



boise public schools  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Newsletter | Winter 2011

BPSEF: HELPING STUDENTS REACH HIGHER, GO FURTHER

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Your donation at work:

## Chess program helps Taft students one move at a time

When you walk into Mr. Hamlin's second grade classroom at William Howard Taft Elementary School during chess time, it's very quiet. Students are spread across the floor with boards and pieces, intently focused on the game.



Thanks to a grant from the BPSEF, students at Taft will enjoy a second year of funding for the "First Move" chess program in all second and third grade classrooms.

According to Dr. Susan Williamson, principal at Taft, chess is much more than just a game for these students.

"Our kids love chess!" says Dr. Williamson. "Opening the doors to this great activity may have a life long impact on our students'

lives."

According to Dr. Williamson, the "First Move" program provides a simple but effective way to expose students to a challenging game that requires concentration, cooperation, patience, problem solving and higher level thinking skills, which are critical in helping students prepare for college and a career. Playing chess also helps students build self-esteem.

"It makes the students feel smart and mature to play such a complex game," explains Dr. Williamson. "The kids request to play when they haven't for a few days and they love using the chess vocabulary and advancing their techniques and skills. They love the program and can't wait for chess day."

**"Opening the doors to this great activity may have a life long impact on our students' lives."**

– Dr. Susan Williamson,  
Taft Elementary principal

## Domino's delivers on PayPal fees



Through a generous donation and wonderful partnership, all credit card and PayPal fees for Thank-A-Teacher donations will be sponsored by Domino's Pizza. 100% of your donation will go straight to your teacher's classroom.

"It is important to us that we support our community, schools and terrific teachers of the Boise School District," said Phil Mikelonis, local owner of Domino's Pizza. "We thought this is a great way for us to jump in and help out."



## Troxell donation makes history

The Troxell Fund, Inc. under the guidance of Ann Troxell Murdoch, (right) donated \$140,000 to the BPSEF to establish an exemplary library program for students, teachers and families at seven elementary schools in the Boise School District. The donation was the single largest in BPSEF history.