

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EGR SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Vol. XXXII February 2015

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Message from the Executive Director

Thank you to all of you who supported the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation in 2014. With your support, we were able to make a lasting impact on K-12 education in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Your support of our mission, enhancing teaching and learning, is vital to our success and the success of our public schools.

The Foundation funded over \$130,000 in grants, awards and scholarships last school year. These funds from our endowment fund, EGRForever!, supported initiatives and enhancements in our classrooms, that set East Grand Rapids apart from other school districts.

In addition to the grants that were funded through the endowment, the Foundation provided \$145,000 in program support through the EGRNow! campaign. This is an annual campaign to support the immediate needs of the district: programs or projects.

We are excited to kick off our EGRNow! Campaign this spring in support of programs in our schools. This year our goal is "100% all in"...we are looking for participation from all of our families, community members and businesses to make a difference in our schools. The East Grand Rapids Public Schools are our business in East Grand Rapids. It is up to us as a community to continue to support our schools and our community and preserve the tradition of East Grand Rapids.

Take local control and support our schools: 100% All In: **EGRECAL** 2015

Amy C. Stuursma

to others.

"Kindness Counts"

During her 21 years as principal of Lakeside Elementary, Linda

Kehm taught students that "Kindness Counts," a motto now firmly embedded in Lakeside's culture.

She and her staff reminded students daily – in the classrooms, at school assemblies and in dismissal announcements – that being kind to one another matters. Mrs. Kehm also spread her message beyond the doors of Lakeside. In 2007, she established the Kindness Counts Scholarship, an annual honor given to an East Grand Rapids Senior who exhibits extraordinary service

Mrs. Kehm retired at the end of the 2013-14 school year. As a tribute to her legacy, the Lakeside PTO, in collaboration with the East Grand Rapids Schools Administration, renamed the Kindness Counts Scholarship as the "Linda Kehm Kindness Counts Scholarship." It is the hope of the Lakeside PTO to endow this scholarship with the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation so that Mrs. Kehm's message will continue to impact future generations of East Grand Rapids students.

If you would like to make a contribution to this scholarship fund, please send a check payable to the Lakeside PTO, memo line: Kindness Counts Scholarship, and mail to Lakeside Elementary, 2325 Hall St., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 1, 2015 – Spring grant deadline

March 14, 2015 – HURRAH! - The Cheney Place – downtown Grand Rapids

May 1, 2015 – Nominations due for teacher awards and student scholarships

June 10, 2015 (Wednesday) – Gerken Open - Thousand Oaks Golf Club

December 31, 2015 –
Nominations due for 2016
Community Service and
Distinguished Alumni
Awards

A special thank you to Brenda Cronin, Megan Knuble, Doreen Lambert, Mari Persons and Amy Rockwell for their volunteer hours in the Foundation office.

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THE DONOR ROLL CALL

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation's Donor Roll Call recognizes those individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported the Foundation from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. 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!, golf outings or the Community Service and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner.

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East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation **MISSION STATEMENT & HISTORY**

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation enriches the educational experience of our students by funding excellence in teaching and learning that requires financial support beyond the district.

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation was established in 1983 as a private, non-profit organization to maintain and enhance the quality of education within the East Grand Rapids Public Schools and is solely dependent on tax-deductible donations from the community. As an endowed foundation, contributions are added to the principal and spending each year is limited to the amount earned on that principal. As of June 30, 2014, the Foundation has a current endowment of \$3.6 million and has awarded over \$1.3 million in grants, awards and scholarships since 1983.

The Foundation is governed by a 21-member volunteer Board of Directors. Membership is drawn from the community-at-large and two East Grand Rapids High School students. The East Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent and a representative from the East Grand Rapids School Board serve as ex-officio members. The Foundation is staffed by a part-time Executive Director, Accountant, Alumni Relations Coordinator and Office Manager with offices located at the East Grand Rapids Public Schools James E. Morse Building of Administration.

