



# OEF News

Summer 2013

A publication of the Okemos Education Foundation [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org)

## Classroom Technology: What We Have Learned

Is classroom technology an essential ingredient of learning today or merely an expensive luxury?

OEF trustees wrestle with this question each time we receive a grant request for new hardware or software. And the question is especially relevant to all Okemos parents and community members since the Okemos School Board is



asking voters to approve continued funding of learning technology this November.

If you tuned into the School Board meetings this past winter on the Okemos Channel, there's a good chance you gained insight into how technology is changing the way students learn and how teachers create learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

At the November, December, January, and February meetings, sixteen teachers, staff, and students discussed their experiences in using desktop, laptop, and tablet computers, video production equipment, Smart Boards, and other tools funded by previous Technology Bonds and, in several instances, by OEF

grants. They presented the costs, benefits, challenges, and emerging opportunities related to learning technology.

The presenters also demonstrated how they were leveraging the district's technology investments by taking advantage of free or low-cost computer applications, software programs, and online resources. These were valuable meetings because School Board members were contemplating during this time whether or not to place a technology bond on the ballot. (School Board meetings can be viewed on the Okemos Channel's website, see page 5 for more information.)

If you watched the presentations and listened to the discussions, several things became clear.

### Unlimited knowledge

First, these presentations clearly demonstrated and emphasized that our students can easily access more information than any generation in history.

In the same year that the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution provided Americans with the Bill of Rights, the English author Samuel Johnson anticipated the benefits today's Okemos students enjoy. In 1791, Johnson noted that "Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find

information upon it."

Up until very recently, the breadth and depth of knowledge students could access in a classroom was limited to the amount of information a teacher could explain in 50 minutes and by the size of the textbooks students were able to squeeze into their backpacks.

But when provided with portable computing devices, ubiquitous high-speed Internet access, and increasingly powerful electronic guideposts and search tools, today's students can locate and capture virtually unlimited information about nearly every subject.

In an era when knowledge information is no longer scarce, the ability to form meaningful questions, locate relevant information, and then evaluate, organize, and apply that knowledge is becoming an essential skill set.

### New relationships with knowledge

And so the second insight gleaned from the presentations is that



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## Okemos Education Foundation

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**Message from the OEF Chair**

Last month, as heavy rain raised the Grand River above flood levels and threatened the city of Grand Rapids, the news media treated us to images of one of the best things about America. As the river menaced the water treatment plant and other vital facilities, hundreds of community volunteers turned out to fill and place sandbags at key places to keep the river at bay.



Dean Bolton - OEF Chair

As I watched the film clips of the volunteers in action, I thought of Okemos parents and community members, who would certainly respond in a similar way to protect something they value dearly--the essential learning opportunities our children currently enjoy.

Due to financial challenges the district has faced over the last several years, extracurricular clubs and student activities that contribute to making our schools exceptional were threatened with elimination. In response, the Okemos Education Foundation (OEF) trustees made the conscious decision to dip ever deeper into our fund balance to protect these meaningful and impactful learning opportunities.

To maintain this support we will need the community to turn out and shore up our ability to continue our funding for these important programs. The reality is that the grants we've made over the past two years have exceeded the donations we've received. Unless more community members join the effort to protect our children's learning opportunities, we will have to significantly reduce the support we provide each year. I've lost sleep thinking about the painful trade-offs we will confront and the negative impact a drastic reduction in the number of OEF grants will have on those learning opportunities.

The good news is, if we all pitch in, we can avoid those painful trade-offs. With your contribution of \$10 a month, we will be able to continue funding the "Hands On – Minds On" learning that engages and enlightens our children. For about the cost of a weekly cup of coffee, you can ensure that our students can continue to participate in the clubs and activities that enrich their educational experience. To illustrate the level of support our schools receive from the Foundation, take a look at the list of all OEF grants from the last two years that is included in this newsletter. We want to continue to make a significant difference and we need your help!

