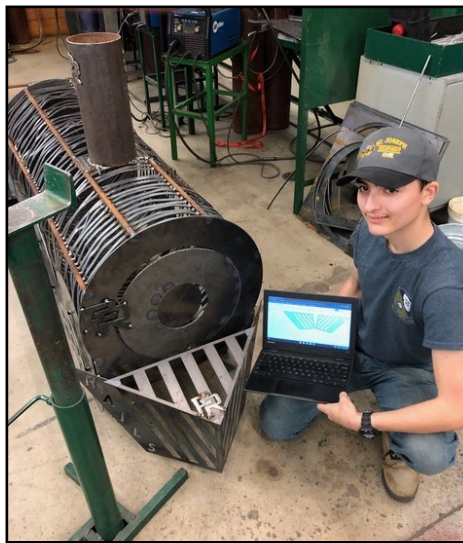


REA³D Grant Awards Support State-of-the Art Machine Technology at PHS

We're not in Kansas any more Dorothy! Adhering to the 5 Ss of manufacturing (**sort, straighten, shine, standardize, and sustain**), the PHS Industrial Tech Department is transforming its curriculum into a pre-manufacturing setting. No longer are the "trades" defined as second class professions as manufacturers are strongly urging schools to send them candidates ready to work. Heading up this initiative are teachers Craig Honkola and Tyler Blom. "It's just incredible the degree to which local manufacturing firms are encouraging us in this quest," commented Honkola. "The local Tongue and Grove store on Highway 53, along with numerous other vendors, have donated around \$40,000 in materials alone." In visiting the shops, one would need to look closer to find the traditional hand tools of a hammer, screw driver, or wrench, although it's certain they exist in some capacity. One is more apt to see multiple battery-powered tools from grinders, screw drivers, saws, to CAD (computer-aided designed) programs, a computer laser engraver, to welders, a plasma cutting machine, and computer generated designs to accurately reflect the parts needing to be cut. All aspects in conformity of Shortening the Bridge for Manufacturing.



Sophomore Karter Rengo looks on as freshman Ellie Pease demonstrates the procedure for using the PHS Industrial Technology Program's new DeWalt 12v sliding miter saw, purchased with REA³D grant funding.



15-year-old Ryan Behrman displays his CAD drawing, which directed the cutting of the steel pieces necessary to complete this project, via a plasma cutting machine. After the cuts, Ryan welded the cowcatcher to this mock steam engine.



A place for everything and everything in its place! Austin Kehn uses his free time to map, grind, and affix one of multiple power tools for an orderly manufacturing setting, complying with the 5 Ss.

REA³D Helps Bay View Third Graders Get Into Creative Writing Through an Experience with Taxidermy



100+ third graders at Bay View Elementary School experienced the intricacies of taxidermy this year, thanks to a \$1,000 REA³D grant and the inspiration of their teacher, Luke Ratike. Mr. Ratike was given a deceased barred owl by a local conservation officer, with the understanding that the creature would be used to teach about animal adaptations which meets a Minnesota Science standard, while also integrating creative writing exercises. The class participated in the taxidermy process from start to finish, and ended up producing some very interesting writing specimens.



REA³D BY CANDLELIGHT 2024

PAGE 2

A big thank you to the businesses, school staff, students and community members who generously contributed to our highly successful 2024 REA³D by Candlelight On-Line and Dinner Event, which raised over \$37,000. Please support our generous business partners and let them know you appreciate their sponsorship of REA³D efforts.



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TRIBUTE TO ISD 704 EMPLOYEES,
BY KERRY JUNTUNEN AND STEVE ANDERSON



DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING LIFE-LONG LEARNING WITHIN THE PROCTOR SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITIES

REA³D Event Experience Moves to Greysolon Plaza Ballroom in 2024

For the first time, the annual REA³D by Candlelight Event was held at the Greysolon Plaza Ballroom in Duluth. Demand for tickets over the past two years indicated that a larger venue was needed, and the number of guests in attendance grew from 180 in 2023, to 250 in 2024. Featured speaker Daniel J. Cox, PHS '78 and world renowned nature photographer, wowed the crowd with stories of his endeavors and current involvement in a major polar bear preservation project. Guests enjoyed a wine wall, a wonderful meal, and enthusiastically participated in dessert, live, silent and on-line auctions, all of which, along with individual and business sponsorships, raised a record breaking amount for the foundation.



