



The following are actual grants that were awarded over the past four years through the Ashwaubenon Education Foundation (AEF). These are innovative learning activities, projects, and events that would not have been funded by the school budgets and were eligible for AEF grant funding.

### **2013/2014 GRANTS AWARDED**

**LEARNING ABOUT SOLAR POWER:** This project provides for learning about solar power in "real life" application with nearly all students at Ashwaubenon High School. More than 1,000 students will learn about the installation, use, upkeep of materials, and process and output of solar power in the Technical Education, Biology, and Physics classes. Additionally, the conservation class students will use the solar energy in the greenhouse to provide light for the spring plants and eventually heat the surroundings. The AEF grant was used to procure a voltage converter and several storage batteries to use with eight solar panels donated by Wisconsin Public Service, to power the newly built greenhouse and teaching station on the Ashwaubenon High School campus.



**STRUCTURED TEAM BUILDING:** Provided specifically for 16 Ashwaubenon High School incoming freshmen students enrolled in special education, this one-day off-campus youth program at the Lions Camp focused on structured teambuilding by providing hands-on learning experiences in a safe environment. The AEF grant funded students' tuition coverage, in addition to funds also provided by the Schneider National Foundation. Key learning involved creative problem-solving, collaboration, and personal goal setting in a team oriented atmosphere for students to experience increased self-esteem, acceptance, and cooperation from their peers. "Our students were given life-changing outcomes that can be applied in their life at school, home, and in their community" (Tammi Dernbach, AHS Special Education Teacher).

**NONFICTION CLASSROOM LIBRARY:** This intra-classroom library at Ashwaubenon High School contains age-appropriate, nonfiction books for students challenged with reading. Specifically for use in the reading workshop program, these texts will provide struggling readers with interesting nonfiction material that they will enjoy while working on their reading skills. The AEF grant was used directly for the purchase of books to maximize student attention and interest, and help facilitate increased alignment of instruction with the common core.



**PROFESSOR GIZMO:** Hundreds of 5-year-old Cormier Kindergarten students expanded their science knowledge through an entertaining science presentation from Professor Gizmo, funded by the AEF grant. While learning to perform a few magic tricks, students discovered the relationship between science and magic. They were especially captivated with the capabilities of balloons of different shapes and sizes, as they learned about the properties of Physics. "Professor Gizmo was able to use 'scientific language' in ways for children to easily comprehend...[which was] then easily put to use with the Foss Science Kits used in Kindergarten curriculum" (Kathy Kurowski, Cormier 5K Teacher). In addition to complementing the science curriculum, students enhanced their writing skills by individually writing stories about their experience with Professor Gizmo.

**POSITIVE DISCIPLINE TRAINING:** Encouraging and supporting collaborative and cooperative efforts to build quality early childhood resources within the community that strengthen and empower families, enhance the capacity of parents, and foster optimal development of children is Cormier's Family Resource Center's mission. The AEF grant was used to provide funds for professional "Positive Discipline" training for two of the Resource Center's educators. The training techniques and principles were integrated into the APPL classes to help parents gain confidence in their parenting, ultimately helping children. The educators also held a workshop in February 2014 for 4K and 5K parents and Head Start families to learn about these techniques.

**MANAGING EMOTIONAL MAYHEM:** The ability to "self-regulate" emotions helps children manage their daily lives, contribute positively to a collaborative environment, and participate as a strong group member. Without this ability, students lack coping skills to form strong social connections, fully function in a school or work setting, and solve problems with others. The AEF secured a donation from the Schneider National Foundation to cover the cost of purchasing *Feeling Buddies* for Cormier students to experience hands-on identification, description, and understanding of what emotions are, what they look like, and how they influence their own and others' behavior. These learning models are used with Dr. Becky Bailey's *Managing Emotional Mayhem* curriculum, which was introduced at Cormier in 2014.

**DOCUMENT BASED QUESTIONS (DBQ):** The DBQ project contains a collection of resources that address Common Core State Standards in Language, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. The AEF grant provided funds for the DBQ materials that contain rigorous activities and guidelines to implement innovative instructional methods. The DBQs engage and intrigue Parkview Middle School students by presenting historical questions that require primary and secondary research, analysis, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and teamwork to answer - all in an environment that allows teachers to differentiate between student learning levels and provide productive challenges.

**SCHOOL STORE:** The new Valley View Elementary School Store provides real-life, practical experience for students to increase their math and reading skills, develop their interpersonal/social skills during lunch periods, and it provides a dedicated and convenient way for parents, teachers, and students to replenish depleted school supplies throughout the school year. "Having a school store to demonstrate why math skills are so valuable is an excellent way to make that connection" (Elissa Hendricks, Valley View Special Education Teacher). The AEF grant provided funds to facilitate the purchase of the store's starting inventory. Managed and run solely by the special education staff and students, this is a true community store.



