



A new school year dawns....letter by Scott Melton, President, KPS Educational Foundation

We begin another school year faced with news of yet more cuts to public education and the uncertainty of our economy. Even so we can be proud of the continued accomplishments and success of our students, our educators and our staff here in the Kentwood Public School District. The Kentwood Public Schools Educational Foundation is committed to the continued success of our district and our students in the years ahead. KPS is working to prepare our students for leadership in our global society, and your Foundation is proud to be able to support our schools in achieving that goal. Professors from three universities recently wrote:

Diversity of outlook is as important as visual diversity, as is the location in a variety of institutions offering recognized courses, concentrations, certificates, majors, and

graduate emphases in technical, scientific, and professional writing and communication. Diversity does not only look different. Rather, diversity allows for varieties of experience and ways of thinking, seeing, and representing the world in different ways. Competing globally, one challenge among many remains finding ways of including everyone's contributions even when they are not immediately recognizable. We cannot waste the labor of any hand in the competitive global arena: future success depends upon our ability to include those once excluded.

Diversity of thought and experience is a wellspring for innovation...

Excerpt from "A Conscience of Diversity", Issue Preview from Programmatic Perspectives, the Journal of the Council for

Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication (2011).

Our students are prepared not only through their physical, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity, but the diversity of outlook and thought that will groom them for success in the "real world" and the global marketplace. Our Foundation has provided in excess of \$200,000 in grants and scholarships supporting the programs and continued success of our staff and students. In a time of cuts to public education, the Foundation provides a vehicle for our community to commit its tax deductible dollars directly to our schools and the success of our children. Please help KPS continue to achieve academic excellence and success for all of our children through your generous financial support and your time. And - Go Falcons!!!



2011

The Kentwood Public Schools Educational Foundation is a community funded, volunteer driven organization. Our mission is to increase the value in our community's public education through...

- Educational Grants to Kentwood Public Schools Faculty
- Scholarships for Kentwood Graduates
- Corporate and Memorial Scholarship Opportunities
- Partnering Business Giving with Classroom Needs

Spring 2011 Grants Awarded!

1. 17 grants awarded

Although 15 were approved, two of them are combined building grants that were awarded separately.

2. Just over \$14,000 awarded

A record amount of funding was shared this grant period. As we build awareness and donor support, we hope to continue growing the amounts we can provide.

3. EKHS Challenge Day Funded

An additional grant was awarded to fund the first ever EKHS Challenge Day. See more information on this big event in the feature article on page 5.

4. Deadline for fall 2011 grants

November 1 is the deadline for fall applications. Grants will be awarded by December 1.

5. Level Reading Library

At Challenger, books are being purchased to provide a leveled reading library. The grant will assist in that effort.

GRANT \$495.17

Did You Know?

The Kentwood Public Schools Education Foundation has awarded over \$113,000 in scholarships since it's inception in 1986.

Your financial support is tax deductible subject to your individual tax status.



Using Physical Education to Support Curriculum

Challenger and Endeavor received a \$1,043 combined grant to purchase materials used in group movement exercises. Grant requestor Courtney Ostipow shares:

"When we exercise, attention, adrenaline, blood flow, and motivation are elevated. This creates a balanced or homeostatic state in the learner. Due to this, the learner has better retention, stress reduction, increased memory retrieval and is more focused."

This grant enabled each school to have its own set of activities and materials to support the movement activities benefitting over 330 students

Artist in Residence Program with the GR Symphony

Both Explorer and Bowen received \$500 each to help fund the Artist in Residence program that is offered by the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra. Music Teacher Paula Winn shares:

"Explorer and Bowen were selected to participate in the Artist in Residence Program through the GRSO. The program is a two year partnership with the orchestra focusing on grades K-6, in Kent County. Students experience the GRSO on three levels:

- a. attend live orchestra concerts
- b. meet professional musicians in the classroom
- c. participate in hands on discovery programs with various instruments"

With so many studies supporting the importance of the arts in education, the Artist in Residence program fits very nicely in our districts strategy.

Cardiovascular Inquiry for Anatomy and Advanced Biology

EKHS teachers Chad VanHouten and Elisabeth Winter requested and received \$1,366 to purchase blood pressure sensors/cuffs that work with already obtained software to help students in the Advanced Placement Anatomy and Biology classes to fully utilize that existing software. According to our teachers,

"The new cuffs and sensors will allow us to keep our classes updated to real-world medicine and allow for inquiry to become a large part of the project of measuring blood pressure after various activities.

Cedar Point Physics Day

East Kentwood Freshman Math Teacher Jeanette Stein was awarded a grant to fund the costs of materials and transportation to Cedar Point in order to participate in Physics Day. Mrs. Stein shared:

"Physics Day is a day put on by NASA for high school students designed to encourage them to explore math and science in the world and encourage increased interest in math and science careers. Students prepared for the trip in advance by participating in labs and experiments designed to enhance the curriculum and to prepare them for their day at Cedar Point. At the park, the student activities took place around and on roller coasters (using trigonometry functions, acceleration, speed, height), pendulum rides (circles, g-force) looping roller coasters (centripetal forces) bumper cars (vectors) and other set up by NASA to show the connection between all of these rides and the NASA experience.

