



Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2012

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Grafton Education Foundation Leaps into Action



Although the school colors of Grafton High School are orange and black, the district saw a lot of green and gold this fall. The Grafton Education Foundation, which was formed in 2009, engaged in its most profitable fundraising endeavor to date: running a concession stand at

Lambeau Field. The success of this effort will allow the foundation to award up to \$24,000 in competitive grants proposed by Grafton teachers to enrich the educational experiences of students in all five Grafton public schools.

The Grafton Education Foundation (GEF) is a relatively new entity in the educational landscape of Grafton. In 2009, a group of enthusiastic and interested Grafton residents came together to form the GEF, a non-profit organization determined to raise private funds to support the continuous improvement of the educational opportunities available to Grafton students.

Throughout the state, non-profit foundations like the GEF support many public school districts. The combination of today's strained economic climate and the increasing demands for innovative learning environments and resources has created a need for education foundations to supplement school budgets.

The mission of the GEF reads, "The Grafton Education Foundation, in partnership with the community, will seek private funding to support and encourage innovative, enriching educational opportunities for students in the School District of Grafton."

Since 2010, the GEF has worked to fulfill its mission and was able to award nearly \$12,000 in grants in 2011. Thanks to the Lambeau Field concession stand, that amount has doubled in 2012, which will allow more students to be impacted by the opportunities provided by the GEF grants.

The Grafton Education Foundation is helping to change the look of education in Grafton.



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Kellner and Cramer Walsh Inducted into GHS Hall of Fame

Ted Kellner, Class of 1964 and Kathy Cramer Walsh, class of 1989 are the 2011 inductees into the Grafton High School Hall of Fame.



Mr. Kellner was involved in many activities while a student at Grafton High School including the Student Council, basketball, football, track and baseball. He was elected to the National Honor Society, and was selected for Badger Boys State.

After graduation he attended UW Madison, graduating in 1969 with a BBA. A Chartered Financial

Analyst, Mr. Kellner founded Fiduciary Management Inc. in 1980, and currently serves as Chief Executive. Mr. Kellner and his wife Mary are well known in both the Madison and Milwaukee areas for their public service and generosity, particularly through their family Kelben Foundation.



Kathy Cramer Walsh was Valedictorian of the Class of 1989. She participated in the plays, musicals, Student Council and was selected for the National Honor Society.

Ms. Walsh graduated with a bachelor's degree from UW Madison in 1994, and continued to the University of Michigan earning a PH. D in 2000. She is currently an Associate Professor at UW Madison, in the Department of Political Science.

Ms. Walsh is a political researcher who relies on meeting informally with small casual groups throughout Wisconsin focusing on public opinion and citizen concerns.

GHS established a Hall of Fame in 2010 to honor graduates who have excelled in one of the following five categories: professional, athletic/entertainment, science/technology, community/military service, and entrepreneur/ industrialist.

Nominees are recognized for achieving success in their chosen field of work, their contribution to community as well as the world in general. GHS Hall of Fame nominees demonstrate qualities of good citizenship and contributions to society.

The 2010 inductees to the Hall of Fame were Dr. Susan Hefle - Class of 1978; Dr. William Hinz - Class of 1953; and Major Geoff Lohmiller - Class of 1992.

Each year nominations to the Hall of Fame are accepted until the end of March. Those selected for induction are notified in May and are inducted in September or October.

For more information or to obtain a nomination form, visit the GHS website <http://ghs.grafton.k12.wi.us/> and click on the "Alumni" tab. Feel free to contact Ken McCormick, principal at 262-376-5501 if you have any questions.

Grafton School District FAQs

- **How many students attend school in the School District of Grafton (SDG)?** Current enrollment is at approximately 2200 students.
- **How does the SDG compare in size to other local districts?** Grafton is the second smallest district in Ozaukee County
- **How does the high school perform on standardized tests?** GHS has a composite average 23.6 ACT score.
- **Does GHS offer AP courses?** Yes, GHS offers at least 13 AP classes.
- **What types of athletic activities are offered at Grafton High School?** There are 22 sports teams available to athletes at GHS.
- **Is GHS recognized nationally?** Yes, for the last seven years, GHS has earned the honor of being selected one of the top high schools in the country by *Newsweek* magazine. Additionally, the GHS autos department, led by nationally recognized teacher Carl Hader, has won several national autos competitions. GHS is among the few public high schools in Wisconsin to receive a distinguished GreatSchools Rating of 9 out of 10.
- **Is Grafton Global?** Help us as we determine how global the Grafton High School family is. We are seeking the names of states and nations that Grafton graduates call home. Please send an email to info@graftoneducationfoundation.org. In the subject line, simply type the name of states and/or countries where Grafton alumni live. We'll issue an update in our next newsletter.