Filling sandbags to protect a community's water treatment plant from floodwaters may seem like a more dramatic act than making a modest monthly contribution to ensure our students enjoy the best possible learning experiences. However, I would argue that the impact you'll have on the future will be significant and long-lasting. Helping our children acquire the insights and skills they'll need to master the challenges facing our community, nation, and world throughout their lives is the most powerful way any of us have to shape the future.

Can we count on you?

By clicking on the big red Donate Now button on the oefsite.org homepage, you can schedule a monthly contribution using your credit card or Pay Pal account. If you prefer to mail a contribution, there is a donation form on page 11 of this newsletter. By doing so, you'll ensure nearly 4,000 Okemos students continue to enjoy the fun of learning. I can't think of a better way to spend \$10 a month. Of course, any level of support would be welcome and appreciated. You can make a difference!

OEF

**OEF Donations**

A gift to the Okemos Education Foundation helps excellence in educational programs and services for Okemos students now and in the future. The OEF is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For your convenience, we accept online credit card donations at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org), or use the form on page 11.

OEF Partners in Education are donors who contribute \$50 or more annually with recognition and benefits at various levels of giving. More information about OEF Partners in Education recognition can be found at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org).

Now more than ever before, it's up to all of us to maintain the quality of education for Okemos students. Thank you for considering a gift to the OEF!

## Message from our Superintendent

**“Together” . . . At the Core of our Success!**

In the fall OEF newsletter article entitled “Point of Pride . . . “Together”, I highlighted the very core of who we are as a school community, our shared



*Dr. Catherine J. Ash,  
Superintendent of  
Schools*

commitment to “Together... educating with excellence”! I truly believe that is why we are one of the highest performing districts in the state of Michigan.

In that article, I also referenced the work of Patrick Lencioni’s “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team” to substantiate and validate my belief.

This time, I want to reflect on the impacts and outcomes of 2012-13, as more evidence of how we continued to perform as a highly effective team! Through our interactions this past year, I am able to clearly see how we demonstrated Lencioni’s key elements of a strong team: we fostered a high level of **trust** between school and home, the very foundation of “us”. At times, we engaged in **productive conflict**, recognizing that it promotes growth, enhanced solutions and the best possible outcomes. As a school community, we have continued to verbalize and demonstrate a **shared commitment**, with clear priorities, as well as our purpose of educating with excellence. Each of us recognized our individual and collective responsibility for making our vision a reality, **embracing accountability**. Finally, we consistently paid **attention to results**. We are a goal oriented school community, continuing on our important journey to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

This was never more evident as we mourned the loss of innocent children

and adults whose lives were tragically ended as a result of the violent, senseless and unthinkable events at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Our entire school community partnered with us in our efforts to acknowledge and de-escalate fears, while promoting a sense of continued safety and security for our children. We recognized that heightening fear and anxiety can be an unintended outcome when extreme measures are taken to make individuals “feel safer” after an irrational and tragic event. Therefore, we made a concerted effort to promote “normalcy” within our schools. You partnered with us in these efforts and continued to entrust us with your children.

Through it all, we verbalized and demonstrated our shared commitment and accountability for the safety of our students. The District’s leadership engaged in conversations, analyzing and evaluating our existing security processes and procedures. We identified commonalities, as well as gaps or areas of focus within our extensive security plans and procedures. The administration met with Meridian Township Police and Fire Departments to enlist their expertise as we developed a plan of action to address the gaps. What we heard was, “Keep it simple, plan, train and practice. Okemos school’s practices and procedures are solid.” However, we wanted to pay attention to the results and enhance “solid”! We developed a Security Action Plan that listed the areas of focus, described the issues, identified the individual responsible for addressing the issues and established a timeline. Areas of focus include: gaps in our ability to communicate within the building, lockdown of all doors (except the front door), lockdown procedures for “unique” locations, technology, and easier access for police and fire. Together, we are working to eliminate the “gaps” in our security procedures with the intended

outcome of enhancing our practice and promoting the safety of our children.

