



The District 200 Education Foundation

proudly announces the

2009 Impact Grant Awards

November 18, 2009

“Making Things Happen That Ordinarily Would Not”

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District 200 Education Foundation 2009 Impact Grant Recipients

Giving Back (\$500)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Amy Mock

Kindergarten students will be introduced to ways to help their community through firsthand experiences with an animal shelter, food pantry, Christmas Clearing House, and a fundraiser to make money for care packages for troops.

District Art Fair (\$350)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Lori Tillman

An additional display board will be purchased so that art created by Kindergarten students can be included in the District 200 Art Shows.

Fairy Tale Theatre Project (\$700)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Kimberly Hansen and Marcos Gomez

To enhance their oral comprehension and second language acquisition, kindergarten students in Mrs. Hansen's and Mr. Gomez's Dual Language class will learn about theatre and drama by visits to several sites and then put on their own theatrical production.

Learning About Wheels Using the Project Approach (\$400)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Emily Beaumont

Students in Ms. Beaumont's PreKindergarten class told her they wanted to know all about wheels, and they will be able to do just that with a set of new books about wheels and from a field trip to Ed's Automotive.

Going an Extra Mile for Real Life Experiences in a Field Trip to the Zoo (\$700)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Maria Del Carmen Zimmermann

Limited English proficient Spanish-speaking students will take a field trip to Brookfield Zoo. This trip will provide a one-of-a-kind experience for students who do not have the resources to visit places like the zoo. The visit will encourage language growth and will promote discussion and written expression about the animals and their lives and habitats.

Instruments: Project Approach (\$75)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Phyllis Lesniak

Kindergarten students will visit a band class session at Creekside Middle School to observe, listen to and learn about different instruments. They will then have the opportunity to make their own homemade instruments and will present a mini-performance to parents and classmates.

Wii-Hab (\$500)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Jamie Schroll and Jill Bestul

The Nintendo Wii system will be used as a supplemental tool to enhance rehabilitation and habilitation treatment options for students who are currently being served by physical and occupational therapists.

Kindergarten Make and Bake Project (\$250)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Toby Parker

Kindergarten students will explore their interest in cooking and baking. In the classroom they will make drawings and work on writing about baking. A field trip to a grocery store will allow them to gather ingredients for a baking activity and to visit the store's bakery area. The project will culminate in a partner baking activity at WNHS.

Celebrating Our Cultures (\$360)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Dawneen Connery and Katia Hage

Students in the Kindergarten Dual Language program will achieve a sense of community and respect for each other's cultural backgrounds through a family-oriented program using folk tales, theater play and music, food, and the study of celebrations and traditions.

Family Fitness Fun (\$450)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Jackie Anderson

Kindergarten students will take turns taking home a Family Fitness Fun duffel bag to encourage families to explore healthy activities they can do together. The bag will include jump ropes, a playground ball and bases, recipes, healthy snack ideas and a log to record family fitness activities.

Music Project (\$500)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center

Julie Blevins and Shari Manke

Students in the At-Risk Preschool program and the five-day-five Kindergarten program will visit the Northwood Middle School band room and the WNHS auditorium. The visits will allow for hands-on experiences with musical instruments and an opportunity for the students to investigate different elements of musical performance.

Connecting Literacy with Music Theatre (\$296.10)

Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center and Creekside Middle School

Kim Beystehner and Lisa Czyn

Students in Cross Categorical Kindergarten and the Cross Categorical 7th/8th grade program will experience live theater through a field trip to see the Christian Youth Theater present a school performance of *School House Rock* at Huntley High School.

Way Back Then (\$745)

Dean Street Elementary School

Nancy Heitz

As part of their study of the colonization and expansion period of U.S. history, Dean Street fifth graders will take a field trip to Midway Village in Rockford to see an authentic community from that time period. Staff hope to also rent the school house where one of the fifth grade teachers will give a lesson much like the ones given “way back then.”

Go Green with Dean Field Trip (\$209)

Dean Street Elementary School

Cheryl Gaddis

Foundation funds will provide round-trip transportation costs for a group of students to take a field trip to the Recycle America/Materials Recovery Facility and Waste Management Countryside Landfill in Grayslake, Illinois. Students will visit a classroom at the recycling center where they will be instructed in the 4 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle and recover). They will also see firsthand what happens at a landfill.

