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CORONADO SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

# Foundation Focus

GREAT SCHOOLS. GREAT KIDS.

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# STEAM Funding Preps Islanders for Life Beyond CHS

hen the Coronado Schools Foundation (CSF) received the amazingly generous Frances G. Harpst legacy gift in excess of \$3.8M in 2010 at a time when many school districts were making drastic budget cuts, Coronado Unified School District (CUSD) administrators and teachers were given a chance to dream. This gift, coupled with CSF's own endowment, provided over \$5M in perpetual funding with 4% now returned annually.

"When we restructured existing resources in our Regional Occupational Program to introduce engineering courses in 2010, I believed that student interest would demand that we expand course offerings. At the time, we weren't sure how we would be able to continue growing our career technical education pathway courses," said Karl Mueller, Coronado High School (CHS) Principal. "When this wonderful gift came to our schools through CSF, it was clear to me that we, as a district, needed to capitalize on our students' interests in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). This additional funding has provided K-12 opportunities for CUSD students to pursue passions beyond the traditional/core subject areas. All of these programs align with Dr. Felix's goal of nurturing the 21st Century Learner."

Thanks to this opportunity to dream, career technical education programs in STEAM are continuing to expand for students. This year, CHS has introduced new courses in woodworking and advanced woodworking where students are exposed to creative design and industry-standard equipment. In addition, CSF STEAM funding has



The Biotechnology Program at CMS and CHS, under the direction of Mrs. Gail Massey, include: Garret Opachko, Maddy Montague, and Emma Schwartz.

provided cutting edge resources (CNC Router and 3D printers) that use computer-aided design software (CAD) to turn creative design into tangible products. Mr. Mueller shared, "These new resources will challenge our students in Engineering, Woodworking, and Robotics to apply technological skills to problem-solve and create components for various projects, such as robots." These practical applications in the areas of STEAM are preparing our students to be competitive in a 21st Century job market and contribute to our 98% graduation rate.

"Through the generous support of CSF, district educators are dreaming BIG. We envision a district where students are introduced at the elementary level to opportunities in STEAM. These interests and depth of knowledge are already transferring to opportunities available at CMS, culminating in a solid foundation for pathway courses at the high school," said Mr. Mueller. "These opportunities are significant in that they develop critical thinking skills, collaboration, and problem-based applications that will serve our CUSD students well beyond their time in our district. The impact of this financial support through CSF is evidenced in CUSD again being acknowledged as the highest-performing unified school district in San Diego County.

# **Project-Based Learning at CMS**

By Jay Marquand, Principal

I cannot imagine how our school would function without the funding to directly support STEAM, a nationwide effort so our students can compete in a global society.

CSF's support has a critical role in working side by side with our school to enrich the learning needs of students by providing educational opportunities in the form of curriculum materials, technology tools, teacher professional development, and sponsoring four STEAM- related classes that directly coincide with our district-wide and school-wide strategic plans.

Engineering Class: Now in its second year, engineering at CMS lets students enrich their Science, Technology and Mathematics curiosity all while focusing on the larger picture of preparing for real-world application, with lessons on automation and robotics, design and modeling, flight and space, and the magic of electrons. While studying mechanical and computer control systems, these students can envision, design, and test their ideas with the same advanced modeling software used by companies like Lockheed Martin, Intel and Sprint. Robotics, animation, and exploring the importance of renewable and innovative energy sources prepares these students for success in STEAM-related programs at CHS, including the expanding Engineering Program, leading to a compact with San Diego State University for admittance into its engineering program.

**Introduction to Health Careers Class:** Also a second-year class, this class has students researching and demonstrating knowledge of the concepts, issues and skills found in health care careers. Additionally, students investigate and visit/job shadow career services within the healthcare field to gain an understanding for the job duties and responsibilities, educational requirements, certificates and licensing, and medical terminology associated with each career.

**Environmental Studies/Gardening Class:** Over 180 sixth grade students participate in this course during a six-week rotation throughout the school year. Students are introduced to the issues affecting the environment locally and globally and use their skills in science, math and technology by learning about environmental topics that impact their world. Students are able to cultivate plants, flowers, vegetable and fruit produce in an organic garden through the laboratory of the school garden.