As a result of our ability to work as a highly effective team, we had many successes in achieving our 2012-13 goals.

### **Substance Abuse and Our Youth (Strategic Goal: Social Issues) -**

We are aware that alcohol and drugs are accessible by our students and that some are choosing to use these substances in a variety of settings, for a variety of reasons. As a school community, we are determined to make every effort to establish a culture that promotes healthy and informed choices. During the 2011-12 school year, the Okemos Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) committee was established to develop a strategic plan specifically for this issue.

This year, the 2013-16 Strategic Plan was finalized and adopted by the Board of Education. Our mission is, “Together. . .students, families, staff and community will sustain a focused effort to promote healthy, informed choices on the issues of alcohol and substance use.” We developed goals and strategies that will focus the school community’s work on the following critical issues: Communication, Education, Leadership, Partnership/ Outreach and Policies/Practices/ Procedures. A copy of the strategic plan can be found on the district’s website ([www.okemosschools.net](http://www.okemosschools.net)). We are committed to sustaining our focus and engaging students, parents, staff and community through words and actions in our effort to “establish a culture that promotes healthy and informed choices”.

### **Technology (Strategic Goals: Technology and Finance) -**

A district level committee comprised of the various stakeholders and experts

*See Supt., page 6*

## Technology in our Classrooms Presentations

The "Technology in our Classrooms" presentations given by teachers and administrators to the Board of Education can be viewed on-demand at [www.okemoschannel.pegcentral.com](http://www.okemoschannel.pegcentral.com). The presentations were made at the following board meetings:

- November 26, 2012 - Principal Noelle Palasty, Computer Coordinator Joan Ferguson and elementary teachers Melinda Derby, Jill Hough, Ivy Schmidt and Tiffany Tuchek presented information regarding technology in our K-4 classrooms including: the SMARTboard and SMART Applications; Student Response Systems; teacher web sites; iPads and instructional applications; and Coaches Eye and Wii Fit.

- December 10, 2012 - Principal John Hood, Computer Coordinator Joan Ferguson and Kinawa teachers Aaron Dawdy, Molly Francis, Paul Hinze and Laura Kampf presented information regarding technology in our 5-6 classrooms. A variety of technology currently used was described including: a homework calendar using the school and teacher web sites; the social community Twitter for communication with parents; Geocaching and GPS units; Podcasting; Moodle and other online learning environments; and web cams.

- January 28, 2012 - Principal Barbara Hoevel, Computer Coordinator Phil Aho, Chippewa teachers Martha Puente and Suzanne Sullivan, and student Gabe H. presented information regarding technology in our 7-8 classrooms including: Aimsweb assessment software; SWISS behavior tracking database; software to test oral comprehension of foreign languages; Edmodo social networking software; and Poll Everywhere a polling software that uses cell phones to submit responses. Student Gabe H. described the animation, photography and video production courses offered at CMS.

- February 11, 2013 - Principal Christine Sermak and high school teachers Kelly Carrier, Missy McCarthy and Laura Sauer presented information regarding technology in our 9-12 classrooms including: Quizlet, Evernote, Dropbox, and Prezi software; Google Drive, forums and blogging within the language arts curriculum; Quia online homework system; Camtasia, Ask3 software, iPads and flipped classrooms in the math curriculum.

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our students' relationship with information is changing.

In the classroom of the not-so-distant-past, knowledge tended to flow in one direction, from the teacher to the student. And more often than not, the primary way students used their newly acquired knowledge was to answer questions about it, either while completing a homework assignment or while taking a test.



In today's classroom, students use technology to generate questions, create or harvest knowledge from online sources that addresses those questions, and then share what they have produced with peers in the same room or on other continents.

When information is still passed along from teacher to student, technology enables students to quickly apply what they've just learned, receive immediate feedback, and apply it again, using the feedback to revise and upgrade their performances.

