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Sparklight Donates 50 Computers to Lake Road

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sparklight Donates 50 Computers to Lake Road

Sparklight recently donated 50 Google Chromebooks to Lake Road Elementary to be used to teach coding during latchkey as the school works toward its goal of incorporating STEM into its curriculum.

“Now more than ever, student access to computers is a necessity,” Sparklight Senior Vice President of Technology Services Ken Johnson stated in a press release. “By donating Chromebooks, we’re giving students in need the opportunity to use technology that will ultimately prepare them for a progressively digital workforce.”

A company representative reached out to Lake Road at the end of last school year, as part of its Chromebooks for Kids initiative. Sparklight has given away over 2,000 devices to Title I elementary schools in the markets where it offers broadband services.

The devices have allowed third grade teacher Michelle McDaniel to start the ‘Kids Who Code’ club during which she uses resources from Code.org and the Girls Who Code nonprofit to teach students how to code. Upward of 40 participants, grades 1-6, gather for about an hour and a half in the gymnasium each morning.

“My hope is that it will foster an interest in computer sciences,” McDaniel explained. “In this way, hopefully, the kids can also become interested in robotics and engineering.”

While the elementary schools are 1:1, the additional laptop cart brings Lake Road closer to realizing its vision of having a space dedicated to science, technology, engineering and math, according to Principal Rondi Vaughn.

“Having these computers in a cart for this purpose will allow us to give students the accessibility to technology while participating in these [activities] and not having to take any technology outside their classrooms,” Vaughn said. “Computers are an integral component of our students’ learning.”

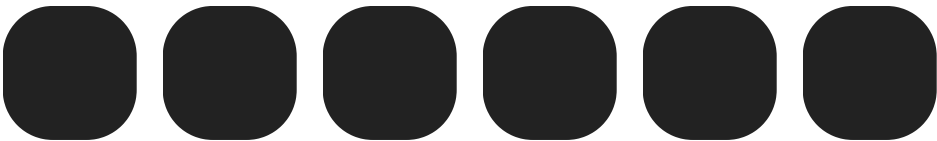
Pictured: Computer technicians Kyle Pearson (forefront) and Joe Salamone inventory Chromebooks on Tuesday, Aug. 24, in the conference room at Lake Road so teacher Michelle McDaniel (standing) can incorporate technology during latchkey.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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MRTF Funds Puppet Theater at PBJHS

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

MRTF Funds Puppet Theater at PBJHS

A Poplar Bluff Junior High faculty member has been awarded a \$500 grant from the Missouri Retired Teachers Foundation to create a puppet theater and purchase a digital camera for her drama elective.

Hilary Taylor was selected among nine grant recipients in Region 12 of the Missouri Retired Teachers Association out of 112 successful proposals throughout the state, plus 10 awarded to school support staff.

“This project will allow students to interpret literature through various dramatic representations,” Taylor wrote in her grant proposal entitled ‘Literature Through Drama.’ “Through these experiences students will increase their editing, peer review and comprehension skills.”

This is the fifth consecutive year that an R-I educator was among those regionally who submitted successful grants, bringing the running total for the school district to \$4,500 from the nonprofit. Since 2017, Taylor has been selected as a winner on two previous occasions – to enhance her robotics and honors English classes, respectively.

The MRTF is the fundraising arm of the association, made up of retired educators whose purpose is to promote the professional, social and economic welfare of all retired school employees, according to its website.

Pictured: (Left to right) Dr. Scott Dill, R-I superintendent; Mark Cook, MRTA Region 12 vice president; Hilary Taylor, Junior High teacher; Candace Warren, Junior High principal; Linda Surber, Butler County unit president; and Arleta Godwin, MRTA president.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Designing Women Foundation Awards \$11.5K to Poplar Bluff

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Designing Women Foundation Awards \$11.5K to Poplar Bluff

The Designing Women Foundation honored its scholarship recipients and Charlie Classics Reading Contest winners during a reception held last month at the Bloodworth House, awarding \$11,500 to students of Poplar Bluff Schools over the course of two years.

Thousand-dollar scholarship recipients of the Class of 2021 were Veilka Griffith, who is majoring in business administration; Morghyn McCain, nursing; Madison Moore, business; Lauren Robertson, medicine; Maria Polasek, nursing; and Austynn Dover, who received a technical scholarship to study aesthetics at the Technical Career Center.

