

## **Niles Education Foundation Funds Leap Frog Reading Program – Tag™ School Reader**

**May 31, 2011 – Niles, Michigan:** The Niles Education Foundation (NEF) selected eight applicants, for the 2010 – 2011 school year, to be awarded an Innovation Grant. A \$1,000 Innovation Grant was awarded to Emily Greulich of Howard–Ellis Elementary for the Leap Frog Reading Program – Tag™ School Reader.

Emily Greulich has been teaching Kindergarten at Howard–Ellis Elementary for three years and received her bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University and a master’s degree from Marygrove College. Stories come to life in Mrs. Greulich’s literacy center through the interactive Tag™ School Reader. Students use the Reader to touch each page of the story and hear the words read aloud, or touch a single word to hear the pronunciation. After following along with each page, students complete targeted skill building activities that enhance early literacy skills. Engaging activities focus on core reading skills including:

- Comprehension
- Vocabulary development
- Phonics

“The Reader provides an interactive fun-filled learning experience, encouraging young students to enjoy the reading process and improve their basic skills,” Greulich said. “It is especially useful as it offers support for students who struggle with key skills.” The Reader also offers a variety of target skills to challenge students who are excelling in Kindergarten.

Since its establishment in 2009, the Niles Education Foundation has invested more than \$21,000 for the enhancement of public education at Niles Community Schools.

The role of the Niles Education Foundation is to garner private support and public engagement for Niles Community Schools. As a tax-exempt, non profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation provides Niles Community Schools with funding that is typically more flexible than restricted tax dollars. The funding and extra resources for the students, teachers, and schools helps to cover the gap that exists between what school budgets can cover, and what is needed to ensure the academic success of our students. Gifts are tax deductible for income and estate tax purposes. For more information on specific giving please call the Foundation office at 269-683-0732.

Niles Education Foundation  
111 Spruce Street  
Niles, Michigan 49120  
269-683-0732  
[www.nileseducationfoundation.org](http://www.nileseducationfoundation.org)