

COLUMBIA



PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

WINTER | 2013

Quarterly Report

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CPS Foundation Grants Spark Innovation

The Columbia Public Schools Foundation (CPSF) has been awarding grants to Columbia Public Schools' teachers for more than 15 years, with the total amount awarded nearing \$700,000. Money goes toward supporting the students, teachers and public schools of Columbia.

Grant awards can vary in number and amount given, with this year's total of \$61,339.60 split between four grants:

- Anytime CPR - \$1,435.30
- CCSS @ Your Media Center and Beyond - \$12,000 (CCSS - Common Core State Standards)
- Gateway to Technology - \$23,650
- Empowering iHistory - \$24,254.30

"The amounts and grants awarded can vary," said Sally Silvers, secretary of the CPSF. "This year we were able to give out four grants, two of those for large amounts."

"It is impressive to me that we are all volunteers," Silvers said. "Our goal, especially with giving out these large grants, is to affect as many students as possible."

The foundation gets its funds mainly through memberships and its annual

Hall of Leaders ceremony, held this year on Oct. 17. The ceremony honored 13 Columbians in three categories: outstanding alumni, outstanding retired educators and outstanding volunteers.

Those wanting to get involved with the foundation can do so through its Web site, www.cpsf.org, which has recently been upgraded to include a donate button.

Our goal, especially with giving out these large grants, is to affect as many students as possible.

- Sally Silvers



HICKMAN BIOLOGY TEACHER NAMED OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Pam Close, a biology teacher at Hickman High School, has been named the 2013 Outstanding Biology Teacher for Missouri by the National Association of Biology Teachers. One teacher from each state is selected by the association for this prestigious honor each year. Close will be recognized by the association at its national conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in November.

BENTON RECEIVES GRANT FOR SOLAR PANELS

Benton STEM Elementary School has received a \$5,000 grant from UPS to purchase the first solar panels for the school. Benton is a STEM school focused on science, technology, engineering and math. "We are very pleased to make an even larger impact on environmental education and student learning while having a smaller impact on our environment," said Principal Troy Hogg.

ROCK BRIDGE RECEIVES GRANT TO ENHANCE PERSONAL FINANCE PROGRAM

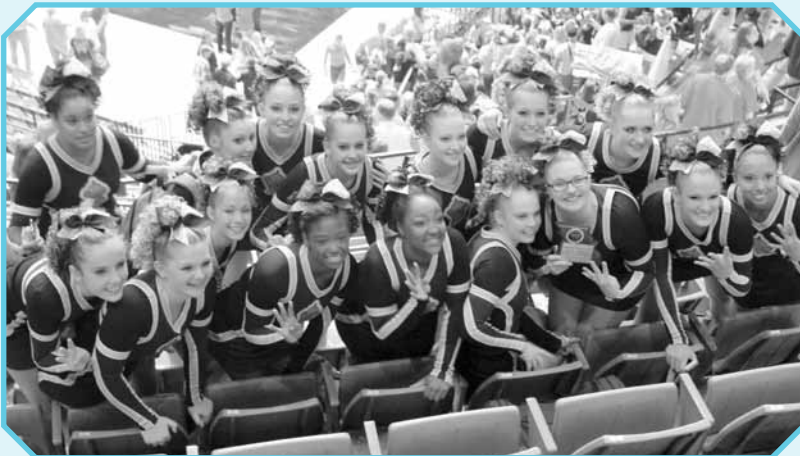
Pathway to Financial Success awarded Rock Bridge High School's business education department a \$6,500 grant to expand its existing personal finance curriculum. The Pathway to Financial Success program helps to bring financial education into classrooms across the country in a fun, exciting, and interactive way and helps children graduate understanding personal finance as well as science, history and math.

OAKLAND RECEIVES GRANT TO PROMOTE SUN PROTECTION

Oakland Middle School was awarded the Sun Shade Grant sponsored by the American Academy of Dermatology. The grant was a 2.5-year project that included modifying the school health curriculum to include sun awareness and protection. Oakland's school nurse, **Courtney Stout**, collaborated with Dr. John DeSpain, who served as the grant's medical advisor and contributor. Students, along with Dr. DeSpain's office staff, filmed a sun awareness campaign video and streamed the message of skin protection through curriculum, health fairs and a posted campaign. The Sun Shade Grant installation is an \$8,000, large, permanent shade structure that will serve as a protective covering from the sun, as well as other elements, for the school and community.

ROCK BRIDGE, HICKMAN CHEER SQUADS PLACE IN STATE

Congratulations to the Hickman Kewpie and Rock Bridge Bruin Cheer Squads who placed fourth and second, respectively, at the Missouri Cheer Coaches Association State Championship. The Hickman squad is coached by Molly Lyman and Andy Kimmel and Spirit Squad Coordinator Pam Nunnely. The Rock Bridge squad is coached by Jessica Kendrick.



