

Education Foundation awards teacher grants

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Dallas Education Foundation awarded grants to 17 Dallas School District teachers, totaling \$6,503.19.

The foundation received 30 applications asking for more than \$13,000, said Lisa Borja, the foundation president.

Of the total given, \$3,000 was donated by the Dallas Community Foundation.

Here are the 2016 grant recipients:

Heather Shinn, autism team, for sensory and social classroom support; Anna Tally, Dallas High School, for geometry compasses; Jack Davis, DHS, for classroom library; Samantha Hauck, DHS, for classroom library; Malinda Shook, LaCreole Middle School, for art supplies; Jacob Gradek, LaCreole, for materials for project-based learning; Merryellen Price, LaCreole, books for sixth-grade; Jennie White, Lyle Elementary School, ADHA adaptable seating; Liz Blake, Lyle; two Chromebooks; Melissa Glazner, Morrison Campus Alternative School, for science lab materials; Amy Ebner, Oakdale Elementary School; supplementary reading materials; Kristine Nightengale, Oakdale, for fidget tools; Brian Rebeschke, Oakdale, bass bar and mallet; Theresa Lehman and Jena Vessell, Oakdale and Whitworth elementary schools, for six microscopes; Yvette Allen and Diana Christensen, Whitworth, for flexible seating; Chris Lund, Whitworth, for Ozobots; and Brian Williamson, Whitworth, for Ozobots.

For more information: dallaseducationfoundation@gmail.com, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DallasEducationFoundation/>.

Donations can be made at dallaseducationfoundation.com or mailed to Dallas Education Foundation, PO Box 392, Dallas, OR 97338.

SCHOOL NOTES

Winter program on tap at KVCS

KINGS VALLEY — Kings Valley Charter School's Winter Program is Thursday starting at 6 p.m., at the school, 33840 Kings Valley Highway.

Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Kohanek and Ms. Bobbi's students' program begins at 6 p.m. Mrs. Lodge & Mrs. Zaback's students' program will begin at 7 p.m.

Treats will be for sale at the program and will help raise money for a field trip to OMSI Outdoor Experience for Mrs. Lodge and Mrs. Zaback's classes.

For more information: ddemasi@kvschool.org.

USDA official to visit Ash Creek

MONMOUTH — Kevin Concannon, the United States Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, will visit Central School District on Monday.

His stop will include the district's after school enrichment program, Beyond the Bell, at Ash Creek Elementary School in Monmouth.

Beyond the Bell serves meals to 225 students in the district daily.

The Oregon Department of Education is hosting Concannon, whose agency includes the United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Morrison Campus Alternative School students spent Friday setting up Santa's living room at Winterfest in Dallas. The volunteer effort is just one of several projects students at the school take on throughout the year.

Making a winter wonderland

Morrison students create Winterfest magic, volunteer for Christmas projects

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Anyone who has put up Christmas lights can relate to Brandon Osterberg's frustration.

"No, no, no! Don't do this," he said to a tangled string of lights he was trying to hang on the tents that make up Santa's shelter at Winterfest.

A Morrison Campus Alternative School student, Brandon volunteered with a group of his schoolmates to help put up the decorations Friday morning.

"I love my Morrison students," said Chelsea Metcalfe, the event's organizer.

She said the school has been helping the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce with preparations for the annual Christmas kickoff for the last three years.

Friday's chilly temperatures and rain didn't detract



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Lights, trees and decorations were put up on Friday.

from the holiday cheer the students were feeling.

"It's just like Christmas with family," said Mary Wyckoff, a junior.

"It's pretty cool," chimed in senior Emily Jones. "You get to help the community."

This isn't the only way Morrison works to give back.

In addition to Winterfest decorating, students volunteer ringing bells for the Salvation Army and helping

abilities to help with yard work.

She said those projects aren't necessarily part of a class.

"It's part of who we are," she said nodding toward her students working like Christmas elves on Winterfest decorations.

The class would wrap up decorations in the afternoon only to return to help with crowd control once the Winterfest kicked off at 5 p.m. They stayed to tear down the event afterward.

Vidrio said she and her students are happy to put in the long day.

"They are just so kind," Vidrio said. "For some of them, this is the only Christmas they have. This is their family; this is their Christmas."

Have ideas for volunteer projects for Morrison students? Contact Vidrio: charlotte.vidrio@dspd2.org.

pack and distribute food and gifts through Dallas Adopt-a-Family program. Students at the school have long helped prepare and host the chamber's Trick-N-Treat event for Halloween.

Morrison teacher Charlotte Vidrio said her students want to find ways to continue donating their time in the spring. One idea is get in contact with organizations serving seniors or those with dis-

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