



Foundations

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EGR SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

VOL. XXV, FEBRUARY 2012

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President's Message

It's really hard for me to believe that it is the year 2012. As I reflect on 2011 and the work of the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Even during this difficult budget crisis, the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation has worked diligently to provide support to our teachers and classrooms through our grant request process. Each grant we have funded using our endowment monies supports teaching, learning and the quality education that our community has come to expect.

We are able to greatly impact our classrooms because of the generosity of members of the East Grand Rapids community, the families served by the school district, and our loyal and proud alumni both near and far who know best the importance of a quality education and the difference it has made in their lives. Even though our grant requests continue to exceed our available endowment funding, we are optimistic that with your continued support we will one day be able to fully fund all of the worthy grant requests that we receive.

Please join us and help support our many efforts to benefit the schools, our students, and our community, including our HURRAH! party on March 17th and our upcoming EGRNOW! campaign. If you are currently a supporter of the Foundation, many thanks for your continued support, and please encourage your friends, neighbors, and classmates to support our efforts as well.

Sincerely,
Lindel Hoff, President



The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation has provided enhancements to teaching and learning in East Grand Rapids Public Schools for nearly thirty years through the endowment fund. However, the funding situation for all public education is spurring the Foundation to better help the school district with immediate needs. Therefore we are pleased to announce a new fundraising campaign-EGRNOW!

EGRNOW! is a partnership between the Foundation and community stakeholders, including the school board; the school district; PTAs and booster groups; and numerous volunteers. EGRNOW! will help bridge an imminent funding gap created by statewide cuts to school aid and other state mandates.

The campaign, running now until May 15, 2012, aims to raise the \$300 per student that has been cut from school funding this year. We will be encouraging all community members and supporters of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools to become informed and give generously.

Expect to receive a community mailing in early March and look to our website for additional information and updates www.egrfs.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 1, 2012 –
Spring grant deadline

March 17, 2012 –
HURRAH! 2012

May 1, 2012 –
Nominations due for
teacher awards and
student scholarships

November 2012 –
Distinguished Alumni
and Community Service
Awards Dinner

UPCOMING REUNIONS:

Class of 1967 –
September 28-29, 2012

Class of 1972 –
September 28-29, 2012

Class of 1982 –
September 8, 2012

Class of 1992 –
July 27-28, 2012

See our website
www.egrfs.org
for further details.
If anyone has information about reunions for the classes of 1942, 1952, 1962 or 2002, please contact the Foundation office at 616-235-3535.

*A special thank you to
Betsy Bloom, Susan
Emrich, Doreen
Lambert, Denise Myers
and Laura Paschall for
their volunteer hours in
the Foundation office.*



THE DONOR ROLL CALL OF HONOR

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation's Donor Roll Call of Honor recognizes those individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported the Foundation from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. The Foundation's Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges all who have generously supported our mission through their gifts. We also thank individuals who have secured matching gifts from their employers, as well as the employers who have supported their employees' generosity through matching gifts. This list reflects all outright gifts and does not include participants in Foundation-sponsored events such as HURRAH! or the Gerken Open golf outing.

PILLARS SUPPORT - ANNUAL FUND

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**Vi-Chem Science &
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Vi-Chem Corporation

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Continued on page 4



Endowment Gifts, continued from page 3

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MEMORIAL GIFTS

ADVANCING EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN DONORS

We thank all the individuals listed below who made payments between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011, to the Advancing Excellence Campaign. Previous editions of the *Foundations* newsletter listed all individuals who had committed to the Campaign through December 31, 2010.

Mike & Nancy Belke
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The Foundation has awarded the **Excellence In Teaching Award** since 1987. This \$1,000 award recognizes and encourages superior professional effort to improve instruction and to cultivate the continuation of educational excellence in our schools. We recognize one elementary school teacher and one middle or high school teacher who has demonstrated exceptional effort on behalf of our students.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the **Vi-Chem Award** for excellence in teaching of science, mathematics and technology. Thanks to the Slott Family, the Vi-Chem Corporation funds the annual award in the amount of \$1,500.

Nominations for these awards can be made by students, parents or groups of parents, colleagues or community members. Nominations are due to the Foundation office **May 1, 2012**. Nomination forms can be found on our website at www.egrsf.org. The 2012 awards will be presented in August at the annual opening staff meeting.



SPECIAL EVENTS

HURRAH! 2011

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Angela Visner-McMinn

Design Design
Chef Torrence O'Haire
Courtenay Oosterman
Designs

Trent Wadsworth
Brian Ward Home
Improvements
Bob Shapton
Peri denDulk
Jena Centa
Elizabeth Miller-Wallau
EGR Elementary Students
EGR High School
Photography Students



*We can do more
with your help!
Grant demand
far exceeds funds
available.
Support an inspi-
ration! Make your
tax-deductible
contribution
today!*



FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR
BENEFITTING
EAST GRAND RAPIDS
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

SAVE
the
DATE

Saturday,
March 17, 2012

(Yes! St. Patrick's Day!)
at the
Widdcomb Building downtown
Invitation mailing in February!!





East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

"STARS"

Gifts to the Foundation were made to honor stars in our school community. Below is the list of gifts made during the Fall of 2011. Thank you to the many contributors and to the many outstanding staff who make East Grand Rapids Public Schools a great place to learn!

