

October 5, 2009

Newton County School System Teachers Awarded Over \$17,000 in Grants from Snapping Shoals EMC

The Newton County School System is pleased to announce that sixteen teachers and the school district's Parent Mentor for Special Education recently received \$17,609 in Bright Ideas Grants from Snapping Shoals EMC to provide innovating educational activities and opportunities in the classroom.



According to Leigh-Anne Burgess, Communications Specialist for Snapping Shoals EMC, the funds “are allocated from unclaimed capital credit funds. These capital credits, or margins, are the revenues that are over and above the cost of providing service for customer-owners of an electric co-op, such as Snapping Shoals, for a specific year after financial obligations have been met.”

Burgess said Snapping Shoals EMC routinely refunds these credits to its members and uses the unclaimed funds to support such programs as the Snapping Shoals EMC scholarship program, the Bright Ideas program, and other community projects.

“Snapping Shoals, a partner with the school system for many years, has again contributed to the resourcefulness of our teachers,” said Dr. Steve Whatley, Superintendent for Newton County Schools. “Their funding of these competitive teacher grants creatively enhances the delivery of instruction and learning for our students.”

Dr. Kathy Garber, Newton County School System grant writer, stated that upon hearing about the awards, the school system had, “an amazing response with over 50 applications submitted for consideration.”

Garber added that the high quality of ideas submitted made it very difficult for the judges reviewing the grant applications to make their final decisions.

See below for a list of teachers who earned grants for their schools:

Alex DiRocco, Clements Theme School—“Our Weather: The Data” (\$450.00)

Students will design and construct a weather station with rain gauge, barometer, wind vane, anemometer, and psychrometer.

Joy Fielding, Palmer Stone Elementary—“Measurement Mania” (\$1353.00)

Students will increase achievement in measurement and geometry using manipulatives and measurement tools.

Tanya Gant, Michele Jeselnik, Charmaine Steele, Danielle Solomon, Lindsey Wilson, Fairview Theme School—First Grade Plant Nursery ActivSlate Quest Project” (\$1498.00)

First graders will plant a garden and track variables affecting plant growth.

Leah Green, Rocky Plains Elementary—“Problem Solving Think Lab” (\$1333.00)

Students will increase math achievement through differentiated instruction and problem solving.

Juanita Hosch-Martin, Ficquett Elementary School—“Math Olympiad” (\$1380.00)

Students will participate in competitive events designed to develop scientific reasoning and math skills.

Kena Hudgins, Ficquett Elementary School—“Destination Discovery: A Digital Exploration into Plant Life” (\$1500.00)

Students will explore plant life using technology such as Activote handsets and digitally projected microscopic images.

Jennifer Jones, NCSS Special Education—“Super Duper Action Packed Parent and Student Activity Pact” (\$1500.00)

Parents will accompany students as they participate in game show style activities to improve math skills.

Arthur Kusserow, Cousins Middle School—“Technology: A Modular Systems Approach” (\$1494.00)

Students will be actively involved in technology education through a variety of computer-based multimedia learning resources.

Linda Reagan, NCSS Physical Therapy—“Lending Library with Adapted Toys/Learning Materials for Students with Disabilities” (\$1500.00)

The lending library will provide educational and recreational experiences for children with moderate to severe disabilities.

Amanda Restivo, Alcovy High School—“Authentic Conversation in Spanish” (\$1411.00)

Students will practice Spanish in conversational settings with native speakers.

Amber St. Clair, Palmer Stone Elementary—“Bag Books” (\$1397.00)

Students will have access to a wide variety of books on their independent reading level to read at home.

Teresa Sauls, Clements Theme School—“Flippin’ for Reading” (\$1384.00)

Students will read books from enhanced classroom libraries and use a Flip Camera as an innovative way to critique the books they read.

Asherrie Yisrael, Alcovy High School—“Survival: Harnessing the Sun’s Energy” (\$1409.00)

Students will learn to transform and use sun, wind, and electrochemical energy to survive on an island.