



The Guardian

Vol. 3 Issue 1

Newsletter of the Alton Educational Foundation

2016 Year in Review

Meet the AEF Board

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Mark Cappel

Elaine Kane

Bricks, Blocks, & Benches

Bricks, blocks, and benches are available for purchase and will be placed at Alton High School. Proceeds from the sales are combined with the Guardians of Education funds. Click on the Brick Campaign tab at altoned.org for more information.

Alton Educational Foundation's Guardians of Education Campaign

The Alton Educational Foundation (AEF) was founded in 2001 to raise funds for innovative projects that provide enhanced educational opportunities, support academic excellence and encourage student achievement throughout the Alton Community Unit School District #11. You may remember our fundraising days with the Alton Redbird Raffle. The raffle was fun and generated excitement and publicity for the AEF. However, the fund retention for the grants was dependent upon the profit after paying out the raffle, which at times left us with little more than \$8,000 for grants. In 2014 the AEF Board of Directors developed The Guardians of Education membership program in hopes of raising more funds and retaining those funds for the grants. That decision has paid off in triplicate. For the past two years, we have raised over \$24,000 annually of which at least 90% of those funds have been given back as grants to the educators for their initiative programs that support academic excellence.

The membership program is proving to provide a reliable stream of funds from our

generous business partners and individuals who donate annually. Many of our individual donations are from the very teachers and educators who have witnessed the academic benefits the grants have provided to our students. Grants were distributed in January 2016 totaling \$22,674. This was up over \$1,000 from the 2015 grants and the funding for 2017 grants will be \$24,700, thanks to the loyalty of our members year after year. As you continue through this newsletter, you will learn more about the innovative programs the teachers and educators are creating using the funding from the Alton Educational Foundation.

Every year our membership grows as we reach out and promote the benefits of our foundation to the local community and add new businesses and individuals to our rolls. If you have not yet become a Guardian of Education or have not yet renewed your membership, please take time now to be part of the growth opportunities for our kids. (See enrollment form on last page.) The AEF is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization thus all donations are tax deductible.

Grants are Appreciated

"I've just GOT to read THAT book...and THAT book...and THAT book!"

*By Barbara Jacks & Carrie Schildroth
Alton Middle School*

The grant we received was used to purchase books for the Read 180 classrooms at AMS. The books are specifically designed to boost children's reading levels at an accelerated rate and have high interest levels. The students have access to a range of complex texts in social studies, science and other disciplines, which has allowed them to build a foundation of knowledge and background that supports them across all content areas.

Continued on page 2



District Awards

Each year, Alton teachers and staff are recognized for excellence by their peers and by prestigious organizations of educators and business leaders.

The AEF salutes this year's recipients!

Boys and Girls Club Teacher of the Year

Jordan Brannon (Lovejoy)

ISBE - Those Who Excel Award Recipients:

Chrissie Turner (Alton High)
Cathy Stolze
Melinda Fensterman (Gilson)
Ed Gray (Board Member)
North Title I Team (Julie Basler, KC Walters, Sharolyn Hartman and Cheryl McCormick)
Letoya Ware (Sub)
Elaine Kane (Admin Center)

NAACP Education Award

Helen Andrews (West)

Large Schools

All-Area Basketball

Coach of the Year

Eric Smith (Alton High)

IL Elementary School Association Basketball

Co-Coach of the Year

Bobby Everage
(Alton Middle)

Girls All-Area Bowling Coach of the Year

Jeff Woszczyński
(Alton High)

All-Area Wrestling Coach of the Year

Eric Roberson (Alton High)

Volunteer

of the Year Award

100 Black Men

Sandra West (Volunteer)

Education Award

100 Black Men

Lisa Lovett (Alton High)

Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award

Janis Northway (Gilson)

Illinois State

Transition Award

Joe Michalski (Alton High)

Grants are Appreciated *from page 1*

This grant has enabled our classroom libraries to be expanded and given the students more choices of books to choose from. Words cannot adequately express how much they (and we) appreciate it!!!! It's so exciting to see students want to read, read, read! The students have been motivated to read more and dig deeper into research on the texts that have had a high level of interest to them. These things have resulted in comprehension and vocabulary skills being increased. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

