

After School...

The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Website
www.mrti.org

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MRTI April 16, 2024



Cash Cash Cash Prizes!

Bingo Bango Bongo * --> --> You know what we mean





SPOTLIGHT ON The MRTI Grant Program



MRTI has always sought ways in which to help and support our active teaching colleagues. The Scholarship Program, to which many of you have contributed generously over the years, provides four to five scholarships per year, ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000, for teachers and support personnel who are pursuing additional or advanced degrees and training to improve their teaching. Since many of the children attending Minneapolis Public Schools are in unstable housing or family situations, are food insecure or in need of other kinds of supports, MRTI makes direct yearly donations to eight community organizations which serve our children. (List on p.3)

In 2014, the Board created the MRTI Grant Program to address the issue of teachers self-funding their classrooms. The program provides cash reimbursements for items needed to create better learning environments and provide activities across a wide spectrum. Teachers use a simple, easy to complete request form identifying the need and asking for a specific amount of money to cover the cost. The Grants Committee, headed by Larry Risser, reviews the



Larry Risser

requests and decides which ones will be accepted and how much money each awardee will receive.

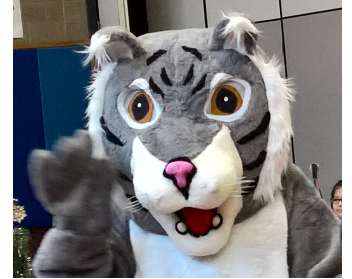
That first year, with a \$5000 budget, the committee received and granted 11 requests. In 2023, we received 23 requests totaling \$15,761.26 and awarded grants totaling \$10,780.42.

(The list of this year's awards is on page 6.) Sometimes, the cost of the desired items is more than we can justify for a single request, so we have appealed to our members for help. When the South High School instrumental music program wanted guitars, we paid for one or two, but additional ones were acquired through donations from our members. In fact, on page 4 of this newsletter is a request for lumber and tools for wood-working and bike repair prompted by a Grant request.



In the past 10 years, the Grant program has funded rugs with primary- colored squares for

a Kindergarten room, number and letter sets, wobbly chairs for 2nd graders, the costume for a school mascot, publication of a book of art and poetry written by students who are working their way through the criminal justice system, books for school and classroom libraries, field trips, project display boards and many other things. But this year's requests were really extraordinary.



Students of dance teacher LaTia Childers, a teacher at FAIR High School, rehearse their part in the Flamenco Dance Program at Cowles Center for the Dance. Our grant paid for the costumes.



Photos by Larry Risser

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Bill of Fare

April 16 - Taco bar with "fixings,"
mixed fruit bowl for dessert

May 21 - Sloppy joes, chips, potato
salad, strawberry shortcake for
dessert

The dining room opens at 11:30
A vegetarian option is available;
include the request when making
your reservation. No other options
are possible.

The lunch price is \$22.00, which
includes the lunch, tax, tip and the
program. We happily accept cash or
checks.

Phone callers record both names and
phone numbers for reservations, which
will be checked off at the ticket table.
Should you need to cancel your
reservation, call **Gayle Marko** by the
Sunday prior to the meeting or be billed
for your non-attendance.

If you have NOT been called by Monday, a week
before the luncheon, and you wish to attend, please
call Gayle Marko to make a reservation.

If you make your reservations by email with
JanWahl, please do not make one with a caller.

Any questions or concerns, please call Gayle at
952-920-1395.
See you for lunch!

Did You Know...

MRTI contributes to many
programs that support
Minneapolis children? Your dues
support annual contributions to:

- The Assistance League
- Mary's Place
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Minneapolis
- Jeremiah Program
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Twin Cities
- People Serving People
- Minneapolis Recreation Development

This month's
MRTI Luncheon email reservations will
come to you from the following
address:

Janwahl @comcast.net

If you requested an email contact for
lunch but did not receive one, please
do the following BEFORE April 8:

1. Check your spam folder
2. Send an email to the above
address
3. Call Gayle Marco at 952-920-1395
to reserve a spot at the upcoming
luncheon.

Interested in political activity?

