



EXCELLENCE *matters*

A COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

LEFonline.org

OUR MISSION

It shall be the mission of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation to acquire and distribute resources in support of the Lakeshore Public Schools for programs and projects aimed at enhancing, enriching or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff, and community.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is to acquire and distribute resources for programs and projects that enrich, supplement or augment unique learning opportunities for students, staff and the Lakeshore Public School community.

OUR TRUSTEES

Keith Avery
 Scott Berry
 Tom Buckleitner
 Kevin Bushu
 Chad Deja
 Sue Dock
 Lori Doggett
 Kim McAllister
 Tom Mikel
 Kim Risk
 Jim Tomczyk
 Cindy Vujea
 John Welch
 Sandy Welch



5771 Cleveland Avenue
 Stevensville, MI 49127
PH 269-428-1400
FAX 269-428-1574
www.LEFonline.org



LEF ANNOUNCES TECHNOLOGY CAMPAIGN

Technology is everywhere, but the place it is needed most is the place where we don't have enough—our schools. It is not for lack of trying. Unfortunately, there is no room in school budgets to purchase new technology, let alone to update what we have.

Through the efforts of a past LEF campaign and the generosity of donors, we have made some strides in bringing technology into the schools, but we aren't there yet. The district has evaluated their current technology equipment and LEF surveyed the staff about what they would like to have in their classrooms. Overwhelmingly, the results showed that the staff felt it would be a huge help in

teaching their students just by having a few basic technology items in their classrooms.

They came up with a Basic 4 list: **a document camera, a projector, a connected computer for the teacher, and a widescreen projector screen.** Of course, there is additional technology they would like to have, but these Basic 4 items are the ones they feel are essential for enhancing the learning experience of their students.

Some classrooms are already equipped with these items, but the teachers who don't have the technology want it. This is where LEF comes in.

LEF has decided to launch a *Reach Higher Technology Campaign* to raise funds to equip

EVERY classroom in the Lakeshore School District with the Basic 4. The cost to purchase and install these items is \$2000 per classroom.

LEF's goal is to raise these funds by the end of the school year, so the items can be purchased and installed for teachers to use next fall. Technology is vital to the education of our students these days. We need to give them the tools to best prepare them for their futures. We need your help to reach this goal.

Please go to our new website LEFonline.org to learn more. You can make a donation there, or fill out the donation form on the back of this newsletter. *Thank you for your support!*

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION invites you to visit our new website www.LEFonline.org to learn more.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Friends of Lakeshore Public Schools,

As Lakeshore Excellence Foundation closes out 2011 and makes plans for 2012, a look back at the achievements of the past year and a look forward to the plans for the new year are in order.

In 2011, LEF helped fund diverse Lakeshore student activities such as the Math and Science Center, the robotics team, and the dance program. Funding was also provided to help start a girls' golf team. LEF continues, of course, to be laser-focused on the technology needs of Lakeshore Public Schools, and in 2011 funding for many classroom needs and for network support was regularly made.

In 2012, LEF will continue to support these and many other activities. Technology will be a particularly sharp focus, but support will continue for all the activities that enhance the educational experience of our students.

Thanks to the members of the LEF Board, the staff of Lakeshore Public Schools, and the entire Lakeshore community for a successful 2011. Without your support, LEF would not be able to accomplish its mission.

Sincerely,
Jim Tomczyk, Chairman

STUDENTS TAKING ACTION

The Assets Advisory Committee (AAC), an active group of high school students sponsored by LEF, is ready to help others wherever they can.

In December, AAC students had an opportunity to make the holidays happier for eight local families who are going through tough times. The group's generosity was overwhelming and their work was greatly appreciated. The students were greeted with hugs and smiles as they dropped off boxes to the schools for the staff to deliver to the families.

In April they will hold a Wheelchair Basketball Game Night at Lakeshore High School at 6:30 p.m. Two competitive wheelchair basketball teams will face off, and then one of those

teams will play a Lakeshore High School student and staff team. This fund-raising event is open to the public.

In April and May, they will focus on the environment. Mid-April, they will kick off their 5th annual NIKE Reuse-A-Shoe Recycling Drive. They will be collecting worn-out athletic shoes at all Lakeshore schools. Please start saving your old shoes and watch for further announcements.

In May, the group will be cleaning up Lincoln Township Beach and Nature Trail for the 7th year in a row. They will enlist the help of their fellow high school students to make the beach and park a clean environment for families to enjoy. These students are working hard to make a difference in our schools and community.



PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation recently announced the recipients of our Foundation Project Grants. Grants are generally for \$2500 or more and are awarded twice a year to Lakeshore staff. Monies from our fund-raisers and generous donations fund this grant program as well as our Innovation Grants and Stepping Stones Grants for students.

There were five grants awarded for a grand total of \$24,000.

