This spring my Classroom Grant, “Science Water Testing”, was selected as a 2013-14 Classroom Grant award Winner. I have wanted to start a new curriculum of environmental science in my classroom and incorporate technology into student labs. The testing procedures used by my students and I didn’t incorporate any current technology and were outdated by more than 10 years. I believe field experience is so important to science. By receiving this Classroom Grant my students can now perform relevant water quality testing. The students will have hands-on opportunities while learning the different components of water quality. This new technology will increase student learning and retention as they use the new Spark Monitor and other sensors to perform inquiry based labs. Not only can I use the new science equipment in my environmental science class, but also in earth science and biology classes. This Classroom Grant will be used for many years by students in my classes. The Education Foundation Grant has given my students the ability to do real world research in the class and in the field. The technology is preparing them for success in higher education and the workforce. Thank you Education Foundation!

Toby Hill
Skyview H.S. Science Teacher
415 N. 30TH STREET  |  BILLINGS, MT 59101
406-245-4133  |  www.efbps.org

HELPING EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS ACHIEVE AND SUCCEED

We can all remember back to our favorite teacher. The one who made learning fun, connected us with ideas and possibilities never imagined, and made a lasting impression on us. The Education Foundation believes that directly supporting our teachers is one of the best ways to help students achieve and succeed. Classroom Grants are designed to meet the following goals.

- Increase student engagement, motivation, and exposure to new concepts and ideas.
- Create opportunities to allow all students to reach their full potential through enriched learning environments.
- Strengthen teaching tools and strategies in core academic subjects, including the arts.
- Encourage collaboration and professional development among teachers.
- Increase parent and community involvement in our schools.

The Classroom Grants awarded in 2013 demonstrated innovation, creativity, and applicability to the classroom. Classroom Grant recipients receive new technology, as well as supplemental literacy, writing, and math materials for use in the classroom to reach students of all learning abilities and styles. Classroom Grants also provides funding for art and music programs that benefit students in elementary through high school.

Thank you for your support of the Education Foundation. Your support has benefited me and my students tremendously. Through the Education Foundation, I was awarded a Classroom Grant the last two years for a project called, “Greenhouse Groceries for Kids.” The primary goal of this project is to help students build an understanding of and respect for taking something small and helping it grow into something useful. The garden has become a hands-on learning center for my students in the math, science, and social skills curriculum areas. The garden directly compliments the individual needs and learning experiences for my students in the Life Skills program. Through the Foundation’s Partners in Education program, GE Capital volunteers cleaned up and prepared the courtyard areas at Washington Elementary for us to use. Thank you for your gift to my students and my classroom. Please consider giving a gift again this year to the Education Foundation to support classroom innovation and student achievement.

Kathy Wilkinson
Intermediate Life Skills, Washington Elementary
**FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our individual and business supporters, the Education Foundation has directly impacted the lives of many students this year. Since our founding in 1988, the Education Foundation has strived to promote excellence and innovation in our educational system for the benefit of students and the greater community of Billings.

It is the fundamental belief of the Foundation that all children deserve a quality education to help them achieve their goals. Now more than ever, the Foundation and its donors play a critical role in the success of our students and schools. Our students are not only competing nationally for jobs, but globally. Technology is quickly changing the job skills our students will need to be successful in the workplace and life. It is our duty and obligation to ensure our students have access to the tools, knowledge, and support to prepare them for the future.

Through the continued support of generous donors like you, the Education Foundation provided a record $90,000 in Classroom Grants this year to foster creativity and excellence in the classroom. Thousands of books were given to children to support early literacy through Reading Rocks. Our signature event, Saturday Live, continues to raise much needed dollars to benefit our schools. The Foundation’s student and educator scholarships provide opportunities to improve student learning and career-building. Finally, Partners in Education continues to build relationships between community leaders and the schools.

As the Foundation continues to work with our donors, community leaders, and the schools, we see the critical needs facing our students. We must continue to work together to fund technology integration in every classroom, support the science and math curriculum, enhance social studies and the arts, and promote special needs programs.

Please read our enclosed material, visit our website, and think about how you can positively impact Billings Public Schools. Together, we can make a tremendous investment in our community’s students as well as the future of Billings. Thank you for your support.

**Eric Nord**
Board President

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**MAKE A LASTING GIFT TODAY TO SUPPORT EXCELLENCE**

Consider making a lasting gift to the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools. Your Endowment Funds are part of a vision to provide sustainable funding for educator classroom grants, teacher and student scholarships, and special projects that benefit Billings Public Schools students and educators. Your gift can create a new endowment fund or be added to an existing one.

Additionally, your endowed gift can provide Montana and federal tax benefits. Montana offers a generous tax credit to individuals and businesses that make qualifying contributions to our endowments. An individual can earn a 40% credit of the present value of a donation through a planned gift and businesses can earn a 20% credit for a direct gift. Most endowed gifts also qualify for a federal income tax deduction. Take advantage of the Montana Tax Credit and give a lasting gift to education.

Another way to benefit public education in Billings would be by leaving the Education Foundation a legacy gift in your will. It’s easy and you will be making a permanent investment in the lives of our students. Need more information? We can help, contact the Foundation office at 245-4133.

