

Great Ideas Grant Recipients

Fall 2004

1. **We Will be Known By the Tracks We Leave Behind (\$2800)**

Schools: Helena Middle School/CR Anderson Middle School **Teacher Recipient:** Michelle Johnson

Sponsor: Mountain West Bank.

Communication Arts teachers celebrate American Indian culture with a variety of new literature funded by this project, emphasizing history, oral tradition, past and present life and impact on our communities. Each grade level will focus on different aspects of American Indian studies, encouraging an atmosphere of understanding, empathy and enrichment.

2. **Project Quest (\$2500)**

School: Central Elementary School

Teacher Recipient: Karl Wolf

Sponsor: Mountain West Office Solutions

Teachers and parents work together to turn an empty classroom into an innovative independent learning center where students with special needs as well as those who are intellectually gifted will have alternatives to passive entertainment, promoting development of creative and critical thinking skills. Parent and community volunteers will build interactive learning stations while older students mentor younger ones.

3. **Music: Exploding the Boundaries (\$1800)**

Schools: Jefferson Elementary School and Helena Middle School **Teacher Recipient:** Barbara Berg

Sponsor: Cherry Creek Radio

Arts Without Boundaries featuring renowned musicians Phil Aaberg and Eugene Friesen will help students expand their knowledge of music and explore music as a tool for resolving conflict; relate science to music; translate creative writing into music; and study how various regions articulate their culture through music.

4. **Preserving Milestones (\$800)**

School: Project for Alternative Learning

Teacher Recipient: Marie Rauch

Sponsor: Pier 1 Imports

The Preserving Milestone Club will provide students a safe place to spend one afternoon a week while helping them create a scrapbook to celebrate their many accomplishments, interact with peers, and have an adult to talk to when needed.

5. **Victory in Europe Day (\$3000)**

School: Helena High School

Teacher Recipients: Niki Whearty and Jim Schulz

Sponsor: Mrs. Stephen Ambrose

Students will commemorate the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day by conducting international oral history interviews with veterans from Helena and Kontop, Ukraine. They will investigate the impact of this multilateral military operation and expand the public's understanding of WWII.

6. **Cellar Door Film Festival (\$1700)**

School: Helena High School

Teacher Recipients: Don Pogreba and Gretchen Edelen

Sponsor: Anderson Zurmuehlen

Funding for this project will provide students with a projector and screen for showing student produced films at the Festival, film-making classes and a web site capable of streaming video and audio. Students will increase skills and appreciation of the entire process of film, pre-production to filming.

7. **If You Could See What We Hear (\$3000)**
School: Capital High School **Teacher Recipients:** Heidi Hill and Darcy Schulz
Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
Choral and Digital Video classes will use this new equipment to produce high quality sound recordings like those done in professional studios.
8. **Making the Incomprehensible Comprehensible (\$500)**
School: Capital High School **Teacher Recipient:** Matt Lyng
Sponsor: Paul's Office Products
Students in foreign language classes learn more quickly and thoroughly through storytelling of cultural myths, legends and tales. Storytelling will be enhanced with props such as masks, wigs or puppets and allow even the shyest of students to benefit from this successful technique.
9. **Digital Photography Transition (\$1100)**
School: Capital High School **Teacher Recipient:** Scott Andrews
Sponsor: The Independent Record
Equipment funded with the grant will help CHS develop a combined traditional and digital photography program. Along with digital cameras previously purchased with Foundation funds, the new scanners, printers and software will allow students to learn new techniques used in the real world.
10. **Rockets and Cars and CSI (\$3000)**
School: Capital High School **Teacher Recipients:** John Miller and Jim Weber
Sponsor: Sandy Mac's Distributing
Students in physical science and industrial technology will connect technical skills to the science behind the process. They will design models of powered rockets, CO₂ cars, and even skeletal body parts for a forensic unit, then use sophisticated drawing, digitizing and milling equipment purchased with this grant to actually build the objects.
11. **Earth Keepers (\$2200)**
School: Broadwater Elementary School **Teacher Recipient:** Carol Hunter
Sponsor: PPL Montana
Students will explore educational concepts from the perspective of an outdoor classroom - the Schoolyard Habitat - now home to birds, bugs, squirrels, rabbits and other living things. Broadwater students are keepers of their world, with new equipment and tools and additions such as benches and a bridge.
12. **What Are You Doing to Build Assets for Kids? (\$400)**
School: Broadwater Elementary School **Teacher Recipient:** Jane Bishop
Sponsor: Valley Bank
Combining the goals of the District in asset building with Carroll College's service learning component, this project allows students and their college mentors to take learning outside the classroom, traveling with each other to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls to . Along the way student and mentor will travel and learn together, a win-win for everyone.
13. **There's An Artist Inside You (\$3000)**
School: Broadwater Elementary School **Teacher Recipient:** Marcie McKenna
Sponsor: Allegiance Medical Plan Management, Inc.
This pilot project funds a professional art teacher who will guide teachers and students through the year as students learn to analyze, interpret, describe and judge works of art, using a variety of materials, techniques and design fundamentals. Classroom teachers will be able to build on her instruction of art elements in the future as they join in the learning.