



**Foundation  
for Educational  
Excellence  
School  
District 300**



*Enhancing and extending  
learning opportunities for all students  
through school, community and business partnerships.*

# 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

## Message from the Foundation Board & District Superintendent

We are pleased to present to our donors and the public our third Annual Report, highlighting the more than \$31,000 worth of exciting Foundation grant projects funded this year in the areas of science/technology, literacy, fine and performing arts, student leadership and innovation.

Since its inception in 2002, the Foundation has acquired more than \$250,000 from private sources to assist our students at the classroom level in areas that public dollars cannot provide for. This is thanks to you, our generous supporters, who not only believe in--but also act upon--the mission of the Foundation: *to enhance and extend*

*learning opportunities for students at the classroom level.* Likewise, the mission could not be carried out without our dedicated volunteer trustees and committee members.

At the Foundation's Supporter Appreciation Gala in April, where the 2006-'07 Foundation Innovation Grants were awarded and Large Project Grant presentations given, many trustees and donors commented on what a wonderful feeling it was to be able to meet the teachers and students who were the recipients of this year's awards and to see what last year's winners were able to accomplish in the classroom. The Foundation is an active part of the District 300 community, and your support has made a tremendous impact on the strength of our schools as a whole

And we have much to look forward to. This year the Foundation established the John D. Court Science & Technology Innovation Grant fund, for example, in honor of a founding trustee and past School Board President John Court. His passion for education will leave a legacy of continued innovation in helping youngsters to embrace the sciences.

We pledge to concentrate and build on our successes for this coming year. Once more, thank you for being a vital part of a school district that keeps getting better every year. Your support will help the Foundation achieve its vision by helping all District 300 students achieve their full potential.



Meadowdale Elementary fourth-graders saw literature come to life when author-illustrator Debra Frasier dressed up Principal Rita Janus as "Miss Alaineus," the title character in one of her award-winning books.

Joe Cavallaro, *Foundation Board Chair*  
Kenneth Arndt, PhD., *District 300 Superintendent*

# Foundation Accomplishments

## Large Project Grants



### Science & Technology

#### Microscope Probes/Service

Learning Project. With a Foundation grant, Jacobs High School purchased hand-held microscopes that connect to a computer. These are being used in all biology classes at the school and benefit every student. The equipment also is being utilized for the "Prairie Buddies" service learning program, which brings second-grade elementary students to work with high-school student mentors in the Prairie Wetlands class. The lab stations also will help in the development of a new microscope buddies program with an additional elementary grade.

**LabPro Interface Probes for Chemistry.** The chemistry departments at Dundee-Crown, Jacobs and Hampshire High Schools received instruction-enhancing probes to interface with computers and graphing calculators for data collection for science projects. Students become proficient at using accurate tools to gather information and interpret results.

These science/technology grants, totaling \$12,637, serve major state learning targets that include the use of technology in the classroom, communication, performance assessment, working in teams, the collection of data for investigations using measurement, and the

description of differences between organisms.

Previously, the Foundation has funded tens of thousands of dollars in grants that included the purchase of hand-held microscope probes for biology labs in all District middle and high schools; high-tech project room equipment, and science-related media center materials.

*The Foundation's Science & Technology Grant Committee includes Debby Sosine (Chair), Maggie Jung and Sue LaGrippe.*

### Service Learning /Student Leadership



**Leadership Conference.** The Foundation approved \$2,850 to support the 2006 & 2007 District 300 Youth Leadership Conferences. The Jacobs High School National Honor Society organizes this event, in which 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students from each classroom from every District school are invited to participate in the 1-day session to learn ways to be good leaders. The NHS students help the grade school students identify service learning opportunities that they can take back to their classroom and, in turn, work together with their class and teacher to implement.

Major learning targets: to promote responsible citizenship, provide leadership opportunities, develop hands-on learning and planning skills in the high school students through the leadership of the conference, and to develop

awareness and skills in participants.