"The ABCs of Music"

By Thora Buis, East Elementary

Thank you again for the grant money I received last year. I used the money to purchase more books for my classroom. The books cover all types of musical literature. Some of the books I use in direct teaching with my students. These books may contain factual stories about instrument families or composers. Other books contain songs that are collected and illustrated. We use these books as we sing songs or study lyrics together in the classroom. Sometimes the students are able to enjoy the books on their own or with a friend as seen in the attached pictures. Using books in the music classroom provides another opportunity to enrich student learning. It allows students to transfer skills from their core learning and apply them to areas of enrichment and personal enjoyment.

"Hear Us ROAR"

*By Julie Gallivan & Lori Johnson,
Gilson Brown*

The "Hear Us ROAR" grant funded by the Alton Educational Foundation allowed Gilson Brown School to purchase 201 books for our Reach Out And Read program. This grant expanded our selection of books for students to read with community members in our before-school reading program. Each student in 1st grade has a folder with appropriate leveled books to read and a reading log for the community volunteer to complete. Students are becoming better readers because they are excited to read the newly purchased books. The books are quality, high interest, and various leveled texts to engage all

readers. The students love to read Elephant and Piggie, Pete the Cat, Fly Guy, or nonfiction texts about animals. Gilson Brown School would like to thank the Alton Educational Foundation for their support.

"Creating a Joyful Classroom Community"

By Jordan Brannon, Lovejoy

"Creating a Joyful Classroom Community" was the name of the project that I needed funding for. In short, I needed books to help teach my class the social and emotional learning expectations for kindergarten. These skills are essential to build with young students. My school at the time, East Elementary, had time reserved weekly for social-emotional learning. Lesson plans were given to us, but we did not have any literature to support our teaching. I was able to purchase 49 books to support the Illinois social and emotional learning standards. By having resources to help my students cope with their feelings, I was able to increase the learning in my classroom and reduce the number of office discipline referrals. For young kids to be able to identify with characters who are resolving the same conflicts that they have is very beneficial. The books purchased addressed the following areas: making decisions at school, recognizing and labeling feelings and emotions, and recognizing others' feelings and perspectives.

I was able to use these books when problems would arise-sometimes reading the same stories multiple times. The kids LOVE the books and would even ask for them frequently.

Thank you for all that you do to support Alton teachers and students! I will definitely be applying again.



THANK YOU! Your Generous Donations Funded Eleven Grants in 2016. One Additional Grant was Funded by a Fine Arts Endowment.

Meet our 2016 Guardians of Education

Emeritus (\$1,000 or more)

Alton Memorial
CNB Bank & Trust
Freer Auto Body
HWRT Oil Company
Joseph & Catherine Johnson
Family Foundation
Liberty Bank
Macias Insurance Agency
Paul R. Lauschke & Associates
Phillips 66
Charles & Joan Sheppard
Woodman Collision Center

Valedictorian (\$500-\$999)

Helen Andrews
Mark & Catherine Droste
Kenny & Cindy Inman
Phil & Teri Trapani
Smith, Mendenhall, Selby & Cole

Salutatorian (\$250-\$499)

Mike Bellm
Mark Cappel
CB & Ellen Jackson
Laura & Todd Plummer
Jane Saale
Theresa & Reuben Willis

High Honor Roll (\$50-\$249)

John Bannister
Melissa & Matt Batchelor
Steve & Barb Batchelor
Julia Beckham
Ryan & Kristin Bemis
Regina Birch
Jody Bosomworth
Mary Ellen Brake
Mike & Elizabeth Brey
Sonja Collins-Fordson
Sandra Crawford
John Cunningham
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Denby
Sheryl Droste
John Ducey
Cathy Elliott
David & Paula Fritz
Teena Funk
Edmond Gray
Jeffrey Harris
Dr. Kimberly Haug
Tawnya Hooper
Nancy Ikard
David Jacks
Christine Jones
Elizabeth Kane
Melissa King

