



## **Edina Education Fund**

### **Technology at the Elementary Schools**

One of the three major areas to which the Edina Education Fund committed support during the 2009-10 school year was the implementation of technology in the elementary schools. A district-wide grant gave each of the six Edina elementary schools \$4,000 to be used to purchase innovative technology for their classrooms. Each school chose to spend the funds differently; while some purchased interactive white boards, others invested in document cameras or audience response systems.

Highlands Elementary School dedicated their funds to a particularly unique pilot program. The school purchased fourteen iTouch devices to be used by classes at all grade levels as a learning tool. Thus far, the program has focused on math applications.

Each iTouch is loaded with several math “Apps”—or games—that incorporate many levels of math skill, from standard addition and subtraction to more advanced multiplication and division. The Highlands teachers use the iTouches as a supplement to the math curriculum.

The iTouches have certainly generated excitement among the students simply because, as one third-grader put it, “They are so much fun!”. The teachers are just as enthusiastic, though perhaps for a different reason: they can see results. Several teachers report seeing a marked improvement in their students’ math scores after a few days of working with the iTouches.

In the upcoming school year, Highlands hopes to expand the use of the iTouches to other subject areas. At the Edina Education Fund we are confident that students will

continue to be successful with the iTouches, as well as with the other forms of new technology in the elementary schools.