



Thanks to you,

MPEF can help provide Mattawan students with important educational opportunities, college scholarships and other enrichment programs.

Dear Friend:

Each year at this time, we reach out to the community for support during our annual fund drive. Through this important fund-raising effort, MPEF accepts donations from people like you to fund the Creative Instruction Awards, college scholarships, professional development grants and other programs designed to further educational excellence at Mattawan.

Thanks to your thoughtful and generous donations, creative and innovative teaching programs happen at Mattawan Consolidated School, involving virtually every student. Whether it's 8th graders in science studying climate change, Later El students exploring nature "hands-on," a high school writing center where student tutors help their peers, or math concepts becoming more real through visual learning – the list of valuable and creative projects funded initially by MPEF that are now ongoing programs is a long one.

Quite simply, without you, these types of programs could not happen.

We know this will be a very difficult year for most families. We know you'll be very careful when determining what to donate to charities and other organizations.

Here's what we'd like you to know about MPEF:

- MPEF is an all-volunteer organization and our board members include parents, school staff and members of the community.
- Your contributions have helped the foundation grow and expand programs for students since 1993. Together we are making a difference!
- Your donation may qualify for a federal tax deduction. MPEF is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Please consider becoming involved again this year by sending a donation today with the enclosed envelope. You can also donate online at www.mpef.org or by using PaySchools at www.mattawanschools.org.

Every donation, no matter what amount, is valued! Thank you for supporting our students and our schools.

Sincerely, with Mattawan Pride,

Ron Kuhn
President, MPEF Board of Directors

MPEF recognizes and honors levels of giving at the end of the school year. Your gracious support is valued at every level.

- Luminary ... for donations of \$1,000 or more
- Visionary ... for donations of \$500 or more
- Catalyst ... for donations of \$250 or more
- Innovator ... for donations of \$100 or more
- Contributor ... for donations of \$50 or more
- Donor ... for donations up to \$50

Creative Instruction Awards Announced

We're pleased to announce that the following projects received Creative Instruction Awards (CIA) this year. A total of \$13,000 – thanks to community donations – will be used to advance educational excellence at all four schools.

With sincere appreciation to all our teachers and staff who took the time to submit applications – we wish there were funds to support every request.

Watch for more pictures of students engaged in learning through these innovative ideas on www.mpef.org and future newsletters!

Early Elementary

Chit-Chat Club - This club will help "build a social community" by providing a structured group experience to enhance social interaction between a small group of first-grade students. (Lynn Yanna and Debbie Davis)



Learning to Move and Moving to Learn – Motor skill development for all Young Fives and kindergarten students

will engage students in both gross and fine motor activities necessary to prepare for learning. (V. Niewoonder, K. Henry, N. Murphy, C. Rodbard, A. Lutz, K. Williams, J. Davey, and C. Fouts)

Differentiated Math Instruction - First-graders can work at their own instructional level using a variety of hands-on math tools, such as rulers, games, cards and books. (Laura Ballard, Barbara Cooperider, Kim Mayberry, Kristen Snow, and Lynn Yanna)

Thriving Thespians – Theatrical arts activities will further enhance language arts skills and increase cognitive abilities with second-graders. (Judy Aukes, Karen Ivens, and Mary Srodulski)

Later Elementary

Voicethread – Fourth-grade students can narrate, collaborate, and share thinking strategies, written projects and class

work in all subject areas using a Voicethread slide show that holds images, videos, and documents. (Cheryl VanEngen, Greta Ballard, Stephanie Comrie, Betsy Kingma)

Mentoring Program – Middle School student leaders will mentor Later Elementary students using board games, books and craft projects to share enriched experiences and activities in a one-on-one environment. (Amy Smith, Later El., and Shari Magrath, Middle School)

Image Making and the Writing Process – Students will create visual art to illustrate their own stories. (Mindy Hare, 3rd grade)

Becoming a Bucket-Filling School – A presentation begins a year-long experience teaching students how to value themselves and others, engage in healthy personal relationships, develop habits for a healthy life, and show caring, support, and kindness toward others to "Fill Their Bucket."