**Retired Teachers Council 59
(RTC 59)**

"Gathering, Learning and Action"

Apr. 23, May 28 or 29

**Meetings will be at the Local 59 office
67 8th Avenue NE.**

10 AM

Watch for notices in your email

Spring Program Schedule



April 16, 2024
Bango!
Play games &
win cash prizes



May 21, 2024
South High guitar
ensemble
Jonatan Edington, director

Are you slimming down, lightening up or looking ahead?

If you have tools, a tool chest or lumber that you are ready to part with, there is a Minneapolis teacher at Transition Plus teaching bike repair, woodworking and construction who would be glad to put those materials to use.

If you would consider donating them, let me know and I'll facilitate the transfer to that school.

Larry Risser
612-922-6596
lerisser10@gmail.com

2024 MRTI Scholarship Recipients

Natasha Lemmie

Natasha is currently a 2nd grade teacher at Lucy Craft Laney Elementary School in north Minneapolis. She began her Minneapolis career in August 2009 after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Elementary Education from Metro State University in St. Paul. Natasha plans to receive her Master of Arts degree in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder from Concordia St. Paul University in December 2024.

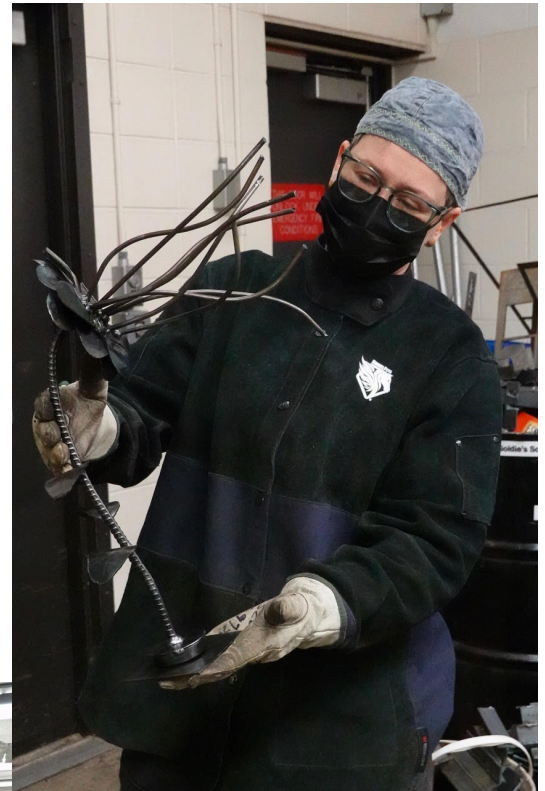
Carlyn Shanley

Carlyn is a member of the Culinary Arts teaching staff at Roosevelt High School in south Minneapolis. She is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Teaching at Bethel University and is interested in curriculum design, creating "lessons that build a life-long love of learning". Carlyn also received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Education in Communicative Language Arts from Bethel University. She previously taught English Language Arts at Ella Baker Community School (formerly Jefferson Community School).

Kristen Viscarra

Kristen is a school counselor at Andersen United Middle School in south Minneapolis. She received Bachelor of Science degrees in Psychology and Family and Human Development from Arizona State University in 2020. She is currently completing her last semester of classes to obtain a Master of Arts degree in Counseling Education (School Counseling) from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Roosevelt students can take a welding class or a Culinary Arts class as part of Careers in Technology



Students make metal haiku plates and attach them to the metal tree on the school grounds. Welding instructor, C.J. Mace, uses the metal chop saw purchased with MRTI grant funds. Through a connection with Dunwoody, students have access to equipment for plasma welding and cutting and they can weld or braze any metals - ferrous or non-ferrous.