Night of the Stars

The annual Hall of Leaders: Night of Stars celebration is the Columbia Public Schools Foundation's way of honoring some of the most loved, most successful and most giving individuals who have roamed the halls of Columbia Public Schools. This was the 15th celebration for the CPSF, who honored 13 individuals in the following categories:

- Outstanding Volunteers: Jo Behymer, Rick and Teresa Briedwell and Wally Pfeffer
- Outstanding Retired Educators: Deb Corkery, Marty Hook, Carole Kennedy and Kathryn McLeod
- Outstanding Alumni: Andy Rawlings, Barry Cottle, Steve Jenkins, Ryan Rippel and Tim Wolfe



2013 Outstanding Volunteer Jo Behymer is escorted by her grandson



(left to right) - Back Row: Tim Wolfe, Ryan Rippel, Andy Rawlings, Next Row: Wally Pfeffer, Marty Hook, Rick Briedwell, Next Row: Deb Corkery, Teresa Briedwell, Front Row: Kathryn McLeod, Carole Kennedy, Jo Behymer

Asbestos Abatement Efforts

Columbia Public Schools continues the long-term task of monitoring all asbestos in district buildings. In order to comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act passed in 1978, the district has spent more than \$2 million removing asbestos-containing materials. Surveillance occurs every six months or less; a complete inspection happens every three years.

Copies of the asbestos management plans can be reviewed at the Aslin Administration Building, 1818 West Worley Street, during regular office hours. Copies of each school's building plans are also available for review at each school.

CPS-TV Online

You can now view all sorts of Columbia Public Schools' cable-access videos, like special events and school board meetings, right at your computer. Stream CPS-TV from the Columbia Public Schools Web site at live and on demand at www.cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us.

What to Do When it Snows

School will be cancelled only after roads are tested. Should cancellation or altered routes be necessary, efforts will be made to notify radio and TV stations by 6 a.m. Information will also be sent via Parentlink, posted on the district Web site and on CPS-TV. Parents may make the final decision regarding a child's attendance. If the parent views the weather too severe or road conditions too dangerous, absences will be excused.

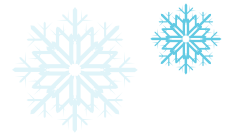
Difficulty in contacting parents usually prevents early dismissals, but under appropriate circumstances the district may dismiss early. On inclement weather days, please continue listening to local radio and TV stations for news of early dismissal. Altered bus routes for district buses will be run at times when inclement weather makes some roads too hazardous for safe travel. School bus snow routes are available through schools as well as school and school district Web sites.

Stay Informed

- Check the school district Web site: www.columbia.k12.mo.us
- Tune in to CPS-TV on Mediacom 81, Century-Link 97 and Charter 985 or view the live and on-demand streaming on the CPS-TV Web site at www.cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us
- Download the CPS mobile app on iTunes or GooglePlay



Blues in the Schools Continues to Thrive



Blues in the Schools is a program that has been in place for several years in Columbia Public Schools, bringing the blues music and history to Columbia's students. This year the program saw a significant boost as the Roots N Blues N BBQ Foundation was created and helped to expand the program.

"In February, we established the Roots N Blues N BBQ Foundation," said Betsy Farris, president of Thumper Entertainment. "We held fundraisers, like with local breweries Flat Branch and Broadway Brewery who brewed a special blues beer and donated all proceeds to the Blues in the Schools program. Shelter Insurance came on board and sponsored West Middle School (Shelter and West are Partners In Education), marking the first time we have a middle school participating. And we're also going to Douglass High School, which will be the first high school visit in the program."

While performing at an assembly for Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School, blues musician and educator T.J. Wheeler performed a song he wrote with the students at Grant Elementary School to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech and the civil rights march on Washington, D.C.

"The blues are an African-American art form," Wheeler told the students. "We need to honor the source, as African-American contributions have too often been discredited or stolen."

"Every year it has grown," Wheeler said of the Blues in the Schools program. "About nine years ago, I heard from Joyce Harkins with the Missouri Blues Association and we did a few things, but then Grant got on board and its wonderful music teacher Pam Sisson. I did a week-long program there at first and slowly more schools joined. This year, I'll be here five weeks by the time I'm all done."

"The program has really taken off," Farris said. "It is exciting to see the growth of the program, and we hope to bring T.J. back in February and have a big fundraiser in February or March."

At the Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival, Wheeler and the students played a three-hour set, rotating between the students and schools he had visited this year. There was a special stage created for the show for Wheeler and the students at the Stephens Park amphitheater. Wheeler also performed on a main stage at the festival.

Farris urges people to visit the program's Web site, www.rootsnblues.bbq.com and click on "foundation" to find out more about the foundation and get involved.