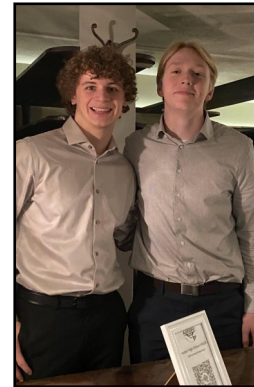
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Proctor Historical Society
Proctor Journal

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Tortoise & Hare
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Valentini's
Virg Boehland
Zen House
Zenith Bookstore

27th REA³D by Candlelight Event 2024 in Pictures

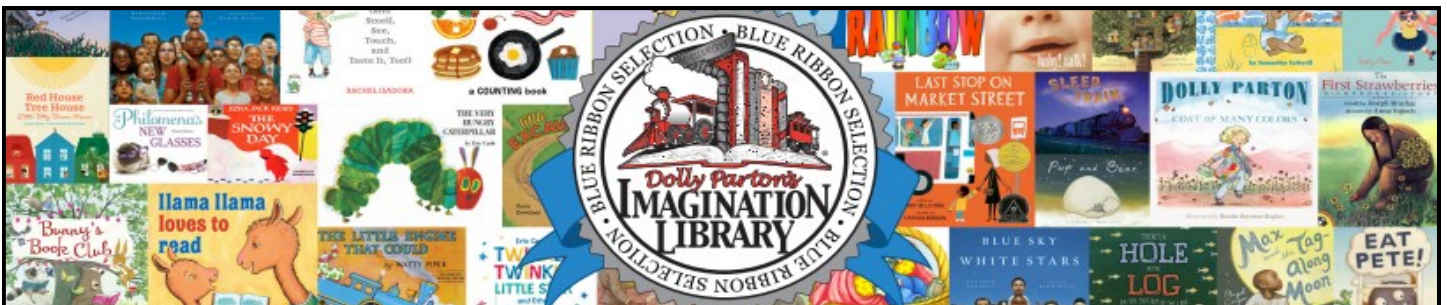


REA³D board member Shelly Vanneste teamed up with Sounds Unlimited to provide the array of 2024 REA³D by Candlelight Event photographs featured on pages 3 and 4 of this publication.



LEFT: A REA³D grant helped provide cold weather gear for little learners as they explored the wonders of winter in northern Minnesota. The gear included mittens, rain gear, boots and neckies, for 75 Bay View preschoolers, who may have missed outdoor participation if their winter clothes were missing or wet. Coordinator Rebecca Bell says, “This gear was really needed by our students—it was used almost every day this winter! We got to experience all the changes across the winter months, and no child was left out due to winter-wear needs. On one unexpected rainy winter day, our students had a great time navigating water puddles in their. ‘Gearing Up’ snow boots!”

RIGHT: A REA³D grant helped purchase Proctor Class of 2036 T-shirts for 120 incoming kindergartners for the 2022-23 school year. Proctor’s Superintendent Kerry Juntunen spearheaded this effort, as part of promoting “#Rail Strong Culture.” Mr. Juntunen says, “We wanted to provide T-shirts to children from families that will be calling Proctor Public Schools their educational home for the next several years. There is strong evidence that a gesture like this imprints the value of the school’s care for its children in the hearts of parents. All need to know that we’re genuine in our effort to Educate, Engage, and Inspire all students.”



REA³D continues to give major support to the operation of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for pre-school children within the Proctor school district communities, coordinated by Russell Habermann. Russell says, “In 2023, 1,129 high quality children’s books were distributed free of charge to 148 Proctor pre-school children, which is 29.0% of the 511 total in 0-4 age group of the district!”

**Sign your pre-schooler up for FREE children’s books—
details at rea3d.org/imagination-library**



Proctor High School Culinary Class Competes in State Level Invitational

Making good use of the cooking equipment purchased with a 2024 REA³D grant, the Proctor High School Culinary Class under the direction of teacher and chef John Martin, competed in the Minnesota ProStart Culinary Invitational in March, 2024. A team of 5 competitors and 12 spectators from Mr. Martin's advanced culinary class packed all of the equipment, food and supplies needed to prepare a gourmet three course meal from scratch, and trucked it down to St. Paul for the competition.



The menu they planned and prepared consisted of Shrimp Dumplings in Bonita Sauce for the appetizer, Vegetarian Seared Tofu Curry as the entrée, and Almond Grapefruit Cake for dessert, to be completed within 60 minutes, start to finish. The PHS students placed 9th out of 17 school entries from around the state, and were recognized by the judges for their problem solving, teamwork and communication skills. In addition to the grant from REA³D, the culinary program at the high school is supported with chef mentoring and food by Lake Avenue Café in Canal Park.

Get on Board !

As you have noticed with this newsletter, the REA³D by Candlelight Dinner was a huge success. At its most recent board meeting, REA³D decided to invest \$10,000 from that event into the new proposed scorer's system for the gym. This is our **201st** grant! The athletic department contributed \$10,000 in matching funds. Athletic Director, Anthony Wood, approached the board and said not only was our current system antiquated, but most other schools in the region have state-of-the-art systems. The computerized system can showcase advertising, announcements, celebrations, statistics, scores, and so much more.

The total cost of the project is \$30,000, which still leaves \$10,000 unfunded. If you are interested in joining REA³D to see this project become a reality, please send your donations to REA³D at 131, 9th Ave., Proctor MN 55810. Make sure you indicate your donation is to help fundraise for the scorer's table. You will be recognized as "getting on board" to support our students. Donors may remember during the pandemic when funds were designated to pay for an early learning educator. This is your chance to once again designate funds and contribute to RailStrong pride. See photo →



REA³D helped encourage exploration of sports gear and outdoor winter activity for 105 Community Education Kids Zone students by assisting in the purchase of equipment such as basketballs, footballs, soccer balls and hoola hoops. Project Coordinator Krista Paulick says, "Having this new equipment really helped the kids stay active and learn about different sports in the winter. It was particularly nice that kids could choose to play with the equipment in teams, groups of two or all alone, in both organized and unorganized play."