THE FIVE RECIPIENTS ARE...

Jeff Yauchstetter, high school Algebra teacher, for a document camera, projector, and screen for his classroom.

Theresa Graziano, Berrien County Dance program teacher, for financial support of a week-long dance residency with the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago company in March. The company will work with her students and teach master classes to dancers from the community, with a performance on March 24.

Jon Woodard, Math & Science Center teacher, for the VEX Robotics Competition

Team, which is comprised of students from his Advanced Honors Computer Science class. The teams will compete in two events, one in Grand Rapids and one at Michigan State.

Lynda Smith, Math & Science Center teacher, for the MSC Speaker Series. Various speakers will give presentations on various science topics to most high school science students. Students will also travel to see speakers at Andrews and Notre Dame Universities.

Barb Lange and Sara Kiel, 6th grade teachers, for technology equipment in all the 6th grade classrooms. This includes document cameras, projectors, a laptop, speakers, and a cart equipped with basic technology tools for each classroom.

STEPPING STONES is a student grant that provides financial assistance to Lakeshore students to pursue their interests, whether it is band, academics, language skills, athletics, and much more. Go to LEFonline.org to learn more and fill out an application. Deadline is April 1, 2012.

AN EXCELLENT DAY OF GOLF

Our 9th Annual LEF Golf Outing was held on a very warm summer day this past August. Berrien Hills Golf Club was the site for the event for the 4th year in a row.

In the morning, after a light breakfast, 14 teams of golfers headed out onto the course. A competitive spirit was in the air between a few of our returning golf teams.

After the round of golf everyone went back to the clubhouse patio to enjoy their box lunches from HoneyBaked Ham & Café. Prizes and raffle items were awarded during the meal. It was a great event with lots of happy golfers!

Special thanks go to our most generous sponsors:

Entergy Palisades, Boelcke Heating, Gary & Karen Campbell, Express-1, United Federal Credit Union, and Honor Credit Union for their support of the outing.

Also, thanks to all our hole sponsors, donors, and raffle item donors as listed below.

The golf outing is the major fund-raising event for the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, and it would not be possible without the tremendous support of ALL our golfers and sponsors. Their support enables us to continue to Reach Higher!

Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's event on Monday, August 13, 2012 at Berrien Hills Golf Club.

THANK YOU 2011 SPONSORS FOR A PRIZE WINNING SUCCESS!

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Sandy Welch

Sandy is great with numbers. She has volunteered her talent by being Treasurer for her church, for Capstone Center and Birthright. She currently is an Account Manager at Tabor Hill. Sandy graduated from the University of Michigan. She and her husband have three sons, all Lakeshore graduates. Sandy has always been involved in the Lakeshore community and we are very excited to have her on the LEF Board.



Dave Brockway

Dave is a real go-getter so it came as no surprise to learn he graduated from Harvard. It was Clark Equipment Company that brought Dave and his family to Southwest Michigan. Dave and his wife have three children, five grandchildren, two of which graduated from Lakeshore, and three great grandchildren. Dave is heading the LEF Reach Higher Technology Campaign. Talk to him about it...his enthusiasm is contagious!



Sue Dock

Sue is a native of Michigan. Sue graduated from Western Michigan University. Many of us know her from her wonderful work as a counselor at Lakeshore Middle School. She has since retired and is a volunteer at Lakeland Medical Center. Sue and her husband have two children and four grandchildren. Sue is a passionate fan of all things Lakeshore – Go Lancers!



Tom Buckleitner

Tom graduated from a local high school to the north. He then attended and graduated from Purdue and Indiana University. He currently works for Whirlpool. Tom and his wife have three children, two are Lakeshore graduates and his youngest is currently attending the Middle School. Tom enjoys the outdoors and playing sports with his family.



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Students in the physics classroom log in to an online lab to participate in an assignment.

LEF Reach Higher Technology Campaign Donation

I want to join LEF's campaign to bring technology to Lakeshore!

All Reach Higher Technology donors will be listed on the LEF website and in the Excellence Matters newsletter according to giving levels. Donors who contribute over \$100 will be invited to attend a Technology Open House hosted by LEF.

My donation: \$_____ **Please make checks payable to Lakeshore Excellence Foundation**

- Up to \$100** **\$100-\$499** **\$500-\$999**
- \$1,000+** includes recognition on the Lakeshore Schools electronic sign
- \$5,000+** includes an individual appreciation plaque for public display
- \$10,000+** includes listing on a group donor plaque in each school building

You may also make a secure gift online at www.LEFonline.org

Contact Information: Please print name(s) as you would like published.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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My gift is in honor / memory of _____

Address _____

Thank you for your investment in Lakeshore Public Schools!

Please mail to: Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, 5771 Cleveland Avenue, Stevensville, MI 49127

LEF is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donations to LEF are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.