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Please clip this coupon and mail with your gift to:

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415 North 30th Street  |  Billings, Montana 59101

406-244-4133  |  www.efsps.org

Yes! I want to support public education in Billings Public Schools.

My contribution is: $__________ is enclosed.

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Name

Please send acknowledgment of my memorial/dedicated gift to:

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I have enclosed my employer’s matching gift form.

All contributions are gratefully acknowledged in our newsletter. Please check here [ ] if you would like your gift to remain anonymous.

Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.
“Steve and I are proud to give a student scholarship each year to support a student who has a passion for music. By providing a deserving student a scholarship to attend college, we are investing in their future and in our future. As retired educators, we know one of the greatest gifts in life is an education and the support to continue to pursue a higher education.” - shared Steve & Lorraine Marsh.

Not only does the Education Foundation work with donors to benefit graduating seniors and educators, but students currently in school. Through scholarship programs such as the Newman Tutoring program and Langlas Scholarship program, we are benefitting current students. The Newman Tutoring program provides scholarships to Newman Elementary students to receive small group tutoring after school and throughout the summer months. We have seen students who use the scholarship opportunity maintain or increase their reading proficiency, while students who don’t lose up to 50% of the knowledge they gained the previous school year during the summer.

Many children lose ground in reading over the summer, and begin the school year at a level lower than what they achieved the previous year. Reading Rocks seeks to reverse this trend by providing books and volunteer mentors to children in our community throughout the summer program. In its tenth year, 2,107 books were distributed and 392 volunteer hours were shared with children in our community.

“Thank you for providing Reading Rocks this summer. Reading with the kids makes me so happy.”- Meagan McBride, Reading Rocks volunteer

Participation is fun and an easy way for children to build a personal library. Reading Rocks is offered four days a week, for six weeks in four community parks. Guest storytellers captivate the attention of the many children participating in the program. Volunteers engage the children in reading and help them select a book to take home. The volunteers at Reading Rocks come from all parts of our community and range in age from high school students to retired senior citizens. The program is successful because of their commitment and desire to share their love of reading with children. Reading Rocks creates a fun atmosphere that puts an emphasis on the importance of reading at all age levels.

“I always leave Reading Rocks in a great mood. Reading with the kids makes me so happy.” - Lorrie Miles, Reading Rocks Volunteer
Special Thanks To Our Contributors

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Billings Gazette

Friends of Washington Elementary

We are honored to be a part of the Foundation’s Partners in Education (PIE) program. The employees at AltaOne FCU gain much more from the Kids at our partner school, Elementary, than they gain from us. The PIE program provides enhanced learning environments for our students through volunteers, in-kind and financial resources.” – Heidi J. Knudson, Business Development Director, AltaOne Federal Credit Union

Memorial/Honorarium Gift Listing

In Memory of

Ray and Sue Borden
Beverly Proulx
Phyllis Prindle
Audre Pressman
Sally Phillips
Sheila Murphy
Sverre and Sara Nyquist
Joan Scanlon

Endowment Gifts

Jackie Dietrich
Michael and Monica Zieske
Berry and Zanya Wood
Rodney Willson
Charles Ward

Principals $10,000 & Above

Frank Grip
Dr. Chuck and Kathy Apgar

In Recognition of

Tom and Susan Wardell
ExxonMobil Corporation

The purpose of PIE is to build partnerships between schools and businesses that result in school improvement, teaching excellence, student achievement, and an appreciation of common goals. The opportunities for partnerships are endless and varied. Our goal with each partnership is to meet the needs of a school by matching the resources a business is able to contribute such as classroom volunteers, funding, or supplies.

In its eleventh year, Partners in Education (PIE) continues to grow and link together students, and the community to ensure success for all students. This year PIE added several new partnerships, held the seventh annual Educator for a Day, and recognized the graduating valedictorians and business-school partners at the Salute to Education luncheon.

In addition to the above, PIE established a fund-raising event called “The Washington Elementary Fund.” This event helps to raise funds for the Washington Elementary School. The event was a huge success and a direct impact on students, parents, employees, and businesses.

Memorial/Honorarium Gift Listing

In Memory Of

Duane and Karen Alger

Karen Alger

Lynn Beavon

Alen and Jil Friedmann

Mike Folkert

Diane and David Anderson

Brian Craig

Frank and Marsha Anderson

Karen Mason

Anthony Johnson

University of Partners Education Foundation

Mentor, leader, volunteer, and friend are words used to describe our many community volunteers who are connected to our schools through their employer. Each day our businesses make an investment in our community.

Back Pack Meals

Classroom Grants

Endowment Gifts

Partners in Education

Reading Rocks

Saturday Live Scholarships

Sunday Live Grants

Technology Innovation Teen Pantry

Great Schools and Great Communities

The positive influence from those outside our schools influences our students and increases student performance as well as fosters a better understanding of our community’s public schools. Our schools and communities are strengthened and enhanced by the expertise, involvement, and interactions between the schools, business, organizations, and individuals in our community.

Partners in Education would like to thank our current partners for creating strong bonds between our community and education and business. These connections make a direct impact on our students, parents, employees, and businesses.