

THE CHALK

A publication
dedicated to the
enhancement of our
educational system
Fall 2014 Volume 1



**SAUCON VALLEY
FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL
INNOVATION**

*You can make a difference in
the learning opportunities for
the students of Saucon Valley
by supporting the Foundation.*

Visit

svfoundation.net

for more information.

Welcome to another school year!

The Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation trustees and volunteers are energized to be entering our eighth year of fundraising and supporting creative experiences for students here in the District's three schools. Together, we have raised more than \$300,000 in private funds, with more than 90% our donations earmarked directly for curriculum-related projects and programs. We are committed to a successful future based on this vital partnership between private fundraising and public education.



I encourage you to read this newsletter, which outlines the exciting initiatives that we have been funding in our schools. In particular, if you have noticed the construction equipment that has been on campus since spring, you may be interested in more information about our Environmental Education Center that is now well underway.

Finally, we hope you'll think about joining us on any level big or small. Building on our collective talents and skills offers us a chance to make an impact in giving back to our community.

We are on the right course because it takes all of us together, making a difference, close to home.

Sincerely,

Linda Mayger, SVFEI Chairperson

Saucon Valley Environmental Education Center



In the Environmental Education Center, most of our long awaited path has been completed. Recently, landscapers smoothed the path edges to stabilize the soil and create a finished look. The final step will be to pave the entrance area.

The first teaching pavilion has a completed foundation and the floor will be poured sometime in the next couple months. If schedules and weather allow, the pavilion will be completed this fall.

We have also made progress on our project to naturalize some land near the center of the EEC. We removed many of the larger invasive species and increased the diversity of the area by planting a variety of native species at a special event on October 4 during which students, teachers, and community members helped with planting.

As we complete Phase I, we have started planning Phase II. We have a variety of items on our list to make the EEC an even better outdoor classroom and are seeking supportive donors to help us move forward.



Small Grants Committee Welcomes New Year of Creative Ideas

The Small Grants Committee of the SVFEI is looking forward to a new school year and the innovative and creative projects that the teachers present to the Foundation. Since the Foundation began, we have been fortunate to fund a total of 126 small grants totaling \$115,000. The projects submitted to the small grants committee fall into one or more of the following focus areas: Technology and Learning, Arts and Education, Cultural Enrichment, Scholastic Enhancement, Health and Wellness, Entrepreneurship, and Professional Development. Small grant proposals may be submitted during our fall and/or spring grant cycles by submitting an application found on our website.

During the 2013-14 school year, the Foundation approved a wide variety of grants ranging from environmental science and ecology lab equipment in the high school to art equipment for an Anti-Bullying Poster Campaign in the Middle School to “Sit Spots” in the Elementary School that help young students to learn in a more active and fun environment. An especially successful and rewarding grant entitled “Outreach Reading” involved third and fourth grade students visiting the community to read to senior citizens, building the students’ confidence and providing a wonderful service to local residents. In the Middle School, microscope equipment was provided by the Foundation to assist science students with interacting and sharing class work and lab experiences. The students were able to use cameras, which could be plugged into iPads to add photos directly to their lab reports. High School World Cultures students participated in a program entitled “Understanding Religion through Inspection,” allowing the students first-hand exploration of major world religions and practices. All of these wonderful projects are made possible by the donations received from our supporters.

The Small Grants Committee of the SVFEI will open a new grant cycle in October 2014 and is looking forward to providing more amazing opportunities for Saucon Valley students. Please visit our website for Grant Applications and more information. Feel free to contact our Small Grants Chairperson, Jennifer Altemose, with any questions or to request assistance in submitting a small grant proposal.



Teacher Tribute Program



Would you like to show your gratitude for a special teacher while supporting innovative education for your children? THE SVFEI YEAR-END TEACHER TRIBUTE PROGRAM is a way to do just that!

How does it work?

You can make a donation to the SAUCON VALLEY FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION’s general fund in honor of your favorite staff member. He/she will receive a special certificate as well as a Teacher Tribute card with your heartfelt message inside.

Where does the Teacher Tribute money go?

