



2014 classroom projects see wonderful results

The Kalispell Education Foundation awarded eight Great Opportunities Grants last November to bring our overall total to \$40,000 since 2007. These projects included two awards to the Linderman Education Center and a variety of new community sponsors including McDonald's, WalMart, NW Energy, and First Interstate Bank. NW Concrete provided materials and labor for the base supporting the new Linderman sculpture.

The Kalispell Education Foundation is a small non-profit whose mission is to benefit Kalispell Public Schools. The KEF has accomplished this through two means: one, sponsoring Great Opportunities Grants that

fund innovative and creative projects within classrooms across the district, and two, raising support funds for these grants at An Evening of Fine Arts student showcase each spring.

Teachers apply for grants each October 15th. Applications are reviewed and selected by a committee of retired teachers, parents, and local business leaders. Awards are announced the second week of November. Maximum awards are \$2,000, and must give consideration to keeping the project sustainable beyond the award year. Past projects ranged from creating reading kits for preschoolers focusing on skills, to publishing student

literary works in an annual journal for parents and the community.

The KEF summarizes each project application before seeking to connect projects with suitable sponsors in the Kalispell community. If your business or organization would like to consider sponsorship, call 751-3432.



Jodie Barber and Anna Marie Bailey join art teacher Laura McCann to present her with a recognition of funding certificate from the KEF.

Restaurant simulation stimulates learning

When the KEF and Josh Munro first approached Scott Hadwin and McDonald's (pictured below) about sponsoring a restaurant simulation for GHS, he was intrigued. The idea was to allow students to experience the

same challenges and issues a real-life restaurant faces in a simulation used to prepare DECA students for a national competition. As a bonus, Scott and manager Penny came to GHS to match their skills against students on the simulation.

No surprise, Scott aced the pretests and scored 100% on the final simulation. However, as far as overall scoring, there was one student who had a higher overall profit than Scott. This student had taken the time to open 4 to 6

See simulation on page 2



Special points of interest:

- *An Evening of Fine Arts will be in February of 2015.*
- *Grant applications will be due October 15, 2014.*
- *Information on the KEF can be found at:
www.kalispelleducationfoundation.org
www.facebook.com/KEFCARES*

Kalispell Voices lets students explore local history.

As the gym in the Linderman Education Center filled up with students and community members last March 27th, Trisha Carlson diligently checked her notes, her computer, and the refreshments table. It was the conclusion of a journey with students to explore local history that had begun with the award of a KEF Great Opportunities Grant last November. The event honored Flathead Valley dairy farmer Cheryl Fritz as part of *Women's History Month*.

Kalispell Voices; An Auditory Collage is a classroom project that engages and empowers students in the art of collecting oral histories. High school English students did all the research, prepared the questions, conducted the interview, and created a final presentation of photos with

written work reflecting Mrs. Fritz's life. Her history will become a part of a unique oral history project developed by The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation with support from Montana Conservation Districts, the Montana Historical Society, Montana History Foundation, and Montana Stock Grower's Association. The project titled, *"From the Ground Up: Montana Women and Agriculture,"* seeks to document the lives of Montana women who have lived and worked on the land—their roles as ranchers, farmers, mothers, and stewards of the state's irreplaceable natural resources.

The project began as an idea from Linda Brander, a Resource Specialist with the DNRC. Reviewing grant

applications by ranch and farm owners in 2011, "I was struck by the vital roles women played in agriculture—the young, the old, the daughters and spouses. I also realized we're losing older generations of women who've lived on the land and have so much to tell us." To date, sixteen oral histories have been completed. For more details on the project visit the DNRC website.



Linderman teacher Trisha Carlson

He-Man Book Club Inspires Young Students to Read

The He-Man Book Club students at FHS were very excited to use their new Kindles with their reading buddies this year. The technology kept the elementary students engaged because they could interact by turning pages as the He-Man student read to them from their Kindle. For many of the students the Kindles were something entirely new to them; curiosity about the technology heightened

their interest. "I feel the addition of the Kindles made the He-Man students more successful as a reading and mentoring group. Since the introduction of the technology, participation in the He-Man Club has steadily increased," said FHS teacher Aarica Phillips. Both the high

school and elementary students came away with a much more positive perception of reading. He-Man students were able to increase the number of titles they could share with their partners, and utilize more support materials and resources for young readers.

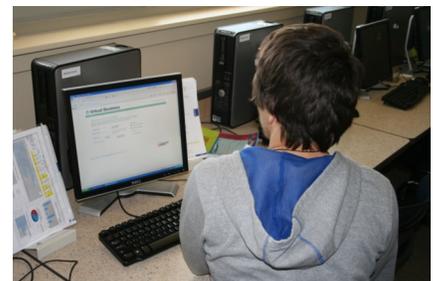
"Since introducing the technology, participation in the He-Man Club has increased."

Restaurant simulation (Simulation continued from page 1)

4 to 6 restaurants and continued playing past the initial goals of the game to rack up additional dollars. The student was determined to beat Scott's final score after he cashed out. The kids really enjoyed the visit from Scott and Penny and asked a lot of questions that developed out of their struggles and challenges within the simulations. The topics and materials brought by Scott and Penny to supplement and lead the

discussions were great. Both the Marketing 2 and the Entrepreneurship classes joined together for 2 hours to participate in the post-discussion.