The Foundation also honored Class of 2020 recipients, not recognized in person last year due to the public health crisis, including: Rhianna Johnston, undeclared major; Madison Smith, engineering; Elizabeth Gill, nursing; and Savannah Hudson, elementary education.

Charlie Classics winners included freshman Mackinley Cox, who won \$600 for reading 58 books over the past two years; junior Emmalein Pendley, who won \$600 for reading 35 during the same time period; and Hannah Tuttle of the Class of 2020, who was awarded \$300 for reading 14 books during her senior year.

The Designing Women Foundation is dedicated to the cultural and educational enrichment of deserving young people, and aims to promote literacy through its annual reading program open to Junior and Senior High students. The nonprofit organization also provides competitive scholarships to women, regardless of age, race or religion.

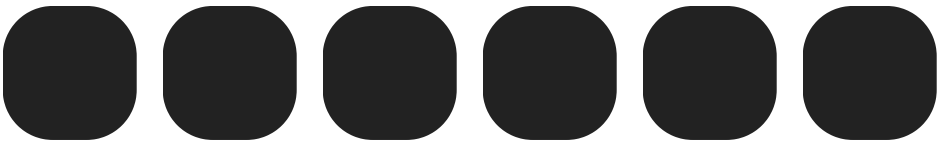
(Left to right) Madison Moore, Savannah Hudson, non-traditional scholarship recipient Kama Djambo, DWF board member Kathern Harris, Maria Polasek, Lauren Robertson, non-traditional student Amber Gargas, and DWF board member Dr. Kylie Divine.

Article and photo submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Walmart Donates Sanitizer to Poplar Bluff Schools

JULY 01ST 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Walmart Donates Sanitizer to Poplar Bluff Schools

Walmart has recently donated a pallet of hand sanitizer to Poplar Bluff Schools, among several other school districts in the area.

Over 75 cases containing nearly 1,000 individual bottles will be distributed to educators across the school system to help reduce the spread of germs in classrooms, according to a representative of the Supercenter.

Poplar Bluff school officials are appreciative of their community partners who have helped the district keep its doors open during the public health emergency.

Pictured: Dave Wooldridge of the R-I Maintenance Department picks up a pallet of hand sanitizer arranged by Amber Shepard, Walmart consumables team lead, on Tuesday, June 8.

Article and photo submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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PBHS Class of 1992 Donates in Memory of Classmate

MAY 03RD 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

PBHS Class of 1992 Donates in Memory of Classmate

The Poplar Bluff High School library added over 75 books to its collection with a \$1,200 donation from the Class of 1992 in memory of alumna Misty Ziegler.

“Misty was an avid reader and loved all books,” stated Independent Living Center of Southeast Missouri Director Jennifer Brown, an organizer of the fundraiser. “Misty was an LCSW [licensed clinical social worker] and worked hard helping people celebrate who they were and deal with their issues [so that they can] live their best life.”

Librarian Marcia Priest researched the selection of titles—about diversity, acceptance and overcoming challenges—and noted that the inspirational genre was popular among High School students. The books will contain an inscription within the cover dedicated to Ziegler, who passed away unexpectedly in October.

The Class of ‘92 also plans to make a smaller donation to the Junior High library with the rest of its collection generated by alumni through GoFundMe, according to United Cancer Assistance Network Director Melody Chailland, fundraiser co-organizer.

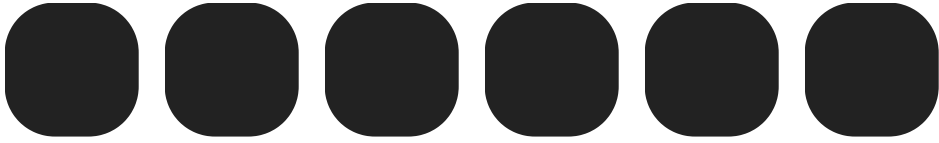
Pictured: Left to right) Jennifer Brown and Melody Chailland of the PBHS Class of 1992 make a memorial donation to the Poplar Bluff High School library, overseen by Marci Priest.

Article and photo submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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