

# The Carillon

Spring 2015

The Official Newsletter of the  
Caledonia Education Foundation

## CEF Hosts State of the District Breakfast

On a crisp February morning, over 40 people attended the first State of the District Breakfast hosted by CEF. Denise Blunk, Executive Director welcomed guests and gave a brief overview of CEF's mission. She shared that CEF has added a new small grant opportunity in which a \$500 or less grant can be applied for on a monthly basis.

Karen Melton, Kraft Meadows Media Specialist and CEF grantee, followed by sharing a presentation about her CEF grant that funded the purchase of 12 sewing machines. Karen uses them to teach after school beginning and advanced sewing for middle school students.

Randy Rodriguez, District Superintendent, delivered an address covering the district's mission statement, shared values, and strategic plan. He updated the audience on the progress of the bond projects and the financial position of the district. The event concluded with a brief time for questions and answers.



Superintendent Rodriguez greets guests enjoying breakfast.

## Language Arts Classes Experience Immersion Literacy in the Classroom

by Jessie Belote, Duncan Lake Middle School 6th Grade Teacher



Middle school is a pivotal time for reading and literacy for students. It is during this time that a child either becomes an avid reader for life, or starts to give up and lose interest in reading altogether. Avid readers have better

vocabularies and better comprehension in all subjects compared to non-readers, so this places even more emphasis on independent reading. Further, when students are able to experience immersion reading (reading and listening to a book at the same time), students gain more comprehension from the book and gain more decoding skills by being able to hear the words and see the words at the same time.

Thanks to the Caledonia Education Foundation, I was able to buy five Kindles to use in the classroom so students in my classroom can experience immersion reading. I have been able to share books with my students that many would not think to pick up on their own, and many newer books that most libraries have not picked

up yet. Many books on the Kindles are the first book in a series that if a student likes, they can continue it on their own. Being able to hear and read the book at the same time helps the students to fully immerse themselves into the reading experience, and will often ask for books just like the one that's, "on the Kindle."



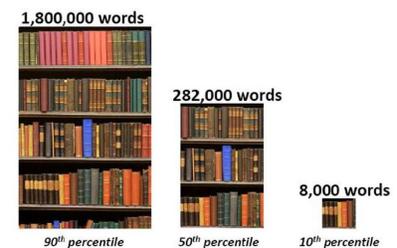
These have really made a difference to my readers, so thank you CEF!

Nik Clark and Brendan Clarke (**above**) using the Kindles. Ryan McVey (**left**) says, "I really like the Kindles. I find it really easy to follow along with the audio." Ashley Gilbert (**right**) is engrossed in her story.



### Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year



By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

<http://blog.pickcrew.com/reading-retention/>  
<http://journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00892/full>

## CEF Grants in Action



### Sharing the Love for Sewing By Karen Melton, Media Specialist, Kraft Meadows Middle School

In the fall of 2013 the Enrichment Coordinators at Kraft Meadows Middle School were looking for staff to offer 8th hour learning opportunities for interested students, so I decided it was time to share my love of

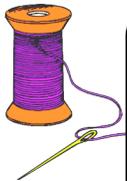
sewing. That first class had quite a few challenges because of the old sewing machines, that we had to work with. At times you could only laugh while bobbin casings literally flew out of the machines and students were chasing the unraveling thread as it spread across the room. Half of each period would be spent trying to repair the machines enough just to keep students going.

After doing some research and trying to find funding to purchase new machines I attended a grant writing workshop held by the Caledonia Education Foundation, not even knowing if they would consider funding something like sewing machines. I was thrilled with the encouragement and support I found at the workshop and was excited to write the grant.

When thinking about that important requirement of a community partner to support the grant, the Caledonia Women's Club immediately came to mind as a group of women who had a long history of community service and who would probably have even more years of sewing experience. The Women's Club not only donated money to purchase carrying/storage cases for all of the machines, they also gave the invaluable resource of volunteers to assist with class time.

As sixth grader Ashley Klap wrote me, "The fun part about the sewing class is there is always someone to help you and you got to pick your own fabric. The sewing machines were so simple to use and easy. I got to go at my own pace. The ladies were so nice!" Seventh grader, Zoey Zupin echoed these sentiments when she said, "I loved working with the ladies from the Women's Club, they were so nice and a great help! I loved the class! It was really fun to learn how to use a sewing machine and all the tricks you could use to save time. Also, it was really fun to see yourself improve from not knowing how to sew at all, to making a pair of pants!"

The new sewing machines, purchased with a grant from the CEF have been used for two rounds of sewing classes at Kraft Meadows Middle School and to do some sewing for the high school musical. They will be used at Duncan Lake Middle School for beginning sewing classes in the near future. These machines help students gain critical life skills, creativity and confidence from concept design to seeing and wearing the finished product!