Playaways - An Easy Way to Listen to Stories Being Read (\$300)

Dean Street Elementary School

Rita Kaminski

The program will purchase Playaways, self-playing digital audiobooks. The audiobooks will be used to target the lower and middle lexile readers with the hopes of improving their reading and comprehension skills, and ultimately helping to improve the school's AYP scores.

Smarty Pants (\$1000)

Dean Street Elementary School

Maureen K. Butler

Dean Street fourth graders will produce innovative presentations about careers using Smart Board technology. Use of the Smart Board will motivate students, save paper resources and help students to enhance their public speaking skills and use of technology. Impact grant funds will be added to those already collected from a variety of sources to purchase a Smart Board system.

PebbleGo: Animals Abound! (\$395)

Dean Street Elementary School

Bonny Cassutt

PebbleGo is an animal database designed specifically for K-2 emergent readers and researchers. Foundation funds will provide for a building-level subscription to PebbleGo, which will allow students to conduct research on animals and create reports that will be showcased at Dean Street's Learning Fair.

Enhancing the Daily 5 with Non-Fiction (\$549)

Dean Street Elementary School

Susan Oberman

Non-fiction works will be added to the library of materials available to students for independent and partner reading. The new books will enhance the use of *The Daily 5* program, which helps students develop the daily habits of reading, writing and working with peers.

Vocabulary Development for Home and School (\$400)

Dean Street Elementary School

Debi Yarc

Take-home copies of the books used in class will be purchased to enhance the literacy program at Dean Street Elementary. Monolingual and bilingual first and second grade students will benefit from using the books for take-home reading, vocabulary development and building reading comprehension.

Student Reading Materials for Tier 2 Reading Interventions (\$587.23)

Greenwood Elementary School

Susan Bulicek

Greenwood will be able to purchase high-interest reading materials to help motivate struggling readers at the Tier 2 intervention level.

Poetry Workshop and Literary Journal (\$185)

Greenwood Elementary School

Laura Summers, Sara Sabo and Ted Hazelgrove

After learning about different forms of poetry, students will create their own poetry in a one-day workshop co-facilitated by a teacher from MCC. The students will then illustrate their poetry which will be compiled and published in a literary journal.

Read With Me (\$750)

Greenwood Elementary School

Lauren Collen, Greenwood First Grade Team and Greenwood Second Grade Team

The program will provide first and second grade students with reading materials and writing activities to complete at home with parents or caregivers. This will allow both emerging and developing readers to practice important reading and writing skills with real books at home and will guide parents in providing reading support and practice to help their children become more successful and fluent readers and writers.

Examining Greenwood: On Site Research in Social Studies (\$500)

Greenwood Elementary School

V. Gay Mather

Fourth and fifth grade students will explore their own community (Greenwood) and will learn about its history and people through visits to local points of interest and interaction with guest speakers. Students will record their findings in digital photos, personal journals, and in the form of a coloring book which will be shared with all the students of Greenwood Elementary School.

Boys Read (\$500)

Greenwood Elementary School

Tom Krieger and Lauren Collen

Books purchased for this program will target boys at the fifth grade level but will benefit all students. It will provide teachers and librarians a platform to engage students with invigorating high interest-level books in a variety of genres and will allow students a forum in which they can collaborate on materials being read. The goal is to find a fresh way to engage students who may otherwise be reluctant or non-readers, and to amplify the reading levels of students, boys in particular.

Summer Adventure Kit (\$750)

Greenwood Elementary School

Melissa Zmuda, Lindsey Serpe and Marci Plumb

Five students from each grade level who need guidance, positive reinforcement and enrichment in academic and social areas will be selected for participation in this summer program. Each child will receive a binder for completed projects, and every two weeks will receive new activity packets in the mail. The project will culminate with a return-to-school celebration pizza party.

Timber Wolf Awareness Project (\$440)

Mary Endres Elementary School

Ellen Lohmeyer, Jodie Scott, Ann Vanderbyl, Mary Widmer and Thomas Wollpert

Students will learn more about the timber wolf, their school mascot, through an integrated project involving a speaker for an all-school assembly, books and DVDs for the library, puppets and art supplies funded by the Foundation.

Dance Around the World - Discovering Our Origins (\$650)

Mary Endres Elementary School

Caite Hunn, Nancy Briscoe and Roxana Cervantes

Third grade students will benefit from this expansion of the existing Multi-Cultural study unit based on family origins. Guest artist Judith Svalander will instruct students in dance, emphasizing physical movement, musical interpretation and performance, global diversity and personal history.