**APPS 4 KIDS:** Maximizing the use of iPads with quality and curriculum-oriented applications in the classroom is an innovative way to optimize student learning with current technology. Improving student achievement is the goal for implementing iPads in the 1st grade classrooms at Valley View Elementary School. Nearly 200 "students enjoyed getting the new apps, and the learning benefits were immediately seen by all first grade staff members" (Matt Schreiter, Valley View 1st grade Teacher). The AEF grant funded several "paid" versions of educational applications that allowed teachers full access to unlimited potential to integrate this technology at a higher level into their learning plans.

**ROCKIN' READERS:** Designed specifically for Pioneer Elementary School first graders who need the most intense reading intervention, this program provides for additional support and low teacher-student ratio in direct literacy instruction. The AEF grant, in partnership with a donation from the Schneider National Foundation, provided funds to cover the cost of this direct instruction.

## **2012/2013 GRANTS AWARDED**

**VISITING ARTIST LECTURE SERIES:** This program will foster a high level of interaction between contemporary, local artists and Ashwaubenon's students to explore their role in the art world. This series will bring artists into the classroom to provide an introduction into the inspiration, training, practice, and technical skills of being a practical artist. Students currently enrolled in art classes at Parkview Middle School and Ashwaubenon High School will experience the visual transformation of an artist from the emerging stage to experienced artist, and they will participate in demonstrations of skills and processes unique to the artist's work. Ten to twelve artists will participate in the series throughout the school year.

**PIONEER PRIDE & VALLEY VIEW HEROS: WE'RE ROCKING:** Funded in tandem by the AEF and The Schneider Foundation, this program's message targets anti-bullying, confidence building, and teaches elementary children real-life behaviors to promote healthy relationships and put a "stop" to bullying. As a supplement to the Ashwaubenon School District's anti-bullying campaign, this program targets practical skill building. Through role-playing, music, and group instruction in assemblies, children learn to embrace the positive treatment of themselves and their peers in an engaging and entertaining experience that leaves them with practical and applicable coping



**HMONG CULTURE PRESENTATION:** UW-Oshkosh students and Chee la Xiong will interact with Pioneer Elementary students and provide a greater understanding and awareness of Hmong culture through a performance and presentation, which includes: a dance; a skit; a demonstration of native foods; and an education of wedding ceremonies, language use, and transition to life in America for native Hmong individuals.

**CAMP SMARTS:** Camp Smarts will provide opportunities for students in the lower elementary grades to experience learning activities using multiple intelligences. The funding provides for two teachers to attend a weeklong workshop encompassing the research and use of multiple intelligences within the classroom. That training will be used to design a student camp, which will be held in the summer of 2013.



**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY AT CORMIER SCHOOL:** Secured by the AEF and funded by the Green Bay Packers, this library is comprised of two physical "school house" storage units located outside of Cormier School and stocked with "free" books for children and adults to take, read, and return. Readers, local businesses, and the Cormier community are encouraged to donate their own books to contribute to the reading environment and build community support while promoting literacy, the development of language skills, and enrichment at all ages. The library is open 24/7 and available to all community members.

### 2011/2012 GRANTS AWARDED

**CAMP SMARTS:** Camp Smarts will provide opportunities for students in the lower elementary grades to experience learning activities using multiple intelligences. The funding provides for two teachers to attend a weeklong workshop encompassing the research and use of multiple intelligences within the classroom. That training will be used to design a student camp, which will be held in the summer of 2012.

**FAMILY MATH NIGHT:** Family Math Night will strengthen the home/school math connection by offering two math nights at Pioneer Elementary School. During these evenings, students and parents will be actively engaged in math activities to increase student math proficiency. Funding will provide a training stipend for teachers and the development of resources for all teachers to incorporate structures and math backpacks into their classrooms. These activities will close the achievement gap and motivate students to love math.



**TEACHER CHAT:** Teacher Chat is a web-conferencing program with author and presenter Linda Holliman for Cormier kindergarten teachers and staff. It provides current, quality and pertinent staff development designed to make an immediate difference for teachers and children. This particular conferencing program will focus on literacy, cover writing activities, and literature extensions and procedures for teaching whole group through literacy centers.

**WRITER IN RESIDENCE:** All elementary students in Ashwaubenon will work up close and personal in a writing workshop setting with Katie Mcky, widely read author of *Pumpkin Town*, *Wolf Camp*, and *It All Began with a Bean*, in October 2012. Students will be engaged in exciting writing opportunities in order to foster storytelling and creative thinking. Students will interact with the author in both large and small group settings.

