

Kiwanis give \$89K to Valley Schools

BY CULLEN FERGUSON
SPECIAL TO THE BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

With a goal of helping the children in Buncombe County's Owen School District, the Kiwanis Club of Black Mountain-Swannanoa Foundation issued more than \$89,000 in grants last Thursday.

The funds were presented to the smiling principals and teachers from Owen High, Owen Middle, W. D. Williams, Black Mountain Elementary Schools, who were on hand to receive the checks at last week's Kiwanis Club meeting.

"I feel like a kid in a candy store!" beamed W. D. Williams Principal Kimberly Ward. The Foundation's grants to her school, totaling more than \$33,000, will enable the purchase of 35 tablet computers with protective cases, pre-loaded with numerous educational applications and e-books.

Among other things, additional Kiwanis Foundation grants will help W. D. Williams build a school and community fitness walking track on its campus.

The money will also help purchase Junior Great Books reading comprehension and writing materials for all third graders, as well as reading comprehension materials for kindergarten through fourth grade. The school will also be able to buy communication cards for special needs, non-speaking students in grades K-5.

Black Mountain Primary School was another recipient



Representatives from local schools meet with members of the Kiwanis Foundation and are presented with money raised for the current semester.

of a major Kiwanis Club Black Mountain-Swannanoa Foundation grant.

The Foundation issued a \$22,428 check to enhance the primary school's STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) Lab with 32 computer tablets, robotics and other equipment.

"Your generosity has made a huge difference in what we are able to do for the children of Black Mountain Primary," the school's principal Marorie McGinnis told the Kiwanis.

"One hundred-plus students will benefit at every grade level."

Black Mountain Elementary School received a total of \$11,000 in grants. Those funds will enable the school's media specialist to buy math and literacy software, charging carts for computers and other materials.

The grants will fund several other initiatives. New teachers will now get \$500 each to buy materials they need to set up their classrooms. Those

expenses used to come from their own pockets.

"Some of my teachers literally cried, when I told them of the Kiwanis grants," Principal Norm Bossert said.

A \$3,000 grant to Owen Middle School will help fund the school's student recognition program, which seeks to instill positive behaviors in students.

Another \$2,000 went to Owen Middle, where it will support a "heritage garden."

Students will plant and harvest

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vest nutritional herbs and connect with their Appalachian heritage.

Owen High School's Future Farmers of America Club was granted \$1,000 to help fund the construction of a barn on the campus for housing farm animals.

Other grant recipients last week included the Children and Friends Enrichment Center in Black Mountain, and the Town of Black Mountain's Recreation and Parks Department.

THEME: We Build



THE KIWANIS CLUB OF BLACK MOUNTAIN – SWANNANOA
FOUNDATION, INC.
PO Box 491
BLACK MOUNTAIN NC 28711
September 26, 2015

Dr Heidi Von Dohler, Principal
Owen Middle School
730 Old US Highway 70
Swannanoa, NC 28778

Dear Dr. Dohler:

In response to our solicitation of grant funding from what we call End of Year funds; Brittany Krasutsky submitted a request for \$2,000.00 for your school's "Natural Impact Initiative".

Our End of Year committee recommended and our Board approved \$2,000.00 to fully fund this request.

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Sincerely,

John G Knight, Jr

CC: Brittany Krasutsky ✓