Poetry: An International Conversation (\$600)

Mary Endres Elementary School

Sergio Maya and Paula Hougan

Spanish language poetry will be used as a foundation for a variety of curricular activities from literacy to social studies. By working with authentic Spanish poetry students will make connections with the wider global community, and will gain an awareness of languages and literacy.

AUTISM - Amazing, Unique, Talented, Individuals in need of Specific Modifications (\$200)

Olson Elementary School

Kathleen Wakitsch and Kim Potter

The Target Classes for autistic students in grades 1-5 will be able to purchase their own laminator and laminating film which will help them create, reuse and preserve visual materials which are a fundamental part of the program's curriculum.

Lives on Parade (\$350)

Olson Elementary School

Melinda Parrent

Foundation funds will allow the library media specialist to update the sorely outdated biography collection at Olson Elementary School. Students will have new, relevant reading materials for classroom use, pleasure reading, and to help them prepare for the annual Olson Storybook Parade.

Illinois Student Choice Awards (\$350)

Olson Elementary School

Melinda Parrent

Olson Elementary students participate in two state-wide student choice awards which encourage students to read and compare books. Funds will be spent on Monarch Award and Caudill Award nominated books which will be accessible to all students.

Mustang Big Give (\$210)

Olson Elementary School

John Rigby

In this innovative service learning project, fifth graders in John Rigby's class will learn how to make a difference in the world by donating \$10 to a charity or organization of their choice. Students will be expected to raise \$5 on their own which will then be matched by \$5 from the Foundation.

Launch and Learn (\$525)

Olson Elementary School

Renée Simes and Heather Collins

Olson Elementary third graders will learn physical science basics like Newton's Laws and the principles of flight in a workshop where they will build and launch their own rockets.

Earobics Stations (\$658)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Naomi Kyrouac

A software program called *Earobics*, which is designed specifically to teach auditory and phonological awareness skills, will be purchased for use with students within the Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention levels.

Handwriting Without Tears Manipulatives (\$358.53)

Prairiewood Elementary School

Karen Burns

Prairiewood will receive new sets of wood manipulatives to use with students who are working to improve their handwriting through the help of the Woodstock High School Manufacturing and Processes classes which will manufacture the wood pieces for the students at a cost that is less than buying them from an outside vendor.

GeoMotion, High Energy to Get Everyone Moving! (\$985.85)

Prairiewood Elementary School and Creekside Middle School

Rob Mecklenburg and Cory Myszkowski

Physical education teachers will purchase the GeoMotion Dance/Fitness Mats and Instructional DVD sets. This will allow them to provide to their students an innovative, high-energy form of exercise that teaches dance steps, rhythm, coordination, balance and movement patterns.

Wee Deliver (\$600)

Westwood Elementary School

Courtney Deering, Wendy Wicker and Tammy Ortmann

Now in its tenth year, this successful intra-school mail system that "employs" students to operate postal deliveries of correspondence among students, staff and parents will benefit from new equipment, employee t-shirts, and an end-of-the-year recognition ceremony and employee breakfast.

Fostering Literacy Independence with The Daily 5 (\$350)

Westwood Elementary School

Courtney Deering

The Daily 5 is a series of five literacy tasks that all students participate in every day including reading to self, reading to someone, listening to reading, writing and word work. Books on CD, binders and other materials will be purchased to enhance the program and encourage student creativity.

Using Audiobooks to Improve Reading Skills (\$500)

Creekside Middle School

Lisa Werhane

The Foundation will fund the purchase of Playaway audiobooks and accompanying novels to help improve reading fluency and build vocabulary among 8th graders who are reading significantly below grade level.

Life Skills Related Arts (\$350)

Creekside Middle School

Lisa Czyz

Grant funds will pay for craft kits, basic art supplies and food items for projects that will improve Life Skills students' fine and gross motor skills and teach life skills like cooking and nutrition.

Look it Up (\$65.50)

Creekside Middle School

Joan Grandrath

A new hard cover dictionary and thesaurus will be purchased to support the online curriculum used in the alternative learning CHANCES program at Creekside.

b carefl wht u txt (\$104.71)

Creekside Middle School

Joan Grandrath

Through a video titled *When u Txt: The Dangers of Texting*, middle and high school students in the after school Junior Achievement program will be able to explore the positive and negative sides of this new technology.

Making Changes in "CHANCES" (\$823.85)

Creekside Middle School

Helen Betsy Campbell

Students in Creekside's at-risk alternative education program, CHANCES, will have the opportunity to improve social behaviors. Teachers will use *Succeeding in Middle School*, a program which includes DVDs, role playing exercises and information aimed specifically at providing students with the tools for recognizing and improving social skills.

