

## TLC Letters, Martin County, April 18

By reader submitted

Friday, April 16, 2010

### **Manuel, CD-ROM helped South Fork students**

My students and I would like to thank the Education Foundation of Martin County for its generosity.

Due to the classroom enrichment grant received by South Fork High School Academy of Architecture and Construction Technology, we were able to purchase the updated Architectural Graphic Standards reference manual and CD-ROM.

Our AGS version was published in 1981. This updated version will offer the students the latest information on construction materials and techniques.

We already have used the manual to research design considerations for a veterinary hospital, a project students are working on and have used information for that was found in the manual during our discussions on sustainable design (green building) and universal design — important building concepts that students need to understand.

Also, several students recently competed in the Skills USA regional drafting competitions. Our new book traveled to Orlando with us. The competitors were able to review the different construction details they may be asked to recreate. It paid off; we came home with two gold medals and one silver!

Thank you, Education Foundation, for your contribution to these winners and your part in helping many students achieve success!

Barbara Anderson

South Fork High School

### **Lab sink granted at Indiantown Middle**

Please allow me to thank the Martin County Education Foundation for the support of my science classroom.

A sink in a science lab is essential. "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop in here" was a grant that provided two science classrooms access to a convenient, safe water source. The project provided a mobile science lab workstation that is equipped with a pumped operated sink. The water source easily can be refilled and the work station can be moved between the two classrooms. The mobile science lab station will allow students to participate in many scientific investigations, for example, experiments involving states of matter, density, crystal growth, weather, botany and chemistry.

Another grant tools to build a foundation was a project that provided science lab equipment for the classroom. They were provided with frequent opportunities to use the equipment during scientific investigations and experiments. Each student also used the equipment for their science fair projects. Eight of these students were recognized as regional science fair winners!!

This would have not been possible without the support of the Educational Foundation.

Jollyn Nolan

Indiantown Middle School

### **Hidden Oaks loves heart rate monitors**

I cannot thank Lisa Rhodes and The Education Foundation board members enough for their generous donation to Hidden Oaks Middle School's Physical Education Department.

We have purchased and received the Rainbow Mio strapless heart rate monitors, and our students are thrilled to use them. As one young man stated, "Seeing your heart rate on the watch just makes you want to run faster."

We are all experiencing economic hardships right now. Too often, our children are the most vulnerable and at risk of these day-to-day difficulties. The Foundation's contribution and support is helping to enrich the educational experience of our youth.

Adding heart rate monitors to our heart health curriculum will promote regular heart discussion and overall heart health. Specifically, these heart rate monitors will make heart health fun. Thank you again, Lisa Rhodes and The Education Foundation, for supporting our students, strengthening the education of our youth, and making the world a healthier place.

Natalie Walters, NBCT

Certified Fitness Trainer

Hidden Oaks Middle

### **Picture books benefit classrooms**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Education Foundation of Martin County for its Classroom Enrichment Grant program.

The grant I received this year for "Picture If You Will" allowed me to purchase close to 100 picture books to enhance the writing experience not only for my fourth-grade class, but for our first-grade "buddy class."

The students listened to some of the more popular and award-winning picture books before completing an activity that allowed them to practice targeted writing skills.

The picture books were a wonderful way to introduce and reinforce writing skills in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

Thank you again for the honor!

Kathleen Buckley

Fourth-grade teacher

Felix A. Williams Elementary

