2009-2010

Lake Washington Schools Foundation

ENRICH ENGAGE EMPOWER

Report to the Community

Mission

The Lake Washington Schools Foundation supports academic excellence and success for all students

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Because of You

Grants for **Classroom and School Enrichment** provided supplemental materials, funds, curriculum, and equipment to meet the needs of students by expanding the learning day, purchasing scientific equipment and supplies, providing a range of books for struggling and advanced readers, and enhancing many other learning opportunities. More than **5100 students in 23 schools** were touched by these grants.

Mentoring programs like **LINKS** are known to improve classroom performance, lower drop-out rates, and better connect students to school. LINKS mentors volunteered **2600 hours**, reaching over **450 students in 26 schools.**

The Access Fund provided funds for economically disadvantaged students to be fully involved in secondary school programs that help prepare them for the future. Access funding reached **787 students in 10 schools.**

New Teacher grants provided funds for **53 new teachers in 39 schools** to "outfit" their new classrooms with books, materials, and supplies.

Core Academic Summer School funds sent **58 students** to summer school who could otherwise not have afforded to attend. Students showed an increase in math scores and reading fluency, and began the school year ready to learn.

Ready to start Summer Literacy Camp at Bell Elementary

What's Coming in 2010-2011

The Foundation will be building upon its past successes by mobilizing and connecting our local communities to gather the resources needed to guarantee student success. Foundation funding priorities will be quality leadership and teaching; access, opportunity, and equity for all students; and future readiness.

An example of funding future readiness is the $130,000 Microsoft Corporation grant that was received in August to implement an integrated science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program. This innovative approach will provide the skills needed in the 21st century to create, design, and think critically in order to solve complex problems. STEM concepts will be applied throughout the District to improve teaching and learning.

We at the Foundation look forward to the coming year of helping to ensure academic excellence and success for all students.

Letter to Our Community

We are pleased to present Lake Washington Schools Foundation's 2010 Report to the Community. The Foundation continues to grow, utilizing your donations to ensure that all students are future ready. We have seen the need for outside support increase as resources from the State dwindle under a slow economic recovery. Fortunately, our donors have been more generous than ever before. Our annual ***A Legacy for Learning*** luncheon in April raised a record amount, allowing the Foundation to provide over $177,000 in direct support for students this past year.

Leadership at the Foundation and the District are working closely to ensure that the tremendous community support is directed in the best ways to accomplish gains in student achievement. This past June, Doug Seto was hired as Executive Director, adding to our ability to have a greater impact. We continue to fulfill our mission of ***Academic Excellence and Success for All Students*** through programs that help students who are academically at-risk, as well as programs that enhance learning opportunities for all students.

LWSD test scores continue to lead the state among districts of comparable size. However, ensuring that students are future ready means that we continue to improve the quality of education for our students, provide equal access to educational opportunities, and support teaching excellence in our schools. Towards this end, in 2010-2011 we are changing our school and classroom grant program to focus on each school's continuous improvement plan (CIP). Each school in the District has a plan and must meet plan goals. The Foundation believes that aligning our grant program with school plans is the best way to help the whole District .

This is a truly critical time for our schools. We must rise to meet the challenge of helping all LWSD students to graduate prepared for college, careers, and life. Now is the time to sharpen the focus on student achievement, and to come together as a community to ensure that students have every opportunity to succeed. We are deeply appreciative of the important role you are playing to make a positive impact on the lives of the 24,000 students in Lake Washington School District.

Thank you for your support,

Doug Seto, Executive Director ♦ Terri Blier, Board President ♦ Dr. Chip Kimball, LWSD Supt.

"This is a truly critical time for our schools. We must rise to meet the challenge of helping all LWSD students to graduate prepared for college, careers, and life."

How You Can Help

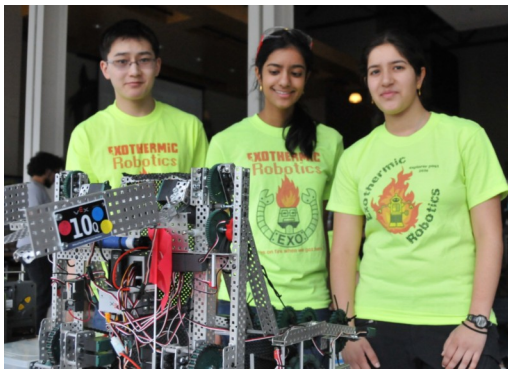
Volunteer—we always welcome new volunteers through LINKS or for the Foundation.

Donate—we make it easy, visit www.lwsf.org.

Attend our annual *A Legacy for Learning Luncheon* on April 20, 2011.

Spread the Word—tell others about the great work of the Foundation.