Elementary school students, for example, can evaluate – and then improve - their performances in physical education classes by viewing video clips their teacher has filmed with an iPad and then graphically annotated using a software program called Coach's Eye.

In academic classes, student response systems, or "clickers," allow both learners and teachers to continuously measure how well students have grasped critical

concepts. Teachers can immediately recognize when students have acquired inaccurate concepts, one of the biggest barriers to learning, and quickly correct their understanding.

### Never-ending experimentation

This ability to quickly repeat the Learn-Try-Evaluate-Revise-Try Again cycle reflects the third, and perhaps most important, insight that emerged during the technology presentations at the School Board meetings.

A legend from Albert Einstein's teaching career at Princeton, popular among teachers and professionals, goes like this: One year a graduate teaching assistant reported to Einstein with dismay that he had accidentally passed out last year's final exam to his physics class. "Well, don't worry about that," Einstein reportedly said with a shrug, "the correct answers have changed."

When our next cohort of kindergarteners arrives at our elementary schools next September, they will be embarking on an educational adventure that is different from the one the senior class at the high school experienced.

The class of 2026 will use even more powerful hand-held computing tools, they will enjoy faster access to even more learning-friendly online academic content, and they will master even more capable software programs than the class of 2014.

And by the time they walk across the stage to receive their high school diplomas in 2026, many of the "correct answers" will have changed.

Although the boundaries in many academic subjects may not be evolving as quickly as they did for Einstein's physics students in the  
*( See Tech., page 5)*


*(Tech.- Continued from page 4)*

late 1940's, our new kindergartners will need to become consummate life-long learners if they – and the society they will shape – are to benefit from new developments in the economy, science, medicine, and other continuously changing fields.

Students, teachers, and administrators will continue to explore new ways to use the emerging capabilities provided by technology to make learning engaging and effective, and to evaluate how deeply students have grasped new skills and new subject

matter content.

Two hundred years after Samuel Johnson reflected on the two kinds of knowledge, the futurist Alvin Toffler recognized that "the illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

Ever more effective integration of learning technology in our classrooms and a mindset of continual experimentation are indeed, we believe, essential ingredients of a 21st Century education. 

## Bob Cooley Memorial Legacy Project

Playmakers Fitness Foundation (PFF) has made a generous \$5,150 donation to the OEF in the memory of long-time



Bob Cooley

Okemos teacher Bob Cooley to support new and creative approaches to physical education instruction in Okemos elementary schools.

The current K-8 Physical Education teachers in Okemos have implemented Good Form Running as part of their core curriculum. To more effectively deliver Good Form Running instruction as well as all PE curriculum, the PFF has made this contribution in memory of Bob Cooley. Each elementary gymnasium will be equipped with enhanced technology, including wireless internet access, Apple Television and adapters. This tech-

nology will allow PE instructors to capture video of their students to use for instructional purposes.

"Bob was on the cutting edge of delivering physical education training and meeting national standards. He was also known for his involvement in promoting the highest standards possible for the field of physical education and its educators" said Okemos P.E. teacher Jill Hough.

Bob Cooley was Okemos Public School's first elementary physical education teacher and during his 43 years as an Okemos teacher he had a tremendous impact on the health and fitness of generations of students. Bob was the 2004 Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year for the State of Michigan and a 2007 OEF Commitment to Excellence Award recipient.

