



Donor support allows second round of classroom grants

Alternative seating for fidgety students, support for community field trips and projects to promote music appreciation and healthy living by students are among 16 grants awarded recently by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation (LPEF). The grants totaled almost \$18,600.

For the first time, and thanks partly to increased donor support, LPEF awarded a second round of grants this year -- in addition to nearly \$31,000 announced in December. Find details on all the grants at: LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org

Among the second round grants was \$1,728 for Longfellow Middle School to buy physical activity and movement equipment for all sixth-grade classrooms. "It helps them focus, instead of being in a chair, getting the wiggles out, so to speak," said teacher Karen Wilke, who requested the grant with occupational therapist Jenny Leren. Wilke has used similar equipment purchased with a prior LPEF grant.

Student work to be featured in The Giving Project

A \$950 grant supports The Giving Project in which students will visually express thoughts on giving. The project, by the Pump House Regional Arts Center for this June's Artspire, is an extension of last year's successful Compassion Project, a joint project of the Pump House, the School District of La Crosse and LPEF.



"I like sitting on the stability balls - it just makes me feel comfortable."

- Markos Cash, Longfellow 6th-grader



UW-La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow observes a student-led tutoring discussion in a Central High School AVID class during a visit by local college officials. Story on Page 2.

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VIDEO: Logan Freshman Julia Xiong is featured in a School District of La Crosse video, explaining some of the key things she is learning in the AVID class.

Timberwolves visit, college fair highlight trip for AVID students

Community service projects, college visits and a trip to an event sponsored by the Minnesota Timberwolves are highlights for students at Central and Logan high schools involved in AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination.

Students from Central and Logan's AVID classes traveled to Minneapolis March 4 to an AVID event sponsored by the NBA and the Minnesota Timberwolves. The program included short presentations from professionals, including sales and marketing, social media, computer applications and statistics. Logan graduate Ryan Tanke, who works in upper level management for the Timberwolves, addressed the group. Students attended a small college fair and had the opportunity to talk to representatives from Minneapolis area colleges. The highlight was watching the game between the Timberwolves (featuring Kevin Garnett) and Denver Nuggets.

Logan AVID students volunteered March 7 with the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, while Central students volunteered at the Omni Center's Family Fun Day March 29, assisting the Safe Kids Coalition with a Car Seat Round-Up event.

Applications and interviews for the incoming AVID 9 class have been completed. Both schools will have AVID 9, 10 and 11 for the 2015-16 academic year.

Implementation of AVID is being funded through major grants and added fundraising by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. To learn more about AVID, and how it is helping students prepare to succeed in college, check out a district video on the LPEF website: LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/avid

'Showcase' draws college leaders to AVID

Representatives from three major local colleges, as well as interested community leaders, recently had the chance to visit the AVID classroom at Central High School and learn more about the difference AVID is making for students.

UW-La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow and Provost Heidi Macpherson attended, as did representatives from Viterbo University, Western Technical College, and the La Crosse Community Foundation. In a presentation, students shared how the AVID class is helping them see college as a realistic goal, not just a dream.

Bowtie golf outing set for Sept. 5

Registration is open for the annual Charlie Miller Bowtie Classic Golf Outing and Knowledge Open. The event honors the late Dr. Charles Miller, who served 15 years on the Board of Education and was a co-founder of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.



Teams compete on golf skills and general knowledge questions asked by honor students. Each team plays for a La Crosse school, with prize money going to the school for classroom projects.

Join the fun Saturday, Sept. 5 at the Forest Hills Golf Course in La Crosse, with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Registration is \$75, with an early bird rate of \$65 before July 1.

For information and registration forms, contact us or go to: [La-CrosseEducationFoundation.org/news-events/bowtie-classic](http://LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/news-events/bowtie-classic)

The 2015 Bowtie Classic is presented by Midwest Fuels, a leading local supplier of fuels for homes, farms and businesses.



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Cierra Scott, left, and Kayley Colburn brainstorm with fellow students during the Rachel's Challenge training workshop.

Middle school students accept Rachel's Challenge

Lincoln Middle School 8th-graders Cierra Scott and Kayley Colburn are inspired to make their school a better place for all students.

"It's so cool how everybody wants to make a difference," said Kayley after a special workshop held March 5 as part of a daylong visit to the school from Rachel's Challenge, a national non-profit organization that helps schools and communities "create safe, connected school environments."

Rachel's Challenge is built around the life story and writings of 17-year-old Rachel Scott, a young woman who was the first student killed at the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Rachel's philosophy was to start a "chain-reaction" of kindness and compassion in her school and community. She wrote: "... people will never know how far a little kindness can go."

The presentation was supported by a grant from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. About 500 students from three middle schools attended a morning presentation and 100 received special training in a workshop. About 100 community members attended an encore evening presentation at Lincoln.

For Cierra, the day was a surprise because she expected just another routine school assembly. "It really touched me." Cierra lost her brother in 2014, as he was shot and killed in another community. After the training workshop, Cierra said simply: "I think I could change things around."

Students brainstormed ideas for ways they could take up Rachel's Challenge and "create an atmosphere of kindness" in each La Crosse middle school.

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Compassion book available now



A limited number of copies are available of a unique book commemorating the La Crosse Compassion Project. The colorful 150-page book captures thumbnail images of many of the 6-inch-by-6-inch canvas art panels created by La Crosse School District students to represent their idea of compassion. The ongoing project aspires to teach the practice of compassion through the use of art and writing.

The cost of the book is \$15, plus \$5 for shipping/handling. Net proceeds from sales of the book go to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund. To check availability and order, go to our website:

LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/lacrossecompassionproject

MooreSmiles hosts exhibit

MooreSmiles dental office, 1630 Losey Blvd. S., invites people to stop and enjoy its permanent display from the Compassion project. In announcing the exhibit on Facebook, John and Kerrie Moore wrote: "Come and see how 190 different young bright minds chose to express compassion through art."



Contact Us

For information about our programs, volunteer opportunities or donations:

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

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