



Foundation News

November 2011

Foundation Board

Lisa Cain
President

Tom Burton
Vice President

Tracy Ladd
Secretary

Karen Motto
Treasurer

Kim Du'Prey
Director

Pam McCauley
Director

Nancy Dye
Director

Marianne Cucci
Administrative Liaison

★ News from the Foundation

The NLSD 122 Foundation is happy to announce we are officially a tax exempt organization! The Foundation was recently notified that the IRS approved the Foundation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Foundation Board met last week to plan fundraising now that donors will receive tax deductions.

★ What has the Foundation been doing while awaiting the 501(c)3 status?

The groundwork is being laid for how funds will be raised for District 122 as described below:

- The Committees want to create funding for teacher grants. Many teachers wish they had more funds for innovative projects and programs that may be above and beyond the district's allotted expenses. The foundation can help provide the tools and funding to support unique classroom learning opportunities. There are foundations across the U.S. that raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for these grants (see section entitled "A National Perspective"). New Lenox will now join other foundations to help teachers fund worthwhile projects.
- The Foundation Board President is in communication with the PTO and School Board Presidents to ensure that the leaders of each organization are "on the same page."
- The foundation's website is about ___% completed and will be announced when it is ready for viewing.
- You may e-mail the Foundation with any questions you have or if you want to volunteer at: foundation@nlsd122.org.

★ What types of fundraisers is the Foundation planning?

The Board is considering types of unique fundraisers and special events that are different from other local non-profit organizations. The types and timing of events that do not compete with others is a challenge that every community encounters. In addition to fundraisers, the Board will seek corporate sponsors, individual donors, and planned giving contributions for those who wish to enhance students' learning opportunities in District 122. The Foundation is able to accept checks that are made payable to "New Lenox District 122 Foundation" and mailed to _____. Futuristically, the Board plans to consider an online donation program and will announce when online giving is available.

Please email any questions or comments to foundation@nlsd122.org.



**The mission of the
New Lenox
School District
122 Foundation is
to seek alternative
revenue sources
for innovative
projects that will
directly impact
and enhance the
learning potential
of students in
New Lenox
School District
122.**



★ Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering for the Foundation, the following opportunities exist to serve on committees:

- Events
- Grant Writing
- Marketing
- Grant Distribution
- Sponsor

Please join us by volunteering to build this new organization in your school community!

★ A National Perspective

There are approximately 16,000 public school districts in the U.S. Of these districts, it is estimated that there are 6,000 school foundations. The number of foundations is growing, as the majority of states have reduced its government subsidies. While foundations strive to fund learning opportunities that are "above and beyond" what the states fund, the pressure for supplementing state funding is a challenge that foundations regularly encounter.

As is the case with other school foundations, a collaborative relationship is needed between the school board, school administration, and the foundation board. In District 122, the Foundation Board is appreciative of the support for the launch of the Foundation. This is one reason why funds will be raised for teacher grant programs. The funds will begin to be raised during the balance of the 2011/2012 school year with the intention of offering grant applications to teachers during the 2012/2013 school year.

★ Why Teacher Grants?

Besides wanting to avoid teachers paying out of pocket expenses to heighten students' learning experiences, the following successes in these school districts provide an incentive for District 122 to raise funds for these grants:

- The Norfolk Education Foundation in Virginia awarded grants in September, 2011 ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,460 per winner. Grants were awarded to teachers and guidance counselors who submitted innovative ideas for new programs to benefit children. Among the winners is a teacher who wants to use art to bump up students' social studies and science SOLs ("Standards of Learning"), and a number of guidance counselors who plan to introduce students to Rachel's Challenge, an anti-bullying program inspired by Rachel Joy Scott, the first victim of the Columbine High School massacre in 1999.
- The Mountain Home Education Foundation in Mountain Home, Arkansas hosted its second annual BOMBER PRIZE PATROL on Thursday, August 25, 2011. Members of the community were invited to join MHEF Board members and Mountain Public School Board members to visit 37 classrooms while cheering for the teachers and students throughout the MHPS district. Over \$28,000.00 worth of Teacher Grants was awarded to the 37 teachers in these classrooms. The grant money was obtained from endowments to the MHEF, fundraisers sponsored by the MHEF and through automatic payroll deductions given by over 100 teachers of the district.

In New Lenox, payroll deduction forms will be available for contributions to the teacher grant program on _____. It should be noted that foundations allocate minimal funds from donations to pay for administrative fees, e.g., printing. Whenever possible, donated services are sought (as a tax deduction) to cover administrative costs. The less administrative costs, the more money for KIDS!