**MOUSE Squad Class:** In the first year of MOUSE Squad, this incredible elective course for 8th graders empowers them to learn, lead and create with technology, and prepares them with skills essential for their academic and career success in an ever growing 21st century global education. The MOUSE Squad program trains students to become digital media and technology experts in their schools, improving the use of technology to enhance learning, while also building confidence and developing skills for 21st-century innovation and assisting CMS staff and students with technology needs on campus as they arise. Founded in 1997, MOUSE programs are having a positive and lasting impact on over 4,000 students in 345 sites across the USA.



Bringing "real life" experiences is a key component of STEAM learning and that was evident in January when Colonel Woody Spring, a NASA astronaut, visited the Intro to Engineering class taught by Elizabeth Wertz at CMS. "It was the coolest thing ever to meet someone who actually went into outer space. You have inspired me to continue my interests in Aerospace Engineering," said Madelyn, engineering student.

## **STEAM 2012-13 Student Benefit**

CSF provided over \$726,000 to Coronado's public schools for 2012-13 with \$210,000 specifically targeted for STEAM-related programs. Benefits include:

- Opportunities in career technical skills in areas like biotech, health sciences and engineering at CMS and CHS via courses and enrichment clubs;
- Robotics clubs at the elementary level leading to Mouse Squad and Robotics in CMS and enrichment classes at CHS;
- Computer lab classes for all students in K-5 leading to courses like Mouse Squad and KCMS at CMS; engineering and KCHS or CoSA Digital Media at CHS;
- Music classes K-5 leading to band and choir at CMS and preparing students to continue at CHS or apply for acceptance into the CHS's Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA); art programs for students K-12, with collaborative hands-on student projects and Visiting Artist program at CHS;
- With LIPP Family Foundation Grants, K-5 weekly science lab instruction; labs at CMS and CHS have the equipment and manipulative to bring science alive;
- CUSD's STEAM Leadership Team of K-12 educators working together to integrate STEAM-related programs K-12;
- Multiple course choices and pathways for students as they promote from Coronado Middle School to Coronado High School;
- $\bullet \quad Support \ of \ all \ CUSD \ Strategic \ Plans, including \ CUSD \ Strategic \ Plan, for \ STEAM;$
- CHS Career Technical Education and the health career courses at CHS, which meet specific grant criteria
- Support of the initiative for "Personalized Education Plans" (PEP) for all students by allowing more choices and learning opportunities;
- Opportunities to help keep students connected and engaged to school in addition to core subjects which prepare students for real world application in a competitive, global society.

#### CORONADO SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

201 Sixth Street Coronado, CA 92118 619-437-8059 Fax: 619-437-0340

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CSF is committed to educational

excellence for every student in the Coronado Unified School District.
As a nonprofit organization,
CSF raises funds to bridge the gap created by insufficient public funding to our public schools.
These funds provide essential programs, materials, and equipment to help meet the District and community's expectations of an exemplary

education for every student.

Over \$5.5M dollars returned

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# SAVE THE DATE

# BENEFIT AUCTION

Saturday, November 16th Hotel del Coronado

# **FULL STEAM AHEAD K-12**

Village STEAMS Forward By Whitney DeSantis, Principal, Coronado Village Elementary and Early Childhood Development Center

The Coronado Schools Foundation provides funding that gives our schools the ability to provide a multitude of programs and resources to our teachers and students because of the contributions generous donors in our community through the Foundation. Without these funds, these programs would not exist as state funding is not available.

STORE STORE

Specifically at Village Elementary, we are able to provide Music, Visual and Performing Arts, Science Lab, and Computer Lab during the school day to all students. CSF STEAM funding has afforded us the ability to have an after school Robotics Club, Band, and Tech Club, and has provided funding to all for teachers to attend STEAM professional development, which keeps them up to date on the latest educational trends and advances.

In addition, CSF provides Village Elementary with funding to purchase preschool literacy materials and

special education curriculum and support. Our Technology Resource Teacher is also funded through generous donations to CSF.

Just this year, donors made it possible for us to purchase our new district-wide Digital Content Portal which is an incredible resource for students and parents to use at school and at home for research, resources, and information – all in one portal – designed by our County Office of Education.

There are so many wonderful programs at Village Elementary because of the generosity of our local community. Please consider contributing! Your contribution is tax deductible, but more importantly, you will be doing your part to maintain these essential STEAM programs to help support our students and their learning every day at Village Elementary."



