

## Cleveland Pops presents encore for Education Foundation

Through the support of Medical Mutual, The Cleveland Pops Orchestra under the direction of Carl Topilow will again present a Holiday Concert to benefit The Education Foundation.

This year's event will have some extras. Berea-Midpark High School's Center Stage showchoir and the Symphonic Singers, will join the orchestra for some special numbers. New this year also is a student ticket priced at \$25. Adult tickets remain \$50 for general admission. Patron tickets are \$75 and include a listing in the program.

The concert will be 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 29 in the Kulas Musical Arts Building, 96 Front St., Berea, on the campus of Baldwin Wallace University.

"This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy the Cleveland Pops without traveling to downtown Cleveland," said Carol Templeman, chair of the Foundation's marketing committee. "Plus, the concert was such a success last year, we wanted to ensure The Education Foundation could offer it again and with some added attractions."

Tickets are available at [www.educationfoundationbera.org](http://www.educationfoundationbera.org) or at the Berea City School District Administration Building, 390 Fair St., Berea, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Sponsorships at various levels are also available. Contact Kim Dettmer, Executive Director of The Education Foundation, (216) 898-8270 or [kdettmer@bera.k12.oh.us](mailto:kdettmer@bera.k12.oh.us).



*Last year's Cleveland Pops Holiday Concert, benefiting the Education Foundation, was "the perfect way to kick off the holiday season!" Don't miss this year's concert!*

## Donor Enrichment Grants awarded to Brookview and Grindstone Elementary Programs

### **Imagine! Explore the Arts Enrichment Grant**

was established in memory of Joanna Pusti.

The goal is to provide opportunities for students to nurture their imagination and explore the arts. The Imagine! Grant recipient is:

**Play/Drama** Amount: \$940

*Brookview Elementary School*

*Staff: Melissa Cubbison, Tracy Krueger & Carrie Rump*

Students will study the major differences among poems, drama and prose and make a connection between the text of a story and its visual and oral presentation. Approximately 40 to 60 students will work on the play with more than 350 attending the performance. The project will be ongoing with a Drama Club working on future performances. The grant pays for scripts.



### **Neal & Lynnette Knautz Hesche Writing/Reading and Physical Education Enrichment Grant**

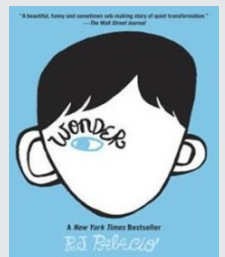
was established to provide opportunities for enrichment activities to promote improved student learning. The Hesche Grant recipient is:

**Wonder** Amount: \$1,000

*Grindstone Elementary School*

*Staff: Cynthia Millen*

Fourth-graders will read the book, "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio. The book recounts the story of a 10-year-old boy with several genetic abnormalities and how he and classmates adjust. The book causes students to think about the way they interact with each other. It has the potential to help develop empathy, compassion and character as well as to prepare students to enter fifth grade in another building. The grant pays for the books.



## Foundation awards Enrichment Grants

The Education Foundation is funding Foundation and Donor Enrichment Grants in 2014-15 academic year worth \$31,590. The projects range from raising chicks to an internship program for high school seniors. Support for Foundation Enrichment Grants comes from proceeds of The Education Foundation's annual Auction and Cleveland Pops Orchestra Holiday Concert. The grants are:

### AVID Growth & Longevity Project

*Berea-Midpark High School*

*Amount: \$1,000*

*Staff: Ryan C. Peoples*

The grant will help sustain and grow the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) curriculum. AVID involves 75 students in grades 10-12 who receive twice weekly tutorials with community members and college students. There also are field trips to colleges and museums, guest speakers and classroom discussions. The goal is to improve communication skills and self-confidence so that the students can contribute to the community and "pay it forward" once they graduate. The grant will pay for field trips, easels and dry-erase markers and erasers.

### A Year Incorporating the Performing Arts in Reading & Writing

*Ford Intermediate School*

*Amount: \$6,000*

*Staff: Katie Bodnar & Jenifer Csiszar*

All fifth-grade students will take part in working with three guest artists – a film and theater entrepreneur, a film director and a writer. The students will attend Film Slam 2015, sponsored by the Cleveland Independent Film Festival, as the culminating activity. The students will explore career opportunities, collaborate in writing and editing stories in several genres and improve communication skills. The grant will pay for the guest artists and busing to the film festival.