GEF Grants In Action

GEF awarded \$12,000 in grants in 2011

2011 Grant Award Winners

Low Ropes Challenge Course

Physical and environmental education teachers at Grafton High School received a grant worth \$4,200 to build a Low Ropes Course in the woods behind Grafton High School. The course contains 15 stations with traversing cables, spider webs, low climbing walls, trust falls, mental challenge elements and team building challenges. This course is used by physical education classes in all Grafton

schools and is available to community groups as well. The Low Ropes Course is designed to increase student's use of critical thinking skills as well as team building skills.



8th Grade Reality Store

Teachers in the business departments at JLMS and GHS were awarded a grant worth \$1,526 to develop and implement a Reality Store for all 8th grade students in the Grafton School District. This project will build financial literacy by working on various skills related to career selections, check balancing, and budget. The lessons will culminate in a one-day simulation of a monthly budget they choose based on career and family.

iPads for Occupational Therapy

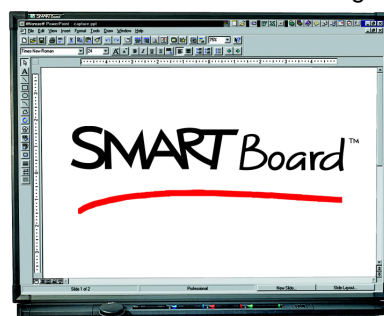
The OT Department received a grant award totaling \$1,145.82 to purchase 2 iPads and related applications for use with students at all grade levels in the Grafton School District who receive occupational therapy services. The iPads provide students with reduced motor and visual skills a technology that will assist with activities such as drawing and printing.

Talking Books

Kindergarten teachers at Grafton Elementary School are the recipients of a \$819.68 grant to fund Tales2Go MP3 Listening Centers in their classrooms. Each kindergarten classroom is now equipped with an iPod, and MP3 Listening Center with headphones for up to six children. The iPod is loaded with a subscription to Tales2Go, an online library of over 1,400 audio books. This listening center will replace the current system of cassette tapes, and will offer the kindergarten students a wider variety of books to choose from in a format that will build their technology skills.

Smart Board for Tech Ed

The Technology Education teacher at John Long Middle School received \$2568.50 in grant money to purchase an



interactive whiteboard for use with her classes. This technology will be used to enhance student learning of complex engineering concepts and 3-dimensional modeling. It will also provide the opportunity for more cross-

curricular work between technology education and core academic areas.

iPads for Special Education

Special Education teachers at Grafton Elementary School received \$1,800 in grant funding to purchase three iPads, cases and appropriate applications for use with students at GES who have special educational needs. The text-to-voice, zoom, closed-captioning, and high contrast display features of the iPad allow for educational adaptations necessary for some students with unique learning styles.

21st Century Learning



Grafton students in grades 4-7 are leading the way into 21st Century learning. These students have each been issued netbooks for use with a new, individualized math curriculum that is computer-based. Additionally, these students use their netbooks for research and collaborative activities. The district plans to expand the program through 8th grade for next year.

Grafton Education Foundation FAQs

- **What is the Grafton Education Foundation?**

The Grafton Education Foundation (GEF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation created to address funding gaps for educational programs throughout the five public schools in Grafton. GEF's mission is to enhance and enrich educational opportunities for Grafton public school students in all grades. We will encourage increased partnerships with the community, local businesses and schools. That's why we say: **Quality Schools. Together**

- **How does an education foundation work?**

It is really no different than what universities and private schools have been doing for years. We solicit private funds in a variety of ways: direct donations, grants and fundraisers. GEF will then prudently use the money to award educational grants proposed by district staff on an annual basis. Grant proposals will be accepted each year up until March 1st. Following a thorough review, selected grant award winners are announced in May.

- **Who can apply for grant money?**

The GEF is eager to award grants to employees of the School District of Grafton who demonstrate a desire to provide innovative, enriching educational experiences for students in the public schools of Grafton.

- **What could the money raised by GEF be used to fund?**

The ideas are only limited by the imagination of the teachers and staff applying for these grants. The grants must be for educational projects which fall outside of normal district budgeting.

- **How can I get involved in the Grafton Education Foundation?**

Close to twenty members of the community are actively involved with the GEF and the number continues to grow. We welcome anyone with ideas, experiences and time to help us make a positive impact on student learning. Contact us for more information.

Grafton Education Foundation Calendar

- ☑ **And the award goes to ...** At the May 8th Grafton Education Foundation meeting the 2012 grants awards will be announced. \$24,000 has been allocated for grants this year.
- ☑ **Who doesn't love a bargain?** The Foundation is planning its first annual Community Resale in May. Details will be coming soon.
- ☑ **Mark your calendars!** The third annual **Seeds to Harvest** event will be held on October 20th at the Family Farm in the Town of Grafton. This event offers a evening filled with an amazing silent and live auction, great food and entertainment and a chance to catch up with former classmates, teachers and members of the Grafton community. All of the proceeds benefit the Grafton Education Foundation.

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Contact us with your correct address.

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Let us know and your name will be removed from our mailing list.

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We **believe** that students become active citizens of the global community by **engaging** in challenging and **inspiring** learning experiences.