## 2010/2011 GRANTS AWARDED



**OVERDRIVE DIGITAL ACCESS INITIATIVE:** Funding for the Overdrive project involved purchasing access to digital e-books for student and instructor use at the Ashwaubenon High School. As Ashwaubenon transitions to the reality of students having constant access to technology through Netbooks and other devices, the importance of our virtual library increases. This project responded to this evolving need in a proactive fashion. Overdrive is the new, digital media program that Ashwaubenon Schools implemented for fall 2010. Overdrive offers student “check out” of digital audio books and e-books in a downloaded format. Basically, students can reserve and check out these digital library materials similar to the way they currently check out conventional library books.

**VISIONEER’S DESIGN CHALLENGE:** This project involved the Visioneer’s Design Challenge, a statewide competition for high school students and middle school students interested in design arts. A variety of twelve Design Challenges were developed by professional artists in the field in Wisconsin. These challenges cover design in everyday things: design of spaces and places, design of communication and information, and design for human interaction. This competition allowed students with an interest in design arts to experience assignments/problems given in today’s art fields. Students collaborated with design professionals within the local area. Together they had the opportunity to problem solve the best approaches and the most appropriate materials. This program also included fashion design and architectural design, encouraging the collaboration between the Tech Ed and FACE departments

**SAM CLUB: ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS:** This project, SAM (Structure a Month) Club: Engaging All Learners, provided training, continued collaboration and support, and resources to teachers to incorporate structures which will directly impact the quality of student learning outcomes and close the achievement gap with students. Teachers that have been trained in strategies that promote cooperation and engagement using specific activities (or structures) experienced the opportunity to reflect and extend their knowledge in integrating best practices within their content areas. SAM Club increased appropriate student social skills, class building, teambuilding, and obtained management tips to increase student engagement and boost achievement.



**SCHOOL-WIDE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:** Valley View Elementary School’s Enrichment Committee coordinated an all-school enrichment project. A wall mural was created with an artist in residence. All students at Valley View actively participated in the creative process from concept to creation to completion. The theme of the mural project promotes Valley View’s character education curriculum.



**WRITING UNITS OF STUDY: THE LUCY CALKINS APPROACH:** This grant allowed for the study of the Lucy Calkin’s literacy and writing program entitled *Units of Study* in a classroom to encourage a balanced literacy approach toward reading and writing for students. Funding supported a weeklong training in Calkin’s program at Teachers College at Columbia University. Currently, teachers are self-trained in the Lucy Calkin’s methodology. This grant allowed for teachers to obtain more in-depth exposure to these methods and structures, which is currently being shared with students and teaching colleagues. This training opportunity allowed for elementary teachers to provide rich literacy experiences for students within the reading and writing workshop model.



**USING IPODS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** This project allowed the iPod Nano to be used in physical education class to give students instant feedback on the skills developed and worked on in the class. The iPod Nano comes with a built in video recorder that can be used to show a student if his or her form is correct and what he or she needs to work on for improvement. Students throwing a ball can be taped and shown instantly what their forms look like. They then can analyze their form to see if they are stepping with their correct foot or their arm is in the correct position. Video analysis is used by professional teams to work on their skills, and now it can be used at the elementary level with an iPod Nano that fits in the teacher's pocket. It can also be used to play and organize all the music that is played in physical education class. The use of an iPod benefited all students in the school and will be used for the life of the iPod.

**APPL:** This project supported the family/school connection, strengthened the family unit, and built community connections. The current APPL program housed at Cormier Early Learning Center organized and implemented three phases of support for families and students as follows:

Phase 1 –Ashwaubenon families who do not have the financial means to pay the registration and session fees to access the Ashwaubenon Preschool and Parent Learning program were invited to participate at no cost.

Phase 2 – The AFRC Parent Educators hosted an evening workshop series for families of APPL, Head start, 4K and 5K students. The 5 night workshop series consisted of 4 evenings of a Strengthening Families Program with the final night culminating in a family sit down dinner together.

Phase 3 – An AFRC Outreach program is being developed. In partnership with local business, the AFRC sent two Parent Educators to the workplace to present a 45-minute series of discussion topics over the lunch hour, offering opportunities to network and learn about healthy parenting practices.

**BALL CHAIRS:** This project provides opportunities for students in grades K-5 to use ball chairs in the classroom. Based on results of a March 2010 district staff survey from Brain-Based Learners Action Learning Team, 96.6% of teachers responded that they have fidgety students in their classrooms. 88% responded that their students need to stand, get drinks of water, and move on a continual basis. By sitting on a ball in class, students have an effective way to increase their balance, strengthen their core and get the “wiggles” out, thereby increasing attention and participation during critical learning times.

