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Educational Foundation
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FALL 2011

Report from the Foundation Chair

We are proud to report that the Decatur Township Educational Foundation has been enhancing student education for six years. In that time, we have provided over \$185,000 to fund more than 200 innovative classroom education projects. This achievement has become a reality through the vision, dedicated efforts, unfailing commitment, and financial resources of many individuals and organizations.

You will read in this report about the many creative educational programs which have impacted students in each of our Decatur Township schools over this past school year. We are especially proud of our two named grants: The Senator Richard G. Lugar Government in Action Grant, which this year allowed a group of our high school seniors to experience government firsthand in Washington D.C., a project which also incorporated community service, as they provided blankets, food, and other supplies to the homeless in our nation's capitol; and the Sease Family Community Grant was utilized this school year to fund The Empty Bowl project, which allowed students

and parents to work together in giving back to our community..

We are very fortunate to work closely with our Decatur Township School Board and Superintendent; without their vision and commitment to excellence, our Foundation would not exist today.

We look forward to another great year of fulfilling our single mission: to raise funds for the sole purpose of enriching the education of Decatur Township students. Work has begun to fund a Foundation endowment, along with pursuit of funding vehicles for Major projects which support the im-



2011 Foundation Trustees & Guest Josh Bliell of the Indianapolis Colts

plementation of innovative projects beyond the classroom to a full grade level or an entire school student body.

We hope you will consider joining us as we continue our work to help make a difference in the lives of our future generation.

Nancy Steffel, Chairperson

Alumni News & Events Highlights

Once again the DCHS Alumni Association has had a great year. Class Reunions and gatherings are on the rise and many classes are starting to open up their reunions to a range of class years! DCHSAA representatives try to attend each reunion to show our support and help spread the word about our great organization. After each reunion we ask for updated information on the class members to keep our database up-to-date.

Our current database has over 16,000 alumni, with 5,200 email addresses and 400 members. Larry Pellum, our database guru, certainly keeps busy maintaining our database.

On May 7, 2011, we held our Alumni Dinner and honored our Co-Alumni of the year, Larry Kugelman class of 1956 and Cim Borud McClelland class of 1992; and our Co-Honorary Alumni of the year Patricia Jones and Wayne Fisher. We also enjoyed celebrating with members of the first graduating class of 1933: Mary Ellen Rink and Pete Baldwin.

We joined forces this year with the DTEF on our annual golf outing on Friday, June 24, 2011 at Winding River Golf Course. It was a successful fundraiser and a good time for everyone involved.

The DCHS Heritage room was officially opened in October of 2010. The room, which is located at DCHS between doors 26 and 27, is a dream come true for our township historian, Margaret Jane Tutwiler-Cox. She has been collecting photos, documents, newspaper clippings and anything else she could get her hands on since she was a teenager. We have several displays, yearbooks, maps, pictures, apparel and much more for your viewing pleasure. We have had several donations to the room and welcome any that may come our way. Margaret Jane was honored with a plaque at the spring alumni dinner for her work and dedication to the room.

The seniors of 2011 enjoyed breakfast on the day of their graduation, compliments of DCHSAA. During the

breakfast we took the opportunity to introduce ourselves and share a little about what DCHSAA does for alumni.

The most important task we have undertaken this year is our Heritage Room Repository Project. Cindy Rusie-Busse has taken on the huge task of organizing and working with the IUPUI Library to scan, copy and identify documents. We are the first school district in the area to take on this huge project. We are very excited and understand that it is a long-term project.

The DCHSAA website dchsalumni-association.com is updated on a regular basis. We ask our alumni to check it regularly for reunion and other pertinent information.

We have made a lot of progress this past year and look forward to many more successful events and opportunities to mingle with the alumni.

Kellie Lloyd Shearin, DCHSAA Alumni Association President, Class of 1982

SMALL GRANT PROGRAMS

Liberty Early Elementary

iPAD Technology for Students with Special Needs — Amie Shannon, Mickey Halterman, Amy Gaffney
The iPad offers portability to the teacher for small group work and allows the teacher to put the most current technology into the hands of the students in the Comprehensive Intervention Program (CIP). This device offers communication, individualized academic lessons, positive reinforcement, practice of fine motor skills and a means of collecting data for the teacher.

Literacy Through the Senses – Theresa Vasiento

Children with special needs experienced literacy through visual, auditory, and tactile experiences. The Noisy Boards, Touchy-Feely books, and Magnet books offered experience in environments they might not otherwise have had the opportunity to become familiar with.

