

2005-2006 NEWSLETTER

Mini-Grants Enable Classroom Innovations

Four teachers, \$2,000, and 200 students.

That's the story, by the numbers, of the first year of the Armstrong School District Foundation's "Classroom Innovations" mini-grants.

The Armstrong School District Foundation awarded four \$500 mini-grants to teachers to encourage innovative learning.

Seventeen teachers applied for the competitive grants. ASD Foundation Trustees rated the applications and chose one winner from each of the four attendance areas of the school district. The Foundation's trustees hope to increase the number of mini-grants in the near future.

Here's a summary of each teacher's project:

Elderton area:

Lucinda Morgan, Kittanning Township Elementary School, used her grant to create an American history magnet puzzle project that benefited 60 fifth- and sixth-grade students in her social studies classes. She transferred large photos of famous events in history, such as Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, onto sturdy magnetic paper, then carved the photo into puzzle pieces. In her game, students quiz each other on historical events and get one magnetic piece of the puzzle to place on a



Kittanning Township Elementary students play "A Piece of the Puzzle," which is a magnetic history game. Teacher Lucinda Morgan used a \$500 mini-grant from the ASD Foundation to create the game.



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Do-Re-MI: Donated, Refurbished Musical Instruments

Got a dusty trumpet in your attic? Cobwebs in your clarinet?

People are donating unused instruments to the ASD Foundation to help students discover a new musical talent.

This spring, the ASD Foundation asked the public to donate gently used brass and woodwind instruments to get them into the hands of students whose families may not have the funds to buy one.

Lisa Lambert, vice president of the ASD Foundation, got the idea for the program after seeing a saxophone sit unused in her house after her daughter had stopped playing it.

The program is called "**Do-Re-MI.**" That stands for **D**onated, **R**efurbished **M**usical **I**nstruments. It is made possible through a partnership with Murphy's Music Center of Leechburg.

The ASD Foundation is accepting flutes, trumpets, trombones, saxophones, clarinets, piccolos and tubas. Gently used instruments are to be dropped off by **June 15, 2006** at all elementary schools except West Hills.

Donors can receive an appraisal receipt from Murphy's Music Center for tax deduction purposes. Murphy's Music Center will refurbish the instruments.

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First Foundation Golf Outing a Success

“FORE!”

The ASD Foundation’s first golf outing and silent auction was Monday, **June 19, 2006** at the Kittanning Country Club, Belltop Drive near Kittanning. It was a huge success thanks to generous donors and participants.

The Foundation organized the golf outing to raise much-needed money for its programs to expand educational opportunities for students.

The golf outing was under

the leadership of Tom Toy, a trustee of the foundation, along with trustees W. Bruce Hall and Lisa Lambert, with additional Foundation trustees supporting the event.

The outing had a scramble format. The cost was \$100 per player, which included green fees, a cart, lunch and dinner.

The cost per foursome was \$375. There were also prizes and a silent auction. For \$25, non-golfers could come to the dinner and silent auction

at 6 p.m. Tee sponsorships were available for \$100. Two major sponsors of this outing included **The Farmers National Bank of Kittanning** and **TJ Smith Trucking, Inc.** of Shelocta. We thank these companies and all sponsors for their generous support.

The Foundation’s 2nd golf outing will be **Friday, June 22, 2007** at Kittanning Country Club.

Do-Re-Mi: Donated Instruments

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The ASD Foundation and Murphy’s Music Center will pay for any necessary repairs.

In September, the ASD Foundation invited all parents of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students in the Armstrong School District to apply for the loaner instruments. Preference was given to

fourth-grade students who are beginning instrumental music. Priority was given to students whose families may not have the funds to rent or buy an instrument but whose children have a sincere interest in learning an instrument.

Students can borrow the instrument until they quit the instrument or graduate from high school.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING INSTRUMENTS

Karl D. Swigart, Kittanning (trumpet)

Beverly Cogley, Kittanning (clarinet)

Richard G. Snyder, Cowansville (trombone)

Patty Forringer, Kittanning (in honor of her son Brad Forringer who played trumpet at St. Mary School and West Hills)

Lisa Lambert, Worthington (alto sax in honor of Lauren Lambert, a 2006 Kittanning graduate)

George Weaver, Cowansville (trumpet in honor of George Weaver who learned to play at Lenape Elementary)

Tami L. Headland, Kittanning (clarinet in honor of Chester F. Kepler)

Joe Balsone, Ford City (trumpet)

Marjorie Gerwig, Ford City (clarinet)



School & Community Service Award — LuAnn Fee

School and Community Service Achievement Award

The ASD Foundation continued its annual tradition of giving a staff member a School and Community Service Achievement Award for 2005. It recognizes outstanding school and community service.

