

# Foundation Newsletter

... because education is a shared experience

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

Phone 763-391-7118

[www.district279foundation.org](http://www.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.

District 279 Foundation Trustees

Paul Ahman  
Diane Autey  
Mimi Bigley  
Tammie Epley, Secretary  
Suzette Erickson  
Steve Fischer  
Russ Funk  
Elizabeth Gilmore  
Carol Habstritt  
Tom Hokr  
Karen Jaeger  
Tom Kern  
Shelly Korby  
Don Kreye, Vice President  
Will Lienemann  
James Miller  
Lin Myszkowski  
John Nelson  
Vickie Parks, President  
Kim Pederson  
Tony Sjolander  
Don Skoglund  
Paul Snyder  
Eldon Tessman  
John Theis  
Don Waletzko, Treasurer  
  
Director: Michael Looby

School Board Liaison  
Laura Cottington

Independent School  
District 279 Advisor  
Susan Hintz, Superintendent

## District 279 Foundation Partners to Promote Nutrition and Fitness

General Mills recently signed on as a corporate partner supporting the District 279 Foundation.

General Mills' "Champions for Healthy Kids" \$10,000 grant will support ROCK ON! a program that will offer comprehensive nutrition and physical fitness education activities for students in Independent School District 279.

The goal of the ROCK ON! program will be to educate students and families about making healthy choices regarding nutrition and physical fitness.

"You have joined an elite circle of dedicated businesses and citizens who are making a difference in the lives of our community's youth," Vice President of the District 279 Foundation Don Kreye said to Sandra Verstraete, General Mills Senior Consumer Insights Associate, at the Board of Trustees meeting.

The District 279 Foundation is a non-profit designed for the sole purpose of making a difference in the lives of children.

For more information on becoming a partner of the District 279 Foundation, contact Michael Looby at 763-391-7115.



Left to right: Camp Rocks coordinator Amy Brengman; Abigail and Emerson Whittemore; District 279 Foundation Vice President Don Kreye; Sandra Verstraete, General Mills Senior Consumer Insights Associate; Camille Verstraete and Kidstop Program Manager Melissa Whittemore.

- 2 An Investment In Youth
- 3 Math in the Outdoors
- 3 What is a Classroom Grant
- 4 iPods Improve Reading Skills

# Thank You for Making *An Investment in Youth*



From left to right, award recipient, June Long with Julie Halverson and Eleanor Johnson

The District 279 Foundation held its 11<sup>th</sup> annual *An Investment in Youth* gala on Sunday, May 3 at Park Center Senior High. The highlight of the evening was the program and awards ceremony where 64 individuals were honored. Two individuals were selected from each educational site in Independent District 279 and several community service organizations selected individuals from their membership to honor. Listed below are the individuals and the category they were honored in:

**Significant Investment in Their Own Learning – Demonstrating perseverance, love of learning or pursuit of knowledge by study or experience;** Weaver Lake Elementary, Alex Akermann, student; Fernbrook Elementary, Maedelin Arbeiter, student; Osseo Junior High, Andrew Hohn, student; Osseo Area Learning Center, Alejandra Justo, student; Osseo Secondary Transition Center, Rick Lerum, student; Garden City Elementary, Nate Meshesha, student; Zanewood Elementary, Cristel Noyola-Hernandez, student; Oak View Elementary, Sametta Ogunti, student; Elm Creek Elementary, Carlos Rodriguez, student; Woodland Elementary, Lali Shupare, student; Edinbrook Elementary, Ashley Townsend, student

**Significant Investment in Modeling for Youth – Demonstrating through words and actions an example for young people;** Fernbrook Elementary, Kyle Anderson, student; Fair Oaks Elementary, Kari Aydt, Head Cook; Rush Creek Elementary, Jonathan Burk, student; Maple Grove Junior High, Carley Dyer, student; Maple Grove Junior High, William Huff, Volunteer Retiree; Osseo Area Learning Center, Joseph Iten, Custodian; Basswood Elementary, Elise Larson, student; Crest View Elementary, Brittnee Linton, student; Crest View Elementary, Chuck Orton, Educational Support Professional; Fair Oaks Elementary, Lucas Xiong, student

**Significant Investment in Overcoming Adversity – Displaying the will and courage to overcome major challenges;** Palmer Lake Elementary, Arlette Alvarado, student; Osseo Junior High, Kyle Anderson, student; North View Junior High, April Clemens, student; Park Brook Elementary, Katelyn Conrad, student; Cedar Island Elementary, Taylor Hellwig, student; Brooklyn Junior High, Olivia Maccoux, student; Rice Lake Elementary, J'Shaun Richardson-Smith, student; Maple Grove Senior High, Nathan Schott, student; Edinbrook Elementary, Du Tran, student; Rice Lake Elementary, Billy Xiong, student; Park Brook Elementary, Ne-Pliseh Zimay, student

**Significant Investment in The Betterment of Education – Showing commitment to education by giving of time, talents or resources;** Park Center Senior High, Rosalind Bakion, Educator; Birch Grove Elementary, Wendy Barden, Educator; Cedar Island Elementary, Ellen Barnett, Community Volunteer; Early Childhood Family Education, Michelle Beeskov, Educator; Weaver Lake Elementary, Debra Brandau-Akermann, Volunteer; Osseo Senior High, Kathy Brown, Educator; North View Junior High, Kurt Carlson, Educator; Basswood Elementary, Lehn Clark, Educational Support Professional; Oak View Elementary, Doug Cook, Custodian;



From left to right, Trustee Don Kreye, Steve Autey and Trustee Diane Autey

**Continued on Page 4**

# Math in the Outdoors



Approximately 100 sixth graders in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Magnet School at Weaver Lake Elementary will integrate math and science in an outdoor learning environment thanks to a classroom grant awarded by the District 279 Foundation. Through Orienteering: Math in the Outdoors, a Three Rivers Park District naturalist will teach the students how to read a map and symbols in the school's natural area and use a compass to locate points in the outdoor environment. The grant requested funds to purchase student compasses and assistance of the professional naturalist.

