The Guardian

Newsletter of the Alton Educational Foundation

Spring, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 1

- Annual Membership levels range from $5 to $1000 or more per year
- Donations fund innovative classroom grants
- AEF has awarded over $120,000 to district teachers via classroom grants
- Become a Guardian of Education at altoned.org. Click the "Membership" tab

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AEF Launches the Guardians of Education Campaign

The mission of the AEF is to enhance educational opportunities, support academic excellence and encourage student achievement in the Alton School District. In an effort to provide a consistent and reliable stream of funding to achieve that mission, the AEF is pleased to announce the launch of the Guardians of Education (GOE) campaign.

The GOE campaign offers members of the community a unique chance to aid the educational opportunities of Alton students. An annual membership campaign , the GOE includes individual and business memberships at different funding levels. Different levels of recognition correlate with contribution levels. Membership contributions are tax deductible and may be mailed to: AEF, PO Box 514, Alton, IL 62002 or visit altoned.org and click the "Membership" tab.

Every dollar contributed will go to teacher grants that bring creative, novel learning opportunities to Alton students! These dollars help our District meet ever-changing educational needs and requirements.

Here is a golden opportunity for people to invest in their community. Support Alton education. The youth of today will be the citizenry of tomorrow! Together we can make that future bright!

AEF Awards $21,452 to District Schools

The Alton Educational Foundation received sixteen grant applications for 2015. The grants were assessed by the Board of Directors using a rubric based on a variety of criteria such as the number of students who will benefit, educational opportunity enhancement, innovativeness, plan implementation, and cost viability. Fourteen of the sixteen applications were funded. Two grants will be funded from the Fine Arts dedicated fund and the remaining twelve will be appropriated from the Educational Grants fund. Grant awards span all grade levels, from Early Childhood to Alton High School.

The 2014 grant awards surpass the funding of previous years for two reasons: grant applications adhered closely to defined criteria and ample grant dollars were available due to the success of the Guardians of Education campaign! Thanks to all of our donors! Congratulations to all grant winners! For full grant award information visit altoned.org!

Gilson students voyaged to Mars at Challenger space camp!

AMS students develop engineering skills building Lego Robots!

700 Books are available to students on new chrome books

Gilson Brown's 4th Grade Voyage to Mars

The 4th grade students at Gilson Brown Elementary School had the opportunity to visit the Challenger Learning Center in Ferguson, MO.

Each group participated in two different activities. First, students made and launched their own rockets. A brief lesson on the structure and development of rockets was presented. Paired students were then given a time limit to complete the creation of their rocket. Rockets were taken outside to launch. The instructors at the Challenger Learning Center did a great job explaining why one rocket may have gone higher than another.

The second activity was a voyage to Mars simulation. During the simulation students were given a specific task as if they were an astronaut. Tasks ranged from gathering soil samples, doing medical tests, or putting robots together. Students were in charge of landing a simulated space robot on Mars. Again, the staff at the learning center were very professional and excited to work with the students.

Teachers Meme Evans, Greg Adams and Patti Hughes followed up the field trip with a variety of activities related to the Earth, Mars and the Solar System.

"Voyage to Mars", was a $1700 AEF grant awarded to Gilson Brown students.

Lego Robotics Drive Common Core at AMS

Sara Keith, Bridget Lyles and Jen Herring were awarded an AEF grant to bring a hands on engineering opportunity to Alton Middle School Students. Pairs of students are designing and assembling their own working Lego robots. The grant writers' objective is to incorporate engineering and design into the science curriculum to better prepare students for high school. Approximately 1400 students will benefit from this project. Sarah Keith believes that giving every student the opportunity to program, design and test a robot at the middle school level will assist in bridging the gap between middle school and high school. "Sparking their interest in engineering and design ...will better prepare them for a career in science." The students will host a variety of competitions to assess the merits of their designs.

"Engineering Our Future: Robots in the Classroom" is a $5000 AEF grant awarded to Alton Middle School students.

North Students can "Fall Into A Good Book"

Thanks to teacher Katherine Walters, the students of North Elementary have access to an online library of books they can access from any computer, whether at school, home, library or anywhere with an internet connection. Approximately 600 North elementary students and their families are able to access the online books by logging in through North's website. Children can read or listen to books read to them and take tests to determine their own level of reading comprehension and vocabulary. This site provides over 700 books to the students at North! In the first two weeks of student access, the site recorded over 1855 "hits" to access the learning site. Alton School District has enhanced internet access by providing chrome books to all students grade 3-12. Additionally, teachers at North have access to a Common Core Portal which provides resources aligned with Common Core Standards.

