



What is the Fremont Education Foundation?

The Fremont Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization formed to enhance and complement educational opportunities for all students attending our district schools. The foundation is qualified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization to receive tax deductible donations in support of educational excellence in our school district and community.

Our goals are:

- To stretch the boundaries of the traditional classroom and create diverse “teaching moments”
- To foster enthusiasm and support in the community for Fremont Schools
- To foster a love of learning
- To encourage students and faculty to be global learners

How does the Foundation Operate?

The Foundation operates independently from the District 79 Board of Education and is directed by a volunteer Board of Trustees who are committed to the goal of educational excellence. The Trustees work to build partnerships in the community, research and select Foundation projects, and raise funds to support those projects. Our fund raising efforts have included: direct donations, the commemorative brick pavers placed in front of each school building, and grant awards. In the past, the Foundation has also raised funds through events such as an annual golf outing and a casino night.

See page 4 for a list of past event sponsors and donors. We are very grateful for their support!

Fremont Outdoor Learning Environment Underway

The Foundation allocated more than \$30,000 to the Foundation's Outdoor Education Committee's initiatives. The Outdoor Education Committee has exciting plans to develop the 40 acres behind the elementary and intermediate schools into the *Fremont Outdoor Learning Environment* or F.O.L.E. This area features woodlands, wetlands and prairies and will be enhanced to be used as an extension of the school. Volunteers are currently directing Phase One.

The plan includes path improvement, woodland care and prairie restoration. If you are interested in getting involved, contact FOLE Coordinator, Karen Stanley at shannyrvr@yahoo.com.

Foundation Awards \$19,000 in Grants

The Fremont Education Foundation has completed its annual grant process for the 2008/2009 school year. Eight grants, totaling \$19,320 were awarded to various teacher applicants, to provide unique learning opportunities for our students beyond the traditional classroom environment. We are excited about the innovative and creative ideas that our instructors presented and cannot wait for our students to experience it all! ★



Fremont Education Foundation Projects Funded in 2008/2009

Magnetic Traversing Wall

Like rock climbing? The Adventure Education program will have endless bounds this year with the installation of a magnetic, traversing wall. A traversing wall is a climbing wall that runs horizontally along a wall rather than vertically. This wall will teach communication, teamwork, problem solving, trust building and cooperative skills in a non-traditional way.

The equipment will provide core strength training with endless cross-over applications from physical education to the classroom. For example, students can traverse along the wall pulling off magnetized letters to create themed words from unit study in the classroom. Although the wall will be installed in the elementary school, it will be available to all students and faculty.

- Grant proposal submitted by Josh Bonner and Kathy Reilly



Math Versatiles

We're talking hands-on learning as the fourth grade team receives a unique, math learning tool called *Versatiles*. *Versatiles* are manipulatives, or learning toys, that can be used to deepen students' conceptual understanding and application of math skills. *Versatiles* combine the challenge of a puzzle with purposeful workbook practice. These interactive activities encourage independent learning while allowing students to work at their own pace. Students receive immediate feedback so they can self-correct their answers.

- Grant proposal submitted by Sandy Ozimek

Character Counts!

This character education program at the intermediate school is a framework of basic values called, The Six Pillars of Character. Those values include: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship*. This program is accomplished through school-wide character recognition programs. Additionally, the Character Counts Club is another powerful means to advance these curricular and behavioral virtues.

- Grant proposal submitted by Carla Tulley

Poetry Pirates Coming Alive: Ahoy!

Originally, this program started as one fifth-grade classroom's pirate fun. Today, grant funding from the Foundation will allow it to be available to all students in the intermediate school. First, fifty poems will be posted around the school as part of a scavenger hunt competition. The students will be challenged to find the correct poem, based on clues such as: "find a haiku poem about a bird." Winners will receive prizes from a pirate's treasure box.

The second part of the pirate experience will involve a visit from the nationally known, Poetry Alive organization. This two-day visit in April will entail two assembly performances for grades 3-5, and eight small group workshops for the fifth grade classes. This ingenious program supports all aspects of the literacy curriculum while engaging the students into understanding and appreciating poetry.

- Grant proposal submitted by Denise Mazzocchi

Medieval Days

King Arthur himself would be proud of the Foundation as it once again bestows funding to the sixth grade Medieval Day. This



well-planned, whole day program, in which all sixth grade teachers and students participate, expands the students' learning by bringing the traditions and cultures of that time period to life! Applications now cross-over into other classes such as science, music, art and more. This year, a new activity has been added that will bring the days of the Knights of the Round Table alive!

- Grant proposal submitted by Michael Crandall and Ann Ward



Visit: www.fef79.org to learn more about the Foundation and projects funded in previous years.

FEF Projects Funded in 08/09

Elementary School Visiting Author Program

The Foundation and the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) co-funded an upcoming visit by Carolyn Crimi, a popular children's author. Mrs. Crimi will take the students on a "story hunt" to teach them the ins and outs of writing and publishing children's stories or poetry. The author will also hold a traditionally, well-liked "family night" during the visit in March 2009.

These popular events really get students excited and motivated about reading and writing!

- Grant proposal submitted by Jennifer Parmley

Middle School Visiting Author Program

Gordon Korman, a young adult, best-selling author of over 65 titles, spoke to the middle school students on November 6, 2008. His large, group presentations were attended by over 650 middle school students.

In 7th grade, Korman's language arts writing assignment turned into his first novel, *This Can't be Happening at Macdonald Hall*. Korman encouraged students to write about what they know and what they observe in their everyday lives. He challenged the students to use their imagination and write the answer to the question, "What if"?

His visit was a primary source for students to learn about writing as a career from a real-life author who attributes his success to finding humor in everyday life experiences. Seventeen students were chosen by their language arts teachers to have lunch with Mr. Korman and enjoyed a casual question and answer session with him. All district families were invited to the evening presentation. Korman's visit was co-funded by the Foundation and the PTO.

- Grant proposal submitted by Trudi Snavelly

Readers' Theater

And the Oscar goes to? The Foundation has granted funds to begin a reader's theater costume closet for the fourth grade. The use of costumes increases the students' enthusiasm for theatrics. Reader's theater enhances both reading skills and oral skills such as speaking in front of a group and use of tone for expression.

- Grant proposal submitted by Amber Rychlik



You Can Make A Difference!

Consider a financial contribution to the Fremont Education Foundation and you can make a difference in the lives of our children. Your donation, *of any size*, is always welcome. Contributions can be general in nature or can be given to support a particular project.

Alternative forms of donating include: memorials, naming the Foundation in your will or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, donating real estate or other real property, or giving a gift in someone's name. If your company sponsors a donation match program, keep in mind we are a qualified 501(c)3 organization.

If you are interested in a contributing financially, donations can be made payable to Fremont Education Foundation and mailed to 28555 North Fremont Center Road, Mundelein, Illinois, 60060.

Your contributions of time, knowledge and talent are also needed. The Foundation has the following opportunities available:

- Trustees
- Grant writing committee members
- Outdoor education committee members
- Fremont Outdoor Learning Environment volunteers
- Spring fundraiser committee members

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Angie Holsen (847.550.8736 or stangie1@comcast.net) to find out about one of our projects or fund raisers, or about becoming a trustee.

No matter what form it takes, your support is vital. All gifts will be put to work helping to provide the brightest hope for tomorrow - educational excellence for our children.

Receive Email Updates

Send us your e-mail address & be kept up to date with Foundation activities. Send an e-mail to: fremonteducationfoundation@comcast.net with your e-mail address in the subject line and we will add you to our distribution list.

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