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PRESS RELEASE

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GFG 2023 Press Release

Golf Fore Grants Event Raises Over \$55,000 for Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation Classroom Grants Program

On June 5, 2023, over 170 participants, volunteers, and sponsors gathered for a day of golf, games, and fun at Champions Run Golf Course for Elkhorn Public Schools Foundations' 24th annual Golf Fore Grants Tournament. This year's event raised over **\$55K** for Elkhorn Public Schools' classrooms! In the 2023-2024 school year, the Foundation will be funding **76 Classroom Grants totaling over \$140,000** that will benefit classrooms across all 20 Elkhorn Public Schools, impacting thousands of students.

The golf event is a culmination of months of hard work by Foundation staff and support of sponsors, participants, and foundation supporters. But, it's even more important to remember the purpose of Golf Fore Grants: raising funds and awareness for the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation Classroom Grants program.

One grant recipient, Laurie Davidson, received a grant that helped her host a school-wide book swap during the last week of school.

Davidson, a Reading Specialist at Westridge Elementary, and Stephany Albritton, Westridge Media Specialist, used the grant money to purchase 250 books from Scholastic. Students were also encouraged to bring gently used books to swap for a new book. The grant-purchased books and swapped books provided all Westridge students with reading material over the summer to combat summer learning loss and foster the appreciation of reading.

A goal of the book swap is to encourage conversations about books. During the event, Davidson recalled seeing a fourth grader and a second grader talking about books. She frequently heard students saying, "You should try this!"

In addition to students talking to each other about books, this event also showed students that the staff at Westridge cares about reading and books. "They can talk to any of our staff members ... and we'll talk books. They read a ton of books," Davidson said. The staff also model a love for reading by having their own book swap in the teacher's lounge.

Another goal of Davidson's is to minimize summer learning loss through this program. Davidson uses this yearly event to ask students, "How are you going to plan for reading during the summer?" She also tells them, "When you open a book, think of me."

Technology, especially over the summer, plays a huge role in how much or how little a student reads.

“With the electronic world that we are living in, it’s important to have that conversation about books and reading,” she said. “How can we get more books in students’ hands if parents aren’t taking them to the library or grandparents aren’t buying them books. Plus, not all students have access” to books over the summer.

Davidson vividly recalled asking a little girl what she read over the summer, and the little girl said a birthday card. Stories like this motivate Davidson to continue providing books to students over the summer break.

"I want to thank the donors," Davidson said. "It's important that the students know that there are people out there that care about them outside of Westridge. We appreciate everything that the Foundation and donors do for classroom grants. It helps us do our job better."

A few other grants approved include literacy assistance kits, eBooks, community field trips, anti-bullying presentations, career readiness, public speakers, play productions, many Vivi presentation systems, robotics equipment, and more.

Please visit www.elkhornfoundation.org/classroom-grants to see a full list of classroom grant requests.

If you are interested in making a contribution to our Classroom Grant program, please click the link below or call the Foundation at (402) 289.1727 to discuss your gift. Thank you for your support!

[Make a contribution](#)

[Visit our website for more information about the event](#)



GOLF FORE GRANTS 2023

TOURNAMENT WINNER
Sampson Foursome

Sampson
Construction

The Sampson Foursome were our Golf Fore Grants tournament winners with a score of 57.



Golf Fore Grants helps to raise funds for classroom grants, and Laurie Davidson used her grant funds to host a school-wide book swap to encourage conversations about reading and minimize summer learning loss.