

BONUS: Teachers tell of grant applications

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literacy increase 5 percent higher than the previous year's results, which amounted to 3.3 percent of his salary, or \$5,162.

King described the jump in scores as the most significant percentage increase in decades: "This is an amazing accomplishment, a good sign of educational success - kudos to Dr. Heinegg," he said.

In other news, district teachers and other staff attended the meeting to describe different grants they received from the Caldwell-West Caldwell Education Foundation for the current school year.

Mary Ann Campion, chairperson of the Caldwell-West Caldwell Education Foundation, said she was "very pleased" to award a total of \$22,292.57 in grants to the following district teachers/administrators who applied:

- James Brown, Grover Cleveland Middle School (GCMS) Principal, received \$9,257.93 for 24 Lego EV3 Mindstorms Programmable Robotic Kits for the school's new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program. Brown said four students can work on one kit, so this purchase provides enough kits for two eighth grade classes to work in teams of four students.

- Andrew Burrows, grade 4-12 instrumental music teacher,

was awarded \$6,045 for a mallet percussion upgrade at James Caldwell High School (JCHS) — a xylophone and marimba, both Yamaha brand. He said the xylophone and marimba previously used at JCHS, both about 40 years old, will move to GCMS, where they promise to create "endless possibilities" for the students there.

- Jennifer Emmolo and Jackie Ginex, third grade teachers at Wilson School, received \$2,246.40 for six Stand Up For Learning desks and stools, designed for restless and fidgety students. After conducting research, the teachers felt that these desks could help reduce "avoidance behaviors" such as bathroom and water fountain trips by allowing students to alternate between sitting and standing, as well as providing a "fidget bar." They said each classroom will get three desks, and different students will rotate among the desks on a weekly basis.

- Jensyn and David Modero, district drama, introductory theatre, and music teachers, got \$2,000 toward puppets for the high school's fall production of "Alice in Wonderland" — a winking dragon to be operated by six students and a moving Cheshire cat.

- Cindy Halen, Wilson School media specialist, was

awarded \$1,274 for her "One School, One Book" project for Read Across America Week, in which all families will receive the same book and read chapter by chapter together to promote conversations about the book between students, students and their families, as well as between different families.

- Paul Marrone, JCHS science teacher, received \$682.20 for dihydrofolate reductase expression, purification, and analysis of enzymatic activity for his molecular biology class. He described this type of protein targeting as a technique associated with the development of cancer therapies.

- Robin Keil, JCHS special education teacher, got \$500 for student-to-student mentoring in

English and environmental science.

- Dominique Paladino, fourth grade teacher at Wilson School, was awarded \$487.04 to purchase supplies for her writers' club with the hopes of instilling "a love for writing" among the fourth and fifth grade students who choose to take part in this voluntary, before- and after-school activity.

"It is critical to the progress of the district to have not only community funding, but also community support for these exciting educational ventures that have become possible because of the work, energy, and time the Caldwell-West Caldwell Education Foundation puts into generating funds to help teachers, administrators, and students," said Heinegg.