*The Service Learning/Leadership Grant Committee includes Sara Foster (Chair), William Ganek & Terri Dawson.*

### Literacy & Arts



**Debra Frasier Visit.** The Foundation's Literacy & Media Center Enrichment Committee and its Visual & Performing Arts Committee joined forces with a \$9,827 grant bringing award-winning author/illustrator Debra Frasier to visit all District 4th-grade students October 16-20. Frasier traveled to all 14 elementary schools in District 300 to share with students the process behind making her award-winning books, which include the modern classic, *On the Day You Were Born*, and others such as *Miss Alaineus*, *A Vocabulary Disaster*, *Out of the Ocean* and *The Incredible Water Show*.

Frasier's lively presentations combined stories, slides and curriculum support on writing. The Foundation provided Frasier's books for each fourth-grade team in the District so classes could read them prior to her visit. Students were encouraged to write and illustrate their own books, while teachers received ideas for interactive activities such as vocabulary parades and plays.

## Statements of Financial Activities

For Year Ended June 30, 2006 with Summary Financial Information for Year Ended June 30, 2005

<u>Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support</u>	<u>2006*</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
Donations/Memorials	64,929	43,194
Grants/Matching Gifts		20,000
In-Kind Gifts/Other	250	3,071
Special Events		6,890
INVESTMENT INCOME	865	315
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>66,044</b>	<b>73,470</b>
<b>Functional Expenses</b>		
Educational Project Grants	46,687	50,300
Administrative/General	4,994	6,544
Fundraising/Event Expenses	3,102	1,706
<b>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>54,783</b>	<b>58,550</b>

\*Pending audit. To request a copy of the School District 300 Foundation for Educational Excellence 2005 Audit, conducted by Nancy Guthrie, CPA, of Business Matters in West Dundee, contact Micki Smallwood at (847) 426-1300.

## FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 300 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Cavallaro, Jr., *Chair* Joseph Motyl & Ed Garofalo, *Programs* Brenda Curry, *Treasurer* Mary C. Fioretti, *Secretary*  
David Henderson, Ian Lamp, Alan Scimeca, David A. Dattilo & Karen Roeckner, *Fund Development* Laura Alessio, *Communications*  
Debby Sosine, *Nominations* Kenneth M. Arndt, PhD., Sara Foster, William Ganek, Barbara Hansen, *Trustees*

In addition to assemblies and a teacher in-service training session, Frasier conducted an art workshop for students and their parents at Westfield Community School, where more than 200 attendees learned the "Cut Paper Illustration" technique the author uses in her books.

"My goal is to unravel some of the mystery behind the creative process," Frasier said, "all the while reminding students that the pursuit of a creative question is a challenging, adventurous journey."

In the follow-up survey, students gave Frasier's visit high marks, many noting that the author inspired them to keep striving to improve their writing. Commented a teacher: "Her books are being read and reread every day." **Computer Art.** Hampshire Middle and High Schools received initial funding (\$2,675) to get Adobe Illustrator and upgrade to Adobe Photoshop CS in the new computer lab to expand the computer art class curriculum by helping the web design class with the development of the new Hampshire site.

The middle school art classes also have benefited by being able to add computer art to the curriculum.

**Raku Pottery.** The purchase of a raku kiln at Dundee-Crown High School (\$760) has let students learn about the raku firing process and the origins of the Japanese tea ceremony associated with raku.

Students in ceramics classes gain hands-on experience in the art. The grant met the goals of the state visual and performing arts standard, which stipulate that through creating and per-

forming, students understand how works of art are produced and the role played by the arts in civilizations.

*The Literacy/Media Center Enrichment and Visual/Performing Arts Grant Committees include Mary Fioretti (Chair, Literacy), Sue Larson, Dr. Janine Steffen, Laura Alessio, Elizabeth Mauger, Peg Legner, Maria Valdovinos, Barbara Hansen (Chair, Arts) and Dave Dattilo.*



Above, during one of her visits to all 14 District elementaries, author-illustrator Debra Frasier reads one of her books to students. Clockwise: Frasier teaches her cut-paper technique at the Family Art Workshop; The author shows how to make a pocket-size journal to use as a "butterfly net" so ideas don't flutter away; Autograph time; Students' Frasier-style artwork.