Grant Title	Description	School	Award
Reading Es Bueno	A portable library of multi-level books written in Spanish will support and extend the curriculum and allow students to practice and enhance their skills	Alton High	\$2,085
Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Building	Provides additional materials to foster reading skill for students across elementary grade levels	Eunice Smith	\$4,750
I've Got to Read That Book	Provide a variety of high interest books that are specifically designed for low level readers	Alton Middle	\$1,088
Bring on the Big Red!	Provide remedial instruction for intermediate grade Title 1 students	North	\$5,178
Let's Print a Robot	Provide 3-D scanner, printer, modeling software and tools so students can render 3 dimensional designs	Alton Middle	\$2,138
IText, uText, We All Text	Purchase of additional non-fiction materials to be used to teach both students and their parents key components about text features which can aid information searches	West	\$2,478
STEM Learning in K	Provide hands-on kits which teach simple machines and structural concepts to kindergarten students	Lovejoy	\$300
Hear Us ROAR	Purchase books to enhance the ROAR program where students read with community volunteers before school	Gilson Brown	\$300
Artists are Inventors Part 2	Provide supplies and tools allowing students to design and build prototype inventions	Alton Middle	\$626
Creating a Joyful Classroom Community	Provide books that teach the social and emotional issues that students face daily	East	\$526
Off to Work We Go!	Purchase Student Workbooks for the Junior Achievement Biztown lessons which are taught prior to the field trip to Biztown	East and Lewis & Clark	\$2,000
The ABCs of Music	Provide music themed books in the music classroom so students can see and read children's songs and information about instruments and composers	East	\$1205
Total Amount Awarded			\$22,674

Angela Kuchnicki
Latasha LeFlore-Porter
Victoria Lehman
Rance & Lisa Long
Ashley Marry
Angela McDowel
Ann McLaughlin
Jody Meggos
Sarah Meyer
Vivian Monckton
Dale & Carol Neudecker
Chris Norman
Vicky Osborn
Debra Penning
Elaine Pflieger
Brian & Kristen Saenz
Joy Sawyer
Katie & Steve Slater
Joe & Shannon Stanton
Denise Stidd

Elyse Tillman
Katherine Walters
Weiner Family
Marjorie Wheeler
Nita Whitten
Lynda Willings
Jan Wrischnik
Jenn Young

Honor Roll (\$5-\$49)
Ann Bauer-Ross
Susan Beers
Amy Brainerd
Jordan Brannon
Diane Cox
Meme Evans
Amy Fahnestock
Joyce Fortschneider
Sarah Greer
Kent & Gloria Hake

Sharolyn Hartman
Danielle Hartsock
Carla Hilgert
Lisa Holland
Patti Hughes
Christine Lafikes
Karen & Robert Lowe
Elisabeth Malik
Cheryl McCormick
Deborah Miller
Christina Petrea
Mary Prehn
Timothy Rister
Wendy Roady
Carrie Schildroth
Maria Scott
Cathy Stolze
Kara Twichell

Kudos to Kohl's

The Kohl's Volunteers program, sponsored by Kohl's, continues to benefit the Alton School District.

Through the Kohl's Volunteer Program, Kohl's Associates donate their personal time to make a difference in their local communities by volunteering with eligible nonprofit organizations. With every qualifying event, volunteer efforts are rewarded with a \$500 grant from Kohl's to the benefiting organization. Many times over, Alton schools have been the benefiting organization as Kohl's volunteers help with school events such as Book Fairs, Fall Festivals, After Prom, After Grad, Mini Art and other school sponsored activities.

The Alton Educational Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, initiated a partnership with Kohl's and, in coordination with the Alton School District, receives the grants from the Kohl's Volunteers Program and provides

the monies to the respective benefiting schools in our district. Since July 2012, the Kohl's Volunteer Program has provided \$23,500 to the Alton School District.

Students in our district are positively and directly impacted by the volunteer efforts of the Kohl's employees. The Alton Educational Foundation thanks the many Kohl's Associates who volunteer their time to benefit the students in the Alton School District and beyond!

More info on the Kohl's program can be found at this link:

kohls.com/communityrelations/Community04.

