

WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

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West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional Schools are Going Green Thanks to the West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation Inc.

The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation Inc is proud to announce its "Excellence in Education" Grant Program awards totaling \$18,000 in funding to teachers and high school students in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District for a variety of innovative and creative programs, including building gardens at three of the schools.

The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the continued excellence of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional Schools. Founded in 1995, the foundation has awarded over \$220,700 in teacher grants for more than 275 innovative programs in the schools, as well as funding special projects including a Dance Artist-In-Residency, Family Science Day, Summer Math Enrichment Program, and WW-P Alumni Online Communities.

Corporate sponsors of the WW-P Education Foundation's "Excellence in Education" Grant Program include Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novo Nordisk, Integra Foundation, and Janssen, division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

The three "green" projects are:

- **Stepping Stones at Wicoff Elementary School.** Under the direction of teacher Lizbeth Reil, Melissa Collins and Gregory Rauch, this grant will create a pond and rock garden with plants indigenous to the local area and will allow for student science exploration and experiments.
- **Courtyard Garden at Village School.** Teachers Marie Bresnahan and Kelley Coyne will work with all Grade 4 and 5 students and teachers to create an outdoor classroom to extend learning in science and social studies. They will build a Colonial Garden and Victory Garden, complete with a pond and courtyard.
- **The Gator Garden at Town Center Elementary School.** Students in this K-3 school will work with teacher Kathy Schmidt, to create a raised bed garden that reflects the various cultures in the school. In addition to the environmental project, lessons in science, mathematics, and language arts will combine with community building activities.

- More -

In addition to these innovative gardens, the WW-P Education Foundation Inc. has funded the following programs:

- **Summer Book Buddies at Maurice Hawk Elementary School.** Teachers Enid Perry and Barbara Sheridan will create a summer reading program for children who need a little extra help in developing their reading skills.

- **Getting Dressed Up at Millstone River School.** Diane Kosar will prepare a special section of her preschool classroom devoted to dress up and play activities with this grant that will allow her to purchase dress up clothes and costumes.
- **Fifes and Drums at Grover Middle School.** Music teacher James Fultz will expand the newly created Grover Fifes and Drums with the addition of authentic reproductions of drums. This will bring to life the importance that music played in the American Revolution. Students will perform at concerts and special events.
- **Measuring Cell Respiration & Photosynthesis Rates at High School North.** Science teacher James Looney will utilize new Vernier probes to investigate the relationship between dissolved oxygen and the level of photosynthesis and productivity in aquatic samples.
- **Grid-Tied Solar Renewable Energy at High School South.** Brendan Field, science teacher will install a solar panel with an inverter on the high school roof. The panel will provide power directly to a grid so that physics classes will collect and analyze the power production data.
- **Junior FIRST Lego Robotics at Dutch Neck Elementary School.** Mary Jo Gonsiorowski will introduce young students to the exciting worlds of science and technology. Students will get to design and build challenging solutions using LEGO Education Simple & Motorized Mechanisms Set, learn team-building and presentation skills.
- **Tunes in Teacher: iPods in the Classroom at Community Middle School.** Donna Gil and Mary Santiago will use iPods to help English as a Second Language Students to strengthen listening skills and broaden vocabulary.
- **Fostering Fluency at Town Center Elementary School.** Janet Bowes and Stephanie DiLorenzo will assist students in developing the skills necessary to read with fluency while maintaining meaning by using the Read Naturally computer-based program.
- **Human Skeleton Model at Grover Middle School.** Shirley Allen, on behalf of the 7th grade science teachers, has purchased a new life-size skeleton model to use in the human body systems curriculum. This grant was co-funded by the Thomas M. Grover PTSA.
- **Trout in the Classroom at Millstone River School.** Teachers Danica Taylor and Sven Strnad will lead this hands-on project. 4th and 5th graders will hatch brook trout from eggs and raise them to fingerling size before releasing them into a state designated waterway. This hands-on project is part of the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) national program coordinated by Trout Unlimited and is designed to help students "develop caring attitudes about fish species and their habitats.
- **Service Learning Project – Bridging the Generation Gap at High School North.** Todd Robinson, Joseph Cifelli, Alba Flynn, Deb Radice, and Donna Ritz will work with high school students on this program to link community services and the academic curriculum.