

Alamo Heights School Foundation

For Immediate Release

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Alamo Heights School Foundation awards \$50,000 to teachers in the Alamo Heights Independent School District

The Alamo Heights School Foundation awarded \$50,000 in grants to teachers in the Alamo Heights Independent School District during the Foundation's annual Prize Posse on November 17 and 18.

The Foundation's annual competitive grant program is open to all teachers to encourage classroom creativity towards completion of the District's strategic plan. The Foundation received 49 grant requests totaling \$170,000 as part of a competitive application process. The amount awarded is a small portion of the approximately \$500,000 the Foundation contributes to the Alamo Heights School District annually. The money was awarded to 20 groups of faculty members and will benefit students at all campuses. The Foundation Grants awarded are:

District Wide:

Late Bus Service (approximately 800 students, \$13,500) for the entire district will be funded to ensure that all students have access to after-school activities, including clubs, tutoring, library use, and/or sports.

Alamo Heights High School:

Genetic Research Using Biotechnology (Grades 9-12, 270 students, \$5,000)

Alamo Heights High School students who are taking advanced courses in Life Sciences are reporting that they intend to major in a related field in college and plan to seek a PhD, practice medicine, or enter into a research-based career. In an effort to better prepare these students to achieve their academic goals, the AHHS

project is focused on providing engaging laboratory experiments that have been designed at a technologically challenging level to stimulate students' interest and comprehension in the fields of molecular biology, cellular biology and genetics.

Teachers: Eric Atkins, Jeanette Branchizio, Lisa Jones

Sand/Play Therapy Kit (Grades 9-12, 20 students, \$380) will be used with at-risk students struggling with issues that are difficult to discuss, and to resolve them in a healthy way. Teachers: Dawn Hedgepeth, Cheryl Dunn.

Equity Access to Technology in Mathematics (Grades 9-12, 200 students, \$1,400) will fund the purchase of ten graphing calculators, plus batteries, for ASC and CR classrooms. Teacher: Barbara Johns.

Alamo Heights Junior School:

Differentiated Math Resources (Grades 6-8, all math levels, \$1,100) to purchase materials to assist students strengthen their math skills, connect concepts to procedures, and to help instructors provide motivating, challenging and meaningful experiences for all students. Teacher: Kimberly Brady.

Spanish Books for the Library (Grades 6-8, 200 students, \$1,000) Additional books written in Spanish will be purchased for use by Spanish immersion students, as well as ESL/ELL students to foster dialogue and engagement between students and parents. Teachers: Jackie Caruso and Steffanie Persyn

Visually Engaging Library (Grades 6-8, \$971) will fund the purchase of Boldprint Graphic Novels and Poetry, which will be used to connect enthusiasm for this style of reading with comprehension, critical thinking, and character education. Teachers: Annette Kessler and Bea Fallis.

MIT – Mentoring is Teaching (Grade 6, 15 students, \$700) builds positive relationships between high school mentors and at-risk junior school students, and assist in the transition to junior high. Teacher: Julie Little

Cambridge Elementary School:

IXL Math (First Grade, 161 students, \$300) is a web based, leveled math program with engaging graphics for skills and enrichment that will be used by all first grade students to work and progress at their own rate, which will be enriching while helping students learn to love math. Teachers: Elizabeth Cantu, Amanda Cowley, Jennifer De Leon, Josephine Cornwell, Brandi Specia, Jan Barnes, Mildred Ojeda and Mayra Garcia.

iEARN-USA (Grades 3-5, 150 students, \$2,235) to purchase a school membership will be purchased to enable teachers and students to intensify the level of engagement in curriculum through collaborative projects, developing global citizenship, and developing an international awareness. Teacher: Cristie Christopher.

Destination Math (Grade 5, 150 students, \$1,647) materials will be purchased which provide a challenging and personalized curriculum for all math students, and includes progress monitoring for immediate feedback between teacher and student. Teachers: Christy Kabanek and Sherry Garner.

Connecting Science Through Leveled Reading (Grade 5, 180 students, \$713) Delta Science Readers, which align to state standards for language arts and science, will be purchased. These readers are engaging and full of color photographs which will help students develop literacy skills while building foundational science knowledge. Teacher: Sally Reese.

Texas Tall Tales (Grade 4, 187 students, \$728) students will combine facts from Texas history with engaging and exaggerated writing to create their own Texas tales, and after watching the Magik Theater perform, the students will transform their stories from page to stage. Teacher: Jimmie Walker.

Brain Research Study Group (Pre-kindergarten – 5th grades, 800 students, \$2,911.71) will create a community within District staff for shared learning, discovery, the generation of knowledge, and to apply Quantum Learning brain-based strategies to new research areas and classroom challenges. As many as 40 teachers from Cambridge, Woodridge and Howard will work together to study, research, share articles, and generate application possibilities. Teachers: Jimmie Walker, Charlotte Dolat and Dan St. Romain.

Woodridge Elementary School:

Close, Closer, Closest (Grade 3, 150 students, \$1,680) funds will be used to purchase ten microscopes and related materials which enhance the science curriculum, prepare students for upper level science courses, and generate enthusiasm for sciences. Teachers: Tracy Brawner.

TAKScopes (Grades 1-5, 875 students, \$2,950) is a science program that provides visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners to experience science in a way that meets students' learning styles, allowing students to be actively engaged in science investigations. This program integrates math, language arts, technology, and social studies reflecting the real world. Teacher: Julie Diehl, Michelle Dugie, Karen Huber, and Jeannie Hickey.

FLIP! To Learn It! (5th Grade, 180 students, \$3,825.65) A FLIP video mobile lab, containing twelve video cameras will be purchased for video projects, targeting communication skills, thinking and problem solving, research and presentation of information to others. Alma Gonzalez, Roxana Montes-Bazaldua, Debbie Dixon, Charlotte Dolat, Nancy Gonzales, Jeanne Hickey, Carol Johns, and Shawn Simpson.

Starting Your Day with the Daily CAFÉ (Grades 1-5; 1,100 students; \$3,110) 50 website memberships and related supplies will be purchased for staff to use for

improving literacy practices in the classroom and assess needs of the students. Woodridge and Cambridge teachers will work together to share ideas and curriculum planning, strengthening collegiality between the campuses. Teachers: Suzanne Rea and Jamie Boelens.

A New Generation of Readers (Grades 3 - 5, 32 students, \$1,000). Playaway self-playing digital audio books will be purchased to assist dyslexic students read and listen to quality literature, in an effort to create lifelong readers out of children who struggle to read. Teachers: Cynthia Ann Zaldivar, Kristi Zorn, and Zandra Celis-Hardin.

Howard Early Childhood Center:

Science Smart at an Early Age (Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten, 365 students, \$3,598.64) This program will allow students to enrich their science skills by utilizing "Science on the Go" carts. The carts will be loaded with specialized equipment and tools to provide hands-on learning activities. The carts will move from room-to-room, providing students with engaging and challenging lessons which will enhance their understanding of science. Teachers: Megan Massey, Dan St. Romain, and Mary Wright

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