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— FOUNDATION —

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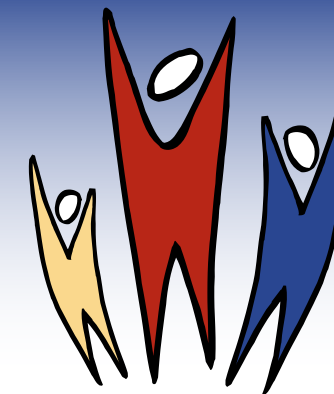
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A Hastings Public Schools
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Momentum

Funding Imagination. Impacting Education.



SPRING/SUMMER
2006

Upcoming Events

Fall 2006 Grant Application Deadline

Grant applications for this Fall are due on October 16, 2006. Recipients will be announced in November. For more information, or to apply online, go to www.hastingspsf.org.

Gala Event Early 2007

We've Launched!

In January, the Hastings Public Schools Foundation launched its web site, www.hastingspsf.org. The web site teaches you all about the Foundation and the exciting things we've got going on. More importantly, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events are listed. You can even apply for grants online or make a donation to continue inspiring teachers and students. Come check it out!

You can also get to our site through our link on the Hastings Public Schools District web site, www.hastings.k12.mn.us.

Imagination Funded!

Below is a list of grants that were awarded in Spring 2006, which total **\$25,000**. To find out the grants we do or do not fund, the grant cycle and application process, and who decides which grants are funded, please go to the Foundation web site at www.hastingspsf.org.

Hastings High School

France Comes to Hastings High School through Music, Brian Drummond – \$1675

Multimedia Resourced: Bringing the World into the Social Studies Classes, Scott Smallidge – \$2550

Hastings Middle School

Innovative Instruction: Tablet Technology Dynamic Math Technology, Lori Best – \$2197

Digital Cameras All Around, Mark Cernohous – \$4420

No More Art in the Dark!, Jeanne Mamer – \$2849.55

Enhance OASIS After School Program, George Mitshulisa – \$2058.45

Dallas Brass Professional Bass Quartet, Katherine Warren – \$5000

Christa McAuliffe Elementary

Parent/School Staff Collaboration for Augmentative Communication, Dayna Strand – \$3000

Early Intervention: Read, Write and Type, Melissa Jensen – \$1250



Letter From the President

Welcome to the second edition of Momentum, the newsletter of the Hastings Public Schools Foundation (HPSF). In this issue you will read about two of our recent grants and the great impact they have had on students in Hastings schools. I know you share my pride in being part of the catalyst that has created these learning opportunities. As I hear about the extraordinary stories that are coming from classrooms where HPSF dollars are enabling teachers to teach creatively - with new and exciting resources - I am grateful for all of you pioneers who joined with the

Foundation board to make our vision for a more dynamic education a reality. When I meet with students, I realize their potential truly is limitless. The more educational opportunities we can provide them as they prepare themselves for the world, the greater the results will be for all. The vision of the Foundation is to remove obstacles and let teachers dream of new ways to expand the minds of students. Thank you for joining me in this lofty endeavor!

Sharon Avent
President

Hastings Public Schools Foundation

HPSF: A Dream Come True

By Tim Collins, Superintendent



Students attending Hastings Public Schools have recently been benefactors of a dream that began approximately six years ago. Several individuals from the Hastings community had a dream of creating an endowment fund from financial resources throughout the community. Monies from that fund would then be used to help finance increased learning opportunities for students in the Hastings School District that will positively impact them for years to come. This dream – now known as the Hastings Public Schools Foundation – also envisioned an atmosphere of excitement, creativity and “thinking outside of the box.” Teachers and staff members are allowed to dream of creative teaching strategies with the possibility that those dreams might be funded through the HPSF’s grant process.

In addition to funding creative and innovative teaching ideas so teachers can go beyond their normal teaching methods, HPSF is sending a very powerful message to each and every one of our students. Giving back to the community in a way that will invest in its people’s future is one of the greatest gifts you can give. Our students are learning a lifelong lesson from the individuals who have given of their time and financial resources to the Foundation.

Thank you for being an integral part of “the dream” and ensuring that Hastings will be a forward-thinking, education-focused community.

Around Town



News & Notes

Project Spotlight

"Talking Suitcases" Project Grant Celebrates Immigrant Stories

A unique project now on exhibit at the Hastings public library highlights one of the many exciting ways that the Hastings Public Schools Foundation is supporting educational enrichment and building the Hastings community.

With the goal of creating more awareness about the experiences and stories of people from different countries and cultures, five teachers and their fourth and fifth grade students at Kennedy Elementary collaborated with Intermedia Arts of Minneapolis to develop "Talking Suitcases."

Through interviews with immigrants, storytelling and the creation of three-dimensional art within actual suitcases, the students not only learned about cultural diversity, but also how to find common ground.

"We had been teaching immigration as if it was in the past," said Jodi Glazier, one of the fourth grade teachers involved with the project. "But there are kids coming into our schools now from other countries. The project was so successful. The kids got an amazing understanding of why people come to America. They are more appreciative of their own country and the education and safety here."

