



Marlborough Education Foundation, Inc
P.O. Box 5824
Marlborough, MA 01752
www.mefonline.org

For Immediate Release:

MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2007/2008 GRANT AWARDS

Marlborough, November 7, 2007: the Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF), an independent, nonprofit, community-based corporation is pleased to announce its 2007/2008 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 an Educator" program, and via direct solicitation of local businesses. We are also deeply indebted to **Fish Eye Software** who has, for the fourth year in a row, endowed a special grant for the promotion of science and math technology within the schools, and to **Sal Zammitti, DMD-MMSc & Richard Carvalho, DMD-PhD** who have also, for the fourth 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 ten years MEF has awarded close to \$100,000 in grants. This year nearly \$24,000 in grant requests were received.

THIS YEAR'S GRANTS:

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER:

Susan Rosenthal - \$1,043.85 for "Story Boxes"

Story boxes contain items or manipulatives that go along with books that are being read and allow children to see, feel, and touch various items as the story is being read. By using tangible, real items during stories, more meaning is brought to the words of the story, thus enhancing the literature experience for the child.

Karen Briggs- \$1856.35 for "Bicycles for Preschoolers"

Grant money will be used to purchase 15 quality bikes to replace the currently used inexpensive plastic bikes that are quickly cracking and becoming unusable, as well as donated bikes that do not provide necessary stability for 3 and 4 year old riders. Physical activity is a key component for promoting healthy development at the preschool level. Bicycles provide an opportunity for children to practice and develop motor planning and coordination skills while also encouraging physical activity and fitness within the school setting.

KANE SCHOOL:

Tania Benedetto- \$460.11 for "America the Beautiful"

To purchase 7 sets of materials to be used by the entire kindergarten team. "America the Beautiful" is a history unit beginning in May as students learn about Memorial Day and ending with a culmination activity in which all families are invited to share on Flag Day in June. Children will demonstrate the ability to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, sing patriotic songs, identify the colors of the US flag, and identify the number of red stripes, white stripes, stars and what they represent.

RICHER SCHOOL:

Joanne Stocklin- \$825.93 for "We Read Together"

We Read Together is a unique shared reading program. A parent reads the left-hand page of the book (more complex text and storyline) and children read the right-hand pages. Grant money will be used to purchase books in both English and Spanish for each kindergarten, first grade and second grade classrooms.

JAWOREK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Recipient of the Zammitti/Carvalho grant to promote literacy:

Jen Collins- \$442.65 for "Author/Illustrator Study Boxes"

To create five author/illustrator boxes that the second grade teachers and students will be able to use as a resource to address Standard 9.1 of the Massachusetts ELA Curriculum Frameworks. The boxes will contain trade books, videos, biographies, computer software, lesson plans, and other materials that will be used for grade level author/illustrator studies.

MARLBOROUGH INTERMEDIATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Christie Huther- \$958.89 for "Author Studies for Reading & Writing Success"

To purchase books for two leveled author studies. The addition of author studies to the MIES bookroom allows students the opportunity to engage in reading quality literature through whole class read alouds, individual reading, and guided reading. The selected authors represent award-winning authors that offer unique instructional opportunities and connections with MIES' science and social studies curriculum.

MARLBOROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Michelle Scully- \$365.36 for "Enhancing World Language Through Literacy and Technology"

To purchase textbooks, software programs, and reference materials to augment the curriculum to support both literacy and technology in the World Language classroom. These items are essential enhancements to the curriculum and will allow students to reinforce basic skills and concepts, practicing grammar and vocabulary.

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

Jeff Gay & Bill White- \$663.40 for An "Eggciting Activity"

The "Eggciting" Activity is a crash test design project for middle school students. Using the engineering design process, the students will design and build and evaluate prototypes of car bodies utilizing crumbling zones and restraint systems. The goal is for students to build a safe car that will allow eggs to crash without cracking.

MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL:

Maureen Greulich- \$1,777.00 for the purchase of a SMART Board for World Language Lab

This SMART Board will enable the teacher to model grammar points and character writing (in the case of Mandarin Chinese) and to utilize the many on-line components of a newly adopted Spanish textbook series.

Kristi Oliver- \$640.00 for the purchase of a high-quality digital camera which will be used for development of a permanent collection of student artwork, development of digital portfolios for AP and Art school applicants, and development and continuation of art links to school 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.

For further information, please contact: Penny Kahn 508-624-4570 or pakahn@comcast.net or Valerie Cowan 508-481-0008 or vlcowan@comcast.net.