

## We are Thankful for . . .

The Foundation would like to thank our students, educators, and donors for making 2013 a successful year. We are thankful for our community's support and investment in our students and schools.

### **We are Thankful for:**

- \* Donors who help make the Foundation's Classroom Grants, Reading Rocks, Scholarships, Technology investments, and other projects a possibility.
- \* Educators who provide innovation in teaching.
- \* Community members who serve as board members and volunteers.
- \* School groups and volunteers who make Saturday Live a success each year.
- \* Classroom Grant recipients program who shared 119 innovative grant ideas.
- \* Sponsors of Saturday Live, Educator for a Day, and Salute to Education who provide support for these events so we can impact education in our community.
- \* Volunteers who donate hundreds of hours reading with children throughout the summer.
- \* Grantors who provide funding for Reading Rocks.
- \* Parents who provide support to the Foundation and our schools through Saturday Live, donor gifts, Reading Rocks, and Educator for a day.
- \* Businesses who provide countless volunteer hours, in-kind and financial gifts to our schools through Partners in Education.



### Support the Foundation

You can now support the Foundation through on-line giving on our website: [www.efbps.org](http://www.efbps.org).



## Thank Montana Teachers

Thank Montana Teachers today - Vote for your favorite grant proposal to secure a \$2,500 grant for your favorite proposal or teacher. The top 10 proposals, as determined by voters, will receive \$2,500 for their grant to support student learning in their classroom. You can vote once a day for as many proposals as you like, but you can only vote for the same proposal once every 24 hours. Voting goes through 11:59 P.M. November 29<sup>th</sup>. To look at grants and to vote visit [thankmontanateachers.com](http://thankmontanateachers.com)



## Best Buy Grant

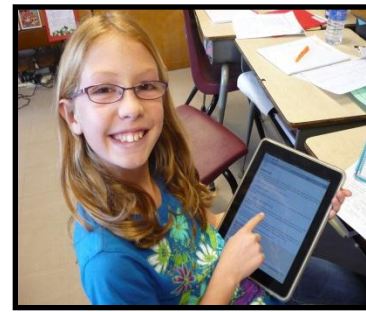
The Best Buy Children's Foundation has provided a community grant for \$8,000 to the All Girls National Robotics team at the Billings Career Center. The team applied for the grant through the Education Foundation. Teacher and coach, Karl Schwartz, is thrilled about the opportunity these grant dollars will bring.

The team is comprised of girls participating in the engineering program at the Career Center. This team designs, builds and programs a robot to compete in the FIRST Tech Challenge, a national program to inspire young people in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. This grant is furthering the commitment the Foundation has made to providing opportunities for teens in STEM fields.



## Classroom Grants Corner

The Education Foundation awarded my grant, Flipped Classroom, this spring. I love having the additional iPads in my classroom that grant funds purchased. I use the iPads for so many different things each day in my class. I have slowly begun to implement a flipped classroom. Even though I am far from a completely flipped classroom, I have already begun to see the benefits. Kids that do not have access to internet outside of class, now have an opportunity in the classroom to watch the same lessons as the students who watched them outside the classroom. I also use the iPads to provide step by step instructions on how to do difficult problems that students may otherwise not attempt because they feel overwhelmed. By being able to witness a similar problem being worked out on the iPad, students gain much needed confidence. I now have the ability to help struggling students practice fundamental math skills through various tutorials on the iPads. These struggling students seem much more engaged when they are on the iPads, and they are provided with instant feedback which is extremely helpful. These are just several examples of how the iPads that I received through the Education Foundation have impacted my classroom. **Chrissy Rossow, Math teacher, Billings Career Center.**



## Give a Long Lasting Gift - Receive Tax Benefits

Year-end tax planning is just around the corner! The Montana Endowment Tax Credit (METC) is a great tool to have as part of your tax planning. The METC allows donors to pay less in Montana state income taxes when they give a qualifying planned gift to a qualified Montana charitable endowment. The incentive is 40% of the gift's federal charitable deduction, up to a maximum \$10,000 tax credit per year, per individual, and a credit of 20% of a direct gift by a qualified business, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

The Education Foundation is able to assist donors interested in establishing planned gifts. Also, the Foundation has several endowment funds to benefit students and classrooms currently set-up for donors to make planned gifts to.

If you would like more information regarding planned giving or the METC, please contact the Education Foundation at 245-4133.



## KOA and Ponderosa

What does the word "partner" mean? While many experts vary their definition, the one I like most is "one who is an essential part." KOA is an essential partner with Ponderosa Elementary School. KOA takes an active interest in the success of our students and puts forth great effort to give our children fabulous opportunities to learn outside the classroom.

Thank you to KOA for organizing a super experience at Pompey's Pillar on September 25<sup>th</sup> for Ponderosa students. The first through fourth graders came back with great stories to tell and pictures of their experiences. On their return, they were excited to receive a gift from KOA, their very own copy of "Lewis and Clark-A Prairie Dog for the President." Teachers also shared that our KOA volunteers were wonderful with our students and had as much fun as everyone else.

Again, thank you to KOA for organizing this event, providing transportation, being guides and giving books to our students to remember the experience. KOA is truly a great partner! **Lori Boone, Principal, Ponderosa Elementary**

