

Foundation Newsletter

... because education is a shared experience

District 279 Foundation-11200 93rd Avenue North-Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Phone 763-391-7118

district279foundation.org



Our Mission

We are citizens in partnership with Independent School District 279 to support and enhance the district's dedication to learning for all.

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Crunch Visits Osseo Area Learning Center to Encourage Reading Habits in Teens

As part of the Reading is Fundamental program, supported by the District 279 Foundation, students at the Osseo Area Learning Center were given the opportunity to select free books for leisure reading at a recent event. In attendance was Timberwolves mascot, Crunch, who reinforced the importance of literacy by demonstrating his own love of books.



Young Anglers Receive an Outdoor Education Experience

Zanewood Community School provided an outdoor education experience for 5th and 6th grade anglers. For three weeks, students attended class after school to learn fish identification, equipment use, lure selection, and fishing ethics. Each student received a fishing pole, a tackle box filled with lures, and a fishing hat. The final meeting included a field trip to Moore Lake where students practiced what they learned by casting, catching, and safely removing fish from their lines.



District 279 Foundation Receives \$15,000 Arts Grant From Prudential

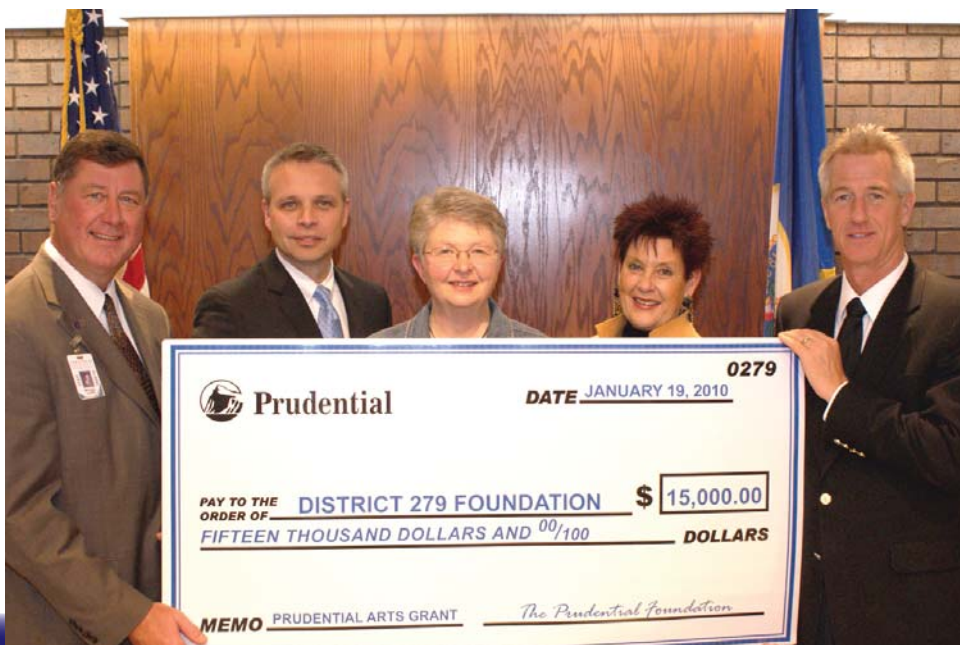
The District 279 Foundation secured a \$15,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for “Prudential Arts Grants - Connecting Youth and Community through the Arts.” The grant will provide students of ISD 279 - Osseo Area Schools the opportunity to expand their learning and appreciation of the arts through trips to art museums, centers and institutes, as well as theaters and performing arts centers.

Specifically, the grant will fund transportation and the cost of tickets enabling students to attend local arts performances and venues. Grant guidelines stipulate that both teachers and students engage in rigorous reflection following each field trip to make sure that connections are made between the art they experienced first-hand and instruction they receive in the classroom.

One of our goals is improving access to quality education and the arts,” said Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation. “The partnerships with District 279 helps us to achieve that goal by providing children from the Osseo school district opportunities to enjoy quality arts programs and institutions.”

This grant will enable students to bring classroom learning to life,” said Wendy Barden, ISD 279 Music Coordinator. “Arts enrich other subject areas, and allow students to move beyond words on a page.”

“Field trips and opportunities for learning outside the classroom have become scarcer in the face of budget cuts,” said Candace Gordon, ISD 279 Fine Arts, Curriculum and Staff Development Specialist. “We are grateful to Prudential for this grant and the opportunity for our students to experience the many premiere arts venues scattered across the Twin Cities.”



From left, Michael Looby, Director, District 279 Foundation; Keith Bexell, Vice President and Site Executive at Prudential; Wendy Barden, ISD 279 Music Coordinator; Candace Gordon, ISD 279 Fine Arts, Curriculum and Staff Development Specialist; Jim Miller, Trustee, District 279 Foundation.

Go Graphic Boys Book Club

Donna Olhgren, Library Media Specialist found a way to get boys who wouldn't normally read into reading by using graphic novels. Graphic novels are novels presented in a format similar to a comic book. These graphic novels are not comics, but books more like Nancy Drew and The Box Car Children with a comic book look. She used grant money to purchase multiple copies of several titles, which allowed her to create graphic novel book clubs.



Olhgren applied for the classroom grant with the intent to get boys more into reading and Graphic novels are a good hook to do that.

The three book clubs met during recess once a week. When the club started last February, there were three students. By May there were 25 and 35 students involved in one of the three clubs at one time or another.

The great part of this project is that the books can be used over and over so ultimately hundreds of students will be able to participate in these book clubs over multiple years.

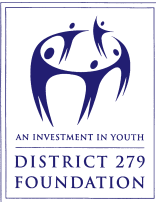
11th Annual A Night Out...



The *A Night Out...* event is an elegant evening at Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove and will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011. The highlights of the evening include a social hour, a silent auction, and a grand dinner.

We'd love to have you be a part of this special evening, but please note that each year this event sells out quickly. The cost is \$75 per person or sponsor a table of 10 for \$1,100. If you want to ensure a place, please call Penny Laing at 763-391-7118.

From left, Phil Leith, Susan & John Beacham, Darcy Hitesman & Mark Steffensen



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From left, Gretchen Peel, Lisa Koch & Paul Brady



District 279 Foundation's

A special night
to benefit the children
in our community through
the programs supported by the
Foundation will be held at Maple
Tavern on Monday October 25, 2010.

Enjoy fabulous
hors d'oeuvres and learn more about
the programs supported by the District
279 Foundation. The cost is \$25 per
person. For more information or
to reserve your spot, please call
Penny Laing at 763-391-7118.

Fall Social

Did you know you can designate your United Way Donation?

The United Way will allow
a donor to designate their
donation to any 501(c)(3)
organization, like the District
279 Foundation. It's an easy
way to make your donation to
the District 279 Foundation.

Does your employer offer matching gifts?

Most employers match gifts to
educational foundations. Check
with your human resources
department to find out if
your gift to the District 279
Foundation could be doubled.