(Susan Hagenbarth on behalf of the entire Later Elementary)

Theatre Brings Writing Inspiration to Life – Students in this third-grade team will attend a theatre production at Cheney Auditorium to build on books and lessons they have learned together. (Pat Tower and Cheryl O'Donnell)

Kids Zoom In and Take Charge – All third-graders will have an opportunity to use digital cameras to explore their world and use their own pictures as they write short stories, books, or other creative projects. (Cheryl O'Donnell on behalf of all third-grade students)

"Leap into Learning" with Creative Active Play Gear – Use of this equipment will promote healthy exercise habits on a daily basis, which prepares the mind and body for learning. (Cheryl O'Donnell on behalf of all third-grade students)



Meet a Michigan Author – All third-grade students will have a chance to meet and learn about writing from Michigan author, Bryan Chick, who wrote *The Secret Zoo*. (Pat Tower on behalf of all third-grade students)

Bodily Kinesthetic Geography – Students in social studies classes in all three grades will be able to explore National Geographic's 26' x 35' floor map of North America, bringing hands-on (and feet too!) geography education to our school. (Pat Tower on behalf of the entire Later Elementary)

Capture the Moment – Fifth-grade students will explore Mattawan Consolidated School to catalogue part of the 100-year school district celebration in 2011 using two digital video cameras. More video opportunities for all students and subjects will be integrated into classroom curriculum. (Jason Valade on behalf of the entire Later Elementary)

Out in My Schoolyard – Students will observe and explore nature outside with magnifiers, storage cylinders, and storage clipboards, as well as portable seating for observation and writing, during social studies. (Ann Siwula on behalf of all third-grade students)

Chromatic Bell Sets – Students will use the bells to perform, describe, and create melody, rhythm, texture, tone color/timbre, dynamics and music forms. (Marsha Houser-Postma, music, Later Elementary students)

Bringing the Store to Our School – Two teaching cash registers with coins and bills will be used for differentiated math instruction with students who have specific learning disabilities. (Rachel Lam and Kim Porco, Grades 3-5)

Middle School

"Fight Fat!" Kits – This life management instructional kit includes many tools and guides to teach nutrition. (Ann Pierluissi, Life Management)

Historical Fiction as a Revolutionary Experience! – Creative use of historical novels, with settings spanning American colonization through the Civil War, will inspire eighth-graders. (Cobb, Hattendorf, Hogan-McLean, McCollum, Nelsen, Smith, Snyder, eighth-grade Language Arts and Social Studies)

Student Response System – Clickers that link to Promethean

Boards will provide real-time assessment data from students, immediate diagnostic information, and engaging inquiry for class participation and discussion. (Goetzinger, Seeley, Sundling, Fender, Smeader, Dardus, Hinueber, Mills, Ablao, Martinic, Karsen, Boydston, and Anderson, sixth grade)



High School

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus Practice Tests – Advanced Placement exam books provide quality experiences with sample AP questions and assessments to assist students studying for the AP Calculus exam. (Nancy Garman, AP Calculus)

Genocide Literature Circles – World Literature books in several literary genres offer English 11th-grade students an engaging classroom experience to learn about the history of genocides. (Terisa Pollock and Kyle Krol)

MHS Writing Center Presentation – Writing center student staff will attend the professional conference of the Michigan Writing Center Association and participate in panel and poster presentations. (Kyle Krol)

Bluetooth Marks – A Magic Trackpad will be used in multiple subjects and grades to create a classroom environment maximizing critical thinking, problem solving, and communication supported with technology. (John Fairchild)



Getting Called to the Principals' Office!

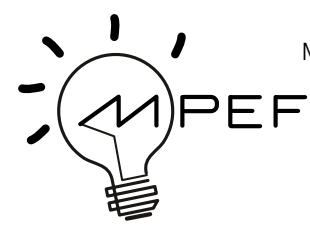
When the principals call you down, you go! And so, Bill McNulty, MPEF board member (and once upon a time a principal himself), recently met with the four building principals and the school superintendent to discuss some new programs that will be funded through the James A. Weeldreyer Endowment for Building Positive Interpersonal Relationships.

Thanks to your community donations and a generous match from a Mattawan family, this endowment fund was created and named for James Weeldreyer, our long-time superintendent who retired in 2009. The endowment will provide learning experiences that help students build character and foster positive connections and relationships within their school, community and today's global world. Watch for more news on this year's program!



A meeting of the minds! Seated, left to right, Later El Principal Christie Enstrom-West; Bill McNulty, MPEF board member; High School Principal Colin Ripmaster. Standing, left to right, Superintendent Patrick Bird; Early El Principal Derek Wheaton; and Middle School Principal Chip Schuman.

Retiring in 2009, Jim Weeldreyer was superintendent of Mattawan Consolidated School for 31 years. The endowment fund named for him continues Jim's legacy of excellence and his personal commitment to our school philosophy: "We believe every child has the right to be connected. We believe every child has the right to intellect."



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mattawan public education foundation

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The Mattawan Public Education Foundation's mission is to strengthen the community through funding unique educational opportunities.

