



FEF Celebrates 10th Annual Golf Outing & Auction

Save the date for the Fremont Education Foundation's biggest and most exciting fundraiser of the year! On Monday, May 3, 2010 your day can be filled with rounds of golf, putting and hole-in-one contests, dinner and live/silent auctions. Gather your favorite golfing buddies, a group of neighbors, friends, or colleagues, and join us for a fun-filled day. Not a golfer? Not a problem! Socialize with friends at the dinner and auction. The Foundation hopes to gain momentum in funding unique, innovative learning opportunities for all District 79 students by making this the most successful outing yet. We hope you will join us on May 3rd!

For details and registration information, go to www.fef79.org



What is the FEF?

The Fremont Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization formed to enhance and complement educational opportunities for all students attending Fremont District 79 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

The Foundation operates independently from the Board of Education and the PTO. It is directed by a volunteer Board of Trustees 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.

This year, the Foundation **funded nearly \$26,000 in grant requests** for the 2009/2010 school year. The following pages of this newsletter will explain more about the opportunities available to the Fremont students!



High-Tech Kindergartners enjoy iPod Reading Stations

Gone are the days of cassette players eating tapes and wondering if the previous user remembered to rewind. Kindergartners are engaging in reading stations equipped with iPod shuffles, thanks to a grant submitted by the Kindergarten team and funded by the Foundation. Students work independently as they plug-in, click and listen to stories. These stations meet both state literacy and technology curriculum standards. The enrichment possibilities are endless as the school's i-Tunes library grows.

Second grade teachers liked this idea so much, that they recently petitioned the Parent Teacher Organization, PTO, for funds to implement these high tech reading stations in their classrooms as well. Isn't it great to see one great idea fuel the application in other grades? This is innovative use at its best!

Kindle e-Books Raising Awareness



The Intermediate School's new Media Center Director, Ms. Wadin showed her love for new technology as she asked for and received funds to pilot a Kindle e-book program. Grant funds were used to purchase a Kindle and various classic and short

story e-collections. All levels of readers benefit from the use of this technology as students not only listen and read along for fluency; but, visually impaired students can also enlarge the font on the Kindle to reap the same benefits in a customized, learning format.

Electronic book formats help reduce the number of trees cut down to produce paper books. This is another great example of how one great idea is raising awareness in another critical area of study. The Foundation is proud to support such wonderful, ground-breaking ideas!

Author in Residence

The Foundation partnered with the Brennan Ammentorp Angel Foundation to secure an author visit to Fremont Elementary. Second grade teacher, Ms. Parmley again solicited funds from the Foundation to have Aaron Reynolds, a popular children's author, spend the week at Fremont visiting classrooms, helping students expand their love for writing and literacy, fielding questions from students and teachers, and reading to the children. Many attended the family author night and enjoyed experiencing a published author in person. The Foundation believes that the rare chance to meet an author in person is truly exciting and inspirational and a great way to afford learning outside the traditional classroom.

Fourth Grade Improving Fluency?

Fourth grade students will be enriching their reading strategies by expressing themselves through non-fiction character roles they learn about in Social Studies, Science and Language Arts. The Foundation granted funds to Ms. Sizemore, fourth grade teacher, for new listening station equipment that will enable students to hear a fluent rendition of the new unit/vocabulary. Students will also use *whisperphone* aides to provide them with immediate feedback of his/her own reading efforts. Finally, fourth graders will be building their fluency and transferring their new knowledge each time they listen and reread their scripts aloud to their peers. As the students interact with each

other and use expressive language, they will be improving their fluency, vocabulary, listening, public speaking and comprehension skills without even knowing.



Snowy Cardio

Looking for a new, energy burning, cardio fitness activity? Try snowshoeing! The Foundation funded a grant requested by the Intermediate School Physical Education teacher, Ms. Jeffries. Students in the Intermediate school will be trying something they might not have the chance to do outside of school. Snowshoeing raises your heart rate and provides an



aerobic workout similar to swimming, cross-country skiing, running or bicycling. It requires both skill and balance. Most of all students enjoy the scenery and nature of the Foundation sponsored F.O.L.E. (Fremont Outdoor Learning Environment).

Middle School Mythological Star Gazing

The Foundation was pleased to grant funds for another cross-curricular opportunity. The Middle School used Foundation funds to bring in a Star Lab last month. The metallic, celestial-looking lab simulated night skies within an enormous, inflated, galactic entity. Sixth and Seventh grade students were able to observe stars, constellations, galaxies and moon phases as part of their Solar System curriculum. Teachers also highlighted Greek, Roman, and Native American mythology throughout the unit. Students were able to make real life connections with their curriculum. The Foundation strives to serve these types of learning opportunities where unique, innovative learning takes place outside the traditional classroom.



How Do I Use This Graphing Calculator?

Seventh and eighth grade students will no longer have to struggle with knowing which buttons to push and when on their fancy calculators. The Foundation granted funds to Doug Knox and Sarah Yakapovich, 8th grade math teachers, to provide TI SmartView Emulator Software. The software projects the image of the graphing calculator on one half of the screen, while on the other side students see a larger display of screen and the list of keys pressed to perform the specific action on the graphing calculator. Students will be able to follow the proper steps and actually see what buttons are being pushed and *when* they are being pushed. This software will allow students to see the connection between the data collected in the classroom and the multiple representations it can have on the calculator.

Pop Goes the Brain!