"We feel much better prepared for the national DECA competition" said Mr. Munro. "We really want to thank McDonald's for their help in training our students and following up to give them a well-rounded experience."



GHS student begins simulation exercise.

Bridge sculpture represents the Linderman Education Center

Deciding to make a sculpture to represent their school, students several times with local artist Lee Proctor before making a final decision on the design. The project was then sent to the city for final approval.

Lee worked with the Linderman students between his consignment projects and waited until wrapping up a sailing trip to the Caribbean before devoting the month of May to constructing the project.

Students were each given photos of the two old steel bridge pieces by Lee. There were about twelve submitted ideas and seven students who were actively involved in the process at Lee's studio (the other five had graduated). Without Lee and the grant from the Kalispell Education Foundation, a sculpture of this

magnitude would not be possible. The design element was the easy part, the weight, height, balance, cement work and installation are quite complicated. KEF President Anna Marie Bailey played an integral part in approaching NW Concrete to help donate construction and materials for the base of the sculpture.

The bridge portion of the design of



Artist Lee Proctor directs students

course symbolizes the Bridge program and the two 18 foot long pieces bending together symbolizes coming together in unity. It seemed beyond perfect to have it presented at the completion of the Linderman Education Center's first year and graduation ceremony.

The students not only participated in gathering materials, but also got the chance to learn metal sculpting techniques, glass blowing and casting. It was a community effort from the KEF, Lee Proctor through the Hockaday Museum of Art, and the Linderman Art Department.

The sculpture dedication ceremony was held on June 11, 2014 with staff, students, and Lee Proctor.

"Veteran Blankets" teach lessons and honor vets

Students involved in the FHS *Veteran Blankets* project completed a total of 12 blankets for the veteran's home so far. Teacher Helen Lyford described the process of creating the blankets as "a good experience for everyone involved." As their teacher, it was interesting for her to observe students working on a project that was hands-on and not academic. Students responded positively and all

participated, even those usually reluctant to be part of group activities. The students took pride in completing the blankets and in some ways were more attentive to details than in their everyday school work. They worked on blankets and presented in teams and everyone could participate regardless of their individual disabilities. Each student earned points to participate in the field

trip to present the blankets at the veteran's home.

"I believe in community projects that help other people," Helen said.

Students enjoyed the project so much they created two new blankets for two young girls expecting children who are friends. Helen could not be prouder of how students responded to the project.

Elrod WATCHDOGS mentor young students

300 dads, uncles, and grandfathers showed up at the initial introductory training for the new WATCHDOG program this year at Elrod Elementary, and 23 of these local residents stepped up to enter classrooms during the 2013-14 school year. Many returned several times to meet and work with Elrod students. These local men monitored the playground and classrooms, and paired up with an individual in the classroom.

Most of the volunteers seemed a little intimidated on their first day around the kids, but adjusted quickly.

Teacher Barb Andersen commented, "I know my students have loved being the one that was tied to a Watchdog because they got to be introduced to them over the school intercom and then go to recess and lunch with them before working on academic skills. (continued page 4)



Elrod principal Glenda Armstrong greets volunteers on training night.



Without our generous community sponsors, many of the classroom projects funded in Kalispell Public Schools would not be possible. We'd like to recognize all of these sponsors one more time and are grateful for your support!

Bookworks of Kalispell

Cabela's

First Interstate Bank

McDonald's (Scott Hadwin)

NW Energy

NW Concrete

Snappys Sports Senter

Valley Glass of Kalispell

Walmart

The current KEF Board of Directors include:

President Anna Marie Bailey V.P. Terri Smith

Treasurer Susan Schmid Jessica DuBois Darlene Schottle

KEF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Kalispell Education Foundation awarded two scholarships to students at the VoAg Center this year.

Congratulations to:

Andrea Love & Christina Fister

The KEF expanded its scholarships to include two new *An Evening of Fine Arts Awards* recognizing students participating in the KEF's primary fundraiser.

Congratulations to:

Jhalen Salazar & Jasmyn Burdsall

WACTHDOG

(WATCHDOG continued from pg 4)

As a teacher at Elrod Elementary, Barb utilized her classroom Watchdog by having him work one-on-one or in small groups on sight words with flash cards, elapsed time exercises, and counting money drills. Barb observed a surge in basic third grade skills that all student's need to master and credits the guidance from their Watchdog.

"I think because the program is new our numbers were not as high as we'd hoped they would be, but I'm confident the numbers will continue to grow."



An Elrod Elementary Watchdog monitors the playground as he interacts with kids.

Project Wii creates interaction



"Dance Madness" at KMS

When KMS teacher Cheryl Russell presented her idea to increase the interaction between students with disabilities and other P.E. students, she had her eye on the popular Wii system: kids with special needs dance and play with everyone else and create a very positive atmosphere for interaction.

On May 30th, Cheryl held the first Dance Madness at KMS. 42 pairs of students danced along with characters projected on a large screen in the main gym. Everyone had a great time.

New club for KMS: Fly Tying!

Fly tying is not an easy thing to do, but when KMS found they had students who needed stimulating activities after school, they decided to approach the KEF about funding a new club.

Paul Holmgren and Kris Striven led middle school kids in tying a variety of flies (including the woolly bugger, below center) as part of club activities. Tie vices donated by Cabela's helped get things off the ground, and Paul and Kris hope to have a field trip to a local lake with parent escorts to test them out and sharpen their fly casting skills.



Some of the flies tied by students.