



Fifth-grader Emory Myler and third-grader Diana Diaz mark their writing progress with stickers on the NaNoWriMo poster. Read more about the Teton Young Writers on the back page. *Photo by Jeanne Anderson*

Making the Grade

Teton Valley Education Foundation enhances the educational experiences for students and increases opportunities for excellence in Teton County public schools.

Teton Valley Education Foundation 2012 Newsletter

Victor Elementary Recognized as Five-Star School

Victor Elementary School earned and was awarded the “Additional Yearly Growth Award” for 2012 this October. This award is given by the Idaho State Board of Education to schools who meet the criteria of making Annual Yearly Progress for two consecutive years and show grade level increases in math testing. Victor Elementary was only one of six schools to earn this prestigious honor in 2012.

“The Board congratulates the



Denise Smith's third-grade class helped celebrate Victor Elementary School's achievement with Teton County School Board member Bonnie Etchemendy, Superintendent Monte Woolstenhulme and Principal Jannifer Cooke.

schools who met the rigorous requirements to achieve this honor,” said Ken Edmunds, president of the Idaho State Board of Education. “Idaho is truly fortunate to have teachers, students and administrators who have created high performing

schools that serve as examples to other schools across the state and the nation.”

Congratulations to the Teton School District administrative staff, teachers and students at Victor Elementary School for this impressive accomplishment!

Our community is proud of the excellent educational opportunities available through Teton School District. But often our schools and teachers would like to offer enrichment programs or projects that the school district budget simply cannot support. Teton Valley Education Foundation provides funding for these activities and strives to continue to improve the level of education offered to the students in our community.



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Teton Valley Education Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to enhance opportunities for excellence in Teton School District #401 through educational programs and community partnerships. We further our mission through the generous support of philanthropic gifts, grants and events.

Building Caring Classrooms

Teton Valley Education Foundation makes \$7,500 available annually during grant cycles in September, December and March. Teachers, staff or parent teacher organizations may apply for a teacher-grant that supports our charitable mission and creates opportunities for academic excellence for our students.

Expanding our programs to support quality education



Diane Temple, Executive Director

Teton Valley Education Foundation has completed our sixth year, and we continue to make strides. Because of your contributions, we have been able to implement new resources for our students such as ArtReach, afterschool enrichment programs, and

post-secondary scholarships, as well as subsidize existing programs such as VOICE and Expedition Yellowstone.

Through your support we have also expanded our "Eyeglasses for Children in Need" to include hearing screening and aids.

Read about these inspirational programs in this newsletter to see the difference your gifts make in the lives of so many students. Your support goes to the front lines of the classrooms and creates opportunities that were not otherwise available.

We are truly blessed to live in a community that places a tremendous value on the education of its youth. Your allegiance to continuing educational excellence and outstanding student achievement has been overwhelming. As Teton Valley Education Foundation looks to the future, our goals are simple and



TVEF now helps subsidize hearing screening and hearing aids as an expansion of the "Eyeglasses for Children in Need" program.

twofold: to help Teton School District continue providing academic excellence for our students and to best prepare our youth for the future. On behalf of those we serve, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing generosity in support of our schools.

volunteer opportunities

VIPS: Make a difference in the life of a child

Looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child? Parents, grandparents and community members can offer their time and resources through the Volunteer in Public School (VIPS) program. We seek classroom, office, playground support and will match your schedule and interests with needs within the school district. For more information about this program and other volunteer opportunities, call 208.419.6219 or go to www.tetoneducation.com.



Our many volunteers made a difference in 2012 – thank you!

highlighted programs

The following programs were made possible through your generous support of Teton Valley Education Foundation:



VOICE

Student to Student Mentoring

In spring 2011, Teton High School implemented VOICE, sponsored by Idaho Drug Free Youth. The VOICE Student to Student Mentoring Program is designed to provide students with a stronger foundation, where they experience support and success through meaningful

relationships with older students. These healthy mentorships empower students, and the program gives them tools to help one another, improve positive behavior, and cope with anxiety and stress.