"Fall into a Good Book" is a $799 AEF grant awarded to North Elementary students.

Star Performances

The AEF salutes the following Redbirds named to Southwestern Conference fall honors!

First Team All Conference (SWC)

Gabe Grassle (soccer)
Tori Hays (golf)
Natalie Long (golf)
Courtney Hachmann (golf)
Janelle Wilson (tennis)
Kareem Hamilton (football)
Zach Edwards (football)
Josh Lovings (football)
Ricco Gibson (football)

All Academic SWC

Gabe Grassle (soccer)
Carl Stradal (soccer)
Brad Leonard (soccer)
Eric Fehrenbach (soccer)
Jordan Nolan (volleyball)
Shannon Willis (tennis)
Mary McDaniel (tennis)
Tori Hays (golf)
Natalie Long (golf)
Courtney Hachmann (golf)
Ashley Orr (golf)
Zach Edwards (football)

Four Year Lettermen (AHS)

Rebecca Adney
Hanah Batchelor
Zach Edwards
Gabe Grassle
Courtney Hachmann
Tori Hays
Brad Leonard
Natalie Long
Jordan Nolan
Samantha Patton
Anna Scoggins
Carl Stradal.

AHS Girls Golf, Volleyball and Wilson Set Historic Marks

Alton Girls Golf and Volleyball Teams made historic strides this fall, as did Janelle Wilson for Alton Girls tennis.

The Girls Golf team finished 5-1 in the SWC, won the conference tournament and shared 1st place in the conference championship. They notched tourney wins at the O'Fallon Labor Day Tournament, the Alton Classic, the SWC Tournament, and the IHSA Sectional Tournament. Their 10th place finish at the IHSA State Tournament was earned by the 1st team all conference players: Tori Hays, Natalie Long, and Courtney Hachmann. Natalie Long finished in the top 35 at state and was SWC player of the year.

The Alton Girls Volleyball team had a record breaking Season, finishing 25-8-1. They had 1st Place finishes in the Alton Invitational and Redbird Classic Tournaments and placed 3rd at the Ritenour Invitational and Roxana Tournaments. Jordan Nolan earned 2nd Team All Conference honors, and set an AHS record for assists. Rachel Cauley, Savannah Fisher, Megan Paulda and Jada Green all earned all tournament team honors throughout the course of the season.

Senior Janelle Wilson led the Alton Girls Tennis Team with a first place finish at #1 singles for the Southwest Conference. Her first place finish marks the first time Alton has captured the conference honor in the school's history. Janelle qualified for state singles competition, and finished with a 2-2 record in Chicago. She was the first Redbird Girls Tennis singles player to advance since 2009.

Congratulations to these Redbird teams and to Janelle for their record setting seasons! Go Redbirds!

East Elementary Blazes New Paths

The East Elementary fifth grade is enjoying new science and social studies exploration through the National Geographic Pathfinder Series. These newsletters present current topics in science and the world.

Incorporated in these lessons are english, vocabulary, review of previously learned concepts, and common core standards. All topics support the Next Generation Science Standards.

Lanea DeConcini, East principal, is thrilled to have another science and social studies tool. "These newsletters bring in current world and national issues with great visual display that appeals to that age group."

An interactive piece allows the teacher to project the topics on white boards for class discussion.

"In the News" is a $1,000 AEF grant awarded to the East Elementary fifth grade.

Yes, I want to be a Guardian of Education!

Membership Registration Form

Name

Email Address

Address

City/State/ZIP

Phone

I am enclosing: (check one)

Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Amount

Checks payable to Alton Educational Foundation

A portion of the dues are tax deductible.

Please mail form and payment to *Alton Educational Foundation, PO Box 514, Alton, IL 62002-0514*

Card Number 3-Digit Code

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ DISCOVER EXP. DATE____

Signature

Please select membership level:

- ☐ Honor Roll $5 minimum
- ☐ High Honor Roll $50 minimum
- ☐ Salutatorian $250 minimum
- ☐ Valedictorian $500 minimum
- ☐ Emeritus $1,000 minimum

Name as you want it to appear on Website/Publications:

AHS Shines at ILMEA Festival

The music department recently received notification that several AHS students had been selected to attend the 2015 Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-State Festival. Many are multiple year selections! This year's honorees are: Madison Bemis, violin (3rd year), Kaela Funke, violin, Madeline Hornsey, violin (2nd year), Stephanie Tillman, cello (3rd year), Sam Tillman, cello and Cullen Daniels, clarinet.