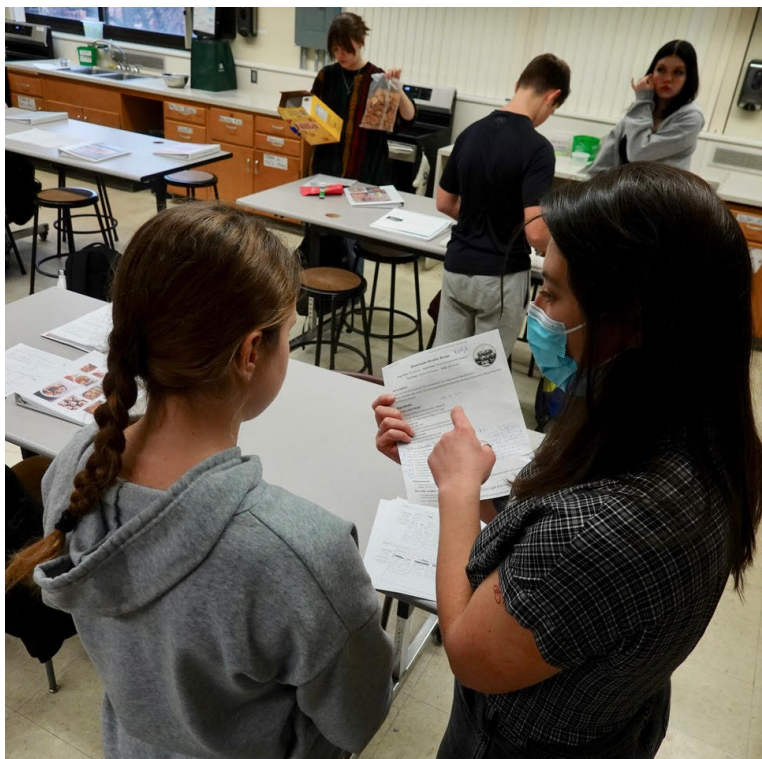
Culinary Arts instructor, Ben Rengstorf, unpacks groceries needed for student cooking projects. An MRTI grant purchased a washing machine for the program.



2023 Grants Awarded

Teacher	School	Gr Level	Program	Grant Awarded
S Ben Rengstorf	Roosevelt	9-12	Cul Arts washing mach	\$948.00
Nikkia Collins	NSJ& CtyV	PreK-5	Media Library events	\$250.00
Angelique Bonine	FAIR HS	HS	Bk: Hist Wmn-led slave revolts	\$650.00
S. Ullmer & C. Page	FAIR HS	HS	Hygenic supplies	\$405.28
LaTia Childers	FAIR HS	HS	Dance Costumes	\$400.00
Wendy Glenna	Washburn	k-5	Yoga bk & flash cards	\$279.49
A. Lodermeier &K	Dowling	4-5	Eagle Bluff overnight	\$970.00
Victoria Zinda	Ella Baker	6	Comic Bk software	\$144.00
Derek Carlson	Lk Har Lwr	K	Outdoor planters	\$500.00
Sophia Butler	South	9-12	Music T-Shirts	\$500.00
Gavin Lobe	Whittier	3	Gndr Diversity bks	\$125.00
Michelle Le-Reid	South	9-12	SpEd craft materials	\$151.82
Jean Robinson	Folwell	k-2	GEMS Drama mtrls	\$500.00
Kathleen Cassidy	Washburn	HS	I.B. Art materials	\$325.00
Erin Averbeck	Bethune	k-2	Bks for Indep Rdng	\$950.00
Micayla Dawson	Ella Baker	5-8	Music Lib Diversity	\$450.00
Emily Carstem	Jenny Lind	PreK	Bug ID & capture	\$411.83
Sarah Dice	FAIR HS	9-12	Bk: American Like Me	\$220.00
Hannah Zapchenk	Armatage		Source pkts MN Hist Soc	\$750.00
Carol Dallman	Wellstone	9-12	ELL	\$500.00
CJ Mace	Roosevelt	10-12	Welding equip & supplies	\$1,000.00
Alivia Tison	asEstrella	k-5	Disabled Hands-on materials	\$350.00

Total Requests Approved \$10,780.42



Students will compete for “Best” dish at the end of the term. Other teachers will be the judges.



Yearbook Update

These membership listings were received after the yearbook had gone to press:

cont. from page 1

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Visit the MRTI Website

One of the services for MRTI members is our website:

www.mrti.org

Check it out for information on our luncheon programs, the grant and scholarship programs, Committee of 13 updates, lists of Board Members, Limited Medical Assistance Fund, lists of deceased members and more.

Use this resource...it's for you!

Eileen P Blaisdell

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"I just love how they come individually wrapped to seal in the flavor."

MRTI Newsletter April, 2024
Chris Poppe, editor

Our meeting location

Eagles Club #34 American Legion
(On the corner of E. 25th St. & 25th Ave. S)
2507 E. 25th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Articles, opinion essays and
comments are welcome and
should be directed to:

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Plenty of Free parking

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