- Bill Behrendt**
Nancy Bylenga
- James Borst**
The Hoezee Family
- Marti Chardon**
3rd Grade Class
- Mary Crook**
2nd Grade Class
- Michelle Day**
Charlie Connor
- Kelly Froehlich**
The Cares Family
- Erin Grin**
Samantha Connor

- Amy Marlow**
5th Grade Class
- Middle School Volunteers**
EGR Middle School Staff
- Cheryl Radecki**
4th Grade Class
- Peter Stuursma**
Nancy Bylenga
- Winona Tinholt**
The Rockwell Family
- Kevin Vance**
The Cares Family

Thank a Teacher

Recognize a favorite teacher, staff member or school employee by making a tax-deductible donation of \$20 or more to the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation STAR program. We will acknowledge your "star" in a special section of the next *Foundations* newsletter. In addition, we will provide you with a certificate to present to your honoree. What a wonderful way to thank those special stars in our lives!

*Staff, *Teacher *Appreciation & *Recognition *STAR

Your Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Please print the name of the individual to be acknowledged as you wish it to appear.

Please print your name exactly as you wish it to appear.

Amount enclosed _____

Please mail to: East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation
2915 Hall Street SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

CLASS REUNION GIFTS

- Class of 1961 - \$3,640.00**
- Class of 1961
- Susan Selvig Albright
- Ron Bookholder
- Joanne Herscher Curtis
- Dirk Hoffius
- Joey Terryberry Hoffman
- Mary Sidell James
- Karl Karg
- Joel Krissoff
- Craig MacIntyre
- Norman Miller
- Bruce Osterink

- Barbara Albers Rinella
- John Ryan
- Anne Montgelas Schewe
- Fred Sebulske
- Steve Sisson
- Cheryl Jarecki Stabnick
- Chris Siebert Timmers

Class of 1971 - \$3,800

- Class of 2018 - \$50.00**
- Breton Downs 5th
Graders



Class of 1961



"It is hard to put into words the indelible imprint and impact that our reunion weekend had. Some have described the weekend as dramatic, life-changing, emotionally significant and one that they will never forget. Some have told me it was a highlight of their life due to the re-establishment of old friendships and connecting with new ones. Others are telling me that they experienced forgiveness, even cleansing from the weekend. Some said it was one of the most satisfying experiences they have ever had. To be honest, these may seem like exaggerations to you, but if you talk to those who were there, many would say that this is an understatement. Phenomenal weekend for sure."

Ray Abraham, Class of 1971



"One of the high points of the reunion weekend was a tour of Breton Downs conducted by the principal, Caroline Breault-Cannon. She spent a lot of time with us that Saturday afternoon – time that I'm certain she could have spent in many other places. I attended Breton from kindergarten through sixth grade, and inspired by the wonderful teachers I had as a child, became a teacher myself. The opportunity to go through the beloved school of my childhood was truly a joy."

Kathleen Yukon Eager, Class of 1970



Jimmy Gerken Award of Appreciation and Thanks – Fall 2011

Jimmy Gerken Award of Appreciation and Thanks Supporting Athletics and Co-curricular Activities



Mike Bishop
2011 Hurricanes
Soccer Team

Scott Stropkai
2011 Hurricanes
Soccer Team

Recognize a coach who has made an impact in your child's life by making a tax-deductible donation of \$20 or more to the Jimmy Gerken Fund. We will recognize your honorary gift in the next *Foundations* newsletter as well as provide you with a certificate to present to your honoree.

Jimmy Gerken Award of Appreciation and Thanks

Your Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Please print the name of the individual to be acknowledged as you wish it to appear:

Please print your name exactly as you wish it to appear:

Amount enclosed: _____

Please mail to: The Jimmy Gerken Fund, 2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Save the Date...

2012 GERKEN OPEN
Monday, June 11, 2012
Thousand Oaks Golf Club

Donations Enhance a Variety of Programs



New science probes at the middle school allow the students to monitor water quality and enhance their weather unit.



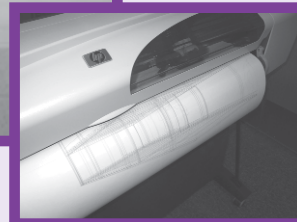
Middle school students made over 300 blankets for families in need as part of the Martin Luther King Day celebration.



First grade students use sign language to say, "Thank you for Signing Time," a component of our Champions of Diversity program.



CAD plotter enhances Drafting, Design & Technology courses at the high school.





Foundations

East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

2915 Hall Street SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-235-3535
www.egrfsf.org

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Foundations

February 2012
Volume XXV

Thank you for supporting East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation.

Please include this form with your donation. You will receive a letter of receipt for your tax-deductible gift. If you would like to make your donation online please visit our website: www.egrfsf.org.

Name _____
(as you wish to be recognized on printed materials)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

East graduate(s) Class year(s) _____

Please accept my gift of:

\$100 \$250 \$500

\$1000 & above Other \$ _____

Please charge my VISA Master Card

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Amount \$ _____

I would like my gift to be used:

- Wherever it is needed - General Fund
 For Endowment Fund

I wish to honor a special person with this gift:

I wish to remember a special person with this gift:

- I/We have remembered EGRSF in my/our estate plans.
 Please send me/us information on how to remember EGRSF in my/our will.
 I plan to make a matching gift through my employer.
Employer name _____

Please make checks payable to: East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation.

Donations may be sent to: 2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506 or donate online at: www.egrfsf.org