When Bob retired in 2011, he was the longest serving teacher in Okemos. Students, young and old, fondly remember the impact Bob had on their elementary school


### The Okemos Channel Online, Anytime!

**The Okemos Channel records more than a hundred events each year throughout the school district, from concerts and sporting events to guest lectures and Board of Education meetings. These events can be viewed online anytime at [www.okemoschannel.pegcentral.com](http://www.okemoschannel.pegcentral.com) and on Comcast channels 23 and 913 in Meridian Township.**

**The Okemos Channel's Matt Ottinger and his student crew produce video tributes for the recipients at the annual OEF Awards Banquet that are always the highlight of the evening. Past banquets can be viewed online as well.**

**Most of those events are also available for purchase. If you would like to order an event, send a check for \$15 to The Okemos Channel, 2800 Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Indicate which event you want, and whether you would prefer a DVD or a Blu-Ray disc. The Okemos Channel is staffed throughout the summer, and discs will be mailed to you as soon as they are ready.**

years. "All four of my children had the privilege of having Mr. Cooley for P.E. Even after leaving Bennett Woods, my boys would still ride up after school in hopes of catching Bob in the car line," remarked Okemos parent Craig VanSumeren. "He connected with so many kids – he was a special person!"

"The Playmakers Fitness Foundation is proud to take part in honoring the memory of Bob Cooley and his lasting impact and legacy. Bob Cooley's passion for teaching inspired us to find a way to honor his work," said Curt Munson, owner of Playmakers and founder of the Playmakers Fitness Foundation. "In the same way that Bob Cooley searched for innovative strategies to best meet the needs of his students, it is the hope of the PFF that this memorial contribution will lead to improved outcomes for students." 

(Supt.- Continued from page 3)

was established to assess our current technology and develop a vision for our future technology. Recognizing that we must prepare our students for the 21st century, they researched the topics of one-on-one personal learning, Smarter Balanced Assessment, on-line learning, digital textbooks, and the Common Core State Standards. In the end, their vision includes enhanced security, improved infrastructure, updated current technology, and one to one personal devices for our students.

After considering the work of the committee, the technological needs of our district and the funding required to address these critical needs, the district will pursue a technology/security/transportation bond in November of 2013. More information regarding this


initiative will be forthcoming. The proposed technology will certainly promote the safety of our students, and enhance our ability to deliver relevant and meaningful educational programming, as well as efficient practices and services.

### **Academic growth and performance (Strategic Goal: Curriculum and Instruction and Technology) –**

We have continued to promote academic proficiency for all of our students, supporting the low performers and challenging the highest performers. We reviewed and analyzed the data from a variety of performance measures, then planned and implemented focused strategies to help each child reach his/her potential, including our most at-risk learners in identified subgroups. We also focused our efforts on decreasing the gap

between our lowest performing students and our highest performing students.

These are only a few of the highlights this year and I want to assure you that we accomplished many other outcomes of equal significance and we did it as a highly effective team! Community, parents, staff and students are a critical component and an integral part of the “we” or the “together “ of our highly effective team. I will say it again, “It is our teamwork and our interconnectedness that makes us Okemos!”

You are a highly valued member of the Okemos Public Schools team! Thank you for your commitment, dedication and support of our collective efforts to make a difference. 

## **OEF Welcomes New Trustees**

The OEF is pleased to welcome Shannon Nedds, Tonya Rodriguez, and Christena Sinila as new Trustees of the foundation.


**Shannon Nedds** began working with the Okemos Montessori program in 2005. She taught the Pre-Primary and Kindergarten class for seven years and is currently the Response to Intervention Coach for Okemos Public Montessori at Central. Shannon received a Bachelor degree in Elementary Education from Kentucky Christian University and Montessori Certification from ADMTEI in Adrian, Michigan. Shannon and her husband, Rob, have three children who are currently in the Montessori program. Chloe is currently in Montessori at Chippewa Middle School, Gabe is a student in the Montessori program at Kinawa Middle School and their youngest, Daniel, is in the Pre-Primary program at Central Montessori.

**Tonya Rodriguez** grew up in the

Okemos school system. In 1978, then known as Tonya Peterson, she was enrolled in the second grade at Cornell Elementary School. She graduated from Okemos High School in 1990. This year, Tonya enrolled her own 9-year old daughter at Cornell in the fourth grade. Tonya earned a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University and a Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude, from Michigan State University College of Law. Tonya lived in southern California where she was a practicing attorney until moving her practice to Okemos this past summer to be closer to family and to give her daughter the benefit of the excellent educational opportunities available here. In 2012, Tonya was elected to the Okemos Board of Education and now serves as the Board’s representative on the OEF Board of Trustees. Tonya has strong family roots in this area and she looks forward to raising her daughter in Okemos.