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Annual Guardians Recognition Breakfast

Our annual breakfast, held January 19, 2016 at West Elementary School, recognized Salutatorians, Valedictorians and Emeritus Guardians of Education. Besides delicious breakfast items donated by Duke Bakery and Panera Bread, guests were treated to presentations by students demonstrating what they learned from projects funded by AEF grants made possible by the donors. Ryan Bemis, President of AEF, welcomed the guests, thanked them for their generosity

and continued support, and noted, "I love that those who donated to the foundation were here to see first hand how their generosity has benefited the students. What the teachers have done with the grant money is amazing, and it's great to see the projects the students are working on."

Our third annual Recognition breakfast will be held on January 17, 2017 at North Elementary, showcasing several student groups and their involvement in AEF funded opportunities.

Guardian of Education Plaques

As you visit local businesses you may see Guardian of Education plaques in their office or lobby. The AEF gives a plaque to each Emeritus donor in gratitude of his or her generous donation. Similarly, in the lobby of each Alton school and in the district administrative building, Guardian of Education plaques recognize all Valedictorian and Emeritus donors. Their generosity is very much appreciated. Please thank the Guardians when you see them!

AHS National Honor Society Members are Active in our Community



Alton High's National Honor Society (NHS) comprises a group of seniors who uphold the four pillars of NHS: leadership, character, scholarship, and service and who maintain a 3.75 cumulative GPA throughout their junior and senior years. NHS's main goal is to help the community in every way possible. The students lend a hand to various community organizations who ask for help, and they also create community service projects where they believe there are needs. NHS helps with school events, from school registration to parent-teacher conferences to tours for

incoming students. Organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, Community Hope Center, Team Honduras through Main Street Methodist Church, ROAR programs and family festivals at the elementary schools, Alton Middle School dances, and several city clean-ups have been supported by NHS members throughout the year. NHS students, led by NHS President **Marissa Whiteside**, have also held events such as Kamp Kool Down (back-to-school elementary student camp) and a community Trunk-or-Treat as newly-created projects to serve the community and have plans for at least two more new service projects before the end of the school year.

Redbird Athletes Soar

The 2015-16 Boys Basketball season ended on a definite upswing as the Boys Varsity won their regional in exciting come from behind fashion, then knocked off rival Edwardsville in the first round of sectionals. The team made the Sweet 16 in Class 4A before bowing out in the Sectional Championship. The Wrestling team had another outstanding year with two state qualifiers in **Alejandro Lopez** and **Connor Broils**, both completing stellar careers.

Alton High School spring sports enjoyed winning performances by the Baseball, Softball, and Girls Soccer teams. In Boys Track, Senior **Zach Llewellyn** qualified for the IHSA State Finals in both Shot Put and Discus. Junior **Silas Chapman** finished 4th in the Sectional Boys Tennis Tournament and advanced to the state tournament. This was the 20th consecutive year that Alton High School has had a state representative in Boys Tennis.

The highlight of the Spring Athletic Season was the Girls Track Team's 2nd place finish in the IHSA 3A State Championships, led by our phenomenal Senior **LaJarvia Brown**. LaJarvia won the state title in the 100 meter Low Hurdles and the Triple Jump where she broke a state record with an incredible jump of 42 feet. She added to her point total in the Long Jump and the 300 meter hurdles. LaJarvia is now a freshman at Texas A&M University on a Track & Field scholarship. Sophomore **Katie Mans** contributed points by placing 5th in the High Jump while Seniors **Jewel Wagner** (Discus) and **Chayvon Buckingham** (Shot Put)



also competed. Jewel Wagner is at Murray State University this year on a Track & Field scholarship.

The fall 2016 season recently concluded with some noteworthy accomplishments. Senior **Dalton Lahue** for the Boys and Junior **Morgan Bemis** for the Girls both advanced to the sectional round of IHSA Golf. For the first time, the Boys Cross Country Team captured the Alton Invitational Meet title at Gordon Moore Park. Also, for the first time in recent years both the Boys and Girls Cross Country teams advanced through the regionals to sectionals while the Boys Soccer Team performed well in the CYC Soccer Tournament in St. Louis.

We applaud our Redbird student athletes and their coaches!

