

BRASS TACKS

Key Communicator Newsletter

LHS science teacher selected for prestigious partnership grant

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Washington, is pleased to announce that it has recently awarded 25 grants of \$15,000 each (totaling \$375,000) to improve science education in the Pacific Northwest through the Partners in Science Program. These awards will enable outstanding high school science teachers to form partnerships with research scientists to conduct basic science research during the next two summers in the academic and research institutions in the Pacific Northwest. Following each summer of research, the teachers will have the experience of sharing their research at both regional and national Partners in Science conferences, also funded by this award.



Brandon Galvez

One of the recipients of this grant is Brandon Galvez, a science teacher from La Grande High School. He will partner with Dr. David Wooster, Ph.D., from the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center (Oregon State University).

This grant has been awarded through a competitive process in the Partners in Science Program at the Murdock Trust. Applications are accepted from high school teachers and mentors from a five-state region to conduct summer research. The primary goal of the Program is to provide high school science teachers with opportunities to work at the cutting edge of science, and thus to revitalize their teaching, help them develop new inquiry-based teaching strategies and to encourage more students to pursue careers in science. The selection of awardees is based on the qualifications of the partner members, the quality of scientific research proposed, and the potential of its impact on the high school setting.

The Murdock Trust, created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock, provides grants to organizations in five states of the Pacific Northwest that seek to strengthen the region's educational and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways. The Partners in Science Program is one of its many efforts to do so in its grant-making region.

Please see the letter from the M.J. Murdock Trust to Larry Glaze announcing Mr. Galvez's grant award on page 2.

Upcoming Events

May 1

Red Cross Blood Drive,
7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.,
LHS Small Gym

May 2

La Grande FFA Banquet

May 6-10

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 8

School Board Meeting,
7 p.m., Willow Conference Rm.

May 22

Crystal Apple Awards Ceremony
4:45 p.m., EOU

May 24

Last Day of School for Seniors

May 27

Memorial Day Holiday
(No School)

May 29

Baccalaureate

May 31

Last Day of School

June 1

LHS Graduation
10 a.m.

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www.lagrandesd.org

The word on Enrollment...

Enrollment Numbers
as of April 1, 2013

Central Elementary
367 students

Greenwood Elementary
234 students

Island City Elementary
253 students

Willow Kindergarten
167 students

Total Elementary
Enrollment
1,021 students

Middle School
491 students

High School
582 students

LGSD Total Enrollment
2,094 students

Please call Gaye Young at 541-663-3202 or email her at gaye.young@lagrandesd.org to join our Key Communicator email list



M.J. Murdock
Charitable Trust

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April 10, 2013

Larry Glaze
Superintendent
c/o La Grande High School
708 K Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850

Dear Mr. Glaze:

I am pleased to inform you that Brandon Galvez, a science teacher at La Grande High School, was chosen to receive a grant in the Partners in Science Program of the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. During the next two summers Brandon will be conducting research jointly with Dr. David Wooster at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center - Oregon State University.

Grants are awarded based on proposals submitted on a competitive basis to this program. Both the scientific merit of the project proposed as well as the potential impact on the high school classrooms and labs are weighed in determining recipients of grants. Brandon has exhibited exceptional qualities at La Grande High School that, on the one hand, have demonstrated merit for this award, and, on the other hand, will most certainly be used in bringing special insights and enthusiasm back to the classroom.

Enclosed is a News Release that you may wish to use to announce this award in your local media. Please feel free to modify the wording, adding other information also, if you wish, to describe your local school. A copy of this News Release is also being sent to both the Principal and the teacher; you may wish to coordinate an announcement with them.

As part of this grant, Brandon is being invited to attend a national conference on Partners in Science in San Diego, California, to present a poster on the summer's research, on January 17 and 18, 2014, and to present a paper on both summers of research at the conference in January 2015. This conference will strengthen Brandon professionally and give insight into how science is being taught at some of the fine schools in the nation.

Later this spring, our "circuit rider," a veteran Partner, may have an opportunity to meet you and discuss with you the implications of this program for your school district. If you can arrange it in your schedule, it would be a fine gesture if you could visit the laboratory where Brandon will be conducting research. If we can make our schedules agree, it would be nice to make such visit together.

Please feel free to call me if you have questions about this program.

With best regards,

M. J. MURDOCK CHARITABLE TRUST

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Hadder, msg".

Bart A. Hadder
Program Director

BAH:msg
Enclosure: News Release
cc: Brandon Galvez