

Helena Education Foundation
Great Ideas Grant Recipients
Spring 2006*

1. Cleaning Up Your Act – Living On Your Own (\$1188.00)

School: Project for Alternative Living **Teacher Recipient:** Renee' Driessen

Sponsor: Vann's

Cleaning Up Your Act will provide students with life long skills and knowledge necessary to maintain a professional looking and ready to wear wardrobe. Funding for this project will provide PAL with a washer and dryer for use in the "Living On Your Own" curriculum.

2. Counting Coup, by Larry Colton: A Visit by the Author (\$1,000.00)

School: Helena High School

Teacher Recipient: Geoff Proctor

Sponsor: Moira Ambrose

"*Counting Coup*, by Larry Colton: A Visit by the Author" will provide the opportunity for students to meet and question the author regarding his vital book about Indian basketball in Hardin, MT. Coming under the purview of "creative non-fiction", the book generates critical discussion about reservation life, societal demands, and cultural definitions of honor.

3. Documenting Debate in Dallas (\$959.00)

School: Helena High School

Teacher Recipient: Donald Pogreba

Sponsor: Allegra Print & Imaging

This project will give students the opportunity to document a national-style debate tournament, providing a creative outlet for students interested in film making. The completed student documentary will be used to train students interested in learning about debate, both for classroom and co-curricular use, and to recruit students to the activity.

4. An Evening On Broadway (\$3,000.00)

School: Jefferson Elementary School **Teacher Recipient:** Dianne Purcell

Sponsor: Cherry Creek Radio

Jefferson Elementary teachers believe that the arts are an integral part of a basic education. The arts contribute to the aesthetic, perceptive, creative and cognitive growth of every child. Students will be given the opportunity to showcase their work as Jefferson works to transform itself into an art gallery, which celebrates every child's learning and excellence.

5. Give Reading the Green Light (\$2,712.00)

School: C.R. Anderson Middle School **Teacher Recipient:** Margy Kernan

Sponsor: Beartooth NBC

C.R. Anderson Library will create a reading center called the "Reader's Expressway" which will "Give the Green Light to Reading". The center will contain high interest books, recorded books and equipment. Students reading below proficiency will listen while they read to increase fluency and comprehension.

6. HMS Goes Hollywood: Creating a Caring School Community With Cinematography (\$3,000.00)

School: Helena Middle School

Teacher Recipient: Susan Dotter

Sponsor: Tim Ballweber, D.D.S.

HMS students and educators will create video productions promoting a safe, caring school community. These productions will support an environment in which respect, responsibility, cooperation, and other important assets are taught and developed while aggressive, unsafe behaviors are targeted and discouraged – a climate where teaching and learning are valued.

7. Going Great Guns (\$2,192.00)

School: Capital High School

Teacher Recipient: Jim Weber

Sponsor: *Independent Record*

The “Going Great Guns” grant project will provide Capital and Helena High School welding students with the opportunity to use the latest in welding technology to weld materials made of aluminum. Funding will be used to purchase an aluminum welding “spool gun” for each high school.

8. Helena Celebrities @ Your Library (\$1,829.00)

School: Helena Middle School

Teacher Recipient: Barbara Lockman

Sponsor: **Montana Book Company**

Everyone is a celebrity when they READ! HMS students will create slick, professional-looking promotional materials using the American Library Association’s READ CD to make memorable posters of “local celebrities” from our community holding their favorite book. The grant funds will be used to purchase computer software and a digital camera that students will use to create exciting READ posters that will serve as visual reminders of the high regard our celebrities have for books.

9. If You Could See What We Hear; The Final Note (\$3,000.00)

School: Capital High School

Teacher Recipient: Heidi Hill

Sponsor: **The Treacy Company**

Funding for this project will provide a soundproof area that will allow the broadcast and choir students, as well as other student groups, to record their projects during the regular school day without disrupting other classrooms. Traditional class space will be transformed into a recording studio environment allowing students the opportunity to experience high quality recording without paying expensive fees. Recording equipment was previously purchased with Foundation funds.