Extending Life Skills to Real Life (\$400)

Creekside Middle School

Natia Hong and Jennifer Moskowitz

The overarching goal of District 200's Life Skills Program is to provide students with functional skills and real-life experiences. Preparing for and hosting two social events will give Creekside Life Skills students a wonderful opportunity to practice these skills.

To Learn From a Mouse (\$672.60)

Creekside Middle School

JoAnn Coughlan

The purchase of two graphic novels about the Holocaust will allow teachers to supplement more traditional materials and provide Holocaust history from a survivor's perspective.

PBIS Pride Dollar Store (\$500)

Northwood Middle School

Jake Wakitsch

Grant funds will be used to purchase backpacks, handheld board and card games, calendars, Northwood Spirit Wear, school supplies and other fun items which students can purchase with PRIDE DOLLARS.

Improving Reading with REWARDS (\$100)

Northwood Middle School

Albert Gonzalez and Courtney Havens

Through an intense short-term reading intervention program called REWARDS, middle school students who are not reading at grade level will be introduced to new lessons designed to improve skills.

Dual Language Research Partnership(\$686.30)

Northwood Middle School

Sue Totz

Books written in Spanish will be purchased for the library media center so that Spanish-reading students can conduct their research projects in their language.

Good Nutrition Choices for Family and Friends (\$375)

Northwood Middle School

Gail Vanderpoel

The costs for food and materials for several social events will be covered by this grant so that students in self-contained programs can learn how to prepare and host cooking events in their classroom.

Northwood Middle School Veteran's Day Assembly (\$700)

Northwood Middle School

Caroline Wienke, Gail Vanderpoel and Katie Spaldon

Money from this grant will be used to enhance the powerful and moving Veteran's Day Assembly at Northwood and to purchase lunch for the veterans, appreciation gifts, flags and flag cases and supplies for classroom activities.

Camp Timberlee Scholarships (\$400)

Northwood Middle School

Jennifer Wiegel and Katie Spaldon

Students will participate in a two-day camp experience, traveling by bus to East Troy, Wisconsin where they will participate in outdoor and camp-related activities including Animal Encounters, Team Building, World Discovery and Geology. Camp activities encourage students to participate in the world around them without depending on electronic toys for amusement.

Mythology Connection (\$164.50)

Northwood Middle School

Katie Spaldon and Therese Ferrara

Students with great interest in the area of ancient mythology will have an opportunity to pursue that interest. They will participate in student-led literature discussions of ancient tales prior to actual classroom exposure to the topics. They will then produce a mythological "infomercial" to share with classmates during World History classes.

Northwood Middle School Health Club (\$300)

Northwood Middle School

Christine Hjorth and Katie Spaldon

This began as a walking group, providing a way for students to join others in the easy and social activity of walking together. It has evolved into a health club, providing an outlet for students to socialize and bond with trusted adults as well as a forum for discussing and practicing healthy lifestyle choices in a safe environment. Foundation funds will provide materials such as pedometers, yoga mats and resistance bands.

Northwood Middle School Art Club (\$500)

Northwood Middle School

Caroline Wienke

Art club students will repaint the Warhawk mural in the original gym, which was damaged by flooding. Funding will also provide materials for seasonal projects including glass ornaments, Veteran's Day displays and play backdrops. A trip to the Chicago Art Institute is also planned.

Eighth Grade Lab Ratz Presentation to District 5th Graders (\$500)

Northwood Middle School and Creekside Middle School

Jennifer Messmer

Funds will be used to construct a dazzling museum of physical science “snacks” (physical science models to demonstrate concepts in chemistry and physics) presented by “Lab Ratz” (eighth grade students) to all fifth grade students to generate interest and excitement in the science curriculum.

Upgrade Headphones with Microphones in Lab C440 at WHS (\$450)

Woodstock High School

Linda Radke

New headsets and microphones will be purchased for the language lab at Woodstock High School to replace worn out equipment and be used as back up for students who cannot afford the technology fee.

Carpe Diem (\$700)

Woodstock High School

Art Vallicelli

Grant funds will cover the cost of all paper for the production of Woodstock High School's student literary arts magazine.

Blue Streaks of Kindness (\$250)

Woodstock High School

Rebecca Aldridge and Melissa Toynton

This new service-learning project will encourage high school students to choose projects where they can give back to the community. Foundation funds will pay for supplies for the various activities.

