

WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 21, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation is pleased to announce the following 2008 grant awards to teachers in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District. The Education Foundation Board of Trustees has approved over \$5,000 in funding for nine innovative and cutting-edge classroom programs in elementary grades through high school. The science grants are being sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb and Integra Foundation.

"The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation is proud to be able to provide resources for creative, innovative projects that promote excellence in teaching and learning. We thank all the teachers, staff, and students who are willing to try a creative approach, to risk doing things a new way, and to challenge themselves and their students," according to Marcia Smith Fleres, executive director.

The WW-P Education Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the continued excellence of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional Schools. Founded in 1995, WWPEF has funded over 240 programs in the district. It has contributed over \$181,000 in grants to support teacher and student-generated ideas that enhance classroom learning and promote excellence in education. For more information on the West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation, visit www.wwpef.org or e-mail info@wwpef.org.

2008 GRANTS

Big Books for Preschool

Diane Kosar, Millstone River School's Preschool Classroom

This grant will purchase "Big Books" for the preschool students with special needs. Story time is a special time in the day where the teacher reads a story and asks "WHO", "WHAT", "WHERE", and "WHY" questions about the story. Children who are language-delayed, both expressive and receptive, depend upon the pictures in order to comprehend the story. Big Books, usually 20" by 30" in size, offer the children the possibility for "reading" the story through pictures. For our students, the act of "reading" becomes a process of comprehension, not just decoding.

Up Close with Nature

Judy Breitenbach, Dutch Neck School

"Up Close with Nature" will provide for a document camera that will allow elementary grade students heightened visual awareness of specimens found in the Dutch Neck Community Garden. The Community Garden is a living learning center alive with many insects, plant and vegetables for the children to observe life cycles. As a K-3 school, our science curriculum is being implemented into this outdoor classroom. The students have planted, harvested, and maintained the garden. The goal of this grant is to allow the students the opportunity to get a closer view and understanding of the garden's fruits of their labor.

Electricity and Magnetism

Marie Bresnahan and Lisa Gray, Village School

This project will enable the Grade 3 science classes to enhance their knowledge of electricity and have a better understanding of how it is used in the world around us. Liberty Science Center will present an assembly for students followed by workshop sessions that provide additional hands-on experiences, support a variety of learning styles, and extend the content of the electricity kit. This program will enrich the students learning and bridge their classroom experience with real world understanding.

Science Mysteries and Musicals

Rebecca Saba, Community Middle School

This project will enhance the Grade 7 Human Body Systems and Earth History units by supplying materials that will engage students. Students will perform science-content musical plays, such as "Geology Rocks", "Name that Internal Organ!", and "The Nutrition Show: Hansel and Gretel Eat Right!" for their peers and parents. The program will promote healthy behaviors, improve classroom camaraderie, encourage parental involvement, and build student self esteem. In addition, through the purchase of the National Geographic Book Series, Mysteries in our National Parks, students will continue to develop literacy skills through book group/literacy circles while developing a sense of responsibility for the care of our national wonders. The integration of technology will provide students an opportunity to use their computer graphic and word processing skills to construct informational brochures.

Virtual Eye Dissection for the Culturally Diverse Classroom

Denise Weber, Community Middle School

Today's culturally diverse classroom often contains students with cultural or religious backgrounds who are not able to participate in science labs involving the dissection of animal tissue. By obtaining plastic models of the human eye, these students will still be able to kinesthetically and visually use models to increase their understanding of the three dimensional structure of the human eye.

Modeling Through Mentor Texts To Support Writing and Reading Workshops
Stacey Friedman, Grover Middle School

This grant will purchase books that will be used writing and reading workshops, based on the Columbia Writing Program. Many of the books are recommended by staff developers, and include stories and essays that will be highly useful to students. Some of the books have essays, stories, and ideas that relate to the work students do in the workshops. Students will be able to use mentor texts as models to improve the quality of their writing.

Helping ESL Students Acquire English
Suihua Zhao, Chinese Bilingual Teacher,
Community Middle School and WWP High School South

This grant will help ESL (English as a Second Language) students acquire English through bilingual teaching projects and community service involvement. Chinese speaking ESL students will use English to teach mainstream classes about their culture and participate in "Traditions", a cultural event sponsored by Plainsboro Township, to demonstrate Chinese calligraphy, and use English to communicate with the visitors. This program is the most effective way to help them and their families adjust to the American school and society.

Lab Pro Control Boxes
Rich Therkorn, Carolyn SooHoo, Regina Celin, WWP High School North

Bringing technology into the science classroom provides our students with experiences they can take with them to colleges and jobs. The Venier LabPro control boxes will allow teachers to make better use of technology they already have. Students will be able to design and implement testing and application experiments with better accuracy and further their development of ideas in physics and engineering.

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