# Silver Strand STEAM Engages Students

By Bill Cass, Principal, Silver Strand Elementary
"STEAM funding continues to be essential to Silver
Strand's ability to offer instruction aimed at the
"whole child" and to improve 21st Century learning

skills for students and teachers. With the additional recent funding thanks to the Frances G. Harpst Legacy Gift and CSF endowment, we have been able to continue highly valued programs such as Science Lab, Visual and Performing Arts, and Instrumental Music. Additionally, this funding has allowed for a school wide Winter Musical performance, Robotics Team, and a new Digital Media/Journalism Club. This has collectively resulted in a very high level of student engagement, enthusiasm, and joy of learning that is evident in so many ways here at Silver Strand

#### **STEAM Funding at Silver Strand provides:**

- Science Lab teacher
- Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) teacher
- Instrumental Music teacher
- STEAM Enrichment Clubs i.e., Robotics, Digital Media/Journalism Club see article below
- Funding for Winter Musical Performance
- Funding for Professional Development i.e., collaboration between teachers re: increasing effective use of technology; attendance at technology-related and 21st Century Learning professional development opportunities.

#### **Strand Robotics Team**

By Students, Teriza Camisa and Hailey Baumann

On Thursday, November 8, 2012, reporters Teriza Camisa and Hailey Baumann had a chance to sit down with the Robotics Team, and interview them about what they do along with their robo-tastic instructor, Ms. Bradford. When the reporters sat down with the Marketing team, Freddie Chavez and Jacob Lenz, this is what they said: "As Marketers, we have to design boards and projects, and can also bring sweets and treats to competitions. Freddie and I talk about our project at board conferences. A board conference is when we talk about core values. A core value is the character traits we use while working with robots and boards. The Marketers (us) rock and we have a huge responsibility at competitions. Lastly, we make an awesome team and honestly think, in a good way, we are the best group!!

When reporters sat down with the Reasearch Team, Lilly Debolt and Nico Sanchez, this is what they said: "As Researchers, we make scripts for the idea of smartglasses. Smartglasses are sunglasses that can turn to reading glasses, or more with just one push of a button. Also, when the Robotics Team gets the opportunity to compete at competitions, we can operate the robots.

Lastly, when the reporters sat down with the Robot Team, Kyle Phin, Trevor Kroll, Perry Crowe, Nicholas Jones, Eduardo Badillo, and William Rush, this is what they said: "Our job, as Robots, is that we get to program robots to do missions. We work as a team to program the robots on the computer. At the first competition, we finished 5th place out of 24. Grades 4-8 were competing against us. We practice every week on Thursdays, but when we have an upcoming competition, we practice on Saturdays, too. We're still working on being a team, but at competitions, we cooperate very well. The Legoland Invitational cup on Saturday, February 16th is our next competition."



Fourth graders Nolan, Annabel and Sadie dissect owl pellets as part of their weekly science lab with Mrs. Debbie Williams.



Silver Strand's monthly newsletter staff, under the direction of Ms. Maggie Walters, publishes monthly. From left to right: Joee Ignacio, Sydney Dull, Emily Zabor, Hero Stroll, Natalie Gates, Shelby Linde



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KCMS morning news anchors,
Emma Cleveland and Gabby Withers,
welcome CMS Principal Jay Marquand
to the morning news set.
(Photo by Olivia Zaller)

# Lights! Camera! Learning!



CORONADO SCHOOLS FOUNDATION





Thursday, March 14th, 5-9 pm

PRODUCED BY STUDENTS, TO BENEFIT STUDENTS!

PURPOSE: RAISE OVER \$172,000 TO MAINTAIN CUSD PROGRAMS FUNDED BY CSF DONORS

- Coronado High School Performing Arts Center and Quad, 650 D Avenue
- Live show, featuring musical acts from each school, Principals as hosts each hour
  - Fun Quad activities with roving reporter Fred Eckert and Senior Hosts
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# \*\*\*\*\*\*

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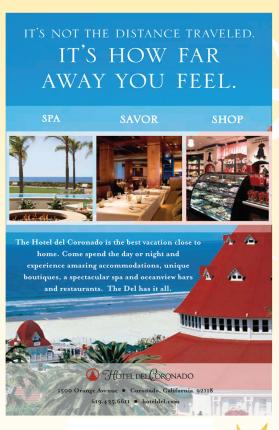
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