



Lake of the Woods Lions Club Awards 2011 Teacher Innovation Grants

December 2, 2011

The Lake of the Woods' (LOW) Lions' Club has announced the names of nine recipients of this year's Teacher Innovation Grants (TIG). The nine educators were selected from among 38 Orange County Public School teachers who submitted applications.

The recipients represent six of Orange County's nine schools and the grants will support a range of lessons and programs related to math, science, technology, economics, art, music, literacy and bullying prevention. The Lions also referred one additional application to the Club's Sight Committee, which awarded a supplemental tenth grant to support the acquisition of assistive technology for vision-impaired students.

"We had a lively and enthusiastic discussion as we reviewed grant proposals," said Beth Ridpath, chair of the LOW Lions TIG program selection committee. "These proposals reflect the dedication and creative thinking of Orange County teachers. We were excited to learn about these innovative ideas and look forward to honoring each of the grant recipients at our dinner meeting on December 1."

The Lions' Club established the TIG program in 2010 to support teacher-produced lessons or programs that increase student achievement, support the Virginia Standards of Learning, promote tolerance and/or exhibit new technology in the classroom. Grants range up to \$250 and they are awarded to teachers in clustered grade levels, including pre-K through 2nd grade, grades 3-5, middle school grades and at the high school level.



The recipients of the 2011 Lake of the Woods Lions Club Teacher Innovation Grants include, from left to right, back row: John Lentine, Bradley Toombs, Page Almond, Betsy Hamilton; and front row: Julie Hartzfeld, Kate Smith, Cheri Norris, Brandalee Cooper and Rose Devaney.

Last year, the Lions awarded grants to seven recipients among 28 applications received. “The growing number of applications and grants demonstrate the effectiveness of the teacher innovation grant program,” said Orange County School Superintendent Bob Grimesey. “The Lake of the Woods Lions Club continues to inspire our teachers by helping them to overcome cost barriers to many excellent ideas.”

All ten recipients were recognized during a Lions Club banquet at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse on Thursday evening, December 1.

The teachers and their grants are as follows:

- **Page Almond** of Orange County High School, \$250 to purchase Smart Board Tools for math instruction;
- **Betsy Hamilton** of Prospect Heights Middle School, \$221 to support *The Reaching Readers* enrichment program;
- **Rose Devaney** of Locust Grove Elementary School, \$250 to support an anti-bullying program;
- **Kate Smith** of Locust Grove Elementary School, \$250 to purchase a *High Interest Reading Kit* to bolster language arts instruction;
- **Brandalee Cooper** of Orange Elementary School, \$200 to support a *Digital Recording* program in her music classes;
- **Bradley Toombs** of Locust Grove Middle School, \$238 to support his *Lawn Boy* project, which will build reading skills while promoting economic instruction in social studies classrooms;
- **Julie Hartzfeld** of Locust Grove Primary School, \$250 to support the presentation of an science-oriented assembly titled, *Under the Sea*;
- **Cheri Norris**, a Locust Grove Primary School special education teacher, will receive \$238.99 for a set of touch screen tablets; and
- **John Lentine**, art teacher at Locust Grove Primary School, will receive \$250 for supplies for his “*Glad to Meet You*” project.

In addition, the Lions’ Club Sight Committee purchased a *Zoom Text 9.1 Magnifier* to enrich instruction in **Natalie McMahan’s** Prospect Heights Middle School classroom.

The LOW Lions Club works in partnership with the Orange County Education Foundation to promote the program among public school teachers. Inspired by the success of the Lions Club program, the Foundation established a second TIG program to benefit teachers at Germanna Community College and Grymes Memorial School as well as public school teachers.

“The LOW Lions TIG program provides an obvious direct benefit for public school teachers,” Grimesey concluded. “However it also has provided a secondary benefit for all Orange County public, private and community college teachers by serving as inspiration for the OC Ed Foundation TIG program.”

The Foundation will issue a call for the next set of TIG applications in the early spring of 2012. Orange County teachers whose applications were not funded by the LOW Lions TIG program will become eligible automatically for the Foundation grant program. Those grants will be awarded in the late spring of 2012.

Individuals or groups interested in supporting the LOW Lions Club’s TIG program may mail checks to: Lake of the Woods Lions Club Teacher Innovation Grant Program, P.O. Box 605, Locust Grove, VA, 22508. Individuals or groups interested in supporting the Orange County Education Foundation’s TIG program may contact Matt Benefield, Treasurer, at 540-661-4550 or at mbenefield@ocss-va.org.

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Further information may be obtained by contacting Carol Hunter, Coordinator of Gifted and ESOL Services, Orange County Public Schools, at (540) 661-4550.