This year’s award goes to LuAnn Fee, Armstrong School District’s Director

of Food and Nutrition Services. She worked many hours to coordinate the food preparation details of Armstrong School District’s Community Thanksgiving Luncheon in 2004 and 2005. She oversaw the details of this public luncheon, which drew 60 people in 2004, the first year, and 90 people in November,

2005. Both years, hundreds of meals were shipped out to nursing homes and other charitable organizations.

ASD Foundation President W. Bruce Hall presented LuAnn with the award at an Armstrong School District Board of Directors meeting in April. Congratulations, LuAnn.

Retired Teacher Breakfast a success on October 21, 2005

Nearly 40 people came to the ASD Foundation's first-ever Retired Teacher Breakfast on Oct. 21, 2005 at Lenape Heights Golf Course. Trustees combed through 20 years of records to invite retired teachers to a recognition breakfast. Four teachers who won Mini-Grants gave overviews of the projects that the Foundation

grants enabled. Mr. Tom Burkett, Armstrong Education Association President, gave a humorous and thoughtful address saluting the service of retired teachers. Vice President Lisa Lambert encouraged teachers to consider supporting the ASD Foundation. The Foundation is planning another retired teachers' breakfast Friday, **October 20, 2006**.



Armstrong School District retired teachers enjoy breakfast and a presentation on Oct. 21, 2005 at Lenape Heights Golf Course.

\$500 Bruce and Candace Hall Scholarship

Mr. John Rupert, a senior from Elderton Jr-Sr High School, is the winner of the first Bruce and Candace Hall Scholarship, which is managed by the ASD Foundation.

The \$500 scholarship will go toward Mr. Rupert's college tuition at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he will study elementary education.

Any Armstrong School

District senior graduating in 2006 and majoring in education at a four-year college or university could apply. Applicants also had to have a 3.0 grade point average or better and had to write an essay about how they plan to use their education degree.

In his essay, Mr Rupert wrote: "To me, being a teacher means trying one's best to give children

the best education possible. This is the primary reason why I wish to become a teacher: To build a foundation in every child's life by giving them a good education."

The Halls plan to continue this scholarship next year.



John Rupert

"To me, being a teacher means trying one's best to give children the best education possible."

**— John Rupert,
Elderton Jr-Sr
High School**

Educators Give Back — Payroll Giving Program a Success

Armstrong School District teachers and administrators rallied to support the ASD Foundation through a new initiative this past school year: Payroll Giving.

The ASD Foundation asked teachers, administrators and other district employees to con-

sider a voluntary payroll deduction to support the educational initiatives of the ASD Foundation. And

Foundation through the payroll giving campaign. Major thanks to all who contributed. Employees

but all those donations will go back into benefiting students through the ASD Foundation's programs such as teacher mini-grants; the Do-Re-MI instrument program; financial support of the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center and anti-drug Armstrong Reality Tour; and others.

Yes, I would like to become a Friend of the Foundation.

Signature _____

what a response! Employees donated a total of nearly \$5,000 to the ASD

may not realize just how helpful their \$1 or \$2 per paycheck donation was,

ASD Foundation Mini-Grants

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metal board. With each correct answer, history takes shape before their eyes.

“The idea for the project has been in the making for many years, but it all came together with the help of the grant money,” Ms. Morgan said. “The students love the puzzles and I feel it has been a wonderful learning tool for them. Many times, they have come in my class with an excited look and said, ‘Are we playing A Piece of the Puzzle today?’ They are very careful with the pieces and treat them with great respect. I thank the foundation for the opportunity to make a dream come true in my teaching and to enable me to make a product that has been so rewarding in teaching history to my students. We have all benefited.”