Expanding the Learning Day—Afterschool Robotics program at Redmond High School



Ensuring Students are Future Ready—Vernier Labquest and Probeware

Photo courtesy Vernier Science and Software

Donations at Work: Teacher and Classroom Support

Fifty-three new teachers in 39 schools were supported with grants to set up their classrooms.

Thirty-eight classroom and school enrichment grants funded many innovative programs, including:

- *Explorations in Math* (family math nights and math clubs)
- Lucy Calkin's *Units of Study* writing program, which teaches students to write from personal experience
- Leveled, high-interest books across all instructional levels for guided reading groups.

"The greatest impact witnessed this year…[is] the story of one of our 7th graders in the Special Ed. Classroom. There were many days during first semester where she just did not want to come to school, was very sad and felt like she did not belong. During second semester, she participated in two LWSF-funded projects: a picture book project and a science-based one that allowed for the study of live animals in the classroom….She wanted to come to school every day so that she could participate and work on her book. The joy she showed for school and her newly found faith in her abilities was an amazing transformation….She looked forward to the field trip…and shined when given the opportunity to interact with the younger kids The book she was able to create (about the creatures in her science class) was a wonderful example of how students of all abilities can be successful." Shauna Yusko, Evergreen JHS

Community volunteer at Audubon Elementary

Donations at Work: Extending and Expanding Learning Time

Research shows that before- and after-school programs and summer programs enhance learning. The Foundation provided funding for Core Academic Summer Schools for students who were academically at-risk and did not qualify for federal funds. Attendees improved their math scores by an average of 20% and had significant gains in reading fluency. The Foundation also funded:

- Elementary summer literacy program for at-risk students
- Super science through a forensics club—inspiring an early love of science
- Academic Games for all junior-high students in the District
- LINKS mentoring program—one-on-one mentoring and homework clubs

"After–school robotics is usually viewed as a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program, but I personally believe that the teamwork and leadership skills that students develop will ultimately prove to be of even more value than the specific technical knowledge they pick up." Richard Tyler, Redmond HS Robotics Advisor

"While I do assign vMath as homework, about one-third of my class has chosen to log onto their accounts and work through tasks completely on their own"

Monica Engquist, Discovery Community School

Donations at Work: Ensuring All Students Are Future Ready

In alignment with the mission of the District, Foundation dollars help to prepare students for future success with technology programs, science equipment, and financial assistance. Eamples include:

- Vernier Probeware for junior high schools
- Expansion of LabQuest (science lab measurement equipment)
- vMath Live—online student-paced math program.

Access funds helped meet over 728 requests for classroom needs (lab fees, foreign language workbooks, classroom materials) and 234 requests for school activity fees (i.e. ASB, afterschool clubs). Without Access funds, some students would not be able to take college preparatory courses or fully participate in secondary school.

"Access Fund has made an incredible difference at Kamiakin Jr. High in just the past two years. Materials, supplies, class costs, fees and participation became accessible to many of our students that hadn't been able to participate in classes or activities. We are able to influence a number of students and parents to stay involved in schools inside and outside of our curricular day. This is crucial!" Joe Joss, Principal,Kamiakin JHS

Inglewood, Kirkland, Northstar, Redmond, Rose Hill, and Renaissance Jr. Highs competed in the Academic Games thanks to LWSF funding.

A Special Thanks to LWSF Donors for Supportin

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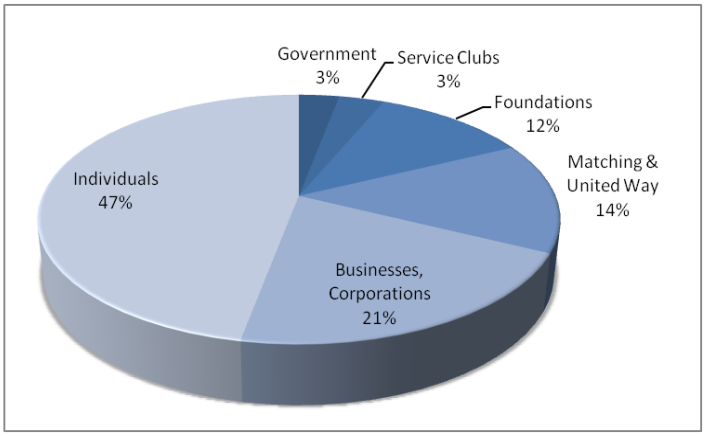
2009-2010 Financial Summary

Funds to sustain our programs were raised through individual, business, and matching donations in addition to government and foundation grants. During 2009-2010, donors gave 13% more than the previous year. The annual *A Legacy for Learning* lunch in April 2010 raised over $184,200—a record amount! We are pleased to report that both individual and corporate donations increased over 2009. Thanks for your continued support!

