

2006 GRANT AWARDS

Ladera Ranch Education Foundation



Chaparral Elementary



Ladera Elementary



Ladera Middle

John Duncan - The Ladera Post

Elementary and Middle Schools are where children begin learning about math. The Ladera Ranch Education Foundation helps the Ladera Ranch School children, parents and teachers with that math; The math needed to fund programs and equipment.

LREF gave grants of about \$20,000 to Ladera Ranch Elementary and Middle School, Chaparral Elementary and Oso Grande Elementary.

Sherry Brooks, president and executive director of LREF, said that the money is used to supplement the money received from the district and from the PTA.

“We provide support in areas that the district and the PTA are not allowed to support,” Brooks said.

The PTA is prohibited from raising funds for grade specific needs, such as Kindergarten music or 5th grade Science Camp.

Ladera Ranch Elementary Principal Meg Brown said, “LREF helps us provide all the little extras we need to do our job.”

The Ladera Ranch Education Foundation was created to raise funds to enrich and improve the quality of the educational environment for the public school children of Ladera Ranch. It is designed to strengthen the relationship between the public schools and the community and to support a level of excellence and innovation in the children’s educational experience.

Ladera Ranch Elementary received \$4201 for hands-on science materials, a microphone and stand, digital camera and materials to integrate social studies and science with language, fine and performing arts.

Ladera Ranch Elementary Principal Meg Brown said some of the money will be used to help the students produce plays that will support social studies, language skills.

She added that the science materials will aid the students in learning science by doing, rather than just reading about the subject.

Ladera Ranch Middle School received \$5,146 for Scholastic Art Magazines, Speedskin keyboard covers and fitness equipment for the Middle School's fitness lab.

Eamonn O'Donovan, principal of the middle school, said, "These people (LREF) are a dedicated group of parents and the support is fantastic."

Chaparral Elementary received \$5,704 for books, an LCD projector, a microphone and stand, equipment for a community-wide hockey table league and staff development training.

Dr. Kevin Rafferty, principal at Chaparral, received a grant to buy 10 table hockey games to begin the league at his school.

The league would be available to teenagers, adults and third through fifth graders at the school.

"We're extremely thankful for the generous support (from LREF)," Rafferty said.

And Oso Grande Elementary received \$5,002 for a Motor Development Lab and resources for language arts and math.

Principal Jayne Martin said that the grants would provide circuit training for the Oso Grande children and the language arts and math resources would help to supplement those programs. Oso Grande is a new school that opened last year. Martin said that they were fairly well supplied, but the LREF grants helped them provide some of the extras that help to enrich learning.

"Coming from schools without this kind of support, (LREF) is an amazing group of volunteers that put in a lot of time to support us," Martin said.

"The teachers are just thrilled," she added.

The money given comes from donations and the proceeds from various events held throughout the year.

Every year LREF holds a fundraising event called the Ten Gallon Gala.

Also, the organizer of last March's "Taste of Ladera" event in Town Green donated to LREF.

"They came to us and said, 'Can we give you all the money?'," Brooks said.

This year Ron Luna of Front Street Realty and Mortgage is donating all the proceeds from the Ladera Ranch House of Design.

The house opened last weekend from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 11 Patina in the Terramor Village in Ladera Ranch. It will be available for viewing Saturday and Sunday until March 5.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 or under.

LREF is also hosting a family fun day at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim to see the Mighty Ducks take on the Columbus Blue Jackets on Sunday, March 5. They are offering special reserved, discounted tickets for the event.

Tax deductible donations are also accepted. Donation forms are available by sending an e-mail to Donations@LREFOnline.org. Donations can be directed to a particular Ladera Ranch school through this form.

Lower seating tickets are \$40 (regularly \$50), Terrace Main tickets are \$20 (regularly \$32.50) and Terrace Value tickets are \$12.50 (regularly \$15). Tickets can be purchased until Feb. 15 by visiting LREF's Web site www.lrefonline.org and clicking on the Mighty Ducks link.

Educators and administrators at the Ladera Ranch schools filled out applications last year to be eligible for the LREF grants. This is the first year that LREF took grant applications.

The guidelines for money from the grants are as follows:

- ❖ To aid in the introduction of an innovative and creative program involving students.
- ❖ Offers students a unique learning opportunity that enriches the study-related subject matter.
- ❖ To provide resources that will enhance classroom curriculum by encouraging student participation.
- ❖ And the purpose of the funds do not qualify for state, federal or district funding.

The LREF board decides on the disposition of the funds and the principals of the schools are non-voting members of the board.