10. A Model is Worth a Thousand Words (\$2,901.00)

School: Helena High School

Teacher Recipient: Sandy Wardell

Sponsor: **Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.**

Science education needs to be accessible and understandable to all students, regardless of their learning style. Through the use of hands-on models, diverse learners will be able to understand biology and chemistry principles that are difficult to conceptually understand by conventional means and be able to build on prior knowledge. Funding will allow the purchase of magnetic water kit models, angiosperm leaf models, skeletons, and a kidney model.

11. A Mosaic of the Arts (\$1,500.00)

School: Jefferson Elementary School

Teacher Recipient: Janet Parish

Sponsor: **DA Davidson**

Jefferson Elementary teachers believe students excel when provided purposeful, integrated curriculum through quality arts experiences. With the artistic guidance of an artist in residence and through the use of new student art materials, students will have the opportunity to create their own art in an interdisciplinary curriculum.

12. Nature’s Classroom: Tools to Survive (\$1,000.00)

School: Project for Alternative Learning

Teacher Recipient: Sarah Huber

Sponsor: **Paul’s Office Products**

“Nature’s Classroom: Tools to Survive” will transport high school students from their contemporary life into a world of primitive skills, challenging each individual to master the essentials of wilderness survival. Students will star in their own adventure story with community experts teaching survival strategies that apply to both the natural and urban ecosystems.

13. Pen and Ink (\$3,000.00)**School:** Capital High School**Teacher Recipient:** Joslyn Davidson**Sponsor:** Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

A literary and arts journal, Pen and Ink will be an annual publication almost entirely student organized through which Capital High students can showcase their unique and meaningful talents in writing, photography, and the fine arts. This professional journal will provide opportunities for students to develop organizational and collaborative skills, learn the publishing process, and produce work that can be enjoyed yearly throughout the community.

14. Prairies to Peaks: Adventure in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Project Revisited (\$1,860.00)**School:** Helena High School**Teacher Recipient:** Margaret Belisle**Sponsor:** Mountain West Bank

This project will provide thirty 11th and 12th grade students the opportunity to experience the incredible hands-on adventures found within Yellowstone Park. As they revisit the park they will study and write, immersing themselves in the environment.

15. Rally Ball for All (\$2,991.00)**School:** C.R. Anderson Middle School**Teacher Recipient:** Lisa Waterman**Sponsor:** Western States Insurance

The sixth grade Rally Ball for All (a type of tennis) project will provide students the opportunity to learn life long skills for being active and healthy. Following a six lesson unit in P.E. class, all students will be able to participate in an after school program which enhances personal fitness levels and increases self-esteem.

16. Rhythms of the World (\$2,500.00)**School:** Jim Darcy and Warren Elementary Schools**Teacher Recipient:** Laura Curtis**Sponsor:** Sandy Mac's Distributing

Music classes will pulsate, vibrant with the study of rhythms and dance, as students explore cultures from around the world on authentic world instruments.

17. Science Fair Celebration (\$996.00)**School:** Kessler Elementary School**Teacher Recipient:** Nancy Peterson**Sponsor:** Crossman-Whitney-Griffin, Architects, PC

The Kessler Science Fair Celebration provides the opportunity for all students to come together on one day to showcase their interests, experiments, and discoveries in the field of science. Local scientists and area museums will serve to expand students' knowledge of scientific facts, principles, concepts and applications of science in a rapidly changing world.

18. Watersheds and Technology (\$1982.00)**School:** Helena High School**Teacher Recipient:** Dave Thennis**Sponsor:** Mountain West Office Solutions

The funding of this project will provide science seminar students with technological equipment for their annual field trip to monitor the health of the Columbia River Watershed. The existing experience will be enhanced by integrating new technology as well as fostering communication with local professionals.

*** Grants are named after major donors to the Helena Education Foundation. The amounts of the grants do not reflect the contribution of the donor.**