The program has really taken off. It is exciting to see the growth of the program, and we hope to bring T.J. back ...

- Betsy Farris



Bond Update

The 2010 and 2012 voter-approved bonds continue to fund improvements across Columbia Public Schools as two new elementary schools are moving along at various stages and the district's transportation facility undergoes a complete overhaul.

The new elementary school to be located adjacent to Battle High School had its groundbreaking in October, and construction is underway on the \$17,753,861 million project. The school, which will be named through a board-appointed committee, will be complete in March of 2015 and will be home to 450 students.

The second new elementary school is to be placed in southwest Columbia. Planning is underway for the school, which is set to open in 2016.

Obvious to anyone traveling on Providence Road by the school, Hickman High School has a number of projects underway. Work on a combination softball/baseball field has been going on for some time and is on pace for a spring opening. Work also continues on a wrestling room/concession area as well as its tennis courts and parking lot. The \$4 million project is due to be completed in the spring.

Work on the district's transportation site, located off Clark Lane, has also begun. The location will undergo a complete facelift, largely due to out-of-compliance issues with storm water and the Department of Natural Resources. The project will cost \$3 million.



"It will be a complete redo of the entire site," said Nick Boren, the district's deputy superintendent. "We found a site off of Rangeline to relocate all 200 buses, but we will keep the mechanics bay open at Clark Lane."

The district is also meeting with teachers from West Boulevard and Shepard Boulevard elementary schools as design work is underway on additions that will eliminate trailers at those schools.

(Story continued on alternate side)

Rock Bridge Elementary Students to Connect with Astronauts in Space

Students from Rock Bridge Elementary School will have a rare opportunity to directly link up and talk with astronauts on the International Space Station in March.

"It began with an e-mail from NASA," said Loretta Schouten, Rock Bridge's PTA president. "We had to write a proposal outlining how we would incorporate STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum. In June, we heard we were one of 15 to 18 nationwide, but one of only three who will have direct contact."

We are excited about this and the activities we have planned leading up to it as well. -Loretta Schouten

That direct contact comes largely due to the help of the Central Missouri Radio Associate (CMRA), a group of ham radio operators. There are two ways to make contact.

The first involves calling NASA to reach the space station. The second avenue is via a ham radio contact. Rock Bridge will utilize the CMRA to create that ham radio contact.

"The ham guys will provide equipment and certified operators to make it happen," Schouten said.

"There are over 300 hams in Columbia," said Don Moore from the CMRA. "We are communications specialists. That is