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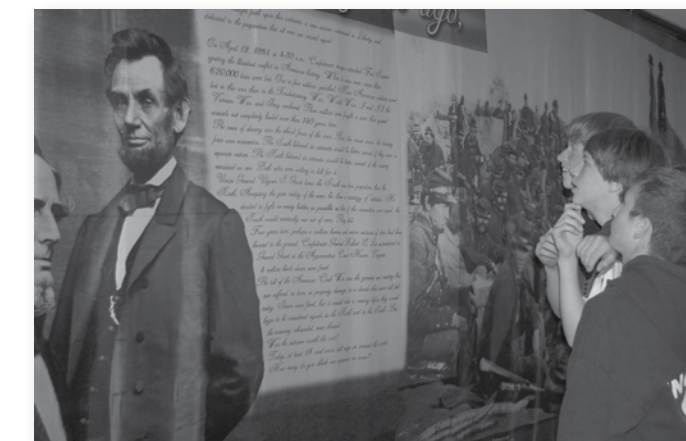
Show Your Spirit for Mattawan Schools!

Just like the brightly colored leaves throughout our community, the spirit and energy are abundant at our Mattawan schools. This fall, the educational programs funded through the Mattawan Public Education Foundation (MPEF) are already underway. We've got lots to share with you as we kick off a new fund-raising season.

Imagination Rules! Each fall, MPEF announces the Creative Instruction Awards to support teachers as they develop creative and innovative programs for your children in all four school buildings. Check it out on page two.

Also this year, our school principals are hard at work planning some new and unique programs funded through the James A. Weeldreyer endowment (see inside).

We hope you'll continue to be a part of MPEF by supporting the foundation that strives to help inspire children to learn, enrich the educational environment, support our teachers and school staff and connect the community to our schools. Your donations and involvement make it happen!



Last year, MPEF funds brought Abe Lincoln to the Middle School! To help students create their own exhibits for a "Civil War Museum" while studying history, 8th grade teachers Christine Tannheimer, Dean Silber and Jeff Hattendorf received funds to bring a traveling exhibit to the Middle School, all to help bring this era to life for our students.

Newcomers to the community Kathy Houle (left) and her children get to know MPEF! Kari Hoikka, Mattawan high school teacher and MPEF board member, welcomed them during Homecoming festivities.



Just before parade time, Jennifer Weaver, Gina McClish and their children connect with MPEF board member Cheryl Riethman at the MPEF table.



One of 40 new families who received tickets to the Homecoming football game on October 1, MPEF welcomes the Joe Biuish family to our Mattawan community.



Mattawan students do a great job representing MPEF in the homecoming parade each year. These "smarties" toss out our favorite candy -- can you guess? -- along the route.



Making Connections

Flu Shot Program Continues at Medicine Tree Pharmacy

Flu shots are still available at Medicine Tree Pharmacy, located in McGillen's Crossing Center in downtown Mattawan, and thanks go to Don Jacks, R.Ph., who has offered to donate a percentage of the noninsured receipts for annual flu shots to MPEF! No appointments necessary. Find out more by calling Medicine Tree at 668-6801.

Ho-Ho-Holiday Recognition Program is Here!

As sure as the snow will fly, our popular holiday teacher recognition program will be available to help you honor your student's teachers this year with a gift that keeps giving. A donation to MPEF in honor of a teacher contributes to our Creative Instruction Awards, which gives teachers the opportunity to bring their innovative teaching ideas to students! Find a flyer in the school offices or watch for details with the Early and Later Elementary Tuesday News. Just drop the completed form and donation at a school office by December 8 and a special holiday card will notify the teacher that a gift in their name has been sent to MPEF. Feedback from the teachers on this program is very positive!

MPEF Loses a Friend in October

We remember Edith Boyle, long-time supporter of the foundation, who passed away on October 2. Edith was a great friend to MPEF and Mattawan Consolidated School, and her legacy lives on through generous donations that continue to support our programs.

Save the Date!

MPEF 3rd Annual Charity Golf Classic is June 16, 2011, at Olde Mill Golf Course. Watch for more details!

Q&A: How are Creative Instruction Awards granted?

Teachers and staff complete applications in the early fall. Then, a committee, which includes MPEF board members and community volunteers, reviews and awards the grants in October.

What kinds of projects are funded? The review committee looks for new, original, creative ideas that will have a positive learning impact on students. Depending on the amount requested and the amount of available funding, the committee may not be able to fulfill all requests and may also award partial funding to some applicants.

Creative Instructions Awards (CIAs) are funded through community donations from our annual fund-raiser and the holiday teacher recognition program – THANK YOU for making CIAs possible!