



PRESS RELEASE

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Wimberley Education Foundation Surprises Teachers, Bestows Grants

Prize Patrol Awards More than \$25,000 in Grants

Wimberley, Texas, November 5, 2018 — Energized and enthusiastic, the Wimberley Education Foundation (WEF) directors visited all Wimberley ISD campuses doling out more than \$25,000 in funding for 19 innovative grants. District-wide, teachers create out-of-the-box curriculum, projects and programs throughout the year, and when they need a financial shot in the arm, they submit their grant proposals to the Wimberley Education Foundation. The Foundation, which was founded in 2006, has donated more than \$258,000 to WISD faculty. The grant proposals ranged from STEM-based activities to a “Race to Save the World.”

Jacob’s Well Elementary School

Melissa Perry—Breakout EDU—\$275

Dene Brinkman—Back into Nature—\$900

Erin Springs, Mel Summers—Fun-filled Fluency Facts (Rolling into Math)—\$986.89

April Grant, Cathy Boles, Traci Biggers, Dawn Gips—A CartFull of STEM--\$2213.11

Dene Brinkman, Melinda Brazell, Dora Grantham, Ben Campbell—Mathematics Pentathlon, Interactive Problem-Solving Games—\$1,108.80

Michelle Wilkes, Mary Grace Barbee, Katherine Sparkman, Tiffany Malone, Courtney Katzmeyer, Alisha Ronshausen, Mercedes Salinas—Texan Token Store—\$999.42

Robyn Rivera, Jamie Thibodeaux—Student Council Field Trip to the Capitol—\$127

April Grant—2nd Grade STEM Storybook—\$507.27

Danforth Junior High School

Laurie Gates, Bess Reisberg—Lock Boxes & Locks for Escape Rooms—\$556.92

Lori Pharis, Stephanie Carter, Katie Gillman, Elizabeth Edelen, Dean Bagby—Map TX & US—\$2,856

Julana Long, Laurie Gates, Bess Reisberg, Christy McCollum—TEKS-Aligned 5E Lessons Station Labs for 6-8th Grade Science—\$449

Wimberley High School

Jill Johnson—Accessible Team & Individual Sports for Lifelong Fun & Health—\$1,072.52

Brannon Gilley, Denise Garza—AP Environmental Science—\$1,400

Ryan Durkin, Karin Prado, Erich Robinson, Stephanie Barthels—Adventures in the Classroom, Learning with Virtual Reality -- \$3,195

Jason Giesen, Cade Pharis, Lacey Lambert, Tiffany Black—Steaming to the Future and Beyond—\$1,200

Sarah Schmidt, Roberto Frontera—Best in STEM--\$1,706.79

Roberto Frontera, Sarah Schmidt, Cade Pharis—Race to Save the World—\$2,300

Nurse Darelle Jordan, Carey Soderstrom—Sit & Breathe—\$700

Tiffany Black, Jason Giesen, Jack Greene, Cade Pharis—Pups Empowering People—\$2,875

The high school grant, “Pups Empowering People,” is an innovative program the Career Technology Education (CTE) department will implement next year, placing highly trained assistance dogs with people needing more freedom. Community volunteers raise puppies as they are educated to become diabetic alert dogs and other types of service dogs. WHS students will learn various canine training techniques and provide socialization experiences for the Freedom Canines International puppies.

“We are so excited that the Foundation saw the extraordinary benefits these freedom canines provide to people and the learning opportunities it opens up for our Wimberley High School Students,” said Black, CTE Agriculture Teacher.

Teachers at Jacob’s Well Elementary School came up with a creative way to increase hands-on, minds-on learning with “A CartFull of STEM,” including 20 different activities aimed at increasing skills and cultivating a love of science, technology, engineering and math.

“We are so excited about these awesome grant donations and can’t wait to start seeing how they will support our teachers’ goals for their classrooms,” said Andrea Pope, Jacob’s Well Elementary School principal. “We wholeheartedly thank the Foundation for granting our wishes,” she added.

The WEF hosts their major fundraiser next summer on June 14, 2019, at the Waters Point. All funds benefit innovative grants for WISD faculty. For more information or to support the WEF, please visit www.wimberleyeducationfoundation.org.

[Photo Link](#)

Captions:

0756—Left to Right – Wimberley Education Foundation Directors Prize Patrol Heads to WISD Classrooms: Chris Smith, President, Julia Dunn, Donor Relations; Linda Corbitt, Event Coordinator; Christy Degenhart, Marketing/Public Relations; Mark Bursiel, VP of Administration; Vicky Cox, VP of Development; Russell Guynes, Event Coordinator; Stephanie Colon, Donations; Delayne Van De Walle, Parent/Staff Relations; Amanda Perez, Grant Applications

0772—Dene Brinkman celebrates with her students after being surprised by the Wimberley Education Foundation Prize Patrol with a check for \$1,108.80 to fund her Mathematics Pentathalon.

0813-- Left to Right Back Row -- Julia Dunn, Donor Relations; Chris Smith, President; Stephanie Colon, Donations; Mary Grace Barbee, Grant Recipient and JWE Teacher; Mark Bursiel, VP of Administration; Russell Guynes, Event Coordinator; Christy Degenhart, Marketing/Public Relations; Linda Corbitt, Event Coordinator; Vicky Cox, VP of Development; Front row: Chris Chessher, Special Events/Donor Recognition. Barbee won a grant for the Texan Token Store to reward positive behavior.

0854—Health Science Teacher Cade Pharis looks forward to implementing his “Pups Empowering People” program at Wimberley High School thanks to a donation from the Wimberley Education Foundation.

0874—Danforth Junior High Science Teachers, Laurie Gates, Christy McCollum, Julana Long, Meagan Williamson, Lindsey O’Gan and Bess Reisberg pose with the Wimberley Education Foundation Prize Patrol after receiving their science grant.

0875—Danforth Junior High assistant principal, Shad Scharlach and principal, Greg Howard enjoy a moment in the spotlight as the Wimberley Education Foundation prize patrol surprises their campus with funds for innovative projects.

About Wimberley Independent School District

Nestled in the majestic community of Wimberley, Texas, the Wimberley Independent School District offers the best of both worlds to local families—a small town environment with schools committed to innovation and excellence. WISD campuses include Scudder Primary School for students in PreK-1st grade, Jacobs Well Elementary for students in 2nd-5th grade, Danforth Junior High for students in 6th-8th grade and Wimberley High School, home of the Texans and students in 9th-12th grade. For more information, visit wimberleyisd.net.