Your tax-deductible, charitable donation helps the Foundation to award grants to support innovative educational projects in our schools. Since 2008, the Foundation has raised more than \$100,000 to support more than 40 projects for students in grades K-12.

To learn more about how to contribute, look for more information about the program coming soon in the Wednesday envelopes or check the Foundation website at www.svfoundation.net

Join us in supporting excellence in our schools and HONOR A TEACHER TODAY!

New 21st Century Excellence Grant Program Offers Promising Opportunities

Students can look forward to some exciting additions to their classrooms this year. Piloted in 2014, the *21st Century Excellence* program, provides grant money to support repeatable, multi-year projects focused on key learning areas. These currently include: career/college readiness, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and communications and literacy skills. The SVFEI is excited to grow the 21st Century Excellence Grant program and is looking for volunteers to serve on this grant committee. Contact us if you are interested.

Literacy Week Funded Again for 2014 – 2015



The Elementary School classes hosted Colleen Heimbach, of Bethlehem Township, Pa., and her two therapy dogs, Whimsy and Flossie, on Feb. 26, 2014. The visit was part of Literacy Week, established by the Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation.

All SV students, K – 12, will enjoy another eventful and meaningful Literacy Week in February of 2015. Last year, the Foundation sponsored a week of guest speakers coinciding with National Literacy Week. In the High School, author Josh Berk conducted a hands-on writing workshop, which focused on the creation of an original mystery and Kate Walto led a workshop entitled “Generating New Ideas,” to help students find new avenues for writing topics. Middle School students were entertained by Ty Drago, author of the popular Undertaker Series. Younger SV readers and writers enjoyed Bonnie Banks-Beers and Jonah Beers, authors of *What Do Animals Eat? Animal Appetite ABCs*. The Beers visited to share their book and how they collaborated to create it.

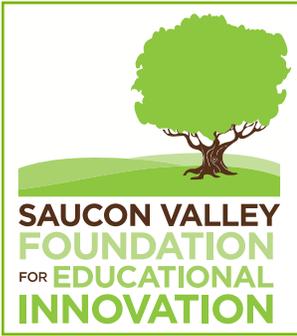
3D Printer and Scanner Grant for High School Engineering Students

Students in several high school engineering courses, including Intro to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Engineering Design and Development, Materials Processing, Manufacturing Systems, and Graphic Communications, can now use a 3D scanner and printer. Approximately 130 students will utilize the printer, which will allow them to coordinate and execute their CAD designs. “This grant will allow our students’ designs to be made into tangible artifacts that they can test and assess,” said Brad Godshall, one of the two teachers who submitted the grant request.

Ninth Grade Composition Classes Receive Interactive “Webinar” Grant

During the 2014-2015 school year, all ninth grade English Composition and Bridges students will receive a one-hour classroom-based interactive session with a member of the Freedom Writers Foundation. Teachers will use these motivational sessions to enhance their existing curriculum and challenge students to use writing as a tool to help find and express their inner strengths. The Freedom Writers is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower educators and students to positively impact their own lives and the world around them. More information can be found at freedomwritersfoundation.org.





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We are always looking for enthusiastic people who care about education to work with us. In particular we are looking for volunteers in the following areas where you can really make a difference. If you are interested in helping, please email Linda Mayer at ldmayg@gmail.com.



Join Us!

Organizational/Strategic Development
Need help with developing outreach materials, connecting people with our organization, and general planning.
Chair: Wendy Lega

Fundraising
Need help with grant writing, contacting donors, and the annual fund drive.
Chair: Kathy Trimble

Environmental Education Center
Need help with habitat enhancement, planning, and small building projects.
Chair: Cedric Dettmar

Visit www.svfoundation.net for more updates.

The Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation is pleased to announce that we are now a United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley designated agency. Anyone participating in a United Way campaign can donate all or a percentage of their United Way donation to the Foundation by entering the official name of the Foundation for Educational Innovation, on their United Way pledge form.

If you are planning to give through a corporate United Way pledge, please consider designating the Education Foundation that funds the classroom grants that have a direct impact on the education of our children. A listing of grants that have been awarded since the establishment of the Foundation can be found on the website at www.svfoundation.net.

