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Contact: Denise D'Oliveira
251/656-7333

SEEDS Donates \$37,500 to Address Daphne School Needs

Supporting Educational Enrichment in Daphne's Schools (SEEDS) awarded \$37,500 in Classroom Enrichment Grants to the five Daphne public schools and Christ the King Catholic School at Monday night's Daphne City Council meeting. The funds will be used for needed supplies, technology and instructional resources throughout the 2009-10 school year.

"State Rep. Randy Davis, State Sen. Marc Keahey and State Sen. Trip Pittman contributed generously to this year's grants program, making it possible for us to not only continue our \$3,000 block grant to each school, but to also fund 23 different classroom projects developed by Daphne teachers," said Ashley Hammond, SEEDS president.

"Their support helps us leverage the proceeds from last year's Mamma Mia Cook-off and Classic Rock 5K to expand our grants program in spite of the current economic downturn," Hammond said.

"The schools will be looking to the community more than ever in the coming months, and SEEDS is grateful to be in a position to help as a direct result of people getting involved through our foundation," she said.

SEEDS' Enrichment Grant Program, now in its fifth year, encourages teachers and principals to develop classroom initiatives beyond the core curriculum that focus on four criteria: innovative teaching, instructional impact, professional collaboration and community partnership. In light of recent state and local cuts, Daphne principals were also encouraged to apply this year's grants toward unfunded campus needs.

In addition to technology improvements and dropout prevention efforts, SEEDS grants will fund items like sheet music for the middle school choral program, transportation for the high school Scholars Bowl team and maintenance of school copiers.

"We're pleased that with growing community support, our annual grant program has invested more than \$121,000 in the Daphne schools since 2005," said Hammond.

The 2009 Mamma Mia Cook-off, a celebration of Daphne's Italian heritage, is set for Saturday evening, Nov. 14, at Daphne City Hall, beginning at 7 p.m. The sixth annual Classic Rock 5K and Fun Run will take place on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

For more information, contact Denise D'Oliveira, executive director, at (251) 656-SEED (656-7333) or info@seedsindaphne.org.

SEEDS' 2009-10 Enrichment Grant projects and the lead teachers who developed them include:

Christ the King School

Max Crain (principal/block grant chair) – Technology Improvements
Rose Mary Mitchell – Bare Books Come Alive
Karen Wilson – Front and Center

Daphne Elementary School

Jan Palmer (principal/block grant chair) –
Magical Media Room
Elizabeth Tindell – Camp Read-a-Lot
Ginger Miller – Hopscotch on the Sidewalk
Katrina Renfroe – Shape Up and Sharpen Your Reading & Math Skills

W. J. Carroll Intermediate School

Keri Shofner (assistant principal/block grant chair) – Get Our Money's Worth
Keri Shofner -- WJCI Live
Pam Earle – Behind Every Word There's a Story

Daphne East Elementary School

Becky Lundberg (principal/block grant chair) –
Facilitating the DEES Instructional Leadership Team
Terrie Weinacker – Is That How I Sound When I Read?
Susan Samry – The Technology Toolbox

Daphne Middle School

Dr. Jeanne Fox (assistant principal/block grant chair) –
The Smart Approach to Computer Competence II
Sherry Bittinger – Public Art 101
Teresa Hunter – Time to Get a Life
Claire Waites – When I Grow Up, I Want to Be . . .
Bernadete Winn – Hot Reads
Kay Taylor – Welcome to the Real World
Andrea Lindsey – Life Science Improvement

Sellers Kennington – A Touch of Math
Tiffany Holt – Civic Clips
Mary Trawick – District VII Regional Choral Festival resources

Daphne High School

Meredith Horton (assistant principal/block grant chair) –
Project SLICE (Setting Limits to Improve Conduct and Expectations)
Frederick McKenzie – Scholars Bowl support
Priscilla Dabney – Study Skills Lab
Leigh Anne McPherson – Getting Ready for the World of Work
Andre LaPalme – The DHS Spectator
Brian Hunter – ACT Prep