Who said learning could not be fun?

Books, los Libros, Sach, Kitapla (books in several languages)

Explorer teacher Julie VanLier requested and received \$334.99 for use in purchasing books that support the multi-lingual students entering school in Kindergarten. Ms. VanLier shared:

"Our school population is changing to a culturally diverse student body. It is important that we embrace these students, learn about their cultures, and welcome them into our classrooms. Many of my students speak a language other than English at home. Some of the parents speak English and some do not. I would like to show these parents that I value them; I want to capture their hearts. One way I can do this is while we are learning about American Traditions, I can also read books explaining the other cultures' traditions which are represented in my classroom. In addition, I can include parents by sending home bilingual books (e.g., create a learning library) so they can participate in their child's school experience too, even if they do not feel comfortable coming into school because of the language barrier.

Teen Institute Training Day

Teen Institute has been a long standing program in Kentwood. This year, our Freshman Campus Assistant Principal, Andy Kolzow, requested and received Foundation support to train many helping hands to continue to make this day a key

learning experience in our schools. Mr. Kolzow shared:

"This project will take 160 current sophomores and juniors and current KPS teachers and train them to be mentors and leaders to bring Teen Institute to the entire incoming Freshman class. Mentors will learn to create team camaraderie and process a variety of activities that will occur during the Teen Institute event in September. These mentors will learn to process ice-breakers, role playing, team building activities, presentations about bullying, social networking and appropriate boundaries through this training. Our continued goal for Teen Institute is to educate our incoming high school students about making good choices. We expect the new Teen Institute approach will create long lasting, positive relationships between upperclassmen and the entire Freshman class.

The Foundation grant was \$1,000.

Kindergarten/Young 5's Science & Literacy Cross-Curricular Resource Library

Challenger's Kindergarten and Young 5's team of Kristin Hinterman, Jennifer Merkel and Missy McCarty, requested and received \$374.49 to assist in building a science resource library for those in Kindergarten and Young 5's. The project was shared as follows:

"We would like to create classroom Science Resources Libraries for the Young 5's and Kindergarten classrooms. The new Science Companion Document available from the state provides classroom teachers with many lesson ideas and suggestions of how to best address key grade level concepts. We would like to compile collections of the suggested texts to be used as instructional/staff resources for each of our classrooms. Having these resources available will enhance our ability to integrate these two important areas of instruction for our students.

Building a Leveled Reading Library

First grade teacher Bonnie Caverly at Challenger received a grant in the amount of \$538.23 to build a leveled reading library. Ms. Caverly shared:

Our Language Arts School Improvement goal states, 'All students at Challenger will be proficient readers, writers, listeners and speakers.' New books are needed to provide the students with a wider variety of reading materials at various levels to increase proficiency. We are building a leveled library which can be shared with students at multiple

grade levels. We also hope to create a passion for reading in all students.

START training - Michigan 3 Initiative

Valleywood teacher Elizabeth Brownell requested support for herself and 4 others from Valleywood, including administration, to attend START training provided by the Kent Intermediate School District. The training consisted of 5 full school days and was provided by a multidisciplinary team of 5-6 people. The guiding principle of this training was to assist and help govern programming for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Foundation grant of \$1,500 covered the cost of substitute teachers allowing the Valleywood team to attend.

Wiggle Seats

Pam Bird, 2nd grade teacher at Discovery, requested funds to purchase Wiggle Seats for her classroom. Ms. Bird shared:

"Many teachers want their students to sit still in the classroom. I want to encourage my class to wiggle and move as a way of improving their learning. In an effort to accommodate children's need for movement, my grant request will purchase Wiggle seats for each student in my class. Wiggle seats are flat discs filled with air that sit on a student's chair. These Wiggle seats allow the students to rock back and forth, or to "wiggle": as they are working which should help them to have better concentration and retention of knowledge. There is a growing body of research that supports the link between movement and learning."

\$438 was awarded and the Wiggles will be in place for the fall.

"English in my Pocket"

Explorer and Townline English Language Learner teacher Nancy Schellenberg received \$699.10 to purchase the "English in my Pocket" program which is designed for primary students in the beginning stages of English language acquisition, English in My Pocket takes a multi-sensory approach through interactive rhymes, chants, songs, books, and games involving visual, auditory, and kinesthetic activities. With our ever growing ELL population, Ms. Schellenberg shared:

"I will use 'English in my Pocket' as a way to supplement our ELL curriculum to engage our primary ELL students. I anticipate as many as 50 Kindergarten, First and Second grade students in each building, will benefit from the program."



Action Based Learning for Improved Elementary Student Performance

A \$3,000 grant was awarded, as requested by Caroline Hibma & Debra McNally, from Discovery.

This grant secured Jean Blaydes Madigan, a neuro-kinesiologist and an expert in Action Based Learning. During a 2 day seminar, teachers from 5 elementary buildings, Discovery, Bowen, Endeavor, Glenwood and Meadowlawn, learned the key components of Action Based Learning. 2,037 students in those 5 buildings will benefit from this training for years to come.