On a sad note this fall we lost our Girls and Boys Head Tennis Coach **Robert Logan** after his long battle with cancer. The tennis

program has plans to memorialize him in the near future. We will miss Coach Logan and extend our sympathy and support to his wife Kayla and his family.

Check out altonathletics.org for any updates and notifications of Alton High School and Alton Middle School Athletics.

Marching 100

The 2016 Alton High School Marching 100 show was called 'Trance' and included music from Shostakovich's 10th Symphony, Pure Imagination from Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, and Somewhere Over the Rainbow. This year 160 students marched - the biggest in 20 years!

The Marching 100 attended 5 contests and won outstanding percussion in prelims and crowd favorite at Francis Howell North. AHS placed 2nd in their class and 3rd overall for the day (out of 29 bands) at Ste. Genevieve. Ms. Cudney said, "They had a great season - the kids worked hard all the way until the last performance through rain, mud, and heat!" In March, they'll be traveling to Nashville, TN to play outside the Grand Ole Opry, record in Studio General, and have a clinic with the music faculty at Belmont University.

Alton HS students To Attend the 2017 Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-State Festival

Sam Frosch,
12 string/electric bass for jazz
(2nd year to be selected)
Daphne Simms, 12, violin
(2nd year to be selected)
Sarah Pullen, 12, violin
Thomas Frosch, 10, viola
Sam Tillman, 12, cello
(3rd year to be selected)
Jacob Pullen, bass

All-State Chorus:

Anya Jones, 11, soprano 1
Ries Lundstrom, 12, bass 1
Jonathan Williams, 12, bass 2

All-State Honors Chorus:

Keven Neace, 11, tenor 1

The choral students are already placed into either the All-State or All-State Honors Choir. All band and orchestra students must audition again for placement into the All-State or All-State Honors Band or Orchestra.

Illinois is divided into 9 regional ILMEA Districts. We are in ILMEA District 6. Back in October over 12,000 students from over 500 high schools statewide auditioned for placement into their regional district band, orchestra or chorus festival which took place in November. From there, the top 1,000 students have been selected statewide to participate in the ILMEA All-State Music Festival that will take place January 26 - 28 in Peoria.

This is a huge honor for our students to be selected. All-State is truly the only time our students get to perform alongside the top students from the major suburban schools in the Chicago area. Our Alton H.S. students always place very well at All-State.





Alton Educational Foundation
P.O. Box 514
Alton, IL 62002

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Founded in 2001, the Alton Educational Foundation's mission is to enhance educational opportunities, support academic excellence and encourage student achievement in the Alton School District.

*We're on the Web!
 Visit altoned.org*

Guardian of Education Registration Form

(Mail to AEF, P.O. Box 514, Alton, IL 62002 or register online at altoned.org and click on the Membership tab)

Name _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

I am paying by (check one)

Check Credit Card Amount \$ _____

Checks payable to Alton Educational Foundation

(A portion of the dues are tax deductible) Alton school district employees can also use a payroll deduction option.

Corporate gift matching is another opportunity for donations as the AEF is a 501(c)(3) organization with a tax exempt ID.

VISA MC DISCOVER Exp. date _____

Card # _____ 3-digit code _____

Signature: _____

You can be a Guardian – The Guardians of Education program offers a unique chance to aid the educational opportunities of Alton students. An annual membership is available to individuals as well as businesses.

Select membership level

HONOR ROLL – \$5 minimum *(name in newsletter and AEF website)*

HIGH HONOR ROLL – \$50 minimum *(name in newsletter and AEF website, AEF car decal)*

SALUTATORIAN – \$250 minimum *(name in newsletter and AEF website, AEF car decal, invitation to annual breakfast, 4 tickets for district event(s) of choice)*

VALEDICTORIAN – \$500 minimum *(name in newsletter and AEF website, AEF car decal, invitation to annual breakfast, 16 tickets for district event(s) of choice, name on engraved plaques in each school building)*

EMERITUS – \$1000 minimum *(name in newsletter and AEF website, AEF car decal, invitation to annual breakfast, a pass to all district events, name on engraved plaques in each school building, individual engraved plaque)*

Name as you want it to appear on website/publications _____