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## State Farm gives grants

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The grant Klondike Elementary School received Thursday from State Farm Insurance may have been for the fewest dollars, but staffers hope it will bring big benefits.

Klondike was one of seven local organizations or schools that received a portion of more than \$103,000 in grants from the insurance company.

State Farm's Good Neighbor Citizenship program and the State Farm Companies Foundation awarded the grants for safety, community development and education programs.

Klondike won \$1,000 to help purchase a book for each of its staff members that will help the staff members work on vocabulary with kids.

"We're trying to teach vocabulary as a whole instead of just one word," said Margaret Xioufaridou, Klondike's assistant principal.

The grant will pay for half of the needed copies of *Bringing Words to Life*, by authors Isabel Beck, Linda Kucan and Margaret McKeown.

"One area we thought we could use a little boost in was language arts and vocabulary especially," Xioufaridou said. "We'll all be reading this book on our own and then coming together to talk about it and see how we can use this to help us as a staff reach our students better."

A local West Lafayette couple, Gary and Angel Elliott, will provide the rest of the money for the books.

State Farm community relations specialist Jim Slaven said the awards are given across the state and nation numerous times throughout the year.

"Our purpose is to be good partners in community partnerships," he said.

Purdue University's Departments of Computer Science and Computer Information Technology garnered the lion's share of the funding with a \$60,000 award.

Some \$25,000 of the funding will go toward the purchase of two interactive white boards, which will allow students to draw on the boards with a special marker and then upload their notes and diagrams from the board onto a Web site, where other students can look at them.

Tim Korb, assistant head of the computer science department, said the boards will give students the experience of teamwork, while the mentoring program will support their academic endeavors.

"Roughly speaking, less than half the students who start in computer science get that degree," Korb said.

"We've identified students who are qualified but may get stuck somewhere. We're trying very hard to maintain

the students who come in to the program."

The State Farm support will help pay for mentors and for the running of the mentoring system.

"We want to allow the students who are struggling to get the help they need and get through those classes."