

## Falmouth Education Foundation Grants 2011-2012

Falmouth, MA

[www.falmoutheducationfnd.org](http://www.falmoutheducationfnd.org)

### Elementary Schools (K-4)

#### **Monitoring & Recording Life on Shiverick's Pond Mullen Hall 100+ grade 4 students \$2789**

For this project, students will visit Shiverick's Pond to identify species and observe animals' structural and behavioral adaptations and then will collect and analyze data. Students will be instructed by Vernon Laux, will utilize technology such as a document camera/projector and iPad in the classroom and in the field, will keep a year's nature journal, including narratives, photos, and data charts, and will maintain records in the form of a PowerPoint that will be stored on the school server. Funding is for the naturalist's visits, for equipment, and for supplies such as binoculars, field guides, and sketch books.

#### **Technology-Inspired Writing Mullen Hall 25 grade 4 students \$868**

This grant will enhance Writer's Workshop---a structured program in which students produce and share many different kinds of writing--- through the use of a document camera and projector. Document cameras allow a whole class to easily view a projected 3-dimensional item or a document. Anne Tavares will use the camera, along with her own laptop, to engage students more deeply in the writing process and increase their ability to be independent learners. Anne says, "For each writing unit, groups of students will be expected to become experts in [an assigned] writing skill, create a rubric, finish a writing piece, and model [for classmates] the steps through the writing process." Students will create graphs to monitor and show progress.

#### **Self-Regulation Strategies and Tools for Optimal Learning Mullen and Teaticket**

**200 grades K-4 students \$1200**

This is a partially-funded pilot project which will make available to all students proven learning aids (e.g. gel seats, privacy screens, therabands and timetrackers, tools that enhance attention and work completion) that have previously been available to only a few. The grantees, occupational therapists, will work with one classroom at each grade level in two schools. They will train teachers in the use of these tools, decide how they can best be utilized in each classroom, and track student progress. The original request was for \$6,344; the committee voted to partially fund at \$1200.

#### **The American Dream East Falmouth 20+ grade 4 students \$4286**

This project uses a SMARTBoard in a way the committee felt was a model for use of the technology. As an initial project, the teacher will create a unit on immigration that makes

students' own histories come alive for them, while "extending their thinking beyond themselves and their own experiences." The unit would include local families and volunteers as speakers, and the SMARTBoard would be used for research, for student presentations, and to provide virtual tours, for example of Ellis Island (<http://exchange.smarttech.com/index.html#tab=0>). Nicole will be co-planning additional units with a 4<sup>th</sup> grade colleague, and her principal would like to her to provide a training for staff , so that the technology can be utilized more widely in this way in the school.

**Storytube Book Reviews      East and North Falmouth      150 grade 4 students, expanding to grade 3 as time allows      \$1546.21**

This project is a reading incentive program offered by the librarian who serves both schools. Each student will create a book review video which will be published on the teacher's glogster page. Students will read, then write a review of a book, create a self-portrait, which will then be animated, and publish their Storytube video. The project will involve around 150 students. Other students can access the book reviews using iPads; they can also be accessed from home or from a link on the school library website. Funding provides the laptop, iPads and animation software necessary for the project.

### **Cross-Age and Multi-Age Projects**

**Cross-Age Science Teaching      LAW and all elem. schools      \$1650**

This is a continuation of a successful project funded by FEF in 2009-2010. In the CAST model, selected middle school students are trained in a series of hand-on science lessons connected to the grade 3 curriculum. Each older student then makes 3 visits to a grade 3 classroom. The program serves every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and 25% of all 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Program success will be measured through surveys of all participants. Funding covers the trainer's salary and some supplies.

**Music Memory      Students Grades 3 through 6      \$850**

In 2009 FEF awarded its largest grant ever to help initiate this collaboration between FPS and the Cape Cod Symphony. The program which teaches children, through the FPS music program, classical music literacy, has been a well-publicized success for FEF. Students in grades 3-6 are exposed to 16 selected compositions each year, and by the end of 4 years are able to identify and appreciate 64 pieces of classical music. They are able to show what they know in a competition at the end of the school year. Funding covers updated curriculum materials.

**Staff Development in Differentiated Instruction      LAW and FHS      all students 7-12      \$6200**

In many schools students are separated into groups, so that some are provided meaningful, challenging learning opportunities and others, for whom there are low expectations, are not. That approach creates significant and long-term inequities and is falling out of favor, but it is hard to

change past practice so that all students have access to challenging curriculum and high level work. In the Falmouth High School English department, training in differentiated instruction, funded by FEF, has provided the means to make that shift. Most FHS English classes are heterogeneous, curriculum is challenging, standardized test scores are excellent, and the failure rate has dropped (by 50% in 2009-2010). Starting this year the English department includes grades 7-12, and Joanne Holcomb will continue the differentiated instruction training at all those grade levels. Funding will again pay for the consultant – this time for 3 days. \$920 of LoRusso funds will be used for this request; the rest (\$5180) will come from the regular FEF account.

**Learning Can Be Fun FHS Pre-School 40-50 FHS and preschool students \$3044.89**

This project utilizes technology to further structure and deepen thinking and early literacy and numeracy skills, such as “letter identification, letter/sound relationships, and rote counting”, in the FHS Child Care Preschool. This preschool program, which has flourished for over 40 years, has provided on-site, experiential Child Care training for high schoolers. Unlike the other preschools in the district, this program has not been able to provide updated materials and equipment. Nancy Fitzgerald has requested a computer with set-up designed for preschool use and computer programs that meet her preschoolers’ learning needs. Computer use would be incorporated into the highschoolers’ lesson plans and would be part of the one-to-one work they do with the little ones. Evaluation of the project will be based on narratives of each preschooler’s progress.

