

Surprise! Surprise!

Several Wylie teachers felt like they had won the lottery last week when the surprise patrol from the Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation showed up at their doors.

The foundation handed out nearly \$20,000 worth of grants to help fund innovative ideas in the classroom. Teachers applied for the grants earlier this spring, and last week foundation board members traveled from campus to campus armed with noise makers, festive hats, fun glasses and bubble-makers to notify the winning teachers.

Students got a big kick out of the fun, especially at the elementary, where they were a little confused as to what was going on, but were having fun nonetheless. One student thought his teacher had just won a trip to Mexico and said, "I can't believe this is happening." Another just kept repeating "What's happening here? What's happening here?"

The money will be used in a variety of ways from helping pay for an 8th-grade field trip to buying computers to upgrading technology. Teachers who were awarded grants this year include:

- ❑ Dana Elliott, Jill Tate and Debbie Smith at the Junior High won \$2,999.70 for graphing calculators to help 8th-grade students. The STAAR test will allow the use of the calculators next year, and students need to be prepared.
- ❑ Holli Cooper, Sherry Brown, Allie Ensor, Melanie Reyes and Michele Davis at the Middle School received \$5,000 to purchase 24 Learn Pad bundles and screen protectors that will allow students to access digital components of materials designed to help them prepare for the new mathematics TEKS.
- ❑ Luke McMillan, assistant band director at Wylie High School received \$1,000 to attend a Drill Design Workshop in Orleans, Mass. This will allow him to create the drills for marching band and save the district money.
- ❑ Shana Hrbacek at the Junior High received \$949.69 to purchase a LEGO Mindstorms EV3 Core Set, Software and a Dell Laptop in order to expand the district's young robotics program.
- ❑ Gabriela Bundy, who teaches Spanish at the Junior High, received \$1,000 to attend the National TPR Story Telling Conference, where she will receive formal training in the district's new Spanish curriculum, which teaches Spanish through storytelling and conversation.
- ❑ Jennifer Rapstine, Rebecca Groban and Jessica McIntire at Wylie Elementary received \$735.08 to replace the subtraction and addition math wrap-ups which students use as a great hands-on tool to learn their basic facts.
- ❑ Shana Shuler at the Middle School recieved \$599.60 for Hard Cover Student Desk Atlases that provide more information than the ones which are currently being used. The current set is outdated and the soft covers are falling apart and have missing pages.

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1. Kelly Trumble is surprised when Wylie Superintendent Joey Light walks in as part of the Education Foundation's surprise patrol. She submitted a grant on behalf of the 8th grade.
2. Ann Hurst (center) poses with the foundation group as they present her grant.
3. Students in Mrs. Witherspoon's class applaud their teacher, even though they have no idea what the big deal is.
4. Jamie Miers shoots bubbles at students.

5. Foundation board members Denise Blake and Jennifer Murphy have fun with their costumes.
6. Sherry Brown poses with the patrol after receiving her grant.
7. Wylie assistant band director Luke McMillan gets a surprise visit during band rehearsal.
8. Jennifer Rapstine and Rebecca Groban pose for a picture after receiving the grant that they will also share with Jessica McIntire, who is not pictured.

