



For Immediate Release:

MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2010/2011 GRANT AWARDS

Marlborough, November 23, 2010: The Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF), an independent, nonprofit, community-based corporation is pleased to announce its 2010/2011 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 seventh year in a row, endowed a special grant for the promotion of science and math technology within the schools, and to **Drs. Carvalho and Roth** who have, for the sixth time, 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 thirteen years MEF has awarded over \$122,000 in grants. This year nearly \$22,000 in grant requests was received.

THIS YEAR'S GRANTS:

Over \$12,000 will be distributed to the following grant recipients:

Early Childhood Center

Karen Briggs- \$1,812 for "Magnet Mazes"

Children are motivated to learn when presented with fun, innovative, hands-on materials. Magnetic Mazes provide such learning opportunities while simultaneously reinforcing curricular concepts including colors, shapes, letters and numbers in addition to developing fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, and problem solving skills.

Karen Briggs- \$1,237 for "Multicultural Dolls and Puppets"

We are a diverse community of learners with unique backgrounds and experiences. Dramatic play materials provide an opportunity to share and celebrate our similarities and differences. Puppets and dolls representing various cultures, ethnicities and abilities encourage children to develop a sense of belonging and an understanding and respect for others.

Jaworek Elementary School

Recipient of the Carvalho/Roth Grant to promote literacy.

Tina Adamson- \$549.45 for "Have you filled a Bucket Today?"

At Jaworek School, as in all schools across the country, bullying and sensitivity issues have come to the forefront. Teachers are always trying to come up with new ways to help children understand why it is so wrong to hurt other children, or anyone for that matter. A couple of years ago, Ms. Adamson came across a book called, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*, by Carol McCloud. This book does a superb job of concretely explaining to elementary-age children how and why kind words are so important. This is a book that she believes should be in every classroom across the country, but she is using this grant to start with the Jaworek School.

Kane Elementary School

Melissa Tirpak/Patty McMunn- \$1,767 for "Document Cameras"

Document cameras will support teaching across the curriculum at the K-3 grade levels. This updated resource will enable teachers and students to integrate technology with everyday learning. Whether the cameras are used to enhance learning, provide motivation, or as a necessary tool, these cameras empower students and teachers. This user-friendly device requires minimal training.

Richer Elementary School

Eva Sibley- \$1,414.17 for “Hands on Music Learning with Orff Instruments”

The goal of this project is to expand the instrumentarium at the Richer School to ten instruments. These special Orff melody instruments include wooden xylophones and metal glockenspiels that offer good sound immediately. They help children develop music literacy and become sensitive listeners through personal, hands-on musical experience.

Cathy Bisol- \$587 for “Time Management for Elementary Children”

This project would assist children who need a visual component to help them with time management while completing assignments independently. The red on the clocks purchased with this grant disappears as time passes and the child learns that a faster pace must be used in order to finish work before time is up.

K-7 Schools

Molly Callahan, Phyllis Goldblatt, Joanne Mahoney, Melinda Greene, and Tina Petty- \$2,350 for “Promoting Literacy While Discovering the Graphic Novel Project”

The Jaworek, Richer, and Whitcomb Schools requested funding to host award winning children’s authors, Jarret J. Krosoczka and Gareth Hinds for one-day presentations that will introduce graphic novels while bringing literature to life. A permanent collection of the authors’ books as well as student work will be added to the school library. The MEF board liked the concept and scope of this project, however, the funding of one-time presentations does not meet our grant criteria. MEF vice president, Valerie Cowan, contacted the PTOs in each school as well as the PTO of Kane School to suggest jointly funding this project. All four PTOs have responded positively to the idea and we are moving forward with plans for the visiting authors’ to be funded by each school’s PTO with the purchase of books for each school library to be funded by MEF. It is a testament to the Marlborough Public Schools community that organizations within the city are willing to collaborate to bring a program like this to so many students.

Whitcomb School

Recipient of the FishEye Software Grant to promote technology.

Justin Cameron- \$1,350 for “5th Grade ReNEWable Energy”

Working in conjunction with AlteUniversity, a group who offers online and face to face instruction and materials to homeowners and schools in Massachusetts on exploring and installing renewable energy technology and Evergreen Solar on Bartlett Street in Marlborough, this grant will fund a solar air heating unit for the 5th Grade Team D. The grant will also fund instructional materials, which will correlate with the MA science and math standards.

Marlborough High School

Bill Rigney- \$934 for “Document Cameras”

The document camera will provide science teachers the opportunity to further enhance their teaching and afford their students the opportunity to observe specific components of a science lesson without the need of huddling around a lab bench. The document camera can be magnified to confirm the tiny features on an insect or illustrate a subtle chemical reaction.

The Foundation extends its thanks to all the 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: Chris Forte 508-330-8286 or cforte14@gmail.com or Valerie Cowan 508-481-0008 or ylcowan@comcast.net.

Marlborough Education Foundation, Inc

P.O. Box 5824

Marlborough, MA 0175

www.mefonline.org