In recognition of the importance of supporting students' mental health needs, Teton Springs Foundation and Teton Valley Education Foundation leveraged nearly \$20,000 of funding to subsidize a majority of expenses associated with the VOICE program and other parent and community suicide-prevention outreach efforts.

ArtReach

Enriching Children's Lives Through Art

Teton Valley Education Foundation supports ArtReach, a new curriculum led by Deirdre O'Connell that brings an enriching art program to each and every elementary student. Art provides a method to express ideas and feelings at a deeper level than with words alone, and a strong art program helps children appreciate their place in the classroom and with other students. Supporting children's explorations in art fosters creativity, and creative kids engage in abstract, flexible thinking that will serve them well later in life – in the technological and business worlds and beyond. In addition, art engages both gross and fine motor skills, helping children learn the control necessary for a wide variety of tasks, from kicking a ball to mastering writing.

This program is made possible through the partnerships of Teton Valley Community Foundation, Teton Arts Council, One Book and Dieter Knecht.



4th- & 5th-grade ArtReach project: warm/cool color tempera painted beetle



We can't do it without YOU!

Thanks to our generous supporters:

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We apologize if we inadvertently omitted anyone.

Teton Young Writers After School Program

Write a Novel... Just Do It? We Did It!

More than 30 local students participated in "Teton Young Writers and their Novel Ideas" during November. The after-school enrichment program was based on a national model aimed at helping young writers banish their inner editor and create a novel in just one month.



Teton School District and Teton Valley Education Foundation are teaming together to provide a slate of afterschool programs for the entire school year. This past month, Eva Dahlgren, Jeanne Anderson, and Driggs and Rendezvous Upper Elementary School librarian Suzanne Hochstrasser led the "Teton Young Writers and Their Novel Ideas." The program, designed specifically for kids and teens, takes place as part of National Novel Writing Month, a fun, "get-rid-of-your-inner-editor" approach to novel writing. Our students (third-graders through high school freshman) began writing on November 1, assisted by a half-dozen community volunteers, and supported by their parents and teachers. Each student set his or her own individual goals and word counts to complete by November 30. Of the 33 students who participated, 21 completed their word-count goals. This program was valuable as it bolstered students' self-esteem, time-management skills, and creative-writing abilities.

You make it happen

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the community and Teton Valley Education Foundation, Teton School District continues to be on the leading edge of educating its youth. This is evidenced by our staff's ability to continue to increase performance and strive for excellence.

The support Teton Valley Education Foundation receives from the community provides invaluable assets and academic opportunities for our students. Your donations go to the front lines of the classrooms. With the financial assistance of Teton Valley Education Foundation, our schools have been able to fund a multitude of exciting classroom programs and projects that have touched the lives of countless students. It would not be possible without you and so many others.

With many thanks,
Monte W. Woolstenhulme
*Teton School District Superintendent and
Teton Valley Education Foundation board member*



Your Teton Valley Education Foundation donations at work:

Teacher Grants

Making \$7,500 available annually to make a difference in the classrooms.

Scholarships

Encouraging post-secondary education for our youth.

Afterschool Programs

Engaging children after school to boost standardized tests and keep children in a safe and active learning environment.

Mental Health

Supporting Teton School District efforts in suicide prevention and awareness.

VOICE Mentorship Program

Supporting TSD VOICE, a mentorship program that enables students to connect with each other which ultimately supports them to help one another.

Critical Needs

Eyeglasses & Hearing Aids

Providing funding for critical hearing and vision needs for students and families in financial need.

VIPS Program

Pairing a parent or community member with volunteer needs in our public schools.

Art & Culture

Promoting programs to bring arts and culture to each student in the classroom.

Unrestricted

Providing general administrative and office expenditures.

To make a donation to any Teton Valley Education Foundation fund, mail your gift to Teton Valley Education Foundation, PO Box 1111, Driggs, ID 83422. To make a secure online donation, visit our website at tetoneducation.com