

**How your charitable donations of time and money
benefit our children through PTA Grants.**

Thanks to our generous school community, the PTA was able to approve nearly **\$19,000** for the following items at our schools at the November 10, 2006 PTA Meeting. Formerly called, **Wish List**, the PTA asked our educators this fall to submit grant requests for learning enhancements that did not have alternative methods for funding. After receiving more than **\$45,000** in requests, the criteria below was established and reviewed by our **Grant Committee** (parents, principals, and teachers) to prioritize spending. Some requests were only partially funded. Should we successfully raise additional funds this year through PTA activities, particularly our annual Benefit (**An Evening of Intrigue...Saturday, March 3rd**), we will repeat this process in the spring, and hopefully be able to then fill additional grant requests. The criteria used to prioritize fall spending included:

- **Number of children to be impacted.** Consideration was given to programs/tools that might at first only impact a small number of children in a pilot phase – but then might impact a larger number.
- Support of the **schools' strategic plans** for education. How directly does this item align with our schools' overall objectives, goals, and focus?
- How directly does the requested item/program **impact learning**.
- **Innovation** of the idea/program.
- **Educator priority.** This piece was subjective and based upon the Building Committee's priority discussion and ratings.
- **Parent priority.** This piece was subjective and based upon the Parent Committee's discussion and ratings.

The items approved for funding this fall are as follows:

***denotes only partial funding approved for fall.**

At Lyon School:

- **iPods and Accessories** – Creates a needed listening station in the Lyon Music room using current technology. Focused use by students will meet music goals and objectives. Equipment can also be used for podcasting.
- **Tumble Books** - Online collection of animated picture books (including sound). Will help teachers differentiate for children's different reading levels and integrates technology into reading instruction.
- **Bus Transportation** – Provides bus transportation to needed locations within Lyon attendance area to facilitate families' participation in Lyon literacy nights, etc.
- ***Life Fitness Materials** - Provides new items of fitness equipment (instant pulse monitors, exercise tubing, etc.) and an online fitness resource ("Brain Pop") to extend and enhance healthy lifestyles aspects of Physical Education curriculum at Lyon.

- **When a Child Writes Booklets** – Take-home booklet for families with children in kindergarten. Information presented helps to explain the often difficult to understand (yet extremely important) development process of children's writing.
- ***Frames for Artwork** – Reusable frames for appropriately and respectfully displaying student artwork in various places throughout Lyon (front hallway, etc.).
- **Academic Games** – Instructional games and aids to be used by second grade classes to reinforce math curriculum in an engaging and fun way – the children don't even realize they are strengthening their math skills!
- **Reading Mastery** – Instructional materials for a segment of students experiencing particular difficulties with the acquisition of reading skills.
- **Art Enrichment Resource Books** – Needed resources to support and enhance the revitalized Art Enrichment program.
- **Kids Color Mobile Book Organizers** – Mobile book carts used to organize large quantities of first grade leveled reading books used in Balanced Literacy instruction (i.e., Guided Reading, Independent Reading). Design makes books easily accessible to primary students.

At Pleasant Ridge School:

- *** 3-D US Map Kit -** These 3 dimensional maps provide children with a tactile feel of the earth's geography. Using these maps, children build deeper understandings of problems society face resulting from geographic issues. Our students can see the changes in terrain soldiers would have faced in conflicts such as the Civil War.
- **Reading Books** – These unique books build student's reading comprehension for children that are learning English as a second language. The text provides key comprehensible vocabulary in a meaningful context with many visuals in order to build students' levels of understanding.
- **Math Manipulatives** – Provide a wide variety of hands on curricular materials for students to explore key concepts. Children use a multitude of geometric figures and scientific equipment to investigate the connections between mathematics and our daily lives.
- **7 Listening Centers** – These third grade listening centers provide students with the opportunity to hear books while they read along. Children learn fluency and comprehension as they access different areas of their brain to develop reading skills.
- **Gym Stereo System** – In 1988, the PTA graciously purchased the Pleasant Ridge gym stereo system. Since then, technology has changed. We have moved from VHS (and the last days of Sony Beta-Max) to DVD's, CD's, and HD. The new gym stereo system will provide instructional support and event support for activities such as the After School Movies, Winter Concerts, special presentations, and the Pleasant Ridge Talent Show.