## Innovation Grants



The Foundation funded a third round of Innovation Grants, up to \$500 for projects that could serve as pilot programs for Foundation or District expansion.

Grant project applications from throughout the District were judged blindly, and six totaling \$2,650 were funded for 2006-'07:

**"Green Building Technologies"** (Higgins Family Fund. Administered by Elizabeth Woods at Dundee-Crown), the creation of a green school model, introducing students to the role new technologies will play in future natural resource conservation and career opportunities; **"Math Extensions and Enrichment"** (Luc Miron, Neubert), giving engaging learning opportunities to reinforce math concepts; **"Practical Play"** (Jan Merner, deLacey), in which high-interest "prop boxes" are used to assess developmental skills, goals and objectives across domains; **"Rescue the Repeating"** (Julie Duffield, Dundee-Crown), helping those repeating Algebra I by providing tools to succeed and prepare for state and ACT exams and gain trade skills; **"Boys & Books"** (Erin Fillmore, Golfview), engaging reluctant readers in literacy and writing interest- and skill-building activities; **"Reading Fun"** (Sarah Carlson, Sleepy Hollow), teaching parents work-word activities that can be done with students at home.

Newly created and to be awarded for the first time in May 2007 is the **John D. Court Science & Technology Innovation Grant**, in honor of recently retired Board of Education member and founding Foundation trustee John D. Court.

*The Innovation Grant Committee includes Joe Motyl (Chair), Ed Garofalo, Joe Cavallaro & Tom Hay.*

## Member/Supporter Appreciation Gala

Foundation supporters learned about the projects they helped fund at the organization's first Appreciation Gala, held at Randall Oaks Golf Club in April.

Attendees tried digital microscopes purchased for District high school science classes, for example, and heard presentations on projects such as the District-wide visit by author Neal Shusterman in 2004 and 2005 and the Lincoln Prairie Living

Land project.

During the gala, the Foundation's 2006-07 Innovation Grants were announced, and the Bilingual Parent Advisory Council presented the Foundation with a \$5,000 donation to buy

bilingual books for the District. Attendees also heard Westfield Community School's band perform a piece commissioned with the help of a Foundation grant to commemorate the school's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary that premiered at the state music convention.



Lincoln Prairie presentation (above); Westfield's band.

## School District 300 Foundation for Educational Excellence Donors

### 2006-07 DONORS

As of November 30, 2006

#### Galileo Founders (\$10,000+)

EFS Foundation

#### Universe (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Burnidge Cassell & Associates

Comcast Foundation

#### Galaxy (\$2,500-\$4,999)

John D. Court Science & Technology

Innovation Grant Donors

Fringe Funding

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Campaign Ending April 30, 2006

#### Galileo Founders (\$10,000+)

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#### Universe (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Burnidge, Cassell and Associates

Bilingual Parent Advisory Council

Metro Design Associates, Inc.

#### Galaxy (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Fringe Funding, Inc.

Richard T. & Mary Higgins Memorials

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White Oak Interiors

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Tobey Black

Philoma Bruner

Jerry & Linda Cain

Mary Caldwell

Daniel Clarton

Christopher Dixon

Dean & Kim Duley

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*Thanks also to the Aylesworth, Calkiewit, Chalcraft, Cole, DeLong, Eckhaus, Hottovy, Kontos, Manikandan, Pago, Reilly, Spets, Tisher, Ulm, Brant, Falcone-Olsen, Romor, Boncuore, Joco, Kim, Koenig, Lococo, Tyson, DeVita, Parreno, Saunders and Nazin families and Handmade on Main and the Algonquin Historic Commission for their contributions.*



Foundation  
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