



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Andrea Loppnow

Phone: (651) 470-8215

Email: andrealoppnow10@gmail.com

**The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation
Awards Six Ryan Family Art Grants for 2019**

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minnesota (November 6, 2019) – The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) recently awarded six Ryan Family Art grants to Elementary School teachers in the White Bear Lake Area School District, totaling \$5519.

The following Ryan Family Art grants were awarded:

“Kind Hearted Kids” – Teacher Erika Jagiella, Otter Lake Elementary. This project will allow students in Special Education to be given an opportunity to be involved in a project using clay combined with an act of kindness. This art project will go hand in hand with the school’s social and emotional learning curriculum and spread an act of kindness through art.

“I’ve got talent” - Teachers: Alison Davies, Kelly Coorough, Shannon Fulton, Kelly Bock, Matoska International. This project will conceptualize the central idea that people use art to express feelings, points of view, and to connect with the world around them. Progressive mini-lessons are designed for students to experiment with the elements and principles of art in a variety of visual mediums. This year students will be asked to create a three-dimensional work based on historical artists or art movements. This year the project is to be expanded to include Ojibwa Bags to enhance Native American connections. The project will culminate in a “gallery walk” night for parents to see and for students to explain their art work.

“Making Art fun for a diverse group of learners!” - Teacher: Theresa Stender, Otter Lake Elementary. This project will enhance art curriculum and instruction by learning techniques of being able to sit and participate in a group activity for special education students on the autism spectrum while expanding student’s interest in being able to explore new projects with various art activities.

“Color My World” - Teachers: Pam Winkler, Karla Harding, Alyssa Larson and Christina Hayden, Matoska International. Currently students are involved in a six-week unit of inquiry that focuses on color and how it impacts and expresses emotion. These 4 teachers are currently working with the White Bear Center for the Arts to come up with choices for students to utilize their skills in their projects (painting materials, colorful paints colorful paper and glue or colorful recycled material). The teachers have then scheduled a trip on January 29th to the Center for the Arts with a guided tour and an hour to work on their projects.

-more-

“Theater Production – Jungle Book Jr.” - Teachers: Allison Theissen, Susan Fick, Steven Hawkinson, Taylor Nelson and David Nestrud, Birch Lake Elementary. Birch Lake has an opportunity to partner with the Hanifl Performing Arts Center and Children’s Performing Arts again this year. Being part of a theatrical productions builds self-confidence, improves memory and focus, sparks imagination, teaches empathy and is fun! The play this year will be “The Jungle Book Jr.” As witnessed last year, children will improve many areas of literacy, including, but not limited to: increased fluency, increased vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills.

“The Art of Step” - Teachers: Kyra Scanlan Duzynski, Ashley Peterson, Kim Jeske-Walfoort, Matoska International. Matoska has collaborated with the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts since 2015. The residency was led by professional teaching artist, Sean Burns, who focused on teaching students the art of stepping. This opportunity will enhance the art curriculum and instruction by allowing student to express themselves and explore their identity through rhythm and movement. The project will enable 3rd graders to continue working with Sean Burns this year to teach 10 lessons to the children.

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 and fellowships for teachers. In addition, they manage the Angel Fund and The Closet, both benefiting families with special economic needs in the district. For more information about the WBLAEF please visit www.wblaef.org.

-###-