



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation

### **The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation Awards Five Ryan Family Art Grants for 2023**

**WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minnesota (October 26, 2023)** - The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) recently awarded five Ryan Family Art Grants to Elementary School teachers in the White Bear Lake Area School District 624 totaling over \$2400.

#### **I am a Daymaker in the White Bear Lake Community and Beyond! - Stacy Brodt, Lakeaires Elementary 5th Grade**

This project will enhance social skills by providing funds for materials to spread joy and happiness in the school and community. It only takes a moment to make someone's day to become a Daymaker! This will also allow students to use a variety of mediums to learn different art techniques. Paper and pencil activities will mean more by giving the gift of art to others and students will expand their own art techniques. Each month the classroom will work on related projects to make someone else's day.

#### **Who We Are: Transdisciplinary IB Learning at Matoska International - Pam Winkler, Matoska International IB World School 1st Grade**

In partnership with the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Matoska is bringing artists to its classrooms in an effort to share its unique IB identity with the community. Students in grades K-5 will collaborate with a professional graffiti artist and will produce 6 painted mural panels, approximately 8' x 4' in size. These will represent the six IB learning foundational transdisciplinary themes and will depict representations of student voices describing each of these themes. The opportunity for students to collaborate and create with a professional artist will give unprecedented insight into the creative process and real-world learning and mentorship.

#### **Buddy Art Camp - Deb Thibault and Elizabeth Ulmer, Oneka Elementary 2nd/3rd Grade**

Buddy classes will meet monthly for art camp and create a piece of art that connects to current Literacy, Science, and SEL units. The students will have a chance to do a teach-back with their buddy from the curricula, and then immerse themselves in creating a piece of art with a purpose. Projects include button art, hand print animals, and a nature collage to name a few.

#### **Promoting Creativity to Accelerate Learning - Amy Corner, North Star Elementary 1st/2nd Grade**

As a new school North Star Elementary is continuing to establish a baseline of materials required to conduct art lessons using a variety of tools. A common introduction to elementary art is through watercolor and having the appropriate materials will allow teachers in grades K-5 to utilize the materials in the multipurpose lab for activities like this. Along with past experiences with the White Bear Lake Center for the Arts, teachers will utilize online resources for watercolor lessons.

#### **Talking Suitcases - Kathleen Elletson, Birch Lake Elementary Kindergarten**

Talking Suitcases will enhance the current art curriculum by having students create 2D or 3D creations about themselves, families, heritage and ancestry while focusing on social studies and art standards. With the

diverse student population at the school, this project will give voice to each background and experience in a safe, nurtured space. Artist Susan Armington will lead the students' creations that will be displayed at school, reflecting individuality and pride. Kindergarten art gives students many benefits like creativity, problem solving skills, self expression, fine motor skill development, visual-spatial processing, self control and innovation.

**About the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation:**

The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) supports White Bear Lake Area Schools with the help of local businesses, alumni, and community members. The Foundation administers teaching grants, scholarships and fellowships for teachers, and an Angel Fund for families with special economic needs. For more information about the WBLAEF please visit [wblaef.org](http://wblaef.org).

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