Leap into Reading with Leapfrog: 21st Century Work Stations—Jessica Friese, Anne Gothe, Melissa Abernathy

Students used hands-on tools to engage in reading while reinforcing all elements of the literacy collaboration. These were helpful to all students including ELL and special ed.

Everyone's a Critic—Katie Gordon & Amanda Morris

The IPOD Touch was used to both listen and to record students' stories. This helped to improve students ability to read aloud. Students created goals for self improvement and electronic portfolios for conferences.

Birds and Beyond—Kellie Compton & Anne Foster

Students learned about Indiana birds using technology and the scientific process. They made observations in "scientist" notebooks. Using books,

the internet, cameras, and crayons, students captured pictures of birds and identified them. Once identified, they were graphed for scientific study.

Increasing Basic Concepts and Literacy Using Hands on Materials—Kimberly Edwards

Special Ed students used music CDs with song charts, props and puppets to increase literacy skills.

Gold Academy

Healthy Living – Jessica Hopkins, Jean Gartner, Susan Harloff, Jennifer LaMar

Using pedometers, students not only focused on health and fitness, but they also expanded their math skills by collecting data on a number of steps to create graphs. Students also produced a healthy snack cookbook.

Stephen Decatur Elementary

Global School Connections – Kimberly Cordray, Deborah Keutzer, Pam Hume-Engle

Students explored schools around the world through use of technology. They gathered data from other schools to compare and contrast how education varies in different countries and cultures. Students communicated with "E-Pals" from different schools around the world.

Hurray! Hurray! First Grader (at Last!) – Kim Chandler, Patricia Benson, Sara Stewart

This grant took students to Clowes Hall to experience a live performance of a favorite literary character. In preparation, students read Junie B. Jones books and were able to compare their experiences with other first graders' school and home experiences. Connections were made through first graders writing journals.

Valley Mills Elementary

Reading All By Myself – Howard Esterline, Kate Ferguson

Students use WizCom Reading Pens to increase independent reading and allow increased accessibility and comprehension of grade level reading materials to students who ordinarily don't read at that level on their own. The pens help with decoding words as well as offering definitions of unknown words.

In Their Shoes: A Study of Social Issues – Jamiann Smith



The students investigate social issues and impact other students their own age and then inform the community through an open house. To help prepare them, they read, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and visited the Children's Museum to see the exhibit "The Power of Children: Making A Difference."

Who Were the Celts? – Diane Stebbe and Chris Hill



Students explored aspects of the Ancient Celtic culture. Components of the project included writing poetry in the style of Yeats, creating examples of Celtic knot work in art, composing melodies to play on the Celtic harp, learning the Irish jig in PE class, and researching historical Celtic traditions.

How Many Seeds? – Jennifer Coffman, Jamey Day

This project allowed students to practice science process skills. Students planted seeds, observed germination, measured the plants, recorded growth and seed count. They created hypotheses, made qualitative and quantitative observations, utilized Excel spreadsheets, analyzed plant data, and developed conclusions about the experiment, all utilizing the scientific method.

West Newton Elementary

Before There Was Color! – Tracey Suchy

Students became actively engaged in researching the photographic era, learning how photographs have documented events of American and World history. Students gained a deeper understanding of how one single photo can tell a story, communicate an emotion, or make a change that can be felt worldwide. Students utilized their colorized photos in addition to language art activities to tell stories.

Decatur Middle School

Effective Presenting & Modeling Strategies— Ryan Steuer, Jan Dorsey
The document camera is a 21st Century classroom tool that allows teachers and students to present authentic documents to a group in an inexpensive and dynamic way. Because the camera allows the projection of materials, teachers can demonstrate required tasks and various strategies for reading, comprehending, writing, or editing.

Time for Scrabble – Robert Schutte, Joe McNeil

This after-school program works to improve student spelling, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. The Scrabble Team competes at both the state and national levels. The timers purchased with this grant money will help to take students' skills to the next level.

A+ Math Nerds – Jennifer Tiffany and Katie Smith

This project provided a link between the school and home, offering homework assistance during after-school hours. Teachers served "on call" to assist with math questions. This assistance was made available to parents and students, providing a true 21st century assistance tool to increase our students' math proficiency.



It is the mission of the Decatur Township Educational Foundation to enhance educational opportunities for students of MSD Decatur Township, by generating and distributing financial and other resources to fund select programs and projects.

