



The Marlborough Education Foundation  
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*For Immediate Release:*

## **MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 - 2017 GRANT AWARDS**

**Marlborough, December 7, 2016: The Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF), an independent, nonprofit, community-based corporation is pleased to announce its 2016/2017 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 made a contribution to endow a special grant for the promotion of science and math technology within the schools for the twelfth year in a row. We are also extremely grateful to **Carvahlo and Roth Orthodontics** who have endowed a grant to promote literacy again.

### **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 nineteen years MEF has awarded over \$189,000 to fulfill 169 grant applications, many that were submitted by multiple teachers for their classrooms. Many of our grant awards encompassed entire grade levels - we awarded grants that would supply a program or technical equipment, to ALL of the teachers of grade level (ie second grade, sixth grade) in a school.

## **THIS YEAR'S GRANTS:**

We were extremely happy to be able to fulfill all the grant requests sent to us this year. Over \$6,000 will be awarded at tonight's school committee meeting to:

### **Jaworek Elementary School**

**Donna Cunningham and the second grade team - \$2,288.90 for "Simple Machines for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for Grade 2**

This grant, which is the recipient of the **Fisheye Endowment to promote Science and Technology**, will purchase two Lego Education Simple Machine Class Solutions which will allow the second graders to make four simple machines: gears, wheels and axles, levers and pulleys using a 4C approach.

**Connecting:** The connect story places characters Sam and Sally in real life surroundings with a simple machine; **Constructing:** Using the building instructions, students build models covering the concepts related to the simple machine in focus; **Contemplate:** Students will investigate the model they have constructed. They will learn to observe and compare results. Questions are included so students can describe their outcomes and deepen their experiences and understanding; and **Continue:** Extension ideas are provided to encourage students to change or add features to their models and to investigate further. This phase encourages students to experiment and to apply their knowledge creatively.,

### **Richer Elementary School**

**Susan Rosenthal - \$1,147.30 for ADHD Students in K - 4: "Using Therapy Ball Chairs with Students with ADHD"**

Do you know kids who act as if they are driven by a motor? This grant will allow Richer School to purchase ten Teen/Adult Aeromat Ball Chairs and accessories that have shown to reduce fidgeting and necessity to move around in children with ADHD. These children act as if they are driven by a motor and have an internal drive to move. They are often out of their seats going to the bathroom, getting a drink of water, sharpening pencils. And when they are at their desks they are standing up or kneeling on or falling out of their chairs. During the day they miss key instruction that is occurring within the classroom and distracting their classmates. In a study in 2009 listed on the website ADDitude: strategies for ADAHD and LD, teachers discovered that students left their seats less and were observed to sit and concentrate for longer periods of time. The teachers

receiving this grant hope that by using this equipment students will be able to increase their ability to attend and thus will be able to make more progress in the academic tasks they are asked to do.

**Megan Avallone - \$895 for "Making our Classrooms Smarter"**. This grant will provide an interactive smartboard to a kindergarten classroom which will turn the white board in the classroom into an interactive white board. This equipment will be used this year and in subsequent years to help two teachers and their students take an even bigger role in their learning by being able to participate in lessons in interactive technology lessons.

### **Whitcomb Middle School**

**Kelly Hall and the Fifth Grade Teams - \$2,000 to construct "Portable STEAM Maker Spaces"**.

This grant will help the fifth grade teams in Whitcomb Middle School make four Maker Spaces. What is a Maker Space? It is a physical location where people gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network and build. Sharing one space in a large school would be difficult, by creating four portable carts, the projects will support the STEAM collaboration at Whitcomb School for the whole fifth grade. By utilizing maker spaces students can build confidence, foster creativity and spark interest in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts while creating opportunities in the "making".

### **Marlborough High School**

***Recipient of the Carvahlo and Roth endowment, to promote literacy in schools.***

**Alison Cox - \$400 to purchase fifty copies of author Adam Silvera's book "More Happy Than Not"**. The book club at the High School would like to expand its reach within Marlborough High School by inspiring 50 students and teachers to read and discuss a common book. This award winning novel set in the near-future Bronx confronts race, class and sexuality in both a heart-breaking and hopeful way and has been called "mandatory reading" by the *New York Times*. Ms. Cox is also going to work with the high school administration to have a meet the author event next spring.