BPS Foundation Update
By Stacey Lang, BPS Foundation Director

As director of the Bismarck Public Schools Foundation (BPSF), I’d like to share some information about grant and fundraising opportunities that are central to our mission of partnering with Bismarck Public Schools to empower all students to thrive. We are dedicated to enriching our community by providing recognition, service, and program enhancements to both students and staff.

Since the inception of this partnership in 1989, the BPSF has provided over $114,000 in scholarships to deserving BPS students and over $867,000 in grant funding to BPS Teachers and Staff.

Grant funding available now
April 1st is the deadline for spring submissions of the following grants:

- **Watts Grant**: Projects which promote/encourage hands-on learning, critical thinking, problem-solving, and self-reliance.
- **Mental Health**: Request must foster mental health within BPS and be consistent with the BPS mission.
- **Timothy C Nordquist Fund**: Request must be utilized to provide needed special education equipment, transportation costs for educational enrichment, fees for special education student’s summer camp, or opportunities for special education staff development.
- **Teacher Appreciation Mini-Grant**: Sponsored by Eid Ford, Eide Chrysler, simply tell us what you would do with an extra $250 to enhance the classroom experience for your students!

To apply for grants: [https://www.bpsfoundation.com/funding/grant-application/](https://www.bpsfoundation.com/funding/grant-application/)
To apply for teacher mini-grant: [https://www.bpsfoundation.com/funding/teacher-mini-grant/](https://www.bpsfoundation.com/funding/teacher-mini-grant/)

Fundraising assistance available
The BPS Foundation works with schools, programs and PTO/PACs to establish fundraising plans to meet their fundraising goals. This includes, but is not limited to, sponsorship development, donor recognition and online donation options. Any/all donations that are run through the BPSF incur a 2% admin fee which allows the Foundation to assist in any/all donor communication including personalized thank you’s for all contributions and tax contribution paperwork at the end of the year.

Current Fundraising Focuses
The BPSF is currently focused on two fundraising efforts, they are as follows:

- **TODAY ONLY – Giving Hearts Day**: Join the BPSF and Eide Ford – Eide Chrysler in helping our struggling families by donating to our BPS Family Assistance Fund during Giving Hearts Day. All donations up to $8000 will

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**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Career &amp; Technical Education Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Staff Development, no school</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day, no school</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/22</td>
<td>School Board Meeting, 5:15 pm</td>
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**JOBS**

- Instructional Aide II – Moses (2/11)
- Preventative and Restorative Educational Practices Facilitator (2/19)

Click here for the full list of job openings.

**NEWS TO KNOW**

**Change is on the Horizon**

Over the coming weeks you will notice some substantial changes to the way the Intercom is presented. These modifications will help enhance our already great employee newsletter and provide a more dynamic reader experience. Be sure to pay attention so you don’t miss out on some compelling new content, including video spotlights of BPS happenings, new recurring segments, and an increased multimedia focus.

**Family/Community Engagement**

BPS has always been proud of the strong relationships we have developed with our families and community. As we have learned more about the power of family engagement and its positive correlation to student achievement, a clear connection emerges with our district mission to “empower every learner to thrive.” Family Engagement is also a foundational concept within the Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant that our district recently was awarded.

To strengthen our understanding of family engagement and learn strategies to build inclusive, welcoming
be matched and go to fund basic needs for struggling families. This fund provides hygiene items, household cleaning items, pantry items, basic clothing needs and utility/rent assistance for those that do not qualify or have not yet been approved for other community resources.

Click here for more information or to give now: https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/303

If you have a family with an established need that you feel could utilize assistance from this fund, please contact your school’s social worker to submit a funding request.

• **Now through Sunday - Paw Art**: Show off your loyal companion and help 3 local causes! Simply submit a photo of your pet along with a $20 donation to participate - all participants will receive a student rendition of their pet sent back to them and their pet will be featured in the Paw Art Parade video online this spring!

Proceeds for this fundraiser will go to BPSF, BPS Fine Arts Department and the Central Dakota Humane Society. For more information or to participate: https://www.bpsfoundation.com/partners/2021-paw-art/.

**COMMUNITY CORNER**

**Donations needed**: For the month of February, the BHS Girls Basketball Team is collecting personal hygiene items for students in need. Monetary donations are also welcome to assist in the purchase of other much needed apparel. For a list of items needed and collection locations, view the flyer.

**Read**: The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) January newsletter can be viewed at http://bit.ly/2YPzvy0.

Have additional questions or need more information?
If you have any questions on how the BPS Foundation may be able to assist your school, program and/or PTO/PAC, please feel free to reach out to me at Stacey_lang@bismarckschools.org or 701-323-4093. The BPSF office is located within the Hughes Building, next to the Community Relations Department.