Algebra in Motion (\$500)

Woodstock High School

Kathleen L. Sima

This new software will demonstrate, in an exciting and dynamic way, concepts of prealgebra, algebra, trigonometry and precalculus to further enhance students' grasp of the material.

Woodstock High School Math Team (\$400)

Woodstock High School

Chelsea Baird and Marcy Wiebe

The Education Foundation will pay for travel costs and overnight lodging for students competing in the state math competition. Without this support, the team would have to drive to Champaign, compete and return to Woodstock all in the same day.

Read Chinese, Read China (\$500)

Woodstock High School and Woodstock North High School

Li Ye

Chinese language students will have the opportunity to study the culture as well as the language of China through the use of audio materials, videos and supplementary textbooks which will enhance their learning of the language and give them a much broader view of the rich and varied history and culture of China.

Printing WNHS Literary Magazine (\$700)

Woodstock North High School

Shana Van Grimbergen

The grant will help to pay for the professional printing and finishing of the WNHS literary magazine.

Newspaper Cameras (\$450)

Woodstock North High School

Shana Van Grimbergen

Grant funds will be put toward the purchase of a camera for the new Woodstock North newspaper.

Cooking for Independence (\$300)

Woodstock North High School

Karla Nussbaum and Jill Oliver

This grant will pay for supplies that will help teachers of the 18-21 year old special needs students in the transition program provide instruction in how to plan, shop, eat and clean up a simple healthy meal.

Connections to the Community (\$500)

Woodstock North High School

Kathie Lorene Henning, Sherrie Krzciuk and Karla Nussbaum

The Life Connections Transition Program will also benefit from this grant which will support costs for the students to learn how to use public transportation independently, explore possible job sites, and learn about community resources available to them.

Success in Study Hall (\$550)

Woodstock North High School

Robert Grady and Elizabeth Magar

Laptop mini computers will be purchased and will be available to students for use during their study halls. With guidance and supervision from their study hall supervisor, WNHS students will be able to do their homework during their study hall period and experience greater classroom success and the resulting increase in self-esteem.

State of Illinois Math Competition at the University of Illinois - Champaign (\$400)

Woodstock North High School

Carol Koltz

The Education Foundation will pay for travel costs and overnight lodging for students competing in the state math competition. Without this support, the team would have to drive to Champaign, compete and return to Woodstock all in the same day.

Resource Room Reading Enrichment Program (\$300)

Woodstock North High School

Dan Michel

Current periodicals will be purchased for the Resource Room, providing engaging reading materials for students and encouraging them to read for pleasure, improving their vocabularies, fluency and reading comprehension.

Cracking the Constitution Code (\$762)

Clay Academy

Mike Lewis and Carol Nystrom

Clay Academy high school level students who are struggling readers, as well as students with special needs, will benefit from the purchase of a textbook that covers the content required to pass the state-required United States and Illinois Constitution exams. The texts will supplement the high school curriculum and make it more accessible to these students.

cReAtE (\$350)

Clay Academy

Heidi J. Dunderdale

The CREATE program at Clay Academy helps to promote learning in the area of the arts. Four guest artists working in a variety of media will visit Clay and will interact with students, allowing them opportunities for hands-on activities appropriate for each grade level.

Chasing Vermeer (\$416.15)

All District 200 Elementary Schools

Gigi Carlson, Tracy Jacobson and Mary Klos

Through a Foundation-funded field trip, Challenge Corps students will see firsthand the setting for the story, *Chasing Vermeer*, and visit the Art Institute to view famous artwork created by 16th century artists.

Moving Robots Forward (\$480)

All District 200 Elementary and Middle Schools

Gigi Carlson, Tracy Jacobson and Mary Klos

The Challenge Corps program will be able to purchase a new mini laptop computer for middle school students to use to prepare for the First Lego League robotic competition. The computer will also be used to introduce 4th and 5th graders to robotics.

Career Center Initiative (\$250)

Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School and Clay Academy

Amanda Harmer

Enhancements such as posters, magazines and paint will be added to the Career Centers at WHS, WNHS and Clay Academy in order to increase use by more students.

Woodstock CUSD #200 Special Olympics (\$700)

All D200 Schools

Jennifer Moskowitz and Jessica O'Connor

District 200's Special Olympics program will be able to purchase some of their own equipment and additional uniforms as coaches work to expand the Track and Field team and begin planning for basketball in the 2010-2011 season.