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For Immediate Release: December 15, 2011

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## **District receives more than \$50,000 in grants**

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minn. – The White Bear Lake Area School Board accepted grants totaling more than \$50,000 at the December Regular School Board meeting.

### **H.B. Fuller STEM Mini-Grants**

The H.B. Fuller STEM Mini-Grants provide materials to support classroom instruction in the areas of Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics (STEM). Four White Bear Lake middle school science and mathematics grant applications were funded this year, totaling \$14,128.25. Teachers from Central Middle School whose projects have been funded include:

- Science Department Staff - Fifteen of all Vernier Probeware: Labquest, Temperature Sensors, pH Testers, Hand Grip Heart Monitors, Dual-Range Force Sensors.
- Carol Hultman - LAB-AIDS Applied Science Concepts Kit: Force & Motion – complete unit with all materials for 16 hands-on activities.
- Lynsey Fast and Carol Hultman - Two classroom sets of calculators and two storage pocket charts for two teams of students.
- Amy Jorgenson - Hands on Equations program set for classroom of 40; SMART Board program, additional worksheets and training.

### **Otto Bremer Grants**

For the third year, the White Bear Area School District Senior Program has received an Otto Bremer Foundation grant. This year's grant is \$15,000, bringing the total grant amount from the Foundation to \$45,000. Grants in the amount of \$10,000 were given to the District in December 2008 and June 2010.

The recent grant will be used to support the Senior Program's efforts to serve seniors who need services and/or want to participate in activities. These services and activities include Meals on Wheels, Transportation, Senior Connections and the Senior Center.

### **Brosious Classroom grants**

Brosious Classroom grants, made possible by an endowment from Rutherford D. Brosious, are awarded annually by the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation. Their purpose is to improve the rigor of the curriculum in district classrooms. The applications are rated on rigor, teacher participation, improvements in observable behaviors and test scores, and alignment with district objectives. The total for this year's grants is \$22,134.89. Teachers whose projects have been funded include:

- Jody Pontious at Otter Lake Elementary will introduce the "Sing Better than a Rock Star!" program. This project will utilize a product called "whisper phones," which allow students to clearly hear themselves sing.
- Jessie Prissel and the staff at Transition Plus will use "The Work Box System" as an instructional component of Work Based Learning to improve students' work readiness skills. Students will participate in a simulated work environment, learning and demonstrating job skills that relate to five work areas: assembly, clerical, production, service and technology.
- Christina Plana, Char Cady and Emilie Buesing at Central Middle School will lead the "Walk, Listen, Learn" project. This project will bring in audio books for students to use at any level and has been set up to assist the strong reader, as well as the readers with a different ability levels.
- Heather Schmidt, Nancy Higgs, Teresa Shafer and Abbi Case at Oneka Elementary will incorporate "Achieving More with Mondo" into the classrooms. This is a deliberate, engaging, and a research-based program designed to reach our most struggling readers in regard to comprehension and word study skills.
- Elizabeth Ulmer at Oneka Elementary will be working with the "Historical Figures Leading the Way" project. This project is designed to get more non-fiction into the class room by getting multiple copies of biographies to use in guiding reading. This would then be used with weekly writers' workshop and literacy centers.
- LuAnne Oklobzija, John Barnes and Kristin Erickson at Otter Lake Elementary will pilot the "Extreme Makeover-Reading Edition." This grant is for students who need high interest, age appropriate leveled readers, resources and tools to succeed in reading and writing in the class room.

- Tim McGraw and Mike Hamernick at White Bear Lake ALC will use the “From Poetry to Songwriting” grant to focus on creating songs from poetry. Students will write original poetry, style-write it for performance, learn a variety of theatre and performance skills, and conduct a coffeehouse style open mic for their peers.
- David Nathanson, Mary Dahle, Janelle Toussaint, Kerry Feirn, Ted Anderson and Kari Sundberg at WBLAHS - South Campus will use the grant “Technological Advance to Enhance Higher Learning and Thinking in ASL Other World Language Classes” to purchase seven computers, allowing students to advance to more rigorous levels of learning. American Sign Language is one of the languages that requires video media compatible with computers to provide instruction that is equally rigorous to other world languages.
- Paul Meuwissen and Christopher Lyons at Sunrise Park Middle School will lead “The first Lego League Club.” This international project enables students to participate in a variety of tasks related to robotics and the programming of robotics. The students will have an opportunity to build on our district’s pre-engineering coursework by giving them an enrichment activity outside the school day.

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