



More than \$25,000 in grants awarded to support schools

Innovative projects to support reading, math and music, as well as student health and nutrition, were among 23 grants awarded in early April by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

The grants totaled \$25,314 — and included projects involving every elementary and middle school in the School District of La Crosse. Among the grants are:



A 2015 LPEF grant helped buy ukuleles for elementary schools; shown here are Sophia Stanton and Jade Jefferies at North Woods International.

\$2,100 for a unique music therapy program for disabled students at Summit Elementary.

\$1,068 for materials to create hands-on math centers for first-graders at Emerson Elementary.

\$1,500 for Northside and Hamilton elementary schools to bring in Tyanna Buie, an African-American artist from Milwaukee who helps students build resilience through art.

\$1,300 for animation software to challenge students at La Crosse Design Institute and 7 Rivers high school.

\$1,437 for materials for students to create murals reflecting the diverse cultures at Logan Middle.

\$1,000 for school gardens at Hamilton and State Road elementary schools.



Shamar Strickland from Northside Elementary checks out a unique sculpture at the [art]ifact exhibit. Students learned about local history through art.

Story on back page

Find details on all of the grants at: LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org

LPEF Board increases grants budget by 11.5% this year

Because of the large number of high-quality requests, the LPEF Board of Directors added money to the budget to support classroom grants. The decision brings the total for this school year to \$55,467 — an 11.5% increase over the prior year. The first round of 22 grants worth \$30,153 was announced in December.

“We were pleased to meet some of the increased demand by increasing the budget — but that would not be possible without the generous support from businesses and individuals who sponsor our events and respond to our appeals for donations,” said Tammy Larson, LPEF Board President and senior vice president/chief risk officer for Coulee Bank.

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The 9th Street Connection, a show choir featuring 65 students from Lincoln Middle School/SOTA II/Coulee Montessori, competed March 11 in Wheaton, Ill.

Donors help Lincoln Show Choir hit the big stage in Chicago

With an outpouring of support from generous donors, students in Lincoln Middle School's Show Choir achieved a dream to compete outside the Coulee Region in a major show choir event in suburban Chicago — and placed as 3rd runner-up.

"I have never been this proud of a group of students," said Jennifer Gulsvig, show choir director. "It was a fabulous way to end our show choir season. They had a blast performing on that big stage, and enjoyed every second of the trip!"

With the help of an online fundraising page set up by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, more than \$4,500 was donated to offset trip expenses for the 9th Street Connection. LPEF also provided a \$1,000 grant.

"The Chicago Trip was amazing!" said 8th-grader Katie Sauer. "I loved it because I got to have a great weekend doing what I love, with the people that I love!"

Added Cassie Funmaker, a 7th-grader: "It was an amazing experience! I enjoyed getting to know some kids in the show choir and drama club better."

Said Abby Kilpatrick, a 7th-grader: "The Chicago trip meant a lot to all the show choir kids because it was something new that they could experience, and I'm glad we got to do it!"

"It was so great!" added Zach Slevin, an 8th-grader. "I really enjoyed the last three years with Ms. Gulsvig! It was a great way to end our show choir season."

"What a wonderful opportunity and experience for our students," said Tim Sprain, Lincoln's drama director. "They gained another level of expectation that will bring Lincoln Middle School performing arts up to the next level!"

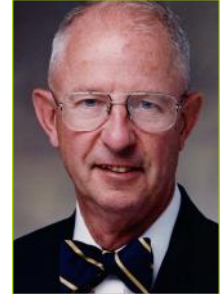
On their "trip of a lifetime" students also were able to attend a stage performance of the musical "Cinderella After the Ball."



Jennifer Gulsvig, right, with choir members prepping for performance.

Bowtie golf outing set for Sept. 3

Registration is open for the annual Charlie Miller Bowtie Classic Golf Outing and Knowledge Open. The event honors the late Dr. Charles Miller III, who served 15 years on the Board of Education and



Dr. Charles Miller

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. 3 at the Forest Hills Golf Course in La Crosse, with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Registration is \$85, with an early bird rate of \$75 before July 1.

For information and registration forms, contact us or go to: La-CrosseEducationFoundation.org/bowtie-classic

The presenting sponsor of the 2016 Bowtie Classic is Coulee Bank, which has been helping people *Bank with Confidence* for more than 50 years.

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Carol Taebel (center, holding bananas) was among community members who helped celebrate Thank a Teacher Day last May. Carol visited North Woods International School, where her daughter, Heidi Morris is an ELL teacher. From left, are: Cathy Leon, Tara Schuttenhelm, Heidi Wysocki, Carol Taebel, Heidi Morris, and Stephany Beckstrom.

Thank a Teacher Day is May 3

If you can “solve for X” in a basic equation, and know the importance of the Underground Railroad in history, or still laugh when recalling the whitewashing episode from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, chances are you have a teacher to thank.

The community is being asked to join May 3 in a show of appreciation for teachers and all school staff during the second annual Thank a Teacher Day in La Crosse Public Schools. Volunteers organized by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation will fan out to 15 locations, delivering muffins, donuts and fresh fruit for the staff as part of Thank a Teacher Day.

Treats for nearly 1,000 employees of the School District of La Crosse will be provided via grant support from the La Crosse Community Foundation’s Carol and Duane Taebel Family Fund. Other community volunteers will participate, including representatives from the District Wide Parent Committee, as well as Rotary Interact Clubs from Central and Logan high schools.

Parents and students, as well as members of the general public, are encouraged to join in the celebration – whether joining LPEF volunteers to help hand out treats before school, or making other personal gestures to Thank a Teacher.

Want to volunteer? Call our office at 787-0226 or go to our website for information and a link to a VolunteerSpot page created by the District Wide Parent Committee:

LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org

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For information on how your business can support LPEF, contact Executive Director David Stoeffler at (608) 787-0226.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation
P.O. Box 1811
La Crosse, WI 54602-1811

PLACE
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Students see history can be fun at Pump House [art]ifact exhibit

A grant from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation helped 4th-graders learn local history through a unique art exhibit on display until April 17 at the Pump House Regional Arts Center.

The project — [art]ifact: where history meets art — is a collaborative effort of the UW-La Crosse history and art departments, the La Crosse County Historical Society and the Pump House, with additional financial support from the Wisconsin Humanities Council and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

The \$1,200 LPEF grant supported curriculum development. “This kind of shows them history can be fun and actually applied,” said Calli Niemi, a UW-L graduate who was education coordinator for the exhibit.



Northside students with UW-L's Ariel Beaujot at [art]ifact exhibit.

Contact Us

For information about our programs, volunteer opportunities or donations:

La Crosse Public Education Foundation
P.O. Box 1811
La Crosse, WI 54602

(608) 787-0226



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