- **Oral Motor Therapy** – This unique horn program supports students as they learn to manipulate their tongue and mouth during the production of a wide range of sounds. Students utilizing this program use the horns to overcome articulation challenges.
- **Third Grade Touch Math** – Touch math provides a hands-on experience for students of significant need who have not learned the basic abilities to add and subtract. This program supports students as they develop fundamental abilities to calculate.
- ***Framing** - At Pleasant Ridge, we have developed a living museum. Annually, student's work is added to the collection, demonstrating the talents and strengths of our children. The framing grant supports the continuation of this process.
- **Music Stereo System** – Sound is the key to a successful music education. This improved stereo equipment will allow students to hear instructional pieces from Beethoven to Brahms as well as hear their own compositions.
- ***Horseshoe Tables** - In the world of biology and architecture, form follows function. The Horseshoe table is a unique piece of furniture that allows a reading group leader to be surrounded by the students that are reading with him/her. This grant will support our teachers as they implement the new guided reading program, by allowing teachers to work more closely with 5-7 students in a reading group.
- ***Art Classroom CD's** – Accessing students multiple learning styles opens their minds to learning. The use of music within the art classroom activates and stimulates students' creative minds.

Total funding approved for Fall Grants: \$18,970

Possible 2007 Spring Grants

***partial funding awarded in fall.**

At Lyon School:

- **Document Camera** – Equipment used to project images (text, 3-D objects, etc.) that facilitate and support student learning.
- **Poster Printer** – Printer for teachers to use to make large-scale instructional aids such as concept webs, maps, poem charts and diagrams.
- ***Life Fitness Materials** – Remainder of materials described for fall.
- **Language for Learning** – Instructional materials for English Language Learners that provide activities and lessons supporting vocabulary development, word and sentence variety, word knowledge development and basic language concepts.
- ***Frames for Artwork** – Remainder of materials described for fall.

At Pleasant Ridge School:

- **Integrated Student Digital Portfolios** - Promote the integration of technology through language arts, science, social studies, mathematics, and our encore

program. During their time at Pleasant Ridge School, students will take a variety of pictures and writings of their experiences and work. Students will develop a digital portfolio of their learning products.

- **Sound Amplification System for Tree (3rd and 5th grades)** - This sound amplification will promote the use of the multiple intelligences within the TREE program. The sound devices are used for teacher and student led instruction as well as the development and presentation of multi-sensory curriculum.
- ***3-D US Map Kits** - Remainder of materials described for fall.
- **Reading Pens** - Scans written information and reads the information to the student. This allows struggling readers to be exposed to higher level content instruction in areas such as social studies and science. This allows children to continue curriculum instruction without falling behind due to their reading difficulties.
- **Everything You Need to Teach Money** - This program allows students who struggle with the system and concepts of money to explore and utilize play money in a plethora of ways. This hands-on methodology creates deep understandings for students.
- **Everything You Need to Teach Time** - This program provides conceptual support for the base-12 time system. Struggling students explore the inter-working methods of hours, minutes, and seconds through hands on timing mechanisms.
- ***Framing** - Remainder of materials described for fall.
- ***Horseshoe Tables** - This additional equipment grant will provide furniture for the previous horseshoe table grant. This funding will allow teachers to maintain chairs at the reading tables so that students are not consistently removing them from their desk.
- ***Art Classroom CD's** - Remainder of materials described above.
- **PR Building Framing** - This framing grant allows for the purchase of frames of school wide press releases and certificates. This program allows all students, community members, and staff to see the heritage of Pleasant Ridge achievements.

Total for potential Spring Grants: \$26,486

(The PTA plans to provide two additional periods this year for educators to submit Grant Requests for possible funding.)

If you are interested in becoming involved with the PTA Grant Program, or have questions about it, please contact our **Grant Chair, Kay Laurie**. Thank you Kay!