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Press Release

**Lake of the Woods Lions Club Awards
Grants to 10 Orange County Teachers**

December 7, 2012



Photo Credit: George Webb

The recipients of the 2012 Lake of the Woods Lions Club Teacher Innovation Grants include, from left to right: Beth Herndon, Erin Shafferman, Bradley Toombs, Brook Woodward, Heidi Pettyjohn, Pam Whitlock, Natalie McMahan, Cysta Walters and Tammy Bowen. Not pictured are Linda Reith, Allen Remorenko, and Cindy Kyle.

The Lake of the Woods' (LOW) Lions' Club has announced the names of ten recipients of its third annual Teacher Innovation Grants (TIG). The 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 science, Virginia studies, music, language arts, civics, and math. The Lions also referred one additional application to the Club's Sight Committee, which awarded a supplemental eleventh grant to support the acquisition of a Kindle Fire Tablet to enhance learning for vision-impaired students.

"We are always amazed at the quality and variety represented in the TIG proposals. Orange County Public School teachers are so focused on the needs of their students," said Beth Ridpath, chair of the LOW Lions TIG program selection committee. "These proposals demonstrate the purposeful way teachers approach instruction, always looking for ways to make learning meaningful. We so enjoy honoring each of the grant recipients at our December dinner meeting."

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 the high school.

Last year, the Lions awarded grants to nine recipients among 38 applications received. "The Lake of the Woods Lions Club continues to inspire, support and recognize our teachers' great ideas," said Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Bob Grimesey. "In the process, they continue to play a vital leadership role in serving the academic needs of the children and youth of Orange County. They have the enduring gratitude of both the Orange County School Board and the Orange County Education Foundation Board."

This year's recipients were recognized during the LOW Lions Club's meeting on December 6, 2012 at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse. The teachers and their grants are as follows:

- **Beth Herndon** of Orange County High School, \$175 to implement *OCHS Apprentice* in the social studies curriculum;
- **Linda Reith and Clysta Walters** of Orange County High School, \$220 to support *Applications of Trig: GPS*;
- **Allen Remorenko** of Orange County High School, \$250 to purchase foreign policy and national security curriculum enhancements;
- **Bradley Toombs** of Locust Grove Middle School, \$209 to purchase a *Listening Center for Civics*;
- **Tammy Bowen** of Unionville Elementary School, \$250 to purchase *Character Counts* guidance materials;
- **Pam Whitlock** of Unionville Elementary School, \$250 to support the *Friends Read Every Day* language arts program;
- **Erin Shafferman** of Gordon Barbour Elementary School, \$131 to purchase *Music Across the Grade Levels* materials;
- **Heidi Pettyjohn** and the Locust Grove Elementary School fourth-grade team, \$187.50 to supplement the Virginia Studies curriculum with the *Jamestown/Yorktown Outreach* program;
- **Cindy Kyle** of Lightfoot Elementary School, \$249 to purchase supplies for a *Classroom Bird Feeder Watch* project, which connects Orange County to Cornell University's research data base; and
- **Brook Woodward** of Lightfoot Elementary School, \$249 to purchase *Eureka! Microscopes* to enhance science curriculum.

In addition, the Lions' Club Sight Committee purchased a *Kindle Fire Tablet*, valued at \$199, to enrich instruction in **Ms. Natalie McMahan's** Orange County High 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 Lake of the Woods Lions Club has been a leader in supporting education here in Orange," said Tim Ferguson, Chairman of the Foundation's Teacher Innovation Grant Committee. The LOW grants "make school so much more meaningful for students and they encourage other organizations to step up to help our teachers meet the needs of our diverse community. We are so grateful for their support."

The Foundation will issue a call for the next set of TIG applications at the semester break in January. 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 March of 2013.

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.

More information about the Orange County Education Foundation may be obtained by visiting its web site at www.ocedfoundationva.org.

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Further details about teacher innovation grant programs sponsored by both the Lake of the Woods Lions Club and the Orange County Education Foundation may be obtained by contacting Carol Hunter, Coordinator for Gifted and ESOL Programs, Orange County Public Schools, at chunter@ocss-va.org or at (540) 661-4550.