



dream bigger achieve more

Winnetka Public Schools Foundation Annual Report 2014-2015

The Winnetka Public Schools Foundation:

- Awards educational grants to foster innovation, creativity, and excellence in the classroom as a result of its annual fundraising efforts.
- Supports professional development programs that help Winnetka District 36 attract and maintain the most talented and sought-after teachers and administrators.
- Impacts students across all five schools, including Crow Island, Greeley, Hubbard Woods, Skokie, and Washburne.

WPSF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your generous contributions help Winnetka to continue its tradition of educational excellence.

WPSF 20 Year History

The Winnetka Public Schools Foundation was established in 1995 to raise money that takes the education of our students to the next level. Over the past 20 years, WPSF, has given more than \$4 million toward programs that touch all children in our District 36 schools.

Ask your kids about the many Artists-in-Residence they have interacted with over the years. Consider how Math, Science, and Literacy Facilitators may have helped your family. Washburne students have enjoyed Civil War reenactment days for years. Remember that the Earth Balloon, the Star Lab, and Froebel Blocks were all introduced by the Foundation after being proposed by thoughtful, innovative teachers. With the help of WPSF funding, our children have had access over the years to the latest technology. These many types of curriculum enhancements help bring learning alive.



"At the Winnetka Public Schools, we take to heart our responsibility to engage and inspire our students through innovative practices. We dream big and love seeing our students grow and achieve as a result. The Winnetka Public Schools Foundation, a dedicated partner, helps our students and teachers flourish by propelling our dreams and ideas forward. Through the Foundation's support, we are able to introduce innovative resources, cutting-edge instruction, and differentiated materials, giving our students an incredible advantage."

**Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent
Winnetka School District 36**

Donate now!
Make your donation online
at **wpsf.org**
or use the enclosed envelope.
Thank you for your support!

inspire

WPSF Funds in Action

Core Plus – \$28,000

Creativity & Innovation Grants – \$63,000

Summer Institute – \$10,000



Educating in the Field

"Our new **community garden** will include native plants to attract birds and insects, specifically butterflies, as part of our curricular study. Students observe and interact within the garden to build awareness and inquiry in this hands-on learning environment. Open to teachers, students, and the community at large, this garden educates beyond classroom learning. Our goal is to become certified as a **Monarch Waystation** and to receive Wildlife Habitat Certification from the National Wildlife Federation."

Katarina Jaksic & Megan Florkowski, Greeley School

Future Broadcast Journalists

"The **World's Greatest Student Television (WGST)** was one teacher's dream, realized by a grant from the Foundation in 2001. Since then, thanks to the Foundation, every Hubbard Woods 4th grader has experienced news broadcasting first-hand, celebrating more than 2,000 broadcasts. Filming and broadcasting can now be integrated much more effectively as an element of the school's IDEA Lab and as part of classroom projects. In 2015, a Foundation grant was awarded to help purchase state-of-the-art cameras, lights, and production equipment to further transform the studio."

Todd Burtleon, Hubbard Woods School



Decodable Books for Beginning Readers

"This year a Foundation grant enabled four teachers to write 12 decodable books, to accompany the District 36 first grade word-study curriculum. Each book focuses on a specific phonics rule such as beginning and ending consonant blends, suffixes, multi-syllable words, "magic e", and vowel teams. Six new books were completed this summer and six more will be written during the summer of 2016, **completing the book series for the entire 1st grade curriculum**. This series will complement the "A Friends Adventure" series written in 2006-2007, which includes Cam the Crow, Tabby the Cat, Pat the Bat, and Bob the Fox."

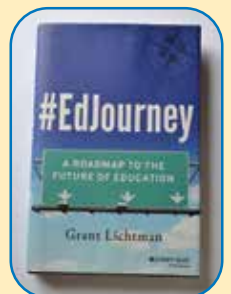
Jean Fink, Christine Ng, Veronica Petrillo, and Eva Tarini, Crow Island School

Summer Institute – 2015: Innovation and the Future of Education

Summer Institute is a continuing education program for District 36 staff and administrators, made possible by a Foundation grant. This year, teachers attended a two-day workshop led by Grant Lichtman, author of **#EdJourney: A Roadmap to the Future of Education** and an expert in educational innovation.

Mr. Lichtman's book chronicles a three-month period when he visited 64 cutting-edge schools around the United States to better understand and document the innovative work that was being performed. The book examines key issues surrounding education, such as new learning strategies being implemented to prepare our students for the future and ways teachers and administrators can manage the transition to new types of teaching and learning.

