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Wisconsin Dells school saluted for efforts in securing financial literacy grant

WISCONSIN DELLS – Peter Bildsten, Secretary of the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI), on May 30 visited a Wisconsin Dells school that recently was awarded a state financial literacy grant. Trinity Lutheran School of Wisconsin Dells was the recipient of a $9,750 grant for the implementation of a pilot program to integrate personal finance into the school’s K-6 classrooms.

Governor Scott Walker in May announced that 26 financial literacy grants totaling nearly $350,000 were being awarded to schools across the state. The program, open to Wisconsin’s K-12 public and private schools, was a collaborative effort of DFI, the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy, and the Department of Public Instruction. The program was funded with settlement proceeds received by DFI over the past couple of years.

Trinity Lutheran’s grant application was written by Sarah Campbell, whose daughter attends Trinity Lutheran. Campbell is a past recipient of the Governor’s Financial Literacy Award, which she received for her work in creating a nine-week personal finance course that is required for graduation from Wisconsin Dells High School. Campbell also is a member of the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy.

Trinity Lutheran’s “Money Mondays” initiative will be incorporated into all grades and will include themes such as money and its value, decision-making and goal-setting, savings, and credit. The Bank of Wisconsin Dells, described by Campbell as “an outstanding partner,” has agreed to purchase student materials after the first year of the program.

Trinity Lutheran was the only K-6 school and the only private school to receive a financial literacy grant. Other area schools to receive financial literacy grants were Adams Friendship Area School District ($10,000), Columbus School District ($10,000) and the New Lisbon School District ($5,000).

Pictured, left to right, are: Secretary Bildsten; Sarah Campbell; Trinity Lutheran 3rd-grader Bethany Jarvis; and Principal David Sellmeyer.

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