

2004 GRANTS

The following grants were awarded in 2004 for the 2004-2005 school year.

Program: First Lego League Competition

School/Department: Blair, Prairie and Whittier

Students Impacted: approximately 32 children, grades 4-6

Program Description: Participants use LEGO Robotics technology to build a robot and compete in a friendly robotics event specially designed for ages 9-14. Using LEGO bricks and other elements such as sensors, motors, and gears, teams gain hands-on experience in engineering and computer programming principles as they construct and program unique robot inventions based on a problem given to the team. Participants develop experience in problem solving, teamwork, creative thinking, project management, persistence and perseverance, design concepts, research and planning. Funding will be used to purchase LEGO sets for three LEGO League teams. Materials are reusable and will also be a resource for GT programs at the schools.

Program: Sixth Grade Girls Book Club

School/Department: Saratoga

Students Impacted: approximately 30 children, grade 6

Program Description: Research literature documents that pre-teen and teenage girls often are underachievers and have difficulty making decisions that reflect a strong positive self image. This program is designed to provide opportunities for sixth grade girls to develop a stronger self image and to develop attitudes and friendships that will support and sustain them in future decision making. The group will meet weekly during lunch during the school year and read and discuss books that portray strong female role models. Additional activities will include visits with area female leaders and work places where women are successful decision makers.

Program: ELL Explorers

School/Department: South High School

Students Impacted: approximately 20 children, grades 9-12

Program Description: For the past six years, South High School has taken eligible ELL students on an enrichment camping excursion to expose students to areas of the state outside of the Waukesha area and to provide opportunities for the ELL students to participate in social interaction, in English, outside of an academic setting. Students are only able to participate in the trip if they have met a set of academic, attendance, and behavioral requirements. Thus, the trip is an incentive for students to attend school and work hard in order to be successful in their studies. The trip also reinforces classroom content on Wisconsin history, earth science, math and government.

Program: Stories Jubilee

School/Department: Library/Media Services

Students Impacted: approximately 3,000 – 4,500 children, grades K-6

Program Description: Stories Jubilee is a collaborative effort between the Waukesha Public Library and the district to bring children's book creators to our community. Authors, illustrators, and other "wordsmiths" such as poets and storytellers are invited to share their appreciation of the written word with the young people of Waukesha. The three-day celebration takes place each year in November during National Children's Book Week and National Education Week. During the day, the book creators work with the elementary school children. Both large group presentations and workshops for students or teachers are held in the schools. Workshops for students have included poetry interpretation, and researching for historical fiction. Training for professional staff has included storytelling in the classroom. In the evening, a community-wide event is held at the public library for Waukesha families and the public to meet the guest creators.