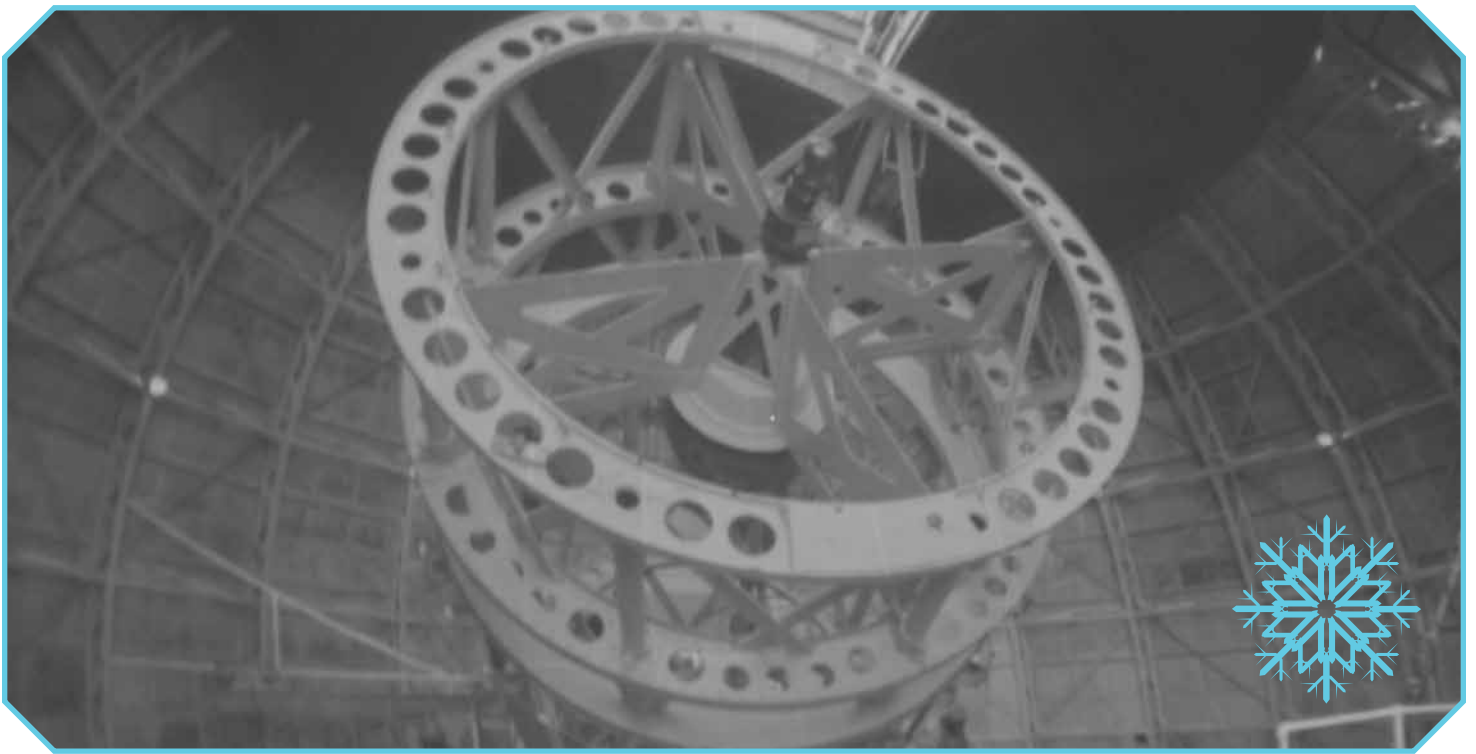


what we do, and we are here to be a resource for you."

Caitlin Nichols, second grade teacher at Rock Bridge, spoke about the STEM-based curriculum she was already working on, including the idea to "instill in the students that anything is really possible."

As of now, the school has a window of the week of March 3 to make contact with the space station. In six to eight weeks they will hear from NASA with a more specific day and time for the contact.

"We are excited about this and the activities we have planned leading up to it as well," Schouten said. "We are going to try and launch a weather balloon and maybe launch a rocket. The ham guys are going to come and connect us with places worldwide. It is very exciting."



The CPS Planetarium Gets New Life

After nearly 40 years spent educating Columbia Public Schools' students, the CPS Planetarium recently underwent major renovations to increase its capacity to reach students.

A grant from the Stafford Family Trust for \$28,000 was a key contribution allowing the upgrade of the planetarium's chairs. The previous seats, of which there were a total of 65, had nearly no neck or back support left. Thanks to the grant funds 85 new seats were purchased, to increase the comfort of watching the shows as well as allowing for 20 more students to view a showing – something that will save the district money over time.

"With the increased number of seats, we will be able to cut down on the number of field trips schools have to take, as more students can fit into one show," said Melanie Knocke, planetarium director. "That means fewer buses to transport the students as well. We just did the first wave of scheduling for the elementary schools and I have already seen a benefit from the increased capacity."

The planetarium had about 11,000 students visit last year, the highest in Knocke's four years in charge, and she anticipates even more this year due to the new capacity.

In addition to the new seats, the planetarium raised funds for new carpeting. This was done largely through public openings and the donations received from those shows. The planetarium will continue to be open to the public the second Saturday of the month for the time being.

New shows are also a priority for the planetarium, and funds raised through public shows this year as well as some left over from last year will go toward that purpose. The Columbia Public

We have really been brought back to life by the community support.

- Melanie Knocke

Schools Foundation provided a grant allowing the planetarium to buy new shows, which range between \$3,000 and \$10,000 apiece.

Knocke hopes the public will check out the planetarium Web site, www.cpsplanetarium.org, to see what the facility has to offer, including future shows that combine with the University of Missouri's geologists, seismologists, paleontologists and anthropologists.

"Our main goal is to educate kids," Knocke said. "We have shows that cover kindergarten through fifth grade as well as a couple for high school. We are looking for shows that will work with the teachers' curriculum. We have really been brought back to life by the community support and we hope to increase the opportunities for the public to come and see what we can do."



Latest World Café Explores College and Career Readiness

On October 2, Columbia Public Schools hosted another World Café at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia. The event was attended by nearly 200 educators, parents and community members. The discussion focused on college and career readiness.

Participants traveled to different tables to share thoughts on what today's students need to be successful from cradle to career. Responses were recorded and collected and will be analyzed by Columbia Public Schools to determine strategies for how improvements can be made.

World Cafés are held approximately twice a year and are free to attend. The public is encouraged to participate and share thoughts on how to eliminate the achievement gap. For further information about past World Café events, visit our Web site at www.columbiak12.mo.us.

Bond Update Continued



Roof bids are out for Gentry and Lange middle schools. Boren called them "large projects" costing \$2.2 million.

The district's ongoing goal to eliminate trailers at the schools has seen progress. To date the school district has been able to eliminate 29 trailers from useage.

Some of those include the following:

- Oakland Middle School – six trailers
- Hickman High School – three trailers
- Smithton Middle School – one trailer
- West Middle School – eight trailers

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