



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 PE to the classroom. For example, students could 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. (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, (learning toys), that can be used to deepen students’ conceptual understanding and application of math skills. Versatiles combines 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. (Submitted by Sandy Ozimek)

- **Medieval Days** –King Arthur himself would be proud of the FEF as it once again bestows funding to the sixth grade Medieval Day. This well-planned 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! (Submitted by Michael Crandall and Ann Ward)

- **Elementary School Visiting Author Program** – FEF and the PTO co-funded an upcoming visit by Carolyn Crimi, a popular children’s author. She will take the students on a “story hunt”, to teach students 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! (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. 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 Korman and enjoyed a casual question and answer session. The entire District's families were invited to Korman's evening presentation. FEF and the PTO co-funded this fun program. (Submitted by Trudi Snavely)

- **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 school club is another powerful means to advance these curricular and behavioral virtues. (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 FEF will allow it to be rolled out to all students in the intermediate school. First, fifty poems will be posted around the school and the students will be challenged to find the correct poem as part of a scavenger hunt competition. 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 grades. This ingenious program supports all aspects of the literacy curriculum while engaging the students into understanding and appreciating poetry. (Submitted by Denise Mazzocchi)

•**Readers' Theater** – And the Oscar goes to? The FEF 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. (Submitted by Amber Rychlik)

•**Outdoor Education** - This year, the Foundation allocated more than \$30,000 to the 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, (FOLE)". This area features woodlands, wetlands and prairies which will be enhanced to be used as an extension of the school. The project is scheduled in three phases. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact our FOLE Coordinator Karen Stanley at shannyrvr@yahoo.com.