SMALL GRANT PROGRAMS

Decatur Central High School

Guided-Inquiry Chemistry for New Standards – Amy Haywood

The kits offer student-centered investigations of chemistry lessons that are now part of Indiana academic standards. The kits, Discovering Acids and Bases and Equilibrium, help students internalize scientific concepts as they work through a step-by-step process.

The Diary of Anne Frank: Understanding Literature, History and Theater – Jan Dorsey and Scott Bauserman



Through interdisciplinary study between Language Arts and American Studies, students were able to gain knowledge of the Holocaust and of the powerful story of Anne Frank. This project culminated in students attending the IRT production of Diary of Anne Frank.

DC to DC Trip – Cim McClelland, Andrew Hofer

With combined themes of government, economics and history, “mini lessons” become part of each site visited. Students journal along the way and end each evening with a Socratic Seminar. A video is created to document the trip and to help advertise the trip to future seniors.

Radios (other applications as well) – Rob Weisbach & Pete

Students design, plan and produce a radio commercial. They learn about digitally designed and produced presentations to fit a specific need and ways to use their voices differently than before. Students must accomplish techniques such as using a digital sound effect, utilizing music, and adding a 3rd party interjection, all within a 20-second time frame.

Beyond the Comfort Zone: A Camp-town Experience – Beth Bowling

Our students experienced a teambuilding program. Camptown, which challenged students to work together and solve problems through activities including “crossing the peanut butter river” and “getting through the buzz saw.” There was a focus on fostering values such as sharing, caring, honesty,

respect, and responsibility. Through this project, students learned how to work as a team.

The Intricate Art of Persian Tiles – Cheryl Smith

Students learned how to create Persian Ghlami tiles using underglazes and majolica techniques, and the history of the Persian tiles and the ancient culture of Persia. Approximately 120 DCHS students learned about the art of Persian tiles and were able to design and create their own artwork.

Introducing “Decatur Township Wildlife”! Community Members Welcome! – Aimee Schludecker, Deana Beecher

Advanced Environmental Science students were challenged to increase their knowledge through inquiry, examining wildlife of Decatur Township and then introducing their findings to the community. This project included Surveying Biodiversity, Sustaining Ecosystems, Tracking Endangered Species, Understanding Climate Change, Investigating Legislation, and Conserving Resources.

The Empty Bowl / Plate Project – Cheryl Smith



An after-school pottery workshop gave students and parents the opportunity to connect beyond the traditional student/parent relationships. This project also allowed parents to see what takes place in their students’ art classroom. Students and parents made and glazed a textured ceramic plate. Each student/parent team also brought a canned good item or winter coat for donation to the Goodwin Center, benefiting Decatur Township community members.



Let’s “Think Green” – Amy Haywood

This project allowed students to explore alternative energies. Through use of Snap Circuits Green Alternative Energy Kits, students were able to “think green,” using over 100 projects to learn about environmentally friendly energy and how electricity works. Types of energies studied included geothermal, hydrogen fuel cells, wind, solar, tidal, and hydro.



Decatur Enrichment Center

The Changing Directions of White River Life – Beth Farris, John Pietrzak, Laurie Sheldrake, Erin Gettinger

Soil samples collected from around Indiana were studied as students conducted various tests to determine water quality and overall health of the surrounding environment. Students studied many aspects of the White River, including flora and fauna identification, the effect of humans on the river, and what can be done to preserve the health of the river and its immediately surrounding areas.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Decatur Township Educational Foundation was established in 2005 by a group of business, civic, and educational leaders and the Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township who understood that a foundation is vitally important to both current and future learners. The Foundation receives funds from individuals who are concerned about the future of our children. The funds are offered as grants to faculty members for creative classroom programs, as well as major projects that offer new educational opportunities for groups of classrooms, departments, entire

Income Statement

Donations Received	\$38584.10
Grants Distributed	\$32421.76
Expenses Paid	\$27898.00

Cash Position (Balance Sheet)

Cash Balance	\$21385.08
Outstanding Checks	\$2628.00
Liabilities	\$225.69
Available Cash Balance	\$18531.39

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Through your support, the Decatur Township Educational Foundation is providing innovative and creative learning opportunities for students in the Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township.

The Decatur Township Educational Foundation is recognized as exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All individual donors are eligible for the maximum allowable federal tax deduction.

Gifts may be made by individuals, corporations, or other foundations. Memorials and tributes may be made in honor of an individual or in memory of a loved one.

If you would like further information about giving opportunities, please contact:

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