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CLASS REUNION GIFTS

Class of 1969 - \$2,219.69 Mary E. Davis Vicki Gezon Harvey Heller Kohorst Allen Family Fdtn. Stephen Miller – in honor of Coach Jim Kerwin Joseph M. Thomas

Class of 1979 - \$1,347.47 Missy Canepa Agnello Bill Ázkoul Dan Barcheski Amanda Dubee Scott Fairbanks Mark Finkelstein Andy Gremel Meredith Murphy Gremel Julie Fox Stacy Sawyer Hunter Lori Bernecker Johnston John Kundtz Karen Lundeen Kurgan Mary Wolf Loiselle Rick Marvin Kimberly Hall Nicholas Daniel Packard Mark Richards Cindy Ryan David Schermer Jeff Shull Greg Timmer Todd Warnock Kenneth Wepman

Class of 1983 - \$650.00 Class of 1983 - in memory of Joann Reeves, '83

Class of 1984 - \$1,300.00
Mike Allen
Larry Bridge
Tim Cary
John Fuller
Darcy French Hoppman
Melissa Moore Janes
Wendy Jacobson Keller
Betsy Muir
Thania Panopoulos
Chris Viglione Selak
Suzi Ammond Shirley
Ned Snell
Joseph Steketee

Class of 1994 - \$550.00

Class of 2003 - \$900.00 Class of 2003 - in memory of Teddy Knape, '03

Class of 2004-\$138.91

An Evening of Awards and Celebration

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation hosted its eighth Community Service and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the JW Marriott Hotel. Our honored guests were Dr. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, East Grand Rapids High School class of 1965, the

Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Child Development at Columbia University's Teachers College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons and Mrs. Kim Rossi, East Grand Rapids Community Member. Kim Rossi is one of the many hard-working volunteers in East Grand Rapids that make EGR a special community. She is known for taking volunteering to a whole new level.

The evening kicked off with an amazing performance from our elementary choirs lead by Mr. Michael Woodward followed by awards and remarks from our award recipients. This event was truly a celebration of our community and 31 years of support to our schools from the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation. We thank Dr. Brooks-Gunn and Mrs. Rossi for making a memorable night for all who attended. Congratulations to both of your for making an impact in your professions and your past and current communities.











GERKEN OPEN GOLF OUTING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015 THOUSAND OAKS GOLF CLUB



Grants Awarded - Fall 2014

Grants	Requestor/School	Amount
21st Century Classrooms	Jenny Fee/High School	\$7,564
Pilot for state-of-the-art learning environment		
Tumble Books Online literature collection K-12	Michelle Kirk/Breton Downs, Lakeside, Wealthy	\$3,780
Ellison Die Cuts	Sue McLain/Breton Downs	\$2,616
Cutting press for shapes and letters		
Leadership Training Workshops 2 years of leadership training workshops for high school students	Leadership and Youth Development/High School	\$2,000
Haiti Day Guest speaker, band and books to enrich cultural awareness	Vicki Boersma, Tracy Wolford, Caroline Cannon/Breton Downs	\$1,475
Mosaic Mural with Artist Corey VanDuinen Collaborative piece of art between artist and all students, including a mosaic mural installation at the Middle School	Holly Lampen/Middle School	\$4,000
3D Printer Initiative 2 3D printers to enhance science curriculum	Becky Martin/Middle School	\$4,111
Combination Belt/Disc Sander and Accessory Belts Specialty equipment to allow students to develop prototypes and fabricate final products	Terry Szpieg/High School	\$596
Bulletin Boards Large display areas to showcase final products from Drafting, Design and Technology courses	Patrick Reed/High School	\$650
Informational Book Author Melissa Stewart Visit Author visit to work with children K-5 as well as staff on writing informational books	Kim Doele, Tim Saunders, Kerry McKee, Megan Miller/Wealthy	\$7,094
Classroom Independent Reading Project Funds for classroom library, bookcases, guest speaker and training	Katherine Miller/Middle School	\$7,560
Computer Programming Class Pilot computer programming class for students	Winona Tinholt/Wealthy	\$2,195
Classroom Library Makeovers Funds for updating classroom libraries and an iPad to catalog the titles	Jill Smith/Middle School	\$1,730
Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra Instructional visit from the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra	Mary Hillyard/High School	\$500
Veterans Day Speaker Visit from alumnus Jack Becker '94 to speak at Veterans Day assemblies	Katie McIntosh/Breton Downs, Lakeside, Wealthy, Middle School	\$500
Caldecott Books Update of library collection with Caldecott award-winning books in all 3 elementaries	Carole McDonald, Trish Reid/Breton Downs, Lakeside, Wealthy	\$387
TOTAL GRANTS – FALL 2014		\$46,758

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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 2014 recognizing a favorite teacher, staff member or school employee. Thank you to the many contributors and to the many outstanding staff members who make East Grand Rapids Public Schools a great place to learn!