Several students were recognized for vocal excellence and will join the All-State Chorus: Toby Berglund, 12 (2nd year), Devin McIntire, 12 (2nd year) and Mat Quigley, 12. 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, with AHS in IL-MEA District 6. 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 took place January 29 - 31 in Peoria.

It is a huge honor for AHS students to be selected. All-State is truly the only time AHS students get to perform alongside the top students across the state. As Laura Plummer, AHS orchestra director reflected, "We are extremely proud of our kids. We could not have our quality music program without the support of our administrators, parents and community."

AEF Thanks Our Guardians of Education! (As of 12/31/14)

Emeritus ($1000 or more)

Alton Memorial Hospital

Anonymous

CNB Bank & Trust, NA.

HWRT Oil Company, LLC

Karen Wilson State Farm Insurance

Paul Lauschke & Associates, Inc

Liberty Bank

Macias Insurance Agency Inc.

Phillips 66

Charles & Joan Sheppard

Woodman Collision Center

Vern Van Hoy & Tom Long

Valedictorian ($500-$999)

AHS Class of 1974

Kristie Baumgartner

Catherine Droste

John & Holly Rain

Phil & Teri Trapani

Salutatorian ($250-$499)

Argosy Casino Alton

Helen Andrews

Ellen Jackson

Maneke Jewelers

Sharon Johnson of Practical Rehab Services

Smith, Mendenhall, Selby & Cole

Dr. Kenneth Spells

Theresa & Reuben Willis

Wellspring Resources

High Honor Roll ($50-249)

Melissa Batchelor

Michael Bellm

Ryan & Kristin Bemis

Jody Bosomworth

Thora Buis

Mark Cappel

Steve Cousley

Sandy Crawford

Dorothy Davidson-Rounds

Cathy Elliott

David & Paula Fritz

Teena Funk

Edmond Gray

Jim & Vivian Heinemann

John Higdon

David Jacks

Elizabeth Kane

Debbie Kanyo

Melissa King

Angela Kuchnicki

Victoria Lehman

Ken & Glenda Link

Rance & Lisa Long

Kayla Mack

Pamela Maxeiner

Angela McDowell

Ann McLaughlin

Vivian Monkton

Sandy & Tim Monroe

Christopher Norman

Todd & Laura Plummer

Lynn Rogers

High Honor Roll ($50-249)

Stan & Carla Rull

Brian & Kristen Saenz

Maria Scott

Jennifer Sebold

Marcella Sedabres

Rob & Suzanne Schwartz

Katherine Walters

The Weiner Family

Bonnie Westcott

Marjorie Wheeler

Lynda Willings

Nita Whitten

Katie Willings & Steve Slater

Honor Roll ($5-$49)

Julie Basler

Jordan Brannon

Trudi Douglas

Darla Haworth

Doug Hord

Christine Lafikes

Karen & Robert Lowe

Cheryl McCormick

Deborah L. Miller

William Piening

Bill Schwartz & Erin Schaeffer

Cathy Stolze

Jill Tueth

Kara Twichell

Rosemary Young

Jaris Waide

Danette Watt

Alton Educational Foundation

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Founded in 2001, the Alton Educational Foundation (AEF)'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 Alton-ed.org

Meet the AEF Board:
Ryan Bemis (Pres.), Phil Trapani (VP), Nita Whitten (Treas.), Ellen Jackson (Sec.), Kristen Gosling, Peter Hussey, Janey Jacoby, Lisa Long, Doug Mendenhall, Theresa Willis and Al Womack

Alton Community Unit School District's Award Winning Staff

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!

Peabody Energy Leaders in Education
Angie Kuchnicki
Pat Goetten

Emerson Excellence In Teaching
Tim Jarden

SW Region IPA Innovative Educator Award
Angie Kuchnicki

Boys & Girls Club of AltonTeacher of the Year
Laura Lauschke

Southern IL Conference Yearbook Advisor of the Year Award
Bridget Heck

Office Max Teacher Appreciation Award
Terri Harvey

Metro Area Prof. Org. Community Service/ Educator

Edmond Gray

Delta, Kappa, Gamma Society Early Educator Award
Nicole Digiovanni,
Sara Lewis
Sara Keith

Coalition of Concerned Citizens Community Service Award
Natalie Lewis

100 Black Men Education Award
Dorothy Davidson-Rounds

100 Black Men Community Service Award
Terry Mitchell
Dana Taylor

ISBE Those Who Excel Award

Megan Greenwood
Anna Hartman
Cindy Inman
Jaime Jones
Sarah Keith
Theresa Willis

ISBE Teacher of the Year Finalist (1 of 12)
Jaime Jones