Pictured:

Above: 8th grader Sophie Rogowyi, and 7th grader Zoey Zupin are assisted by Pauline Brower from the Women's Club

Above left: 8th grader Hannah Fritz and 6th grader Ashley Klap

Above right: 6th grader Charleigh Geil



### Learning Through the Arts By: Jody Grantz, Media Center, Paris Ridge Elementary

Paris Ridge Elementary received a grant from the Caledonia Education Foundation to purchase an iPad Air in order to record students reading books, performing poetry, and other language arts activities. This year our fourth and fifth graders will produce 15 books, read by K-5 students, which are uploaded to an internal website where teachers at Paris Ridge Elementary and the Early Childhood Center can share the stories with their class.



"Pick A Pumpkin Mrs. Millie" read by fifth grader Nile Peace.



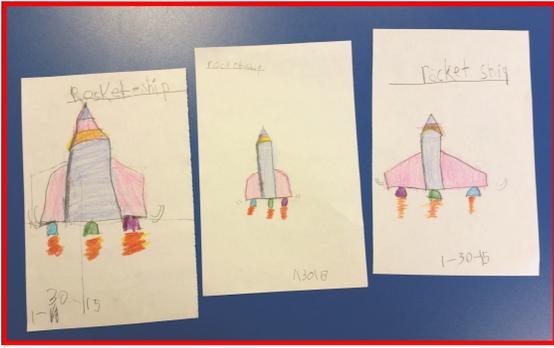
Dear Nile,  
Thank you for the story. The book was awesome. We liked all the different kinds of pumpkins at the farm. The story was funny. We loved the story! Warmly,  
Mrs. Little's First Grade Class

Infusing our language arts curriculum with video production gives students and teachers the visual tool needed to access verbal reading skills. Narrators master skills such as reading with expression, reading speed for listeners, accuracy, stamina, and fluency. Some books are read with multiple readers which requires collaboration and focus....but sometimes you just get the giggles.

I can't put into words how excited the students and teachers are about this project. I have students stopping me in the hall asking if they can read for me and/or work on production. Teachers thank me for giving their students such a valuable experience.

Thank you to all those who support the Caledonia Education Foundation. Our students are lucky to be part of such a caring community.

## CEF Grants in Action



### Drawing Kids into Reading and Writing by Peg Mulherin, Emmons Lake Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

The title of an after school workshop, "Drawing Kids into Reading and Writing," intrigued me because it connected three areas that are of importance in any elementary classroom. After a 90-minute workshop, I was convinced this was something I needed to pursue and incorporate into my classroom. Although the program supports our curriculum nicely, funding was not in our school budget. That's when I turned to CEF for help. I have seen all the programs they have supported over the years and decided to apply.

In August 2014, armed with a box of 64 Crayola crayons and some #2 pencils, the K-1 teachers of Emmons Lake attended a two-day workshop and learned drawing techniques to teach kindergartners and first graders skills that will enable them to be better writers, readers and creative thinkers. Learning to draw helps develop fine motor skills that will aid in the task of writing, too. In the kindergarten program, Project 64, students draw things such as people, animals, plants, nature and man made objects like busses and bulldozers. Another focus in the kindergarten program is pencil grip techniques and eye hand coordination. In addition, students learn to mix colors, change the pressure of the pencil grip, use graph paper, shade objects, and proportion numbers in math and some letter formation. The first grade teachers will piggyback off the kindergarten lessons for this year and they will be trained in the first grade project, Project 120, in the summer of 2015. This program builds upon the kindergarten project.



Kindergartners:  
Katherine Honhart and  
Anders Foerch  
"c" is for carrot



While drawing, visual vocabulary is used so students can better express themselves and communicate about their world. These are very important lifelong skills. In addition to drawing and writing, this program can be used to incorporate math skills, science skills, etc. Students can visually represent number sense and geometry. It opens the door to many other skills, as well. The students, as well as the teachers, are enjoying the drawing and writing opportunities that have been afforded by the Caledonia Education Foundation. When asked what she liked best about the program, first grader Elizabeth Honhart said, "I like it because you can mix colors and try out a new color and see what they mix into. I also like to draw and now I draw better." Thank you CEF for your continued support of Caledonia Community School teachers and students.

### Human Anatomy in Clay By Helena Risdon, Duncan Lake Middle School 7th Grade Teacher

Sculpting clay muscles and organs and attaching them to a scale model skeleton provides Duncan Lake Middle School students with a hands-on experience in learning about the human body organs and systems. The Anatomy in Clay Learning System – Human Body Manikens is used in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Code Blue (Human Body Systems) taught by Helena Risdon and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Total Body Fitness taught by Ralph Shefferly. By creating the organs and muscles, students study the general shape and position of the organs, sculpt them in reusable clay, and then place them in the correct position on the model. As students compare their sculpted specimens, discussion and follow-up corrections are an important part of the



learning process.

8th grade Students Abigail Diekevers (left) and Alex Stalzer (right) talked about their experience. "Using the models helped us understand where the muscles are located in the body, what the specific muscles do, and how the muscles actually look," said Alex Stalzer.

Abigail added, "I liked the hands-on experience. In addition, I thought that this experience sparked an interest in medicine and the human body for some of the other students."