"Teachers often struggle to find ways to make math meaningful and applicable to real world activities **IN THE CLASSROOM**," says the grant applicant. "Orienteering is a fun and motivating way to translate the language of mathematics into a useful hands-on tool. It builds from intuitive

knowledge and helps students establish a strong sense of numbers through estimation, use of benchmarks and computation skills. It also requires students to work together and communicate mathematically. Students need to describe and justify their thinking using a mathematical language."

At the conclusion of the course, students will create a map with a key which will be shared with other grade levels and community organizations that use the natural area.

## What is a Classroom Grant?

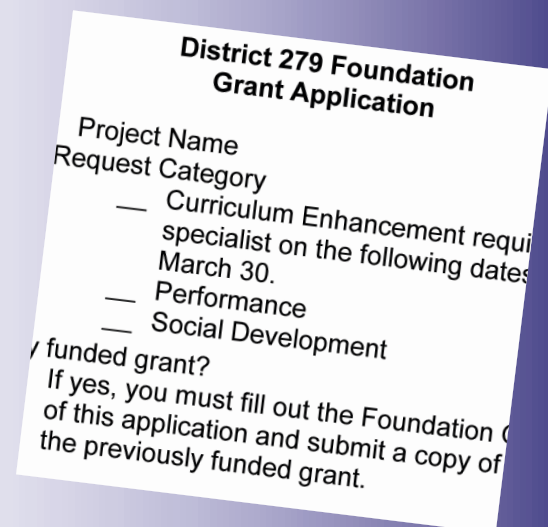
Your dollars help to fund classroom grants. There are three grant categories: Curriculum Enhancement, Performance and Social Development.

A Curriculum Enhancement grant is an enhancement to regular curriculum, such as the Math in the Outdoors project described above. A Performance grant is a grant request that will allow the school or group to "take its show on the road." This type of grant pays for transportation and costs incurred as part of the performance. A Social Development grant is a request that will allow a school or group to provide opportunities for students to increase social competence by participating in activities such as community service, leadership development, mentorship, intergenerational learning, diversity awareness or character education.

District 279 Foundation Classroom Grant applications are reviewed by a Foundation Grant Committee, made up of District 279 Foundation trustees who decide which grants to fund. Funds are awarded to ISD 279 - Osseo Area Schools.

Applications are typically accepted three times a year. Educators, parents, principals and educational support professionals can submit grant applications to the Foundation for consideration.

The 2009-2010 grant application will be available in the fall on the Foundation's web site, [district279foundation.org](http://district279foundation.org).





District 279 Foundation  
11200 93rd Avenue North  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-6605

Nonprofit Or.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 3  
Osseo, Minnesota

## iPods Improve Reading Skills

Maple Grove Junior High seventh grade English teachers wrote a District 279 Foundation classroom grant application to purchase six iPod Nanos and six portable iPod locks to help struggling, reluctant and proficient readers improve their skills.

The grant request was recently approved, and struggling and reluctant readers will use the iPods to listen to audio books, podcasts and student-created books talks. "Struggling readers will be able to both hear and see the material being used in class," explained the grant applicant. "Reluctant readers will be motivated by using engaging technology."



The first two groups of students will be able to listen to books read by their peers in High Performance (HP) English classes. "Proficient readers (in the HP classes) will be challenged by learning how to make their own podcasts to create student booktalks," says the applicant.

### Continued from Page 2

Rush Creek Elementary, Mark Fleischhacker, Educator; Education Service Center, Kay Gregory, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Standards; Woodland Elementary, Jennifer Leslie, Educator; Adult Basic Education, Will McCabe, student; Early Childhood Special Education, Jeanne Otto, Educational Support Professional; Garden City Elementary, Donna Peavey, Secretary; Brooklyn Junior High, Ron Schlueter, Educator; Osseo Secondary Transition Center, Larry Shackelford, Bus Driver; Adult Basic Education, Betty Tomerlin, Secretary; Early Childhood Special Education, Lisa Volkert, Educator; Park Center Senior High, Ryan Wold, Student; Osseo Senior High, George Xiong, student

Significant Investment in Helping the Community – Exhibiting involvement and dedication toward the community and its members; Zanewood Elementary, Anthony Barnett, Volunteer; Rotary Club of Maple Grove, Jeffrey Berg, Rotarian Volunteer; Rotary Club of Brooklyn Park, Daryll Cameron, Rotarian Volunteer; Lions Club of Brooklyn Park, Bruce Gurley, Community Volunteer; Osseo Area Retired Educators, June Long, Retired Educator; Palmer Lake Elementary, Joann Martinson, Parent Volunteer; Maple Grove Senior High, Joseph & Barbara Neumann, Parent Volunteers; Lions Club of Maple Grove, Vickie Parks, Community Volunteer; Education Service Center, James Reynolds, Community Volunteer; Elm Creek Elementary, Brandon Steinke, student

This event is made possible by volunteers from around the district, the event sponsors without whom this event would not be possible and the District 279 Foundation Trustees who believe in honoring those individuals who make *An Investment in Youth* every day.