This is an example of the state-of-the-art scorer's table coming to the PHS gymnasium. Get on Board! Go RAILS!



REA³D Awards \$12,258 in Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 Grant Rounds

Amount	Name of Project	Contact Person	Population Served
\$1,000	Proctor Historical Society School Project	Chantelle Hicks/Kris Lyons	All Proctor students and alumni
\$304	Pike Lake Kids Zone Get Up and Play	Krista Paulick	100 K-5 Pike Lake students
\$1,000	Animal Adaptations Learning Through Taxidermy	Luke Ratike	106 3 rd graders and families, Bay View
\$1,200	Gearing Up for the Outdoors	Rebecca Bell	15 Pre-K families
\$982	Farm to Fork Competition	John Martin	9 PHS students
\$1,000	Dolly Parton Imagination Library	Russell Habermann	40 pre-schoolers
\$922	Exceptional E-Reading	Rosemary Barilla	140 7 th grade students
\$1,000	On Your Way to K	Roxy Olson-Hurst	Kindergarten family members Bay View 300; Pike Lake 180
\$1,000	Twig Amateur Hockey Upgrades	Rayanna Gaskell, Tammy Sundbom	50 students age 4-17
\$1,000	Circulation STEM/ STEAM Take Home Kits	Staci Halli	350 K-5 students, Bay View
\$1,000	Outdoor Learning Fun	Meggan Flaadda	15-20 students/yr; Pre K, Pike Lake
\$849	Manufacturing Technology Equipment	Craig Honkala	14-17 year olds in grades 9-12
\$1,000	Elementary Classroom Instruments	Ryli Murray	500 K-5 Pike Lake elementary
\$10,000	Proctor Athletics Scorer's Table	Anthony Wood	All School and Community

Over 200 REA³D Grants Awarded Since 2007

Since 2007, REA³D has awarded \$147,821 to over 200 learning projects largely from the interest accruing on the REA³D fund. Most of the REA³D grant awards have been in the \$500-\$1,000 range, until 2020. That year, in response to the schools' transition to on-line learning, many essential employees, who had to continue on-site employment during the pandemic, struggled with young children at home who had difficulty navigating the newly instituted on-line learning programs. REA³D awarded a \$7,800 grant to provide **in-person learning support** for thirty-five K-2 children whose parents were in this situation. Then in 2022, REA³D funded another major request, for \$15,000, to help the City of Proctor complete its new **Playground for EveryBODY**, a major community playground project designed so that ALL children, particularly those with disabilities, could "reach the top." The most recent large grant was a \$10,000 award for the new **scorer's table** in the gym. Currently our board is engaged with the City of Proctor in supporting the development of **Pickleball Courts**. Thanks to our strongly supportive school, community, alumni, and business partners, the REA³D fund continues to grow. Our board of directors looks forward to its expanding ability to fund innovative academic, art and athletic learning projects in the future. For more information on past grants and the application process, visit rea3d.org.





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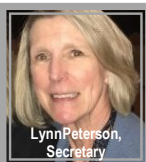
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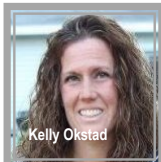


**SAVE THE DATE: Next
year's REA³D by
Candlelight Event is set
for February 21, 2025 at
Black Woods Banquet
Center in Proctor.**

REA³D Board of Directors, 2023-24



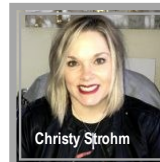
Lynn Peterson,
Secretary



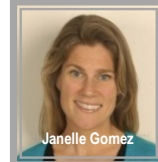
Kelly Okstad



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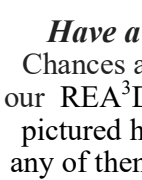
Christy Strohm



Janelle Gomez



Shelly Vanneste



Barb Steen,
Vice President

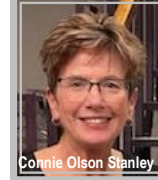


Dean Dahlvang

Have a question about REA³D?
Chances are you know one or more of
our REA³D Board of Director members,
pictured here. Feel free to reach out to
any of them if you have questions about
events, have
ideas for
REA³D grants,
or want to
become more
involved!



Rony Johnson



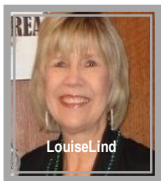
Connie Olson Stanley



Katie Cotrell



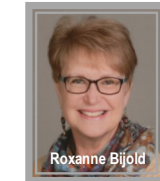
Gordy Westendorf



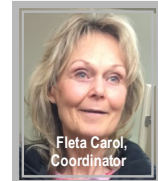
Louise Lind



Jim Ward
Interim Treasurer



Roxanne Bjold



Fleta Carol,
Coordinator