



8

**GREAT  
IDEAS**

**The Helena Education Foundation awards  
Fall 2013 Great Ideas Grants**



## 1. 3D World: No Glasses Needed

**Teacher Recipient:** John Miller

**School:** Capital High School

**Sponsor:** Morrison-Maierle Inc.

*3-D World: No Glasses Needed* is an ambitious approach to introducing Capital High students to a wide variety of S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives. Through Computer Animated Design software and a 3-D printer, students will have hands-on opportunities to combine multiple skills to produce tangible evidence of their education and the world of three-dimensional manufacturing.

## 2. 700 Healthy Helena Hearts

**Teacher Recipient:** Janet Erickson

**School:** Helena Middle School

**Sponsor:** PacificSource Health Plans

Middle school students are about to learn total-body conditioning through a program using Nordic Walking Poles, which simulates the benefits of cross-country skiing and engages the entire upper body muscle system. This activity burns 40% more calories than walking and stimulates the brain to improve cognitive function. Nordic walking training will take place in PE classes and activities will be offered before school, during lunch and after school for students to enhance their exercise regime and improve their health.

## 3. Engage through Play

**Teacher Recipient:** Denise Thomas

**School:** Helena High School

**Sponsor:** Helena High Class of '62

Helena High students in Chemistry I and Chemistry II will experience chemical concepts through the non-traditional methods of game playing and reading an enjoyable non-fiction book about the periodic table, *The Disappearing Spoon*. By engaging students through "play," students will better internalize subject matter and the practical implementation of chemistry, and possibly inspire continued studies in STEM fields beyond high school. Elemental!



## 4. Flying Past the Stars with Matilda

**Teacher Recipient:** Elizabeth Kenney

**School:** Central Elementary

**Sponsor:** Helena Motors

*Flying Past the Stars on Silver Wings with Matilda* is a creative celebration of the power of reading to change lives. It encourages families and the Central School community to read and explore together, and even includes a project to construct "Little Free Libraries" around Helena for the community to enjoy. The many activities planned in conjunction with this project will ignite children's passion for reading and learning, helping them shoot for the stars.

## 5. Get Up and Dance!

**Teacher Recipient:** Julie Mitchell

**School:** Ray Bjork Learning Center

**Sponsor:** Tim Speyer

Get ready to *Get Up and Dance!* Join high school students in exploring ballroom dance as a way to increase self-confidence and teamwork. Take a chance, step out of your comfort zone and on to the floor of the historic Windsor Ballroom. The community will be invited to a unique 2-evening event designed, promoted and hosted by high school students in collaboration with a resident artist from "Dancing Classrooms."

## 6. Our Tube

**Teacher Recipient:** Renée Driessen

**School:** Project for Alternative Learning (PAL)

**Sponsor:** Beartooth NBC

*Our Tube* will introduce high school students at PAL to the experience of recording oral histories, podcasts, and video documentaries in collaboration with the local community and media experts. The students will operate video and audio equipment, edit the recordings, and present the final product in the form of documentary and news media programs.

## 7. Probing Yellowstone

**Teacher Recipient:** Missy Sampson

**School:** Helena High School

**Sponsor:** William Walter, HHS Class of 1962

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem represents one of the most outstanding research environments in the world and this innovative and challenging project will give high school science students hands-on experience using scientific probes to record and analyze data in Yellowstone. After researching, writing and learning about environmental stewardship students will have the opportunity to present and publish their findings.

## 8. The Sound of Leadership

**Teacher Recipient:** Mike Agostinelli

**School:** C.R. Anderson Middle School

**Sponsor:** Bill and Helen Ballinger

Teachers in the *Sound of Leadership* project will work with eighth grade students to build leadership skills while providing structured mentoring to sixth grade students. This project focuses on building a positive school community by actively engaging classes in team building. The new mobile sound system will enhance learning opportunities and community building for these and other large groups of students throughout the school year.

More HEF events and programs at  
[www.hefmt.org](http://www.hefmt.org)

## HELENA MOTORS congratulates Elizabeth Kenney, teacher at Central Elementary School, and her Great Idea "Flying Past the Stars with Matilda!":

Through the Great Ideas Grants Program, the Helena Education Foundation helps wonderful teachers do exciting, worthwhile projects with their students. At Central Elementary School in the foyer it states: *I am a peacemaker. I treat myself and others with respect. I listen. I share. I care for the earth, air, water, plants, & animals. I am important to this very big world. I know that peace begins with me. The primary purpose of Central School is to provide an environment that supports the lifelong process of becoming a productive, caring citizen.* Helena Motors supports Helena Education Foundation, great education, great schools, and great teachers like Elizabeth Kenney and Linda Lynch at Central Elementary!