Bowen Arrows Blitz Multimedia Equipment

\$1,004.84 was granted to fund Bowen's Matthew Keller's project, The Bowen Moving Making Project. Students at Bowen will be participating in creating a school wide bi-monthly broadcast called the Bowen Arrow Blitz. Students will present school agendas for the week, make announcements and incorporate different aspects of Bowen Elementary in the broadcast. Additional use of the equipment purchased will benefit other activities as well.

Pinewood Peace Garden

Pinewood has received \$500 for plants and materials to create a rain garden in the shape of a Peace Sign.

Pinewood teacher Shannon Goodwin shared:

"Working with and allowing Pinewood students to create a rain garden in the shape of a peace symbol on school property will provide the opportunity to be actively involved in reducing the district's impact on the environment while also creating a beautiful outdoor classroom. When completed, the rain garden will be used by science classes to teach students about soil and water conservation and the impact of human development on the surrounding environment."

Flipping the Classroom

Our Educational Technologist Teacher, Brooke Storms, received \$780 to purchase equipment enabling secondary teachers to 'flip the classroom'. This technique allows a teacher to record and post their lessons on-line for students to review at home. Students then are able to spend class time doing hands-on work, asking questions and learning from each other how to apply the learning.

Foundation Scholarships

Winners for Spring 2011

General Foundation Scholarships
 General Foundation Scholarships
 \$2,000 each.
 Davontay Whitehead
 Chloe Sult

Johnson Controls Scholarship
 \$2,500 to a senior who has been accepted into a scientific, technical or engineering related degree.
 Brand Gafford

John & LaVonne Montgomery Memorial Scholarship
 Minimum \$2,500 awarded to a senior who has been accepted to study in the math, life or biological science, medicine or nursing fields.
 Taylor Meister

Would you like to contribute?

All support is welcomed. Please send your tax deductible contribution to:

Kentwood Public Schools Educational Foundation
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 Kentwood, MI 49508

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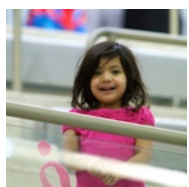
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Other News...

Challenge Day at East Kentwood

The foundation is excited to be partnering with East Kentwood High School in



October to bring Challenge Day to life at the high school. Challenge Day programs are the catalyst for creating positive change in communities and schools. On October 11,

12, and 13 300 students will be participating in a life changing experience designed to bring diversity awareness to our students. Challenge Day's mission is to "provide youth and their communities with experiential workshops and programs that demonstrate the possibility of love and connection through the celebration of diversity, truth and full expression." We are excited about the possibilities this opens for EKHS and beyond in our district. This program is a perfect fit with Capturing Kids Hearts and empowers the students to take ownership of their school.

Each day 100 students and 40 staff and community members will participate in this event. This will be the beginning of many great things that come out of this program. We are thankful for all the support of EKHS, but especially thankful for John Keenoy and Mel (Henson) Trombley in leading and organizing this program. We look forward to the spark that ignites a movement of compassion and positive change, known as the "Be the Change Movement," which will continue to filter through the high school throughout the year and years to come.

For more information on Challenge Day visit their website at www.ChallengeDay.org or to join us contact John Keenoy at the high school.

The Power of \$1 a Week! Would you consider supporting the Foundation?

The work of the Foundation can only happen with your support. We are a non-profit organization that depends on gifts from individual donors, corporate donors and fundraising events.

If every KPS team member gave \$1.00 a week, we would raise over \$60,000 per year. And with 100% participation, we would have an incredible story to share to possible corporate donors.

PLEASE consider giving \$1.00 a week or more! For more information, or to have a payroll deduction form sent to you, drop a note to our treasurer, Jim Swoboda at jameswoboda@comcast.net

Grant Limit Lifted

A reminder, the Education Foundation announced this past spring that we are removing our mini-grant dollar cap of \$500. We realized that there are many exciting and innovative projects that educators and support staff are looking to implement in Kentwood and we want to help you make them happen.

You can apply for any dollar amount for your project.

As always we look for projects that have longevity and support as many of our students as possible.

We are excited to be able to lift our original dollar cap in order to better support you and our students in Kentwood. We look forward to hearing about your exciting projects in Kentwood.

KEY DATES:

Senior Scholarships

Applications are due *March 1, 2012* for consideration of a scholarship award. Applications are available in the High School guidance office and on the KPS web site under the Foundation's page.

Fall Grant Requests Due November 1, 2011

If you have a special need or project, grant requests are due November 1, 2011 for awards affecting the late fall 2011, and early winter 2012 school year. Forms are available for download on the district website, www.kentwoodps.org. Please type the requests and submit as indicated.

2012 Falcon Charity Classic



The Falcon Charity Classic will be held on Monday, June 18 at Stonewater Country Club.

This will mark the 4th year of the revamped event designed to serve as a Kentwood Public Schools fundraising activity supporting the Foundation and various school groups and organizations. More information will be forthcoming.