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Simi Valley Education Foundation surprises principals with gift

By Rachel McGrath

Posted August 19, 2011 at 6:55 p.m.

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Principals from Simi Valley Unified School District react Friday to the news that each one of them will receive a check for \$1,000 to spend on their school.

The principals of the 28 elementary, middle and high schools in the Simi Valley Unified School District were surprised on Friday morning with a gift.

Each got \$1,000 to spend at his or her school on whatever was wanted, courtesy of the nonprofit Simi Valley Education Foundation.

When the foundation's past president, Brian Iverson, made the announcement during the district's leadership meeting at Valley View Middle School, there were

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gasps and exclamations of delight from the principals and assistant principals, followed by a standing ovation.



PHOTO BY CARLOS CHAVEZ

Simi Valley Unified School District Superintendent Kathryn Scroggin holds checks presented by the Simi Valley Education Foundation to each of the district's principals.

"I think everyone in this room is ecstatic," said Kathy Roth, the new principal at Vista Fundamental School. "There are so many things that we aren't able to purchase these days because of budget cuts, and this is just a little pot of gold that's going to help us bring something back that we had to do without."

Also excited was Suzanne Wolf, principal of Katherine Elementary.

"Oh, my gosh, this is great for kids. This is really going to help," she said. "I am going to take this back to my staff and we'll come up with a plan to spend it."

Regina Reed, principal of Mountain View Elementary, said, "It's wonderful. It's so needed."

She said the money might be put toward Ticket to Read, a computer program kids can use at school or at home, or a music teacher.

Park View Elementary Principal Tony Karch had no hesitation about what he was going to spend the \$1,000 on.

"Art teacher," he said. "We've got an art program going with an artist the last three years and the money through the PTA just isn't there, so this will help us get it back for at least a portion of this year."

Shawn Rumble, assistant principal of Simi Valley High School, said: "This is going to offer opportunities for our students that we thought we were going to have to cut because of the state budget so we're very pleased to have that extra money from the foundation."

Principal Steve Pietrolungo said he'd probably use the money to pay the fees for the PSAT test 10th-graders at Simi Valley High take as a way of preparing for the SAT and college.

"The money will go to very good use at all the schools," Superintendent Kathryn Scroggin said. "Things like instructional supplies and technology are really difficult to fund these days. We couldn't operate without the foundation. They support teachers in the classroom. They give out enhancement grants so that teachers can do additional things in the classroom on top of their regular curriculum, and they provide us with a lot of opportunities to raise additional money ourselves."

The foundation was formed in 1989 by longtime Simi Valley school board Trustee Lew Roth.

Its goal is to strengthen public schools and the education they provide for children



PHOTO BY CARLOS CHAVEZ

Carol Richards, president of Simi Valley Education Foundation, with members of the foundation board, announce Friday that each Simi Valley Unified School District principal will receive a \$1,000 gift to spend on their school.

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through program development, fundraising and collaboration.


In addition to providing enhancement grants, the foundation awards scholarships and endowments to deserving high school seniors.

"We were able fortunately to raise enough money last year to give us some extra funds this year, and this is the way we wanted to present it to the schools," Roth said.

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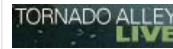
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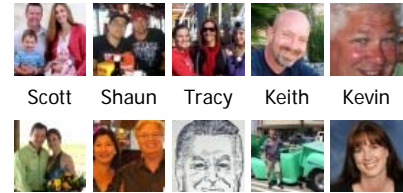
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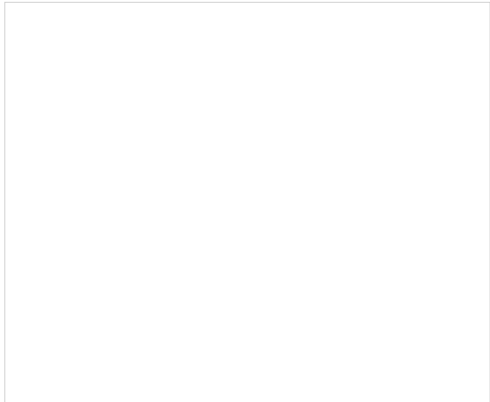
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22	23	24	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDA	MORE
Christian Dream Interpretation			7:15 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church			
Work by Michael Zelcer and Andy Lakey			
Gallery 28 at Seabridge			
Free, Ongoing Mental Health Recovery Classes			10 a.m.
Ventura County Behavioral Health Clinic - Thousand Oaks			
Free, Ongoing Mental Health Recovery Classes			2 p.m.
Ventura County Behavioral Health Clinic - Thousand Oaks			
Children's Art Classes			3:30 p.m.
SCIART Gallery			
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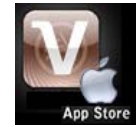
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