



Marlborough Education Foundation, Inc
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For Immediate Release:

MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ANNOUNCES 2004/2005 GRANT AWARDS

Marlborough, October 28, 2004: the Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF), an independent, nonprofit, community-based corporation is pleased to announce its 2004/2005 grant award recipients.

OUR MISSION

MEF's mission is to provide the funds for new programs and educational resources that enhance the educational opportunities for students in the Marlborough Public Schools. The programs we support should complement the existing curriculum, help as many students as possible and be self-sustaining.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY COME FROM?

MEF relies on the generous support of individuals, families, organizations and businesses in the greater Marlborough area to provide the funding needed for these grants. Money is raised through various community events, through our semi-annual "Thank and Educator" program and via direct solicitation of local businesses. We are also deeply indebted to Drs. Sal Zammitti and Robert Carvalho of Marlborough and Fish Eye Software who each endowed special grants this year (details listed below).

HOW ARE GRANT RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

Our grant selection process is "blind"- the names and school affiliation of the applicants are deleted from the copies the board reviews. Only one board member, the person responsible for photo copying and distributing the grant paperwork, knows the name of any applicant.

The grants are reviewed by each member and questions are relayed back to applicants through the member who did the paperwork distribution.

A subsequent meeting is held at which each application is reviewed and discussed. The Board considers the scope of the grant, the number of children it will benefit, the ability for the program to sustain itself once funds are provided, and finally, the relevancy of the program to the school's curriculum.

HOW MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN AWARDED?

Over the last six years MEF has awarded close to \$60,000 in grants. This year over \$42,000 in grant requests were received. We believe that this year's recipients presented a broad range of ideas.

THIS YEAR'S GRANTS:

Nearly \$10,000 will be distributed to the following ten grant recipients:

JAWOREK SCHOOL:

- \$1,097.00 to kindergarten teacher, Tania Benedetto and the Jaworek kindergarten staff for "Book Contracts," a program aimed at challenging more advanced readers. Students will read the books purchased for the program and then complete ten corresponding extension activities within four to six weeks. Areas involved will include writing, math and science
- \$350.00 to Joan Cusson and Brenda Malone, Grade 1 teachers for "Gail Gibbons, Author Study and Complete Library." Funds will be used to purchase 2 non-fiction libraries that will enrich existing literacy program and will be used by all 8 first grade classes.

KANE SCHOOL:

- \$550.00 to Kane School Principal, John Collins and Assistant Principal, Mary Murphy for "School Store." This program will involve students in the grade 2-3 resource room. The grant will be used to purchase a rolling cart and cash register. The store will operate during lunches and at other times. Students will apply for various positions in the "store" and will learn to manage money, inventory and sales.

MARLBOROUGH INTERMEDIATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- \$1,100.00 to Elaine Exarhopoulos, grade 4 teacher for "Math Literature Extension Project." The grant will be used to purchase 4 sets of fiction books that will help all fourth grade students relate to and understand the math they learn in class through literature.
- \$1,000.00 to Rebecca Zieminski, Literacy Teacher, for "Touchphonics", a nationally recognized, phonics-based reading system designed for students who need to improve their reading skills. The kit includes reproducible "little books" and masters that may be used for many years to come.

MARLBOROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- \$2,046 to William White, grade 7 teacher, for the purchase of a wind tunnel and fog generator that will be used by all technology/engineering students to test the aerodynamics of the CO2 dragsters they design and build in class.
- **Recipient of the FishEye Software, Inc. grant for the promotion of science and math technology within the schools:** \$2,910 to Phyllis Goldblatt, grade 5 and 6 D.E.L.V.E. teacher for "Robots Rule!" This grant will be used to purchase Lego Mindstorm kit(s) so that students can study, build and program their own robots.

- \$539 to Phyllis Goldblatt, grade 5 and 6 D.E.L.V.E. teacher for “SpinS” (**S**tudents and **P**arents **i**nto **S**cience. Parents and students will design and build parachutes or hot air balloons and test them in competitions against other family teams.

MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL:

- \$450 to Sharon Buckley, Health teacher for the purchase of 3 video tapes dealing with the media’s portrayal of violence and stereotypes. These videos will be viewed by all 11th and 12th grade students.
- ***Recipient of the Zammatti/Carvalho grant for promoting literacy education within the schools:*** \$1,010 to Mark Vital, high school English teacher for “Bringing Shakespeare into the Classroom”. This grant will be used to purchase 37 Shakespeare plays on DVD that will be used by all high school English classes. The DVDs will also be available to other students throughout the Marlborough school system.

The Foundation extends its thanks to the other applicants for grants. The Foundation also wishes to thank the administration of the Marlborough Public Schools for their continuing support.

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