



Marlborough Education Foundation, Inc
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For Immediate Release:

MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2006/2007 GRANT AWARDS

Marlborough, November 6, 2006: the Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF), an independent, nonprofit, community-based corporation is pleased to announce its 2006/2007 grant award recipients.

OUR MISSION

MEF's mission is to provide the funds for new programs and 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 **Fish Eye Software** who has, for the third year in a row, endowed a special grant for the promotion of science and math technology within the schools, and to **Sal Zammitti, DMD & Richard Carvalho, DMD** who have also, for the third year in a row, endowed a grant for the promotion of literacy education within the schools.

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 nine years MEF has awarded close to \$90,000 in grants. This year over \$21,000 in grant requests were received.

THIS YEAR'S GRANTS:

Over \$9,000 will be distributed to the following eight grant recipients:

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER:

Julie Melvin- \$470.00 for the purchase of a "Touch Monitor". Children with autism often experience difficulty manipulating a mouse or keyboard; a touch monitor is a computer monitor that can be manipulated by touch; the monitor will allow children who have motor, visual or attentional difficulties the opportunity to access software that is already available in the classroom and learn language concepts necessary to build their skills.

Recipient of the FishEye grant to promote technology in the school:

Sue Rosenthal- \$984.00 for an Adaptive Computer Keyboard and Software. This adaptive keyboard, which can be customized to fit each student's needs, along with preschool software, will give children with visual, physical or cognitive delays the opportunity to work independently and successfully on the computers in the classroom.

RICHER SCHOOL:

Recipient of the Zammitti/Carvalho grant to promote literacy:

Suzanne Garcia- \$869.00 for "Take-Home Literacy Kits". These reading packs are designed to be taken home by second grade students. The packets include a book, worksheets and journal writing directions. Packets include a wide-range of books that will challenge all reading levels.

MARLBOROUGH INTERMEDIATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Rebecca Zieminski- \$1877.26 for "Literacy Lab Double Grant". The funds for this grant will be used by the Literacy Coach and an ELL teacher at the school to purchase the "Read Naturally" fluency program. The program is considered one of the best reading fluency programs in the country and is already being used successfully at one of the Marlborough Elementary schools. The program allows children to work individually and at their own pace as they progress through taped stories and worksheets.

MARLBOROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Dr. Sara Lane- \$250.00 for "MCAS Internet Quest". This program will utilize the vast resources of the World Wide Web to support learning in all content areas. Funds for this grant will be used to purchase an on-line subscription to QuizStar. The website will contain weekly quizzes, based on MA curriculum frameworks and in MCAS format; all questions have an attached media file that provides additional resources. Students take the quiz and results are posted to MMS. Monthly awards will be issued to students with the most correct responses. All 6th and 7th grade students will be registered and able to take the weekly quizzes beginning in late November.

Jeff Gay- \$2508.00 for a "Compact Bender". This piece of equipment will be used by all 6th grade students in their engineering class. It will allow students to bend tubular and flat steel into the shapes they design.

MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL:

Bill Rigney- \$1475.00 for equipment to enhance student's science projects. Many students are completing projects dealing with bacteria or microorganisms. The school currently lacks proper sterilization equipment for these projects and this grant will be used to fill this void.

Mark Vital- \$316 for the purchase of a DVD camcorder. This camcorder will be used to take pictures and video of extra curricular events that will be used for student designed websites.

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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