The immigrants' stories of loss, homelessness, discrimination and



Student displaying her "Talking Suitcase" for the class.

language differences helped students discover that someone from Columbia might share their love of soccer or a person from Africa also enjoys gazing at a full moon.

"The greatest thing I saw was the enthusiasm the students had in bringing the story to life," Glazier said. "They were so proud to present them to speakers and the community; one of the speakers even cried."

Mary Pasch, the fifth-grade teacher involved with the project, said the kids left the project with broadened horizons and a fuller appreciation for an immigrant's experience.

"We hope for our children to embrace diversity and empathize with people working through the process of assimilating necessary parts of existing cultures while maintaining aspects of their own ethnicity," said Pasch, explaining that candid involvement with people in the midst of such an experience was crucial in helping the students understand.

Both Glazier and Pasch were astounded by the generosity of the Foundation and the community members who donated time, talents and resources. "Talking Suitcases" truly has become a community project.

"Talking Suitcases" and the stories behind them are currently on display for everyone to see at the Hastings public library.

In addition to Glazier's and Pasch's classes, the grant for the 2005-2006 school year included the classes of fourth-grade teachers Jane Harris, Karen Arnold and Patty Novak. They worked with visual artist Susan Arminton and storyteller Carla Vogel of Intermedia Arts to conceive this very successful project.



Students presenting their "Talking Suitcase" projects to the class.



From the Office

Through the Foundation endowment, the Hastings community has made a commitment to the future of innovative education for all its children. In order to keep Hastings a forward-thinking, education-focused community, we encourage you to consider donating your time to the Foundation.

Here are a couple volunteer opportunities to consider. Your time and effort will directly benefit Hastings students. We await the opportunity to welcome you to this fun and dedicated team!

A Case in Point

The Right Messages Can Impact Students

For 33 years, Rosemary Tarnowski has been committed to touching lives and making a difference in the students she teaches. In her work as the Family and Consumer Science instructor for grades 9-12 at Hastings High School, she knows that the right message can positively impact a student's future.

Over the past school year, Rosemary's students have received life-changing messages such as how you dress can communicate self-respect, how alcohol dehydrates the brain of an unborn child and how teen mothers really feel about their lives.

With a grant from the Hastings Public Schools Foundation, Rosemary was able to bring in speakers for three exceptional programs on teen sexuality, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and teen parenting. Responses from her students have been phenomenal.

"I've never seen so many students go up to talk to a speaker afterward," says Rosemary of Pam Stenzel (www.pamstenzel.com), a world-renowned presenter on teen sexuality who spoke to the entire high school. "She just knocked the kids' socks off. I could not have brought in someone like Pam without the grant."

Speaking on everything from peer pressure, teen relationships and STDs to fashion trends and virginity, Pam used humor and love to share the realities of teen sex. Not only was there a palpable buzz in the high school as students talked over her message, school counselors noted an increase in visits from boys whose girlfriends had broken up with them, Rosemary says.

Lynne Frigaard, an expert on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome with ARC Northland in Duluth, reinforced the message of the dangers of even

Plan an Event. Last summer five local gardeners from the Hastings community planned a garden tour that raised \$1,000 for the Foundation. They have plans for Garden Tour: Part Two in the summer of 2007. Create your own interesting and fun way to bring the Hastings community together to benefit the Foundation.

Create Alumni Awareness. Develop a campaign to promote the HPSF to alumni. This can be done by linking a fundraiser to reunion activities or by holding a Phone-A-Thon geared to alumni.

one drink while pregnant with a visual demonstration of vodka mixed with a raw egg. As the egg fried in the glass, she spoke to Rosemary's 200 students about the impact of alcohol on an embryo before a girl even realizes she is pregnant. She also spoke about the Fetal Alcohol Effect in which one drink by the mother during pregnancy can impair a child's impulse control and behavior later in life. Several parents and school district employees attended the presentations.

The third program included teen mothers working with TAPP, the Teenage Parenting Program in Dakota County. They gave Rosemary's students a dose of reality about raising a child often without a father, living with their parents and having no means to make a good living.

A big surprise to the students was that most of the teen mothers had used birth control, but it failed.

After each program, evaluations from the young men and women demonstrated a newfound respect for themselves and a better understanding of their choices, Rosemary says.

"I wish someone had told me this sooner," one student wrote. Some students said that they realized sex was a much bigger deal than how it was portrayed by their peers or on television. Others said they had a more mature outlook on life and their future.

The impact on students and the caliber of speakers wouldn't have been possible without the HPSF grant, Rosemary says. "It's so refreshing to have this opportunity and know you have a shot at receiving a grant," she says. "The Foundation makes it possible for teachers to do great things."

How to Donate

If you want to keep the momentum of the HPSF going through a monetary donation, please fill out the form on the envelope included with this newsletter. You can also donate online at www.hastingspsf.org. Thank You!