### Youth Opportunities Unlimited Internship Program

*Berea-Midpark High School*

*Amount: \$3,000*

*Staff: Susan Kelley*

Youth Opportunities Unlimited is a chance for 25 seniors to intern with local businesses and educational institutions for 120 hours. The students will explore career opportunities and gain on-the-job training. The grant helps pay stipends to the students following successful completion of the internships.

### Hatching Chicks

*Grindstone Elementary School*

*Amount \$400*

*Staff: Amy Murray & Tami Arthur*

Kindergarten students will observe chicken eggs in an incubator and study them through an ovascope, which allows them to see inside the eggs. The children will watch as the chicks develop. After the chicks hatch, the students will learn to care for them. As the chicks grow and need more room they will be donated to a local farm. The students will journal and create their own books on animals that lay eggs. This will prepare them for the classes' annual visit to Lake Farm Park. The grant will pay for fertile chicken eggs, a chick brooder and other food and equipment.



*Grindstone students Abigail Roy and Anna Cavanaugh enjoying the baby chicks.*

### Community Connection for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students

*District-wide*

*Amount: \$3,000*

*Staff: Colleen Ticherich & Alice Kenny*

This program will use the Shared Reading Project developed by Gallaudet University to teach American Sign Language to non-hearing students and adults, who will then learn to "read" to non-hearing students via ASL. Deaf adults from the community will visit students in the classroom and provide career shadowing opportunities and role models. This will improve communication among hearing and hard of hearing communities. The program will involve around 100 students. The grant will pay for materials and instruction manuals.

### Junior Model U.N.

*Middleburg Heights Junior High School*

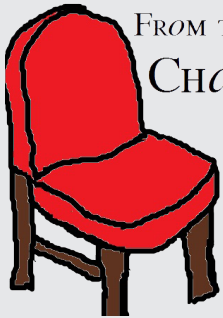
*Amount: \$1,250*

*Staff: Stacey Jennings*

Students will work in pairs to represent a country of their choice. They will write a draft resolution from the perspective of that country and work to convince other delegates to support it. This teaches leadership as well as listening skills and improves the students' knowledge of the world at large. In January, students will attend the Junior Model U.N. Conference at John Carroll University sponsored by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. The MHJH delegation will work with delegates from other junior highs to debate issues and create solutions. The grant pays for registration fees for 50 students.

## a Message

FROM THE  
Chair

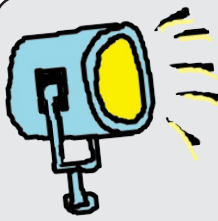


As you review this issue of The Education Foundation newsletter, I hope that it is evident that the focus of The Education Foundation is providing opportunities for students and teachers in the Berea School District. A highlight for the Board of Trustees each year is the awarding of enrichment grants. It is in the awarding of the grants that The Education Foundation is truest to its mission of "investing in our students."

Whether the enrichment grants are made possible through the donation of individual donors or through the fundraising efforts of The Education Foundation, each grant helps to provide enhanced opportunities for our students.

Each of you has helped to make the reality of enrichment grants possible. Your direct contributions to The Education Foundation and your support of the two major Foundation fundraisers, the Cleveland Pops Holiday Concert and the annual Auction, make enrichment grants possible. On behalf of all of the members of the Board of Trustees, I want to say "thank you" for making The Education Foundation one of your priorities.

Sincerely,  
Jim Connell  
Chair of the Education Foundation



# SPOTLIGHT ON... Big Creek learning – before and after school

Before and after school care at Big Creek Elementary School is not just about playtime. Jean Spittal, ExtendEd program associate, makes sure her 96 kindergarten through

fourth graders continue the learning process, just not out of textbooks.

Spittal, who has been with the Berea School District for 28 years, has received a number of Education Foundation grants to help her students deal with everything from bullying to personal hygiene.

The ExtendEd Care Program is tuition based, Spittal said. "We have limited funds to work with, so with The Education Foundation grants we can do things on a larger scale we would not be able to do otherwise."

This year, Spittal received a \$1,000 Enrichment Grant for "I like Who I Am and It Shows," – a self-esteem building program that also will emphasize good manners and personal hygiene. As part of the project, the children will make their own soap, shampoo and deodorant. Spittal said they will use non-toxic ingredients and take the products home to their families complete with personal labels.