**Christena Sinila** is a fourth grade teacher at Cornell Elementary School.

This is her 15th year of teaching in Okemos Public Schools. Her passion is keeping children at the heart. She lives this by serving on numerous committees, providing professional development sessions, acting as a new teacher mentor, researching and implementing best educational practice, and volunteering. Christena is a 2007 OEF Commitment to Excellence Award recipient. Christena has earned both her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Master's of Arts in Educational Leadership from Michigan State University. She and husband Mark are proud parents of two children who both attend Cornell, just like dad did some thirty years ago.


We would like to extend our appreciation to **Alicia Hopping** who is stepping down from the board. Alicia played a key role the last few years as Chair of the annual OEF Awards Banquet. We thank Alicia for her service to the Okemos community as an OEF Trustee and wish her well in the future! 

## OEF Provides \$238,600 to Help All Okemos Students!

During the past two school years the OEF has provided \$238,600 to support academic and extra-curricular programs district-wide, helping Okemos Public Schools achieve its mission of “Together...educating with excellence, inspiring learners for life.”

Our grants and awards benefit every student in the district. OEF Grants

enrich educational opportunities and promote innovation in the classroom. OEF Micro-Grants (new in 2012-13) provide funding for supplies and transportation for classrooms or extracurricular activities. Strategic Fund Grants provide funding for programs, activities, or purchases that have been reduced or eliminated from the district's budget. Connie Osborn Deits Science Enrichment Fund

grants increase the understanding and appreciation of science for our students. Lee Gerard Professional Development Fellowships provide opportunities for our teachers to conduct projects focused on improved learning for all students. Commitment to Excellence Award recipients receive grants to support their continued contributions to education. 

### 2012-13 Grants

#### OEF Grants

- Reading and Math Intervention Materials – Cornell – \$974
- Leveled Readers – Central – \$797
- Take-Home Reading Program – Cornell – \$1000
- We Both Read Book Sets – Central – \$863
- Rigby Readers – Central – \$797
- Leveled Reading Program – Bennett Woods – \$895
- Leveled Reading Program – Bennett Woods – \$954
- World Globes – Kinawa – \$983

#### Micro-Grants

- Expository Writing Collaborative
- Website – Okemos High School – \$191
- American Literature Collaborative
- Website – Okemos High School – \$191
- Kindergarten Alphabet Books – Bennett Woods – \$110
- Revolutionary War Novels – Chippewa – \$234
- Raz Kids Reading Program – Hiawatha (4 First Grade Classes) – \$360
- Classroom Library Magazines and Audio Books – Kinawa – \$200
- Tree of Life Mural – Cornell – \$250
- Math Posters – Okemos High School – \$230
- The Hiawatha School Newspaper – Hiawatha – \$150
- Chieftain Champs Mentoring Program Transportation – Hiawatha – \$250
- Chieftain Champs Mentoring Program Transportation – Cornell – \$250
- Chieftain Champs Mentoring Program Transportation – Bennett Woods – \$250
- Chieftain Champs Mentoring Program Transportation – Kinawa – \$250
- Computer Headsets – Okemos High School – \$250
- Speed Stacking P.E. Equipment – Elementary Physical Education – \$250
- Positive Behavior Posters – Bennett Woods (Kindergarten) – \$212

- Positive Behavior Posters – Bennett Woods (First Grade) – \$158
- Math Instruction and Assessment Materials – Central – \$250
- Civil War Novels – Chippewa – \$250
- Language Arts Enrichment – Bennett Woods – \$250