Kaelynn Benham

Charlie Connor

John Burke

The Marx Family

Nancy Bylenga

The Marx Family

Breton Downs Elementary Staff

John & Janyce Huff

Terri Clay

Caroline Roth

Karen Comeau

The Marx Family

Peri denDulk

The Rockwell Family

Kris DiVita

Caroline Roth

EGR High School Staff

John & Janyce Huff

EGR Middle School Staff
John & Janyce Huff

Tommy Kawel

The Marx Family

Lakeside Elementary Staff

John & Janyce Huff

Kristen Lecours

Charlie Connor

Amy Marlow

`The Marx Family

Kerry McKee

Gaylen & Diane Demarest and Tyler Sweet

Scott Mitton

Sam Connor

Mark Pullen

Sam Connor

Brett Scheidel

Charlie Connor

Wealthy Elementary Staff

John & Janyce Huff

Laura Woolford

The Marx Family

We want to thank all EGR staff for providing an exceptional educational experience for our students and making a difference in their lives.

Recognize a Star in Your Child's Life

Recognize a star in your child's life by making a tax-deductible donation of \$20 or more to the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation in honor of a special person. 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!

STAR AWARDS		
Your Name		
Address		
City, State & Zip		
\$20+ STAR Award *Staff, *Teacher *Appreciation & Recognition-Recognize a favorite teacher, staff member or school employee		
\$20+ Jimmy Gerken Award of Appreciation and Thanks- Recognize a coach who has made an impact in your child's life		
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	



Jimmy Gerken Award of Appreciation and Thanks – Fall 2014

Coaches John Preston, Michael Sekulich, John Shelton, Mark Wassink

7/8ers Football Team



Congratulations to the 2015 We The People State Champions! Good luck at Nationals.





Selfies with all of our new books in Mrs. Miller's class. Thank you, Foundation!

ALUMNI NEWS

UPCOMING REUNIONS

Mark your calendars for these 2015 reunions! More reunion information may be found at egrsf.org; select Alumni for the upcoming reunion events.

Class of 1955 - 60th Reunion

September 17-18, 2015

Contact Ren Brander at reynoldsbrander@msn.com

Class of 1965 - 50th Reunion

September 18-19, 2015

Reunion Information: egrsf.org/1965-reunion. Contact Rick or Sue Steketee at rsteketee@comcast.net.

Class of 1975 - 40th Reunion

August 8, 2015

Contact Mara Matthews Fenton at fentonmara1957@gmail.com or Meg Goebel at megoebel@goebelgrp.com

Class of 1985 – 30th Reunion

Contact Steve Gregory at sgregory@scpr.org for more information or to assist with the planning

Class of 1990 - 25th Reunion

June 13, 2015

Contact Sarah Mulvihill at smulvihill32@sbcglobal.net

Class of 1995 - 20th Reunion

July 25, 2015

Facebook: East Grand Rapids High School Class of 1995

Contact Jennie Sutherland at jennielsutherland@gmail.com or Rachel Lee at rachelgrmi@gmail.com

Class of 2005 - 10th Reunion

Thanksgiving Weekend 2015

Reunion information: http://egrclassof2005.weebly.com and

Facebook: EGR Class of 2005

Contact Andrea Segovia at andrea.m.segovia@gmail.com for more information or to assist with the planning.

Reunion information or committee is needed for the following class years. Please contact the Alumni Relations Coordinator at mallen@egrps.org with information.

Class of 1945 – 70th Reunion
Class of 1950 – 65th Reunion
Class of 1960 – 55th Reunion
Class of 2000 - 20th Reunion

Maria Allen, Alumni Relations Coordinator, is available to support your reunion planning efforts. Contact her at mallen@egrps.org or (616) 235-3535.

REUNION RECAP

Class of 1959 – 55th Reunion – The Class of 1959 celebrated their 55th Reunion September 13, 2014 at Mangiamo restaurant in Grand Rapids. For information on the Class of '59 reunion event, contact Kathy Keller Laidlaw at kathykml@comcast.net or Holly Hoult Palmer at sayrayy@yahoo.com.



Class of 1984 – 30th Reunion – The Class of 1984 returned Home-coming weekend to celebrate 30 years. The reunion weekend began with the homecoming parade on Friday afternoon. Class members were joined by Pioneer Pete as they tossed candy to parade goers. After watching the Homecoming king and queen get crowned and the foot-

ball team beat Grandville, many gathered post game at Derby Station in Gaslight Village. Saturday activities included a tour of the high school for alumni and their families and a wonderful reunion event at the Grand Rapids



Yacht Club. For additional Class of '84 reunion information go to the class Facebook page at EGRHS 84 or contact John Fuller at JFuller@arnstein.com or Melissa Moore Janes at mmjanes2000@gmail.com.



