



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation

**The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation
Awards Two Ryan Family Art Grants for 2020**

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minnesota (October 22, 2020) – The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) recently awarded two Ryan Family Art grants to Elementary School teachers in the WBLA school district totaling \$1008.80.

The following Ryan Family Art grants were awarded:

Art and Sensory for All: Colors and Textures - Angela Lundblad (Normandy Park, Hugo, Willow Lane, Birch, Vadnais, North Oaks Preschool, Tamarack Nature Preschool, Birth to Two Special Education Team)

This year with Covid 19 and the limitations on group play and sharing of materials the classroom models have changed. This has caused the need for more art and sensory materials in each classroom. Bringing new materials into the program will give children the chance to learn and explore through art and sensory with such activities as art collages, water play, scooping and digging sand or building a structure with play dough. Hands on materials in the classroom allow students the freedom to explore and create. With the materials requested, children will be able to roll out play dough balls, make clay buildings, add feathers to bring texture of soft, using food coloring to color water to learn about color mixing, etc.

Otter Lake Elementary Take Home Art Kits, Erica Johnson, Tern Jorstad, Jodi Bjorkman, Sara McMahon (Otter Lake Elementary)

Otter Lake Elementary parents created a volunteer run art program (OLE Art) in 1995 after the full-time art teacher position was eliminated by the district. The program has grown to now have an expansive curriculum. Due to Covid 19, OLE Art is exploring new avenues to bring art to our students at home. OLE Art is planning to provide Take Home Art Kits to every Otter Lake Student in grades K-5 to expose all students to art. OLE Art is partnering with the Otter Lake PTA to make this happen. The PTA has contributed to this grant as well as the Foundation.

About the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation:

The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) supports public education with the help of local businesses, alumni, and community members. The Foundation administers teaching grants, scholarships, fellowships for teachers, an Angel Fund for families with special economic needs and works closely with the White Bear Lake Area Alumni Association. For more information about the WBLAEF please visit www.wblaef.org

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