"We often hear about students needing a different skill set to be prepared for their future. We live in a world where you can Google anything. Students must learn the skills that enable them to become problem solvers and critical thinkers. Mr. Lichtman focused on leading our educators through the design thinking process and challenged us to rethink how to better meet students needs." — *Maureen Chertow Miller, District 36 Director of Technology*



Interactive Cell Modeling

"Universal Design for Learning manipulatives will be used in the 7th grade science classroom to enhance the learning of biology. I'm most excited for students to use the **Dynamic Cell Models**. These manipulatives will allow all students to model the same cells that they are viewing under the microscope — while they are viewing them! Assembling a model cell with classmates will give students confidence and clarity beyond what they observe through the microscope."

Emily Keeter, Washburne



STEAMing Up the Makerspace

"**Skokie students agree — Makerspace is the place to be!** This unique digital literacy lab allows students to experience hands-on, inquiry-based learning to facilitate practical applications of **science, technology, engineering, art and math** (STEAM). A Foundation grant allowed us to add Dash & Dot Robots, a Digital Sandbox micro-controller, Sewing Machine Wearable Electronics, microcomputer building supplies, a 3D printing pen, and various brainstorming tools such as IdeaPaint. Students work together on a project of their choice, documenting and reflecting on their daily progress and creating an e-portfolio of their work. The collaboration among the students, coupled with their imagination, works to create the ideal learning environment."

Kathy McDonough, Skokie School

State-of-the-art Engineering

"A Foundation grant funded the purchase of flexible components for children to use to **build computer-based probes** for measuring temperature. Students will build their own equipment to conduct extensive scientific research. In building and using these temperature probes, students will learn aspects of electrical engineering and computer programming — invaluable skills that transfer far beyond the purpose of this one particular instrument."

Elizabeth Skydell, Skokie School



Full STEAM Ahead!



"**littleBits** electronics kits are proving to be a valuable learning tool in 4th grade science classrooms. Each student has access to an individual kit made up of 14 modules. Magnetic components snap together easily for constructing circuits that light up,

beep, buzz and wobble, generating great excitement and hands-on learning. Using the Next Generation Science Standards as a guide, students will investigate energy, energy transfer, sound and light waves, and communication devices. This interactive form of study provides a basis to explore complex electronics and investigate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) challenges."

Jean Bierner, Science Facilitator, Crow Island School and Hubbard Woods School



Artist-in-residence

One of our many Artists-in-residence, children's book Author and Illustrator, Matthew Cordell visits Crow Island.

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July 2014-June 2015

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\$5,000 and over

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The Foundation greatly appreciates the generous support of our lead business sponsor:



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2014 – 2015

WPSF Financial Highlights (unaudited)

	July 2014- June 2015	July 2013- June 2014
Donations Received	\$ 129,350	\$ 108,335
Fundraising and Administrative Expenses	\$ 14,466	\$ 17,877
Disbursements to District 36*	\$ 110,561	\$ 83,528

*includes paid and committed

Founded in 1995 as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

WPSF Application Process

The application process for WPSF grants encourages District 36 educators to complete a grant request to be approved by the school principal. All requests are then reviewed, and possibly awarded, by a committee that includes the WPSF co-chairs, the District Superintendent, and select District administrators and educators. To be eligible for consideration, a WPSF grant must:

- Offer direct benefits for students
- Provide differentiated experiences for students
- Have long-term impact on the educational program
- Show initiative and innovation
- Offer potential for replication by others throughout District 36



Dear Winnetka Community,

On behalf of the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation, we would like to thank you for your support this past year.

We gratefully acknowledge your generosity, which enabled the Foundation to provide more than \$100,000 in grants to District 36 in May 2015.

These grants are already having an impact across the district, at all grade levels.

Teacher initiative and research grants have been funded by the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation for the past 20 years. These are grants that would not typically be covered by either the District budget or the school PTOs. Through additional support from the community, Foundation-funded programs are inspiring students and teachers alike by enhancing the core curricula, driving creativity and innovation, and making possible the Summer Institute for teachers.

We greatly appreciate your support in bringing additional educational opportunities to our students which will allow the students of District 36 to "Dream Bigger and Achieve More".

Sincerely,

Jenny Keller and Susan Wigdale
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"The Book Stall is proud to support the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation and serve as its lead sponsor. The Foundation's mission to promote creativity and innovation is a natural fit for us. Many District 36 students discovered their favorite books at The Book Stall, and we look forward to nurturing their love of reading for many years to come."

*Stephanie Hochschild, owner,
The Book Stall*



Photo courtesy 22nd Century Media

Get Involved!

Please join us and learn more about the work of the **Winnetka Public Schools Foundation** by attending one of our monthly meetings and/or joining us at the Carlson Event on January 28, 2016.

Please visit wpsf.org for more details on upcoming events.

Please Donate!

Visit wpsf.org to donate online, or use the enclosed envelope. Our students and teachers thank you for your support!