# The Donor Roll Call of Honor

Contributions given September 2014 to February 2015

## Honoraria

### In Honor of...

Thomas B Cornell  
Katie Kowalczyk-Fulmer  
Katie Kowalczyk-Fulmer  
Katie Kowalczyk-Fulmer

### Remembered by...

Margaret Fitzsimmons  
Steve & Mary Jane Evink  
William & Joan Howard  
Sandra Kowalczyk

## Memorials

### In Memory of...

Bill Harrison Agriscience Scholarship  
Beverly McCarty  
Dr. Dale F. McKenzie  
Van Bree Science Fund  
Van Bree Science Fund  
Paula Weller Scholarship Fund  
Carl E. Workman Scholarship

### Remembered by...

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Richard McCarty  
Southkent Veterinary Hospital  
Nancee and John Sneed  
Mary Vaughn  
Penny Weller  
Mike and Laura Niemann

## Brick Pavers

### In Honor of...

"Pay it Forward" Jane McGookey  
In Memory of Paul Emerson  
Diane Doot, We Miss You Mom  
Phil Stulgaitis, 1943-2014, In Memory

### Remembered by...

Nan Patterson  
Paula Rode  
Bill Doot  
Patti Chipman

## Teacher Gifts

### In Honor of...

Brad Blasser—Emmons Lake Elementary  
Joyce Graham—Caledonia Elementary  
Stacy Jongekrijg—Emmons Lake Elementary  
Erin Kornoely—Emmons Lake Elementary  
Jessie Langeland—Caledonia Elementary  
Mary Rossman—Emmons Lake Elementary  
Amy Sherwin—Emmons Lake Elementary  
Sue Waayenberg—Emmons Lake Elementary

### Remembered by...

Kassandra Kukulis  
Moreau Johnson  
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Sydney Bresnahan  
Adam Spees  
Nola Pearson  
Colin Pearson  
Alexa Pearson

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## Caledonia Women's Club Scholarship Fund

Brann's Steakhouse  
Caledonia Hair Company  
Caledonia Women's Club  
Swierenga Jewelers  
99 Nails & Spa



# Foundation Fest 2015

SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 9, 2015

Join us for our annual tailgate party and homecoming game celebrating community!

The Caledonia Education Foundation's annual Foundation Fest has become one of the community's most anticipated events. The tailgater takes place prior to the Caledonia High School "Fighting Scots" Homecoming game and is open to the entire community. Grab a few friends and enjoy a delicious meal before the game while being entertained by the Caledonia Marching Band and the Caledonia Pipes and Drums. During the event, the HONORED ALUMNI program recognizes a past graduate of the Caledonia Community Schools for the alumnus' accomplishments and service to his/her community.



**Sponsorship opportunities are available at several levels. Contact us or visit our website if you are interested.**

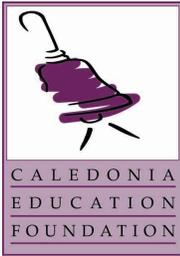


WELCOME  
DR. DAVID MANSKY DPM  
AS A NEW FOUNDATION  
SPONSOR!



Dr. Mansky's Caledonia office in the D&W Village Center

David Mansky DPM is a podiatrist who has been servicing the Caledonia area for almost 3 years now. He has an office in Hastings and Caledonia and is dedicated to making our residents more active by keeping their feet and ankles pain free. He has been practicing Podiatry for 17 years and is Board Certified in Foot Surgery performing many surgeries at local hospitals to resolve problems such as bunions, hammer toes, heel spurs, bone spurs, broken bones, etc. He is especially interested in sports medicine. Being a runner himself he loves to take care of runners and he is a sponsor of the Kilt Klassic as well as The Gazelle's Girl Half Marathon and 5K held by Gazelle Sports in Grand Rapid each year. He is also a contributor to the Caledonia Education Foundation and believes in supporting the local community. Dr. Mansky's office treats most any problems with the foot and ankle and has x-ray available right in his office. Visit his website at [www.mansky podiatry.com](http://www.mansky podiatry.com). His Caledonia office is located at 9385 Cherry Valley Ave. in the D&W Village Center located directly under the clock tower. The office phone number is [1-616-891-2577](tel:1-616-891-2577). He also offers his personal cell phone number, [1-248-884-6280](tel:1-248-884-6280) to anyone who wishes to call him to discuss their foot and ankle problems. Give him a call!



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*Creating Opportunities*

*Empowering our Community*

*Funding our Future*

## Take Time to Thank a Teacher!

You may be considering a meaningful year end gift for your child's teacher(s). Make it easy by giving a tax-deductible donation to the Caledonia Education Foundation in the teacher's name on behalf of your child. Half of the money will stay with CEF and half will be given to the teacher's classroom fund.

Simply make a donation using the form below. You will receive a gift card to present to your child's teacher. Cards will be delivered to your home via US mail. In addition, the name of the child and the teacher he or she has honored will be published in a future edition of the Carillon.

Please return your completed order form and tax-deductible donation to us by mail at P.O. Box 353, Caledonia, MI 49316, donate online using Paypal at [www.caledoniacef.org](http://www.caledoniacef.org) or give to your school office. Please allow a week for us to process your order.



I would like to make a donation in my teacher's name to the Caledonia Education Foundation. Enclosed is my donation of    \_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_