Ford City area:

Joan Moore, Lenape Elementary School, used her grant money to help nearly 60 extended-day kindergarten students see how math and literature concepts are used in everyday life. The



Joan Moore of Lenape Elementary School, left, shares one of the many math and reading activities she bought with a \$500 mini-grant. Backpacks filled with activities for students are also on the table.

grant bought books with math concepts for every letter of the alphabet. Math activities coordinated with the Letter People, a program that introduces students to 26 characters (one for each alphabet letter). There were also fun, hands-on activities to do at home.

Kittanning area:

Nancy Jack, East Franklin Elementary School, used her grant to buy 22 hand-held electronic games called the Educational Insights Math Whiz. The electronic games drilled students on their mental adding and subtracting abilities. The game provided instant feedback with happy and sad faces, repeated incorrectly answered problems for extra practice and could be programmed for individual ability. Students enjoyed taking them home to challenge other family members.

“I saw my students improve their math skills as they continued to improve their quickness by correctly completing the ten facts,” Ms. Jack said. “The students recorded their times and tried to ‘beat’ their previous times. My students also raced each other to see who could finish ten problems correctly in the quickest time.”

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An East Franklin Elementary School student challenges herself to master math facts with the Math Whiz game. Her teacher, Nancy Jack, used a \$500 grant from the ASD Foundation to buy 22 of the hand-held games, which encourage less “finger counting” among students.



“I thank the Foundation for the opportunity to make a dream come true in my teaching.”

**— Lucinda Morgan,
Kittanning Township Elementary**

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The ASD Foundation's mission is to enhance and enrich the learning experiences of our students by encouraging and supporting the development of educational programs.

Trustees of the foundation include:

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| W. BRUCE HALL , President | Community Representative |
| TOM TOY | Community Representative |
| MARY L. FERRARA , Secretary | Teacher |
| SAUNDRA SMITH | Teacher |
| DALE R. KIRSCH , Treasurer | Business Administrator |
| DR. SHARON PORTERFIELD | Community Representative |
| DAVID KRISTOFIC | Secondary Principal |
| DR. WILLIAM H. KERR | Superintendent |
| ROSE STITT | ASD Board Member |
| LISA LAMBERT , Vice President | Parents Advisory Committee |
| TOM DINGA | Elementary Principal |
| CLEM ROSENBERGER III | Community Representative |
| CHRIS A. SUPPO | Director of Development |
| JONATHAN SZISH | Executive Director |

ASD Foundation Mini-grants

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West Shamokin area:

Karen Simcik, West Shamokin Jr-Sr High School, used her \$500 grant to buy disposable cameras and related materials for 40 to 50 learning support students in grades 7-12. The students embarked on a disposable writing project.

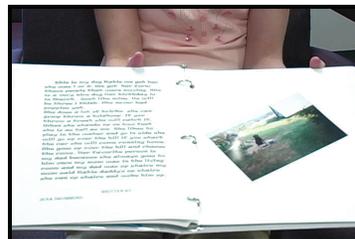
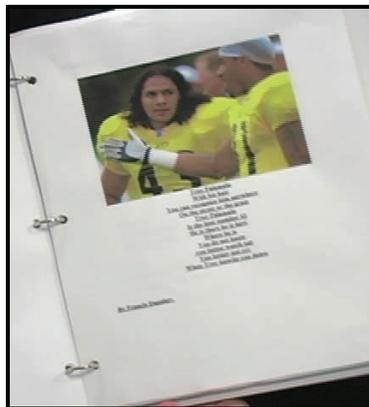
Throughout the year, students took photographs tied into writing assignments. These photos helped students find more of a personal reason to express themselves through writing. In turn, they practiced me-

chanics and mastered the four-step writing process. Students compiled work into a binder of photos and stories to take home.

when there was a personal connection to the subject. I hoped that by using personal photos to accompany writing I could increase their desire to write while working on basic skills."

"The length and complexity of their writing increased when using a photograph....For some it was a significant difference."

TV viewers saw students benefiting from these four projects on "Education Today," the district's TV show. The episode began airing this spring on Channel 20 Adelphia and Channel 21 Comcast.



West Shamokin students found a flair for writing when they used a disposable camera to photograph their subject.

"My learning support English students are typically hard to motivate when it comes to writing," Ms. Simcik said. "I had noticed that they would write more

when there was a personal connection to the subject. I hoped that by using personal photos to accompany writing I could increase their desire to write while working on basic skills."