



LA CROSSE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Newbery-Award Winning Novel Selected for "One Book, One Community"

Author Jack Gantos can write for virtually any audience. From picture books for young children to novels for adults, his

Newbery Award-winning author Jack Gantos to visit May 20.



work has met with popular and critical acclaim. His quasi-historical new book, *Dead End in Norvelt* is this year's One Book, One

Community Reads selection.

The Norvelt tale, described by humorist and fellow author Dave Barry as "a brilliant book," mixes the entirely true and wildly fictional as it follows a young man named Jack Gantos, whose plans for an exciting vacation are dashed when his feuding parents "ground him for life." His mother tasks him with helping a feisty neighbor with a most unusual task—writing obituaries for luminous and colorful characters who founded

his utopian town. Along the way Jack uncovers quirky local history that involves Eleanor Roosevelt, Girl Scout Cookies, the Hells Angels and even a possible murder plot.

Funded by a Proven Practices grant from the Foundation, district high school students will read the 2012 Newbery-Award winning book. The greater La Crosse Community is invited to read along before Jack Gantos visits La Crosse May 20. *This grant was made possible, in part, by Coulee Bank.*

National Teacher Day: May 7

Monday, May 7 was National Teacher Day. Staff and volunteers at the Foundation celebrated by thanking the dedicated teachers in the School District of La Crosse.

We visited all district schools that day to thank teachers for their excellent work during the year.

If you'd like to recognize or thank a teacher, then please consider making a

gift to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation in his or her honor. Each honored teacher will receive a handwritten note from the Foundation informing them of your thoughtfulness.

You may send a gift in the enclosed envelope or donate online:



One Book, One Community Event

- > Monday, May 20
Author Appearance:
Jack Gantos at Roosevelt Elementary School at 3pm
- > Author Appearance:
Jack Gantos at Logan High School at 6:30pm

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Report on Giving

La Crosse Public School Alumna Leaves Legacy



Janet Kircher Isler

Janet Kircher Isler, who grew up in La Crosse during the depression era of the 1930s. As a girl she attended La Crosse’s Washington Elementary School, where her father was principal. She continued her studies at Central High School, where she graduated in 1936.

While her own successful teaching career took place

in Illinois, Janet never forgot the value of her La Crosse public education.

Janet’s fondness for La Crosse public schools prompted her to include a \$135,000 provision in her estate for the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. “This is an extraordinary gift, the largest ever received by the Foundation. It will help to ensure

we continue to promote and preserve the excellent teaching and learning in our schools,” said Executive Director Timothy Riley.

The Foundation’s board has voted to invest this gift and use the earnings to support projects in our schools in perpetuity. It really will be a gift that keeps on giving.

Judith and Randy Eddy Fund

Randy Eddy Sr. is a humble man with a passion for education in our community. In recent years, Randy worked with the La Crosse Public Education Foundation and several elementary schools in the district to establish the Randy Eddy Mathathon.

The successful program encouraged young learners to solve math problems and raise funds for their schools and the La

Crosse Public Education Foundation. Parents and friends pledged funds for every completed math problem. “That added up to a nice sum for the schools,” said Foundation Executive Director Timothy Riley. The proceeds that were allocated to the Foundation were then supplemented by a gift from Randy and Judy Eddy to establish the Judith and Randy Eddy Fund. The Eddy Fund now exceeds

\$12,000 and acts as an endowment for support of students in the district. “I love this community and the kids in our schools,” said Randy Eddy as he accepted the Foundation’s 2013 Leadership Award earlier this year.. “We are so happy to give just a little bit back to the schools that have given our family and our community so much.”

“We’re so happy to give just a little bit back to the schools that have given our family and our community so much.” Randy Eddy, Sr.

Annual Gifts Make a Difference

As the Foundation reflects on its nearly quarter century of serving the students and teachers in the La Crosse School District, we are grateful to the many donors—parents, grandparents, teachers and many others—who give generously to help the Foundation fulfill its mission. Annual gifts from individuals, corporations

and businesses to the Foundation regularly total over \$100,000.

Nearly a quarter of the Foundation’s annual-gift income comes from individuals who know the La Crosse School District best—its teachers and staff. A growing number of district employees give back a small amount each

payday through a payroll deduction gift program.

Each of us at the Foundation are grateful for your support!

Logan High School teacher, Andrew Hartman (left), received a 2013 Classroom Innovation Grant to acquire a ball python, Zebra fish, and a pair of breeding finches for his biology labs. This grant was made possible by the Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Endowment Fund.



Andrew Hartman, Logan High School science teacher, foundation donor and grant recipient

2013 Grant Awards Make Mark on Teaching & Learning

The Foundation approved over \$47,000 in grants for 2013. Classroom Innovation awards, Proven Practice awards, Richard Swantz Staff Development awards, and grants from the Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for the Study of the Shoah were distributed to students and teachers for over 25 projects in schools across the district.

“On behalf of Tami Hillestad and myself we would like to thank you and the LPEF for this grant money!

We are just thrilled!”

—Maria Mason, Art Specialist
North Woods International



***"Beinvenidos al neustro mundo (Welcome to Our World)"* Classroom Innovation Grant submitted by Maria Mason and Tami Hillestad for North Woods International Elementary School**

By collaborating with an artist-in-residence, students at North Woods International School will study and experience Mexican art and culture. As a capstone experience students, staff and members of the community will work together to create a mosaic, which will be installed at the entrance to the school.

Total Endowments and Trusts for Foundation Exceed \$1.1 Million

The Foundation is the beneficiary of endowed funds and restricted trusts that are designed to produce income for the benefit of our schools in perpetuity. The following endowed funds or trusts—which have a combined market value of over \$1.1 million—support the La Crosse Public Education Foundation’s mission and purpose.

- The LPEF Endowment Fund*
- The Richard Swantz Fund*
- Janet Kircher Isler Fund
- The Gertrude Gordon Trust
- Robert and Maureen Fund for the Study of the Shoah*
- The Sally Grimslid Memorial Fund*
- Julianna and Steven Blanchar Fund*
- The Judith and Randy Eddy Fund
- Duane and Carol Taebel Fund*
- Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Memorial Fund*
- David and Sandra Whitely Scholarship*
- Kids for Kids Fund*

*Fund invested at La Crosse Community Foundation

Gundersen Health System Awarded Foundation's Partner in Education Award

At the 5th-Annual Grants Ceremony and Awards Luncheon held earlier this year, Gundersen Health System received the Partner in Education Award for its sustained support of the Foundation and the School District of La Crosse. From Gundersen's innovative work with the district's Health Science Academy, a program that gives stu-

dents hands-on experience in a variety of healthcare professions, to their anti-bullying

**GUNDERSEN
 HEALTH SYSTEM**

efforts and their support of the Foundation's Dr. Charles Miller Memorial Bow Tie Classic Golf Outing and Knowledge Open, Gundersen Health has been an invaluable partner.



Sue La Crosse, Mason Quackenbush, Karol Fox, Jerry Arndt, Sheila Chapel, LPEF Board Member Lisa Sauer, CEO Jeff Thompson, MD and Sarah Havens

Random Gifts of (Anonymous) Kindness

Almost like clockwork, every month a plain white envelope—with no return address—arrives in the mailbox

at Longfellow Middle School. Sealed within is always a \$100 bill and a simple note: "Please use where needed."

We do just that. Each of these anonymous gifts are allocated to Longfellow's Random Acts of Kindness Fund.

We don't know who to thank, so we're using this chance to thank everyone who contributes to the Foundation... especially you, Anonymous!