#### Strategic Fund

- ACT Preparation Workshops – Okemos High School – \$1,500
- Safety Patrol Supervisors – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha – \$12,173
- ACTION Community Service Club – Okemos High School – \$7,156
- Knowledge Master Open – Chippewa – \$1,136
- Choir Club – Kinawa – \$1,136
- Quiz Bowl – Okemos High School – \$2,470
- Chieftain Champs – Bennett Woods – \$1,136
- Culinary Club – Central – \$1,136
- Student Government – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha, Chippewa – \$5,680
- Chieftain Champs – Cornell – \$1,136
- Archery Club – Kinawa – \$1,136
- Drama Club – Okemos High School – \$1,136
- Yearbook Advisors – Chippewa, Okemos High School – \$6,838
- Science Olympiad – Okemos High School – \$1,423
- GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) – Okemos High School – \$1,136
- Earth Club – Okemos High School – \$1,136
- Chieftain Champs – Hiawatha – \$1,136
- Cross Country – Kinawa – \$1,136
- SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) – Okemos High School – \$1,136
- World Languages Clubs (2) – Okemos High School – \$2,272
- Homework Club – Chippewa – \$1,136

- Asian Club – Okemos High School – \$1,136
- Art Club – Chippewa – \$1,136
- Student Council – Okemos High School – \$3,579
- Class Advisors (4) – Okemos High School – \$9,056

#### 2013 Visiting Author

- Co-sponsored by Summit Community Bank*
- Phil Hoose – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha – \$4,670

#### Connie Osborn Deits Science Enrichment

- Hands-On Family Science Night – Bennett Woods – \$400
- Metric Rulers and Digital Measuring Device – Chippewa – \$328
- MSU Seeds of Science Field Trips – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha – \$1,840
- Speed and Motion Lab – Chippewa – \$242
- DNA Learning Sets – Okemos High School – \$900
- Family Science Night – Central – \$895

#### Lee Gerard Professional Development Fellowship

- CHAMPS Professional Development – Central – \$1,200

#### 2012 Commitment to Excellence Awards

- Deb Hamilton – Chippewa, District Coordinator of Gifted Education – \$1,000
- John Olstad – Okemos High School – \$1,000
- Elizabeth Reed – Hiawatha – \$1,000
- Chrissy Schoonover – Okemos High School – \$1,000
- Carmen VanAlstine – Chippewa, Okemos High School – \$1,000

## 2011-12 Grants

### OEF Grants

- Touch Math Software
  - Cornell – \$365
- Yearbook Cameras
  - Okemos High School – \$650
- Cultural Materials for Montessori Curriculum – Central – \$808
- Leveled Readers
  - Bennett Woods – \$1,000
- Student Response System
  - Okemos High School – \$545
- 3rd Grade Classroom Books
  - Bennett Woods – \$317
- Geometric Materials
  - Central – \$300
- Origo Fact Sets and Flash Cards
  - Central – \$357
- Edmark Reading Program
  - Bennett Woods, Cornell – \$1,003
- 4th Grade Classroom Books
  - Bennett Woods – \$250
- Science and Math Supplemental Materials
  - Central – \$716
- ipads for Special Education Instruction
  - Hiawatha Basic Classrooms – \$1,248
- ipads for Speech-Language Instruction
  - Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha, Kinawa, Chippewa – \$1,872
- ipads for Student Achievement Improvements
  - Okemos High School Resource Room – \$624
- Kindle E-readers for Differentiated Instruction – Bennett Woods – \$736
- Fraction Cubes
  - Bennett Woods – \$450
- Zoophonics Language Arts Program
  - Hiawatha – \$900
- Waders for River Study and Salmon in the Classroom Program – Kinawa – \$700

