



Foundation News

January 2012

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★ *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 raises 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 www.nlsd122foundation.org is now live.
- 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 102 S. Cedar Road, New Lenox, IL 60451. Futuristically, the Board plans to consider an online donation program and will announce when online giving is available.

★ *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.

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.

★ *Why Teacher's 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.

★ *Principal for the Day*

One of the best ways that students and their parents can become familiar with the New Lenox School District 122 Foundation is to participate in the Foundation's first fundraiser. Each school will sponsor an opportunity to be the "Principal for the Day" on Friday, February 17, 2012. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 between January 5 and February 10, 2012.

Participation is voluntary but students are not limited to the number of tickets or chances that they wish to purchase for the raffle. The winner for each school will shadow a principal for a day! Future school administrators have their chance for on-the-job training! Forms will be coming home with the tickets before January 5, 2012. Questions should be directed to the Foundation at foundation@nlsd122.org.

NLSD 122 Principals

*Cherry Hill School
Dr. Marianne Cucci*

*Spencer Trail School
Mrs. Lori Motsch*

*Nelson Prairie School
Mrs. Trisha Anderson*

*Nelson Ridge School
Mrs. Megan Baldermann*

*Spencer Pointe School
Mrs. Kim Gray*

*Spencer Crossing School
Mrs. Emily Schissler*

*Arnold J. Tyler School
Mrs. Debbie Moy*

*Caroline Bentley School
Mrs. Michelle Hall*

*Haines School
Mrs. Jackie Miller*

*Oster-Oakview School
Mr. Mark Fleming*

*Liberty Junior High
Mr. Shane Street*

*Alex Martino Junior High
Ms. Bonnie Groen*