

Grants affect students, teachers around district

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On Oct.29 the Dragon Drum Corps could be heard playing cadences and seen marching through the halls of eight CISD campuses. The occasion for drums in the hall was the Carroll Education Foundation Grant Patrol.

The grant patrol handed out 16 grants this year.

Old Union Elementary school first grade teacher Laura Hudgeons was one of many who applied for grants.

"Our first grade grant is titled Imagination Stations. Due to the generosity of the Carroll Education Foundation, we will be receiving hands-on science supplies and equipment for the students to explore with," Hudgeons said. "We applied because the students love to use manipulatives and learn much more when they actually do something, than when they just see or hear about it. An old Chinese proverb says, 'I hear, and I forget. I see, and I remember. I do, and I understand.' An actively engaged student is a true learner."

Hudgeons applied for the grant for the whole first grade team at Old Union, and the whole first grade will benefit from it.

"It will enhance learning because the students will be able to use their imaginations, discover and explore," Hudgeons said. "There are also stories, writing projects, math and social studies activities that are included. They will learn to conduct simple investigations, collect and record information, make comparisons and predictions."

While Hudgeons applied for the grant with her other team teachers some teachers chose to apply on their own. Vicki Harvey, science lab teacher at Eubanks Elementary school, chose to apply for two grants.

Her first grant was titled "Fun with GPS" and will be used to buy seven GPS units for the school.

"The students will learn how to use a GPS unit and will participate in a scavenger hunt on the school grounds," Harvey said "I believe students need to know how to use GPS units. GPS units are used from everyday use to using GPS in the military."

Her second grant was something that will benefit the whole school.

"My second grant was "No Child Left Inside." This grant will be used to create an outdoor classroom that will benefit the entire school," she said. All teachers will have access to the classroom. The contribution from the Carroll Education Foundation is \$5,000."

Since this was such an expensive project, additional funding for the classroom will come from the Eubanks PTO. The gardening club and the principal will do the landscaping.

Any teacher in the Carroll Independent School District could apply for grants through the CEF. Once applications were received the CEF reviewed them and chose who would receive the money. The grants range in amount from less than \$1,000 to \$5,000. The money is for additional educational materials that will enhance learning but that fall outside the regular budget.

Since the foundation was started in 1996 more than 200 grants have been awarded in CISD.

The majority of the money for the grants comes from the Culinary Celebration that is held every October.

Money from the event is also used to provide seniors with scholarships and some goes towards an endowment fund.