Building self-esteem is an important component of her entire program. Children "sign" a five-finger contract, loosely based on a 4-H concept. Each day before heading for the playground, one child will administer the "oath" as kids hold up their hands, one finger at a time. Pinky finger – Look out for the little guy; 2nd finger – Always do your best; 3rd finger – Respect each other, no improper language; 4th finger – Point out the positives in others; thumb – Have fun! The point is, said Spittal, if they do the first four, then they will have fun.



Big Creek ExtendEd Care students Mallory Herwerden, Madisyn Thach, Olivia Thach and Caitlin Gamble.

In 2013, another Enrichment Grant was "Celebrating Our Differences," which stressed different countries and ethnic backgrounds as well as disabilities. She also received a Payroll Deduction Grant, "Be Healthy, Be Happy," which emphasized the importance of physical activity and nutrition. Past Grants funded books for Reading and Science Clubs and an anti-bullying program.

Spittal says the grants are not one-time projects. "I can continue them," she said. "We re-use the books, games and other materials from year to year."

"The children build on what they learn each year. We can reinforce the lessons." With 50 to 60 kids in the morning session and

another 45 to 50 in the afternoon, some with disabilities, Spittal said it is a challenge to find programming that will be appealing and appropriate for everyone. "We have a family atmosphere here," she said. "The older students help with the younger ones. They buddy up." Spittal, who has degrees in early childhood education from Cleveland State University and University of Phoenix, also has adult help. Cheryl Kreuzer, Kim Reeder and Sharon Zimmer are program assistants.

Building character is a major topic for Spittal. Future grant requests will be based on that, she said. "That encompasses everything we've been doing so far. We want children to stand up for themselves." The grants help everyone, Spittal says – "the kids, the parents, the program. The parents are happy that the kids are involved."

The lessons learned in ExtendEd care do carry over as students go on to higher grades. In fact, Spittal said some of her former students who have graduated come back to visit her. "They thank me for what they learned in kindergarten."

## I Like Who I Am and It Shows!

Big Creek ExtendEd Care

Amount \$1,000

Staff: Jean Spittal

This self-esteem building project involves 96 children in kindergarten through 4th grade in the before and after school program. The project has three goals: establish a feeling of self-worth, teach good manners and make children aware of personal hygiene. This will be done through games, puppets and books. The students also will make their own soap, shampoo and toothpaste. Older students will work alongside younger students to promote communication and teamwork. The grant is paying for reference books, story books, puppets and a puppet stage and personal care kits.

## Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio

Middleburg Heights Junior High School

Amount: \$7,100

Staff: Johnny Bolin, Paul Kish & Tina Medina

Ballroom dancing classes will help students break down social and cultural barriers while teaching teamwork, self-confidence, tolerance and respect. The classes will be taught by a Dancing Classrooms artist in residence for 10 weeks. Students will incorporate the dance lessons with academics by keeping journals, designing invitations, studying costumes and measuring heart rates and steps. The culminating event will be a performance for families and classmates. The grant pays for instructors and staff.

## Ukulele Program

Grindstone Elementary School

Amount: \$1,400

Staff: Lea Pulizzi-Smith

This program expands the ukulele project for third- and fourth-grades. Students are learning notation methods and expanding their knowledge of music but need to share instruments. The grant will allow the purchase of additional ukuleles. Students also can attend a Ukulele Club to hone their skills and offer performances. There also is a modified ukulele class for special needs students.

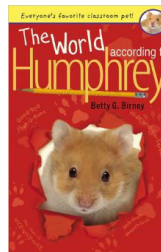
## One School One Book

Brookview Elementary School

Amount: \$5,500

Staff: Renee Nedoma

Every student and staff member in the school will be given a book, "Friendship According to Humphrey" by Betty G. Birney. Students and their families will read the book. This provides opportunities for families to read and discuss the trials and tribulations of friendship. The grant pays for the books.



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## CALENDAR

Nov. 26-28.....THANKSGIVING BREAK  
Nov. 29.....**THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
CLEVELAND POPS ORCHESTRA CONCERT**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 2.....WINTER BREAK  
Jan. 5.....CLASSES RESUME  
Jan. 16.....NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day  
Jan. 18.....NO SCHOOL - MLK Day  
Feb. 12.....NO SCHOOL - President's Day  
Mar. 6.....NO SCHOOL  
Mar. 12.....**EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL AUCTION**

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[www.EducationFoundationBerea.org](http://www.EducationFoundationBerea.org)

### THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The Education Foundation Newsletter is published two times a year by The Education Foundation for the Berea City School District. The Newsletter is also available online at [www.EducationFoundationBerea.org](http://www.EducationFoundationBerea.org).

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