

CEF grants make Einstein's of tomorrow possible

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Students at Old Union Elementary School had the opportunity May 27 to show off new additions to their science materials to the group that all made it possible.

The kindergarten teachers received a grant in the fall from Carroll Education Foundation (CEF) to buy additions to their science materials that would enhance the student's learning ability.

Materials were bought so that each of the classes could have their own set. Ten science instant learning centers are now in each class, along with a science table top for investigations, and a set of non-fiction science books that coordinate with what the students are learning and are age-appropriate.

The science kits cover such things as magnetic, the five senses, plant parts, colors, weather and seasons, nutrition and more.

All the kits have hands-on activities for the students to perform.

Kindergarten teacher Mary Bullard said it's a fun way to explore the concepts.

"At the kindergarten level, science really needs to be hands-on," Bullard said. "They are really getting the concept."

When a new unit is introduced in the class, the books can be read and then the hands-on activities in the kits can be done and it helps to give the students a much better grasp of the concept.

Bullard calls the new science additions "a great way to add" to what is already being taught.

The new supplies were made possible by a \$2,300 grant given by Carroll Education Foundation.

"It's very rewarding to see it come full circle," said CEF director Kasey Hankins. "It's an amazing experience to see the teachers' ideas come to life for the students."

The idea came to life after the four kindergarten teachers (Mary Bullard, Amy Nowlin, Terrel Herreman and Lorrie Arst) applied as a team for the grant. With the application, the teachers put together a PowerPoint presentation complete with pictures of the desired items and a formal grant proposal and turned it in to CEF. After the foundation's annual fundraiser in the fall, they were able to make the wishes of the kindergarten team of teachers at Old Union come true.