

WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING

"In our classroom, we use the math manipulatives . . . daily," Tammy Bolles wrote. "I now have manipulatives to make the lessons 'hands-on'! ... My students are surprised by how much fun they can have while learning math! They are more focused on the lesson, and they enjoy the materials during Center Time too."

Another educator, high school computer application teacher Chance Scott, asked the foundation for \$381 to purchase 48 Speed Skin covers for his computer lab. He uses them in his classes daily to hide the keys from students to encourage them to type without looking at their hands.

Parents have told him that they think the skins are a good idea, as so many students learn to "hunt and peck" when they are younger.

Cindy Shaw, the middle school librarian, applied for a grant in the amount of \$1,925 to fulfill her project, A Wireless Slate for a Wireless World. With Shaw's awarded amount, she purchased an Airliner, a slate that interacts wirelessly with a SMART Board, to aid in Power Point presentations.

She also was able to purchase a cart, speakers and a projector.

"This portable system allows all the middle school teachers to use the Airliner to enhance classroom instruction visually and in a hands-on manner," Shaw said. "Students love the technology and the fact that they do not have to go to the board to answer the questions."

Quote Courtesy of The Newcastle Pacer Staff Reporter Darla Welchel



CONTACT US

For more information about how you can become a part of this rewarding experience, please contact us:

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Post Office Box 105
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405-699-3260

Visit our website:

www.NEF4kids.org

MEETING DATES AND TIMES

You are always welcome to attend our meetings. NEF meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Newcastle Multi-Purpose Library Building at 705 NW 10th Street in Newcastle.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Newcastle Education Foundation exists to foster excellence in education through innovation in the classroom and the empowerment of motivated teachers and administrators by providing financial assistance for grants and awards for special projects and scholarships for the benefit of the students, educators and staff of Newcastle Public Schools.



Prize Patrol Recipients

WHAT IS THE NEWCASTLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

The Newcastle Education Foundation (NEF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization filed according to the statutes of the State of Oklahoma, was modeled after the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence (OFE), founded in 1985 by David L. Boren while serving Oklahoma as a U.S. Senator. The purpose of NEF is to raise funds to finance the acquisition of educational tools for the classroom which are outside the budgetary constraints of the Newcastle Public Schools (NPS) Board of Education.

Led by a Board of Directors formed of highly motivated community members who are dedicated to the improvement of our children's education, NEF is separate and independent of the NPS Board of Education, but works in cooperation with the Board of Education.

The NEF Board members serve without pay and are elected from nominations by the Board's Nominating Committee. The Board also includes several ex-officio (non-voting) members including the Superintendent of Newcastle Public Schools, teachers (one from each school) and students.

The Newcastle Education Foundation is dedicated to distributing a majority of the funds raised each year to the Newcastle Public Schools classrooms. A minimum of 15% of the funds raised by the Foundation is retained to establish and augment an endowment fund. Each year, funding decisions are made by the Board of Directors with the primary vehicle for fund distribution through the NEF **Grants for Teachers** program.

“*Few causes are more worthy and more life-altering than Public Education.*”

- Dr. Stan Levenson

GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

The **Grants for Teachers** program allows for funding of innovative and challenging classroom projects, learning tools and programs, or other beneficial school projects. Teachers may submit grant applications each year for funding consideration up to \$2,000 per grant. Once the completed grant applications are approved by the NPS Board of Education and Administration, they are evaluated and prioritized by the NEF Allocations Committee based upon rigid criteria for compliance with the NEF mission statement. All funding requests will be considered only after determining that they represent programs that are outside the approved budget of the NPS Board of Education.

All funds distributed by the Foundation must be supported by an invoice or other form of documentation to ensure that the funds have been utilized according to the parameters of the funded grant. Audits of all grants are performed by the NEF Allocations Committee to provide feedback on the progress and benefits of the funded project, and to document the successful outcome.



Grants must be submitted by October 1st each year and will be awarded by the end of each calendar year. Our popular NEF "Prize Patrol" is always a welcome sight to our deserving grant recipients and their excited students. This contagious excitement sparks new innovative ideas for the classroom each year.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

While our fundraising mission is continuous, our most successful fundraising efforts have been a result of our popular **Annual Fundraising Banquet**, which is held in the late summer. With motivating speakers, such as David Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma, enjoyable entertainment and fine dining, this event is truly one to remember. The generous contributions of our supporters, along with the funds raised through silent and live auctions as well as other fundraisers, help propel us to reach our ever increasing annual goals. Watch for our public announcements and plan to attend this very worthy and prestigious event.



Photo Courtesy The Newcastle Pacer/Darla Welchel

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We believe in the education excellence of Newcastle Public Schools! But we strive to see our students excel with even better learning tools through the vision of our motivated educators. Since we are funded through private and corporate donations and fundraising events, we can always use volunteers for our cause, in addition to financial assistance. Please help us with your generous donation of time, talent or monetary contributions. The reward is in the successful outcome of our efforts through our flourishing students!

