

February 28, 2008

Dear Lowry Elementary Families:

We are pleased to announce that the new Teacher Grant Fund, one of the annual Eagle Fund priorities, has awarded its first round of grants, totaling \$10,000, to six deserving recipients. In a grant review process led by CSC President Alison Richards, Principal Cari Riedlin, Teachers Patricia Vaughan, Susan Rich, Suzanne Zook, and Jane Shannon, and Parents Emily Solomon, Anne McDonald and Kerry Saliman, the committee developed a proposal, evaluation, funding and accountability process to launch this new Teacher Grant Fund.

The proposal requests submitted by the teachers totaled more than \$17,000. Mrs. Riedlin and the teachers will pursue additional methods of funding so that the programs can be fully implemented over time. Following is a summary of each initiative along with several notes of thanks for this funding.

Thank you, supporters of the Eagle Fund, for making the Teacher Grant Fund possible.

#### AWARD SUMMARIES:

Special Education: Becky Ford and Dave Miles (Special Ed team) were awarded \$4,000 for a Lexia computer program. This program is designed as a reading intervention tool. The software is designed to support core reading curriculum, prevent reading failure for at-risk students, and remediate difficulties in struggling readers and English language learners. In addition, it provides data that monitors student progress and helps teachers to identify areas where practice or instruction is needed.

Second Grade Publishing: The second grade team received \$1,400 to purchase a new laser printer, ink, and paper that will be used along with software called Reale Writer to write and publish books. The second grade students will be the authors of these books. The books will be given to Kindergarten students and written with their reading level in mind. The goal is to increase literacy for both grade levels and to provide additional home reading materials to students and families.

Fifth Grade "We the People" Project: Mindy Turner was awarded \$800 to purchase a computer-linked (LCD) projector for her classroom. She plans to use the projector specifically to aid in a social studies project for the 5th grade students. They will use the projector to deliver Power Point presentations in small groups on one facet of the Constitution. "We the People" is part of the curriculum that teaches students about the Constitution in a setting where they present their learning in a Congressional hearing.

Computer Lab and Gifted Talented Classroom: Sandi Eckert and Val Petrov were awarded \$850 for additional computer software to enhance the computer lab and new materials for the G/T classroom including almanacs for research projects and platform scales for math and science stations.

Book Buddy Free Night: Ms. Bass, Mrs. Fogal, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Vaughan were awarded \$200 to support a free night for students and their Book Buddies. This social event is designed to engage families in a fun and memorable way.

Grades 4/5 In-Class Technology: Anna Kliver-Fensler was awarded \$2,750 to purchase items to help supplement science, social studies and math curriculum for the 4/5 classes. Interactive CPS clickers will help students practice test taking skills, work on hand-eye coordination and help with completion of end-

of-unit assessments. A Digital Blue microscope will allow students to observe small organisms in science and understand how microscopes work. An LCD projector and DVD will allow students to see first-hand images of concepts that are being studied.

TEACHER THANKS:

Dear Alison,

I wanted to take a moment and let you know why I became a Special Education Teacher. I know from personal experience what it is like to have a learning disability. My disability is dyslexia. At first my parents were advised to have my twin brother and I repeat each grade through sixth grade twice because we were "slow learners." Fortunately, my parents disagreed. Our whole family moved to a better school district. This new school, John Diemer, was sensational. Our teachers, Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Corder, gave us the attention and direct education my brother and I needed to succeed in school. Like Lowry, they too, had the help from supportive parents and community to do their jobs effectively. The generosity from all involved with the Eagle Fund help Ms. Ford and myself along with all the other teachers and staff provide this same special attention and education Lowry students need to be successful in school and life.

Thank you very much for helping us get the computer program Lexia. We believe with the quality education Lowry provides combined with the Lexia program all our students will get to experience success.

Thanks for helping me be the teacher I want to be.

Sincerely,

Dave S. Miles

Resource Teacher

Ali and Interview Panel,

I just wanted to say thank you. The money for our E-book project will be a great start. We will try to find some local sponsors to help out with the difference. The second grade is hopeful this program will really reach out to many students. Thank you for giving us a chance. We will keep you posted on progress.

Thanks,

@ileen Regan and 2nd Grade Team

Alison,

I would like to thank you, and the other Eagle Fund members, for creating this amazing opportunity for our school. Lowry's staff and students are so fortunate to have such a supportive and effective group of parents and community members who are so willing to provide our school with the resources we need to make our school such a success. I have never heard of another school who receives the kind of support that the Eagle Fund is providing for us. I assure you that we will take total advantage of the Lexia program and that we will see positive results with all of our students. This is such an exciting opportunity for our school!

Becky Ford

Special Education Teacher