### Strategic Fund

- Textbooks
  - Chippewa, Okemos High School – \$70,000
- Safety Patrol Supervisors
  - Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha – \$12,926
- ACTION Community Service Club
  - Okemos High School – \$5,380
- Knowledge Masters Open
  - Chippewa – \$1,128
- Drama Club
  - Okemos High School – \$1,128
- Art Club – Bennett Woods – \$1,128
- Drama Club – Hiawatha – \$1,128
- ACT Workshops
  - Okemos High School – \$1,822
- Culinary Club – Central – \$1,128
- Earth Club – Cornell – \$1,128
- Cross Country Club – Kinawa – \$1,128
- Art Club – Chippewa – \$1,128
- World Language Clubs (2)
  - Okemos High School – \$2,256
- SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
  - Okemos High School – \$1,128
- Earth Club
  - Okemos High School – \$1,128
- Archery Club – Kinawa – \$1,128
- GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance)
  - Okemos High School – \$1,128
- Yearbook Advisors
  - Chippewa and Okemos High School – \$7,173
- BSU (Black Student Union)
  - Okemos High School – \$1,128
- Asian Club
  - Okemos High School – \$1,128
- Science Olympiad Club
  - Okemos High School – \$1,413
- Student Council
  - Okemos High School – \$3,555

- Student Government
  - Central, Cornell, Hiawatha, Kinawa, Central – \$5,641
- Quiz Bowl Team
  - Okemos High School – \$3,385
- Class Sponsors (4)
  - Okemos High School – \$8,994

### 2012 Visiting Author

*Co-sponsored by Summit Community Bank*

- Allison Stoutland and Cathy Hoffer
  - Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha – \$4,046

### Connie Osborn Deits Science Enrichment


- MSU Seeds of Science Field Trips
  - Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha – \$2,079
- Bennett Woods Family Science Fair
  - Bennett Woods – \$300
- ipads for Science Instruction
  - Okemos High School – \$3,600

### Commitment to Excellence Awards

- Susan Casey – Chippewa – \$1,000
- Kevin Culling and Mark Stice
  - Chippewa, Okemos High School – \$1,000
- Denise Daberko
  - Okemos High School – \$1,000
- Kathy Lanzetta – Hiawatha – \$1,000
- Marisa McCormick – Kinawa – \$1,000
- Patricia Trelstad
  - Deputy Superintendent – \$1,000

## 2013 Elementary Author Visit

National Book Award winning author Phillip Hoose recently spent two days visiting each Okemos elementary school to share two of his books, *Hey, Little Ant* and *Moonbird*, with students. Hoose inspired students through words and songs with his messages of survival, conservation, and the interconnection of species. This is the fifth year the OEF

has partnered with Summit Community Bank as co-sponsor of this program that benefits every elementary student in Okemos Public Schools. Thank you Summit Community Bank for your continued support! 






# Thank You 2012-2013 Partners in Education!

The Okemos Education Foundation thanks our Partners in Education – the many individuals, professionals, and businesses that so generously supported the Foundation in 2012-13. Donors who contribute \$50 or more are recognized as Partners

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Professional Development Fellowships and Commitment to Excellence awards that supplement the excellent staff and programs at Okemos Public Schools. Donors, as of June 1, 2013, are listed below. 

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I would like complimentary tickets.

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**Thank you for supporting the Okemos Education Foundation!**

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# OEF News

## Okemos Education Foundation

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### 2012 Okemos Education Foundation Awards Recipients



The OEF recognized teachers, staff and volunteers for their outstanding service to Okemos Public Schools at our annual banquet last November. Front Row (L-R): Chrissy Schoonover, Okemos High School Math teacher; Lynne Page, volunteer; Lynna Hassenger, Director of Food and Nutrition; Carmen VanAlstine, Chippewa and Okemos High School French and Language Arts teacher. Back Row (L-R): Deb Hamilton, District Coordinator of Gifted Education and Chippewa Language Arts teacher; Liz Reed, Hiawatha Elementary Music teacher; John Olstad, Okemos High School Science teacher; Fred Partlow, Okemos High School Latin teacher (retired); Kathy Hunter, Central Montessori Administrative Assistant. 



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