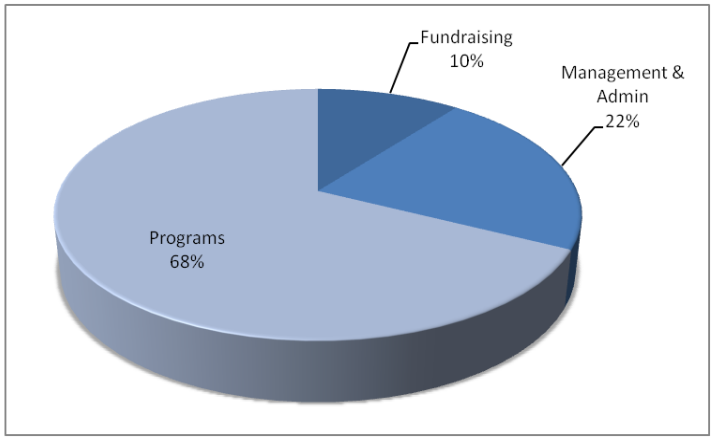
Aware of its fiduciary responsibility for funds donated, LWSF is adopting the BBB/Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charitable Accountability. As a 501(c)3, your donations to LWSF may be tax deductible. For more financial information, go to www.lwsf.org.

The Lake Washington Schools Foundation can be written in as a designated recipient of all or part of your United Way Donations.

Revenue



Expenses



Thank you to the volunteers who created this report: Claire Beighle, Joanne Frasene, Dave Garing, Peg Hunt, Barry Shaw, and Sherry Wartelle.

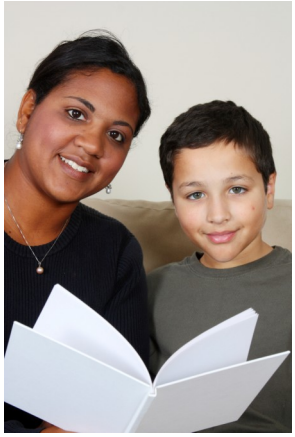
LINKS-Looking Into the Needs of Kids in Schools

Lake Washington Schools Foundation's successful partnership with the Lake Washington School District to support the LINKS Mentoring program continued in 2009-10. LINKS connects at-risk students in schools district-wide with caring community members. LINKS volunteers work as positive role models and serve as mentors, classroom helpers, lunch buddies and tutors to students who are struggling academically or socially.

In 2009-10 LINKS had over 100 volunteers working in 26 schools, logging over 2,600 volunteer hours, up 48% over 2008-2009 because of expanded funding.

Thanks to AT&T, LINKS will be expanding the program to place mentors in secondary schools for 1:1 academic mentorships and study labs. One junior high school reports, "*We have two great LINKS volunteers who lend their support through tutoring. The study lab has become very successful....A few students who were failing several classes are now passing all of their classes and turning in all of their homework... Teachers are reporting improved classroom behavior, participation, and increased confidence for our program participants.*"

LINKS is funded entirely by LWSF through grant writing and donations.



LINKS is a model mentoring program, placing community volunteers directly into classrooms on a weekly basis.

Why Aerojet Supports the Lake Washington Schools Foundation

'Boosting education to make an epic impact'

We asked Aerojet to share its motivation for supporting the Foundation.

Aerojet contributes to the Lake Washington Schools Foundation to provide enrichment funding for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). These areas are critical to nurturing future rocket scientists—exactly what Aerojet requires.

Aerojet also needs its engineers to be adept at communicating—'Rithmetic is not enough; our people need Reading and 'Riting, too. We currently employ approximately 450 people in Redmond. Of these, nearly 40% are engineers or scientists. The balance is made up of highly skilled technicians, administrators, finance specialists, lawyers, and other specialized workers.

Therefore, we value all facets of the LWSD curriculum. We depend on the schools to provide the next generation of workers, be they rocket scientists, technicians, administrators, or facility workers.

We like to talk to sixth graders as they learn the planetary sciences, because much of what is known about the planets today has been enabled by satellites with Aerojet propulsion. Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 are now the farthest man-made objects from Earth. They remain operational after a 1977 launch, and the small thrusters that enable them to "phone home" were made right here in Redmond. We provide propulsion on spacecraft that have visited or are on their way to visit every planet in the solar system, thrusters that keep the Global Positioning System in position, as well as propulsion for a wide variety of other projects. We are inordinately proud of what we do, and like to share it with the people and students of our community.

Shadow puppets & story-telling help teach second graders writing, grammar, and public speaking at Rosa Parks Elementary

John Whaley (left) Executive Director for Operations, and Dr. Roger Myers, Redmond General Manager

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For more information about the Foundation, to donate, or to volunteer:

Contact Doug Seto, Executive Director
425-936-1414
www.lwsf.org
info@lwsf.org
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LWSF is located in Redmond at the Lake Washington School District Resource Center, 16250 NE 74th Street.

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