

## **Summaries of EVCF 2006 Grant Awards**

Total \$20,000 awarded

### EVHS Best Buddies

Best Buddies provides an opportunity for EVHS special education students to create friendships with EVHS mainstream students and take part in some of the same experiences together as friends. This EVCF grant will help maintain and grow the Best Buddies program by offsetting costs associated with running Best Buddies. It will also help provide mainstream students funding for expenses that arise while helping special education students engage in different experiences.

### EVHS Team Investment

This grant will provide seed money to start a student-driven investment club. The purpose of this club is to educate students on the principles of financial investment and money management. In addition, it will provide an environment for students to develop positive relationships and enhance confidence and self-esteem. Participants will research and present to fellow club members information about industry trends, corporate news, and potential investments. Students will also learn to put together a financial portfolio and make investment transactions.

### Diamond Path Elementary Academic & Arts Enrichment for All

This grant will help support Diamond Path's effort to add academic and arts enrichment opportunities for all its students. The EVCF grant will support programs which include but are not limited to: Historical Perspectives, a program which build's strong character role models from the past and is tied into specific areas of the curriculum; Mixed Blood Theater, a program committed to promoting cultural pluralism and individual equality which will present their newest exuberant bilingual (English & American Sign Language) show on deaf culture and awareness; G.E.M.S. (Generate, Enrich, Motivate, Succeed), an innovative after-school program which offers after school classes and transportation home to any Diamond Path student. G.E.M.S. classes include reading, math, P.E., homework help, foreign language, and special interest classes.

### Early Childhood Family Services (ECFS) Kindergarten Transition Project

EVCF funding will enable ECFS to initiate a project designed to provide students with a successful transition from School Readiness classes to kindergarten. This will be accomplished by providing opportunities for School Readiness and kindergarten teachers/specialists to 1) conduct spring and summer transition meetings to collaborate on individual student needs and 2) hold summer dialogues focusing on curriculum alignment between the School Readiness and kindergarten programs.

### Thomas Lake Elementary Sculpture Garden

Thomas Lake is an elementary school with center based autism students that feed into Eastview High School. The June 2004 Facilities Referendum renovation of the media center will create student reading spaces that surround an enclosed courtyard area. This courtyard area will house a sculpture garden designed to honor students with disabilities as celebrated members of the school community. This EVCF grant will fund the design and creation of a sculpture (sculpture and artist's fee) that celebrates the unique qualities of all individuals. DeAnne Parks, St. Paul artist and creator of several Charles Schulz Peanuts character sculptures, is the artist commissioned for this project.

### Scott Highland Middle School Read All About It

This project requests start up funding to create mini-literacy centers within classrooms. These centers will encourage students to view reading as a daily experience that is imbedded in everything done in the classroom. Increased accessibility of high interest books and student friendly reading areas will help foster a love and appreciation for reading as an integral part of everything students do, rather than an isolated experience reserved for certain places. It will also help address the diverse reading abilities and interests of the ever-changing student population at SHMS.

Oak Ridge Elementary S.K.Y. (Eastview Students Sharing Knowledge with Youth of the Future)

This program will hire EVHS students as tutors to assist summer school teachers by working with most at-risk future EVHS students. Tutors will be instructed on reading, writing, and math teaching strategies and will be taught how to address the needs of English Language Learners. The addition of Eastview S.K.Y. tutors will provide much needed help in meeting the diverse needs of these at risk students. They will also provide positive role models for the younger students and an opportunity for the high school students themselves to grow and learn.

Oak Ridge Elementary Summer Reading

EVCF funding will help establish this summer reading program which is designed to support and enhance reading progress among Oak Ridge Elementary (O.R.E.) students, kindergarten through fourth grade. It will also help prevent significant reading loss that occurs in children who do not read over the summer. Current reading levels of individual students will be obtained and appropriate level books selected. Three times a week, over the course of nine weeks, these books will be transported to various locations for checkout. Locations include daycare facilities, apartment community rooms, town homes, parks in the Oak Ridge attendance area, and the O.R.E. summer academy.

EVHS Renewing Reading in the Media Center

The EVHS Media Center is seeking to update and re-invigorate the interior of the Media Center. Goals include the creation of defined reading areas, aesthetic improvements, the addition of easily accessible computer 'Lookup' stations, versatile display units, and window tinting. This EVCF grant will help fund tinting the Media Center's extensive windows to reduce sun damage and glare. The improved light control will nearly halt the deterioration of books and prevent fading of furnishings. Blinding glare on computer screens will disappear and lighting for reading will improve significantly.