Class of 1994 – 20th Reunion – Twenty years was celebrated by the Class of 1994, September 26-27, 2014, Homecoming weekend. Alumni and their children represented the Class of '94 in the parade before a pre-game gathering at Derby Station. The Saturday reunion event was a "truly special evening" held at Rich App Gallery. For additional reunion information please contact Sarah Conway at egrclassof94@gmail.com.

continued on page 11

Contact EGRSF to SHARE, UPDATE, INQUIRE. Contact us at **egrsf.org/alumni/contact-us** to share your news, update your contact information, or request information. Updating your contact information will ensure you receive reunion information for your class.

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Class of 2004 - 10th Reunion - The Class of 2004 reminisced about their time at East 10 years ago on November 28, 2014 at the Grand

Rapids Yacht Club. Alumni enjoyed seeing many of their classmates, hearing about others and having a great time together. Get more reunion information at the Facebook invitation found at East Grand Rapids High School Class of 2004 10-Year Reunion or by contacting



Andrew Martin at amartin.68@gmail.com.

Class of 2010 – 5th Reunion – An early 5 year reunion celebration was held Wednesday, November 26, 2015 at Billy's Lounge in Eastown. Contact Olivia Avery at oravery@umich.edu for more information.

THE PIONEER MURAL TURNS 50

East Grand Rapids High School students have been passing by a large mural on the second floor for half of a century. Some alumni distinctly remember the 8x28 foot mural from their days at East, but there are others that "see" it for the first time during an alumni tour of the high school when they return for their class reunion. Every tour provided by EGRSF & Alumni Association includes a stop at the beautiful and historical mural that has been there for fifty years, thanks to the Class of 1965.



The Pioneers mural was chosen by the Class of 1965 for its innovation and tie-in to the then newly built high school. Gerald Mast, from the University of Michigan Extension Services, was the artist who created the mural, which depicts pioneers of several eras and is intended to be a reminder of the spirit of youth and education. Despite Mast's statement that the mural "will last as long as the school does," it required restoration in the early 1990s. We thank the Class of 1965 and those who contributed to its restoration and we look forward to the students of East Grand Rapids passing by the spirit of pioneering mural for another fifty years.

IN REMEMBRANCE

1943

Robert E. Boyer

1944

Louis Milton Allen "Milt" Craven Virginia Ann Schmidt Hicks

1945

John H. "Jack" Batts

1946

Nancy M. Murray Roberts

1947

Susan Ryan Miller

1948

Donald Bullock

1949

Valerie Ehrett Lawrence

1957

Lee W. Burgett Paul Laurence "Larry" Mulvihill

1958

Joan Burleson Conrad

1959

Thomas Dvorak

1968

Julie Conger Magnuson

Wendy Lou Reed

Sue Ann Maloley Franklin

1975

Peter J. Maternowski

Randal Heintzelman Janet Anne Wood

Kimberly S. Herwich

1988

Anne Lowe Mowrer

EGRPS Former Staff

Mervyn W. Bremmer Matthew S. Koukios Frank J. "Coach" Kuta

John Zimelis

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please help us stay informed by contacting us at (616) 235-3535 or egrsf@egrps.org.



Did you know there are several Rapids alumni association imposters? Your of-

ficial East Grand Rapids High School Alumni Association can only be found through the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation at egrsf.org/alumni. Know that the other sites (alumniclass.com, classmates.com, classfinders.com, and eastgrandrapidshighschool.org) are not associated with East Grand Rapids High School or EGRSF. If you have questions, please contact Maria Allen, Alumni Relations Coordinator, or Amy Stuursma, Executive Director at egrsf@egrps.org.



Foundations East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation 2915 Hall Street SE

East Grand Rapids, MI 49506 616-235-3535 www.egrsf.org

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Thank you for supporting East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation.

Please make checks payable to: 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.egrsf.org.

Name(as you wish to be recognized on printed materials) Address City/State/Zip	I would like my gift to be used:
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E-mail	
East graduate(s) Class year(s)	I wish to remember a special person with this gift:
O Young Alumni (graduated in last 10 years) \$	
Please charge my \(\rightarrow VISA \) \(\rightarrow Master Card \(\rightarrow \) Discover	○ I/We have remembered EGRSF in my/our estate plans.
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Exp. Date Amount \$	I plan to make a matching gift through my employer. Employer name

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