

## 2007 GRANT AWARDS

### Ladera Ranch Education Foundation



Ladera Elementary

### Ladera Ranch Education Foundation Presents \$35,000 in Grants to Local Schools

The Ladera Ranch Education Foundation Board awarded grants totaling just over \$35,000 to Chaparral Elementary School, Ladera Ranch Elementary School, Ladera Ranch Middle School and Oso Grande Elementary School. "This is definitely the most rewarding part of being involved with LREF," said Sherry Brooks, LREF President, "and this year we had an overwhelming number of requests. Requests submitted by teachers and principals totaled over \$95,000!" The amount of funds granted each year is determined based on the year's fund raising totals and the current financial position of LREF at the time the grants are awarded. Kevin Brooks, LREF Chairman of the Board commented on the grant process - "This year was our most successful in terms of fund raising, however, the amount requested was far and above what we were able to grant. The more involved our parents and community is in LREF, the more we can grant to the schools." Amounts awarded during this year's grant process are as follows:

**Chaparral Elementary** School received \$6,873 for classroom computers, an AverVision document camera for classroom use and equipment for students to study and prepare a documentary on the Native American Indians who lived in the local area.

**Ladera Ranch Elementary** School received \$7,528 for SRA Reading Lab curriculum materials, two class sets of Junior Great Books readers and 5 multimedia projectors.

**Ladera Ranch Middle** School received \$9,399 for a digital video camera, materials to build rocket launchers for the Science Department, music and folders for the Cantate Choir and two Qwizdom Classroom Response Systems which recently won the Technology and Learning Magazine 2006 Award of Excellence.

**Oso Grande Elementary** School received \$11,512 for SRA Reading Lab curriculum, Open Court Readers, instructional-leveled novels, Scholastic Readers, Math Manipulatives to support the

current math curriculum, Rigby Leveled Guided Reading materials and the Scholastic Reading Counts program.

The purpose of Ladera Ranch Education grant program is to provide funds to enrich the learning environment, motivate students, and enhance instructional effectiveness. The Foundation recommends that principals and teachers submit requests for projects, materials or equipment that directly benefit students and indirectly focuses the attention of our community on the positive results within our schools. There are no categorical restrictions on grants and projects may cover any subject. Grants are first individually reviewed by the LREF Advisory Board, a non-voting board whose purpose is to provide insight, advice and support to the Board of Directors. The grants are then reviewed on an individual basis and voted on by the LREF Board of Directors. The current year's awards brings the total granted by LREF to over \$65,000 since the foundation was formed in July 2004.

"Because we live in a beautiful, new community, there may a perception that our schools have more than enough equipment and supplies for our students," Sherry Brooks said, "but that isn't always the case. The budget at the state and district level is very tight. And there are cases when our teachers don't qualify for grants from other sources. There is a real need for LREF to help provide our students with the best education possible. We want to encourage all the residents of Ladera Ranch to support LREF." The research is overwhelmingly clear: when parents and communities are involved in our children's schools, their education improves And improved education leads to better test scores, better behavior, increased graduation rates in both high school and college and increased success beyond school.