

Article on Teacher Mini-grants from the Foundation

The Foundation for Central Schools is pleased to announce the distribution of over \$10,000 in grants to over twenty-one teachers at thirteen different schools! These grants represent the Foundation's mission of supporting student development by encouraging community investment and involvement in the four pillars of the Foundation: *Academics, Art, Agriculture* and *Athletics*. The applicants selected are those who demonstrate the greatest support of student development through the four pillars.

The Foundation placed grant applications in each teacher's mail box to make sure that everyone, especially new teachers, had a chance to apply. Forty-four teachers applied and the grant committee selected twenty-one teachers to receive a mini-grant worth \$500. All staff members including teachers, counselors, nurses, and psychologists are eligible to apply for these mini-grants. The school and teacher grants are awarded twice a year for those projects which exemplify creativity and enhance the learning experience. Although not all grant requests can be fulfilled, the Foundation encourages every teacher to apply, even if they were turned down in the past.

This year the grants ranged from teaching high school students, who are interested in the visual arena of film, how to apply stage and special effects make up, to Kindergarten "weeding buddies" who plant, weed, water and nurture pumpkins, sunflowers, and corn. One middle school science lab will get a skeleton, and all athletic coaches at an elementary school will receive a first aid kit. Several teachers received reading and writing enrichment programs, and a general music grant was awarded to four different elementary schools.

The Foundation relies on the generous contributions of our community partners, vendors, and individual donors which allow greater funding opportunities to support our increasing school population. We would like to thank those of you who have contributed to the Foundation in the past and hope we can continue to count on the generosity of the Central Unified community, teachers, and staff. Donations to the Foundation go directly back into student development whether it is materials for the classroom, enrichment of the arts, after school programs in music, or appreciation and preservation of the environment through agriculture. Every donation counts! If you would like more information on the working of the Foundation, please visit our new website at www.centralfoundation.org, or you may access it through the Central Unified website at www.centralusd.k12.ca.us/ and click on the Foundation for Central Schools link.