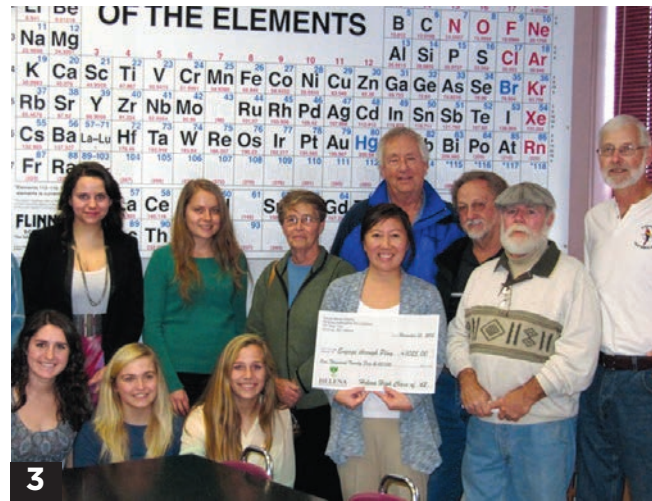




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**HELENA**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**Thank you to HEF's  
Fall 2013 grant sponsors:**

Bill & Helen Ballinger	Morrison-Maierle Inc.
Beartooth NBC	PacificSource Health Plans
Helena High Class of '62	Tim Speyer
Helena Motors	William Walter



5



7



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9

## What is the Great Ideas Grant Program?

Great Ideas Grants put money directly into the hands of classroom teachers, empowering educators to turn their ideas for innovative teaching strategies into action.

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

To date, HEF has awarded **227** grants, totalling more than **\$433,613** and involving over **85%** of Helena teachers, including:

- 95** High school grants
- 49** Middle school grants
- 8** PAL grants
- 75** Elementary school grants

Great Ideas Grants enhance the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena's 8,000 students!





## Would you or your business like to sponsor a Great Ideas Grant or give a gift to the Helena Education Foundation?

Make an investment in the future of your community today! Thanks to so many generous supporters, Great Ideas Grants have helped make 227 great ideas a reality. Here are some grant highlights:

- ▶ **Powermax85** There is a new plasma cutter in the Helena High welding department, the Hypotherm Powermax85. This new equipment will ignite students' interest, enhance their understanding of new technology in the industry and expand their skills, which will give them more marketable job experience and training.
- ▶ **Kindle our Fire for Reading** Kessler Elementary teachers utilizing the Kindle Fire have created technology-enriched Language Arts opportunities for students and are providing new reading methods for many groups of students. Using new technology not only appeals to their interests, it fosters higher level inquiry, encourages new book choices and most importantly, increases students' desire to read!
- ▶ **Infinite "App"ortunities** Math is coming alive through the use of iPads in Helena Middle School math classrooms. Students are becoming more engaged due to the hands-on nature of this technology. From games to research, videos and more, students are using math in ways they didn't know was possible.
- ▶ **Frozen Treat** An ice skating rink is being built at Jefferson Elementary this winter! This "Frozen Treat" will give students the opportunity to learn how to ice skate in Jefferson's front yard. Ice skates will be available for students to use during P.E. and recess, and the rink will be open to the neighborhood community during the winter season.
- ▶ **Biography Bistro** Students at Broadwater Elementary are learning how to run a fully functioning restaurant: real food for real money. Students will transform into a full spectrum of trained service staff while also dressing and acting as historical figures they have researched and about whom they have written biographies. Students will apply skills from various subject areas in this hands-on event.
- ▶ **How I Made My First Million** The computer science landscape is rapidly changing from desktop programs to mobile device applications. Capital High students are now testing the mobile apps they have designed on an Android based cell phone. By having an Android mobile device, students can learn how to expand their apps to include the GPS, photo, sound and accelerometer functions of a mobile device.

## For more information about Helena Education Foundation upcoming events and programs, please visit HEF online at [hefmt.org](http://hefmt.org)

The **MISSION** of the Helena Education Foundation is to enrich education in the Helena Public Schools through consistent community investment of time, talent, funding and other resources, providing students, staff and the community with unparalleled educational opportunities and experiences. The Foundation will achieve its mission by directing resources toward the following **GOALS**:

- Promote the understanding that everyone in the community is responsible for creating quality public education
- Inspire parents, businesses and the community to participate with the school district in enriching education
- Celebrate student academic success
- Increase the visibility and value of Helena public schools
- Recognize staff for creative and innovative teaching



# YES! I believe great schools are everyone's business. I want to support this important public education partnership

### Method of Payment:

- Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (make checks payable to Helena Education Foundation)
- I'd like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (please bill me)
- Please contact me regarding a planned gift or gift of securities or other assets

The Foundation is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation, allowed to receive and distribute funds, property and gifts of any kind for the benefit of public schools located in Helena. It also maintains a qualified endowment. Planned gifts are eligible for the Montana State Tax Credit. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Send to: Helena Education Foundation  
PO Box 792  
Helena, MT 59624**

**Credit card payments are accepted online at [www.hefmt.org](http://www.hefmt.org)**



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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be listed? \_\_\_\_\_

I am a graduate/former student of the Helena Public Schools:

School: \_\_\_\_\_ When/Graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_