When Ms. Buehring, 3rd grade teacher, takes the lesson out of a book and turns it into an engaging, multi-media presentation geared for 21st century learners, she has "brains popping" all over the place! Buehring asked for funds to support a subscription to BrainPOP, an on-line, curriculum-based educational tool aligned with state standards in all subjects such as: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health, Art, and Music. No matter the subject, or how simple or complex, this tool can cover it all and provide lesson plans, additional activities and assessments.

When asked why she liked BrainPOP, third grader Maggie Lukas replied, "BrainPop is so awesome because I learn from watching the movie and then the tests are so much easier. It's a really fun way to learn about something."

FEF & PTO Fund Plotter

The Foundation and PTO co-funded the cost of a \$4,400 plotter that prints poster-size, professional looking prints. While the actual printer is housed in the Intermediate School, teachers, administration, student organizations and parent organizations in all three schools will have access to the printer.

What interested the Foundation in this grant is not the printer aspect of this equipment, but the ability to create large, colorful, easy to read guides for students that are visual learners. Some possible examples of posters the plotter may create are: graphic organizers to prepare for ISATs, checklist posters for expository writing, periodic tables for science classes, school expectations and posters that reinforce the Character Counts program. The three schools and classrooms can expect to see the walls covered with new and exciting useful prints. The plotter is expected to save the school money since it will no longer have to seek outside, professional services to print large quantities of posters.

Teed Up for Disc Golf Course

Disc Golf is a new, innovative sport that is sweeping the country. The sport is played like traditional golf. But, rather than hitting a ball with a club into a hole, players throw Frisbees at baskets. Students of any age, ability and gender can play.

Both the Elementary and Intermediate PE departments had purchased nine disc golf baskets with other district resources. Corey Sciutto, physical education teacher, submitted a grant asking for additional funds from the Foundation to design and implement the actual golf course. The Foundation was pleased to grant the funds that will make disc golf a reality at Fremont. Disc golf promotes life-long good health, coordination and mental concentration.



Thank You for Your Support!

The Foundation would like to thank all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, administration, teachers and parent supporters. We could not provide all of these inspiring learning opportunities without your assistance. *Thank you!*

Our 2009 Golf Outing Sponsors:

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Our 2009 Golf Outing Silent Auction Donors:

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Mike Moon, Diane Peterson, Fran Sarkis, Tammy Feeny, Chris Carmody, Katherine Geary, Aurelie Krauss, Kim Hansen, Shari Minsky, Urszula Griparis, Kristy David, Amy Guin, Jerri Witt, and Nick Ceisel.



More Forward Thinking Grants

Throughout the 2009–2010 school year, the Foundation has funded more than \$26,000 worth of grants and stipends for the purpose of creating progressive, forward thinking learning opportunities that augment traditional regimens of study. Here are a few more ground-breaking grants that were funded this year and the visionaries behind them:

GreenScreen

Dan Rezac, Technology Instructor

The purchase of a Green Screen will give middle school students awesome learning experiences in the Digital Filmmaking and Podcasting classes. Students will be able to write scripts and insert themselves into exotic, far away places. With this new tool, students will also have the creative freedom to create a Fremont News channel and anchor their own news station.

Playaway Digital Audio Books

Hope Lipsky and Jacqui Park, 5th Grade Teachers

State curriculum states that students must read age-appropriate material aloud with fluency and accuracy. The Foundation is proud to support the purchase of Playaways, which bring books to life, to promote better reading through “The Daily 5” method. Active Parenting of Teens Parent Program; Ms. Weldon, Social Worker – Instructional parent group program offered to all middle school parents supporting the Illinois social-emotional learning standards.

Boardmakers

Ms. Keim, 1st Grade Teacher

Story sequencing cards that supports beginning literacy for beginning readers by providing visual aides.

Nerf Bow & Arrow Sets

Ms. Reilly, P.E. Teacher

Incorporates pre-archery skills with Native American and Colonial Life activities in the F.O.L.E. As students experience the life of a hunter and gatherer in early American history, they will also practice math skill scoring their target hits.

Character Counts Training

Ms. Wittenkeller, 3–4 MAP Teacher

Ms. Herchenbach, 5th Grade Teacher

Funds were provided to provide additional training for the leaders of the of Character Counts program at the Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

Paper Shapers

Ms. Heath, Intermediate Art Teacher

4th and 5th graders combined the study of art and science by building structures with natural materials collected in the F.O.L.E. and the Paper Shapers medium.

Stipend for Curriculum Development

The FEF provided funds to Dr. Zimmer so she could develop a team of Fremont instructors dedicated to formulating curriculum to use in the outdoors. Stipends will be used to pay the teachers’ for their hard work. Teachers will be writing curriculum to encourage and motivate others to teach units outdoors.

In April, Fremont is planning to kick-off the use of this curriculum during Earth Week. During this week, students at Fremont will have a chance to go outside their regular classrooms and spend time in the Fremont Outdoor Learning Environment doing hands on activities creating by Zimmer’s team.

Foundation Looking to Grow

The Foundation is currently seeking fresh faces. We will be considering the addition of three new trustees as well as new committee members. *Trustees* are asked to commit to one 2-hour meeting each month, lead one activity (and volunteers) of the Foundation such as a committee, fundraiser, communication, etc. *Committee members* can serve in several areas including: Database entry, Database Management, Corporate Outreach, Fundraising, Marketing, Communications, and Outdoor Education. Committee members are not asked to commit to a meeting.

There are several jobs to do within each committee like planting/weeding outdoor F.O.L.E. areas, creating bulletin boards, designing display cases, managing address lists, etc. If you would like to foster new and innovative learning experiences, share your ideas, make meaningful contributions, or just help out in your spare time, the Foundation needs you!

Please contact Angie Holsen at stangie1@comcast.net and start making a difference today!

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