

PTCA Mini-Grants, second round of 2012-13 (and the new PTCA Technology Project)

One of the initiatives that the ANCS PTCA is proudest of is its Mini-Grant Program. The money we raise provides needed funding for programs, activities, and materials that enhance students' experiences at the school. PTCA mini-grants have supported: classroom field trips; annual-grade level trips including the 8th-grade trip to Washington DC and the 5th-grade trip to Blue Ridge; library enhancements; assemblies; student extracurricular activities including sports, band, drama club, and yearbook; and classroom supplies including maps, books, magazine subscriptions, technology software, and equipment.

This school year the ANCS PTCA has 3 rounds of mini-grants. The second round was awarded at the end of January. We received 18 applications for over \$15,000 from teachers, staff, and parents, all of whom belong to the PTCA. Thanks to the support of the ANCS community in the form of PTCA memberships and participation in fundraisers (so far this year: the amazingly successful yard sale, the school store, and 2 dine-outs), we were able to fully or partially fund 7 of the applications totaling \$4,145 (we ended up spending only \$3,145—it was too late for one group to use its \$1,000 award).

We received an overwhelming number of requests for classroom technology, especially projectors and iPads. The number of these requests suggested that one of the main needs on our campuses is for technology, and we did not want to meet these needs in a piecemeal fashion in response to mini-grants. Instead, we started the PTCA Technology Project, led by executive committee vice president Laura Finch and ANCS technology specialists Cheryll Booth and Michael Boardman. Together they prioritized the school's technology needs. In phase one technology funding, the PTCA funded the purchase and installation of projectors in all elementary classrooms that did not yet have the equipment as well as 2 projectors to fulfill the middle campus's needs.

The PTCA proposes to allocate a portion of its budget for the technology initiative going forward. The initial expenditure in spring 2013 totaled approximately \$5,500.

After each mini-grant deadline, the PTCA Executive Committee determines which requests can be granted based on the following criteria:

- Where is the greatest need?
- How will this grant impact the ANCS community?
- Can we fund it fully or partially?
- Is there a potential for the group to raise money through a Fundraising Friday?

Please see the accompanying spreadsheet for more information on mini-grant funds that were requested during the second round.

Thank you for your support of the ANCS PTCA.