the garden area was a huge task! "How are we going to move that mountain of dirt?" "That will take us a week to move all that!" I think the students were a little overwhelmed when they first saw all that dirt! It took a lot of working together, and a lot of cooperation, and a lot of effort, but we moved the dirt in a day and filled our planter to the top. We put our plants in the ground, gave them a big drink of water, and watched them grow!

Our sunflowers were reaching towards the sky, and finally bloomed just after we all returned to school! We have been sharing our tomatoes with staff since our first day back. We even had a salsa and chips treat a few times!

"Fresh tomatoes makes the best salsa ever!"

"Thank You Laker Educational Foundation Grant Committee!"





Events Line Up

2nd Annual Blue Jeans Ball - Friday, October 23, 2015

Limited number of tickets are available...purchase [HERE!](#)

2nd Annual
DINNER * RAFFLES * ENTERTAINMENT
* LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

The Laker Educational Foundation
invites you to our
Blue Jeans Ball
Friday, October 23, 2015
6:00 pm social / 7:00 pm dinner
MN Horse & Hunt Club
2920 E. 220th Street, Prior Lake, MN
"The Place to Be in 2015"

Tickets \$45.00 per person and on sale at
www.lakerfoundation.org
For more information 952.226.0063



It's a bit early to be thinking of the holidays, however keep in mind the foundation has an awesome way to thank that special teacher, principal or support person in your student's life.

Donate to the foundation by purchasing a **gratitude greeting**. Everyone benefits!
Watch for details forthcoming!