

What's the Buzz?

November/December

Newsletter

549 Family Foundation
200 5th St. SE
Perham, MN 56573

Elementary Schools Awarded 4 Grants So Far This Year

Thanks to Principal Kim Grengs and her understanding of the opportunities available from the 549 Family Foundation, teachers at HOTL/DENT have pursued and landed funds through 549 Family to enhance programs and activities for their students.

#1: The 2nd grade teachers are able to bring about 80 2nd grade students to Minnesota State University of Moorhead's Center for the Arts to enjoy the play "Rumpelstiltskin" on Tuesday, Nov. 21st. The play will not only expose these kids to the arts and inspire them, but when they return to the classroom, the kids will be doing writing assignments about the play, studying it, interpreting it, illustrating it, doing comprehension activities and determine how changing particular events in the play could change the outcome. This play qualifies as part of the Academic Standards in the Arts.

#2: A similar grant was given to the Kindergarten and 1st graders of Perham and Dent. They are attending the play "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie and other stories" at the Holmes Theatre in Detroit Lakes. In their literature class, they have read and done projects relating to the stories, so the play will make the stories "come to life" for the students.

#3: The 3rd-4th multiage students will increase their exposure to technology through a new digital camera. It will be a learning tool for the kids through the use of digital/computer imaging technology and creating digital books or brochures. It will also be used to enhance communication with parents through electronic portfolios showing student progress and the use of more pictures in several areas.

#4: The 4th-6th grade Enrichment students will have the opportunity to take part in the "Marketplace For Kids" at Concordia College. They will need to think abstractly, hone their research skills, and use creative problem solving techniques to develop and construct their own invention to display at the event. The event will also include seminars throughout the day about business, economics, science and entrepreneurial enterprises. This event qualifies for state and national standards.

Congratulations to all the students of Dent/HOTL for being given these opportunities to enhance your education by the people who support the 549 Family Foundation.

Trouble at Middle City

At Prairie Wind Middle School, students with special needs in movement, a common need for students with autism, have had the use of a used treadmill to help the child's movement. Recently, after serving the kids well, the treadmill has quit working and its benefits are being greatly missed.

Do you have a treadmill that you'd be willing to donate for this cause? Some people may recall that thing in the corner being used as a coat rack. ☺ It would be put to wonderful use and could also gain you a nice tax deduction.

Please contact Janet Buchin at 346-1748 if you know of an available treadmill ASAP. These kids really need your help. Thank you!!

"I think my support of 549FF stems from the positive influence that Perham schools offered me. There are many terrific programs that would be lost or diminished if not for the support of efforts such as those offered by 549 Family."

Dean Bahls, 549 Family Advisory Board

Dean has accepted his nomination for a 2nd 3-year term serving on the advisory board of the 549 Family Foundation effective 1-1-07. The board greatly benefits from his careful and fair-minded input and appreciates his willingness to serve.

Next December, the board will lose at least one board member as David Arvig will complete his 2nd 3 year term which is the foundation's maximum consecutive term limit. 2 others will complete their first 3 year term. If you feel you'd like to take part in the decisions made by 549 Family, be sure to let any current board member know! See www.549family.com for contact info.

Prairie Wind Middle School Students Benefits from 3 Grants to Date

549 Family is pleased to be able to help fund the "Star Reporter" curriculum, designed for students with moderate to severe disabilities. These students are often excluded from activities due to the misperception that they are unable to participate in routine school extracurricular activities. The Star Reporter concept is structured around the concept of creating a school or classroom newspaper while improving skills in communication, socialization, functional reading, writing, and mathematics.

The 8th grade Science students will have 2 more GPS units to do their work in Perham Area Water Quality Research. The class had to make some adjustments to their equipment needs to conform to the trimester system new this year for PW 7th & 8th graders. This should complete their equipment needs for this program for several years. The State Department of Agriculture needs to have GPS locations of the wells that are tested, so the more locates the 8th graders are able to gather, the better the data for the research. We'd like to thank Rondi Ulmer for her efforts to make this experience available for her students!

549 Family again supports the annual 8th grade Laurentian trip in northern Minnesota. Laurentian provides students with the opportunity to learn not only winter survival skills, but leadership and teamwork. It helps develop tolerance, confidence and respect for their peers and themselves. This will be Perham's 6th eighth grade class to attend Laurentian.

Congratulations to PWMS students! 549 Family is proud to support these activities!

Variety of PHS Programs Receive 549 Family Funding Assistance

Here are just 2 of them: Congratulations to the Spanish and German students attending the Festival of Nations in St. Paul, MN. The event including over ninety-seven different ethnic groups will raise awareness and appreciation for other cultures. There will be demonstrations, folk dance programs, ethnic cafes and an international bazaar. Several classroom projects are planned to follow-up their experience.

Congratulations to the PHS Orchestra for receiving some funds to help with their planned trip to Chicago in March. This trip will include a concert by the Chicago Symphony, one of the best orchestras in the world, giving them an opportunity to experience music on a world class scale. They will also have an exchange concert with a Wisconsin school and make stops at Field's Museum and Shedd's Aquarium. The students will experience a master-class group lesson by one of the top musical universities in the U.S.

Membership renewals are steadily coming in for the 2006-2007 school year. If you were a community (or annual) member last year, you should have received a request to renew this fall. Please send in your donation at your earliest convenience. If you would like to become a member this year, contact us at 218-347-0549 or check out our website www.549family.com for suggestions of several giving options including a payroll deduction option as low as \$2.50 per month.

Remember, if everyone gave a little, what a difference we could make for the futures of the kids of Perham-Dent! Please join us today!! IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES!!

549 Family happily donated to the Blue Ribbon Celebration with funds from "Box Tops" + "Cartridges for Kids".

*Congratulations,
Heart of the
Lakes*

www.549family.com

218-347-0549

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