

Education Foundation awards \$24,997 in Classroom Impact Grants

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The Education Foundation for the Bend-La Pine School District has awarded 26 grants totaling \$24,997 through the Classroom Impact Grants Program. These grants will benefit 20 individual schools directly and one district-wide middle school program. The Foundation received over 60 grant requests totaling \$105,771 from teachers and district staff for classroom and educational programs.

"All of the grant applications are for great projects in our schools," said Lane Lyons, President of the Education Foundation. "Unfortunately, we are not able to meet all the funding requests. Thanks to increasing support from our community, the Foundation has provided over \$493,326 in support to our teachers, classrooms and students since 2003."

The Education Foundation for the Bend-La Pine School District is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization founded by parents, concerned citizens, civic and business leaders, and educators. The Foundation strives to enrich the education of students in our local public schools by providing support for innovative programs and outstanding teaching, and by eliminating barriers to educational opportunities. The Foundation believes that a vibrant public school system is essential to the social and economic well being of our community.

The current round of grants includes keyboards for music classes, physical education equipment, reading programs, and artists in residence for elementary schools. Middle school grants include equipment and books to enhance mathematics programs and resource books for English Language Learners. Examples of high school projects include calculators for algebra classes, guitars for the Americana Project, a cultural exchange event for the Future Business Leaders of America, and resources for a literacy project.

The Foundation is hosting the second annual Trivia Bee on Saturday, February 24, at the Tower Theatre in downtown Bend. Up to 49 teams will participate in the event which is a fundraiser hosted by the Foundation. Proceeds from the Trivia Bee fund projects like the Classroom Impact Grants.

"The Trivia Bee proved very popular last year and we are looking forward to another fun-filled evening. Our goal is to raise over \$60,000 this year. We can accomplish this goal with the help of local citizens and businesses," said volunteer Trivia Bee Chair Marie Hackbarth.

Individuals wishing to enter a team are asked to visit the Education Foundation's web site. Team sponsorships are \$500, which includes three admission tickets for the contestants. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with the Trivia Bee set to begin at 7 p.m. Tickets for the general public interested in attending as spectators are available at the Tower Theatre, 835 NW Wall Street, and on its website (www.towertheatre.org) for \$20 each, 21 or older event.

To register a team, sign up as a sponsor or to find out how you can support the Foundation visit www.educationfoundation.us or call 322-5493.

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