**Morse Pond (Grades 5 and 6)**

**Technology Enhanced Instruction in Math and Science 580 students \$2500**

This is a partially funded staff development proposal that uses a technology-based model to train all math and science teachers in Gizmo, a software program based on interactive learning. The project begins with IT consultants coming in to train all math and science teachers. The training will be required, and Morse Pond’s principal has confirmed that she has set aside professional development time for this purpose. Then, as math and science teachers begin to use the software, 3 on-staff experts provide ongoing support, additional training, and suggestions for specific lessons. Use is targeted for improvement in areas of weakness, as shown on MCAS, and success of the project will be evaluated through standardized test scores. Funding buys a one-year site license for Gizmo, and includes the full day training with the IT consultants.

**Facing History and Ourselves 580 students \$4000**

Andrea Schwamb, Morse Pond principal, has identified as a priority for her school professional development that will assist staff in working with students on issues of pressing concern: diversity, tolerance, stereotyping, and conflict. This project includes whole-staff training in *Facing History...*, an established and successful curriculum that, using study of the Holocaust as an anchor, “combines academic rigor, moral engagement, and personal commitment to democracy.”

Andrea has dedicated staff time to this training, she has enlisted the help of Bev Shea, Dir. of Pupil Personnel and a *Facing History* resource, and she sees the *Facing History* materials as compatible with current ELA and social studies curricula. The committee would like to partially fund the \$9550 request, specifically a one-day, all-staff training.

### **Differentiated Instructional Units in Literacy**

**\$1650**

This project, the continuation of two earlier grants, provides materials for social studies “learning stations”, so that students with diverse learning styles and needs can have access to the same material. The original request for \$11,183 included additional laptops as well as exemplar texts, Atlases, and a computer program called Stratalogica (a computer-based geography program that works with Google Earth). The committee wanted to support the continuation of this effort through funding updated curriculum materials, but not through additional computers. We’re proposing to partially fund.

### **Lawrence (Grades 7 and 8)**

#### **Lawrence School Engineering**

**300 Grade 8 students**

**\$9973.48**

This project, part of the new Pre-Engineering Program, is based on a hands-on and project-based approach to science and engineering. The course was developed with the help of a community advisory board; it “combines woodworking skills, physics, creativity, and... design and problem-solving skills.” Although the successful first year included projects related to designing bridges, race cars, and lamps, the old woodshop equipment is “mostly inoperable, broken, worn out, or unsafe”, and there are not enough work stations to accommodate all the work groups. The project has received mini-grants grants from WHSTEP and The Cape Cod Five. The proposal to FEF requested funding to replace and update necessary equipment.

### **Falmouth High School (Grades 9-12)**

#### **Site License for Career Cruising**

**up to 900 Grades 9-12 students**

**\$1485**

This project provides access to Career Cruising, an online career guidance system that helps students plan their future through assessment, occupational profiles, and post-secondary education information. Each participating student creates a personal portfolio which can be modified as the students’ interests change. Carolyn Connolly, the grantee, has used many similar tools and feels that this is the most thorough, accessible one she has seen, useful for all kids from the highest achievers to the ones who struggle most. The school has tried it out on a short-term license (purchased with a grant from Cape Cod Five) since March 15; by the beginning of April, 185 students had created portfolios. Special Education teachers, 3 guidance counselors, and all social studies classes have used the program. The program will be available to use from home as well as from school, and will be available to all teachers and all students. Use will be documented and users will be surveyed. You can see the program at [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com). User name: Falmouth, Password: fhs.

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in the Classroom    \$3163**

In 2008 FEF provided funding for the FHS Science Department to implement Mathematics of the Physical World (LEGO Mindstorm Robots), a successful co-taught science-math course. The committee proposes to fund this request for additional robot kits to meet the rising enrollment in the course and new use in non-team CP Physics classes. This is a partially funded proposal, since the committee decided not to fund an additional \$2,590 requested for Vernier probes.

**AP Biology Institute and National Marine Educators Conference    80 students    2@ 475**

These two grants provide funding for two teachers to attend summer professional development conferences in their respective areas. The AP Biology conference will allow the teacher to adapt her current course to accommodate curriculum changes required by the College Board. The Marine Ecology teacher's conference will include speakers, hands-on workshops, and field trips. Per our guidelines, grants pay for tuition only. Both will be paid through LoRusso funds, for a total of \$950.

**Expansion of United Nations Club Activity    around 200 students 9-12    \$2500**

In 2006 FEF provided a start-up grant to this now-established and successful club. Since then, Model UN students have participated in an annual conference at UMass, as well as larger and more challenging conferences sponsored by Brown, Harvard, and Columbia. Additionally, students have worked with the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, collaborated with other FHS departments to hold 4 coffee house forums, two benefit concerts, and a human rights-themed art show, and raised over \$500 for charitable international causes. Although this is an impressive list of accomplishments, a significant part of Club time and money resources is spent trying to raise money to pay for attendance at fall and spring conferences. The Club is requesting tuition for both conferences, hoping members be able to dedicate all their time to their mission of "exposing our students to international conflicts and issues...preparing for simulations of UN conferences on specific contemporary world issues...and raising funds for UN-related causes." They are also asking for a small amount to pay for publicity and refreshments at another Human Rights Art Exhibition.

**Student Planners    around 500 students    \$986**

Two years ago, for an FEF-funded goal-setting project for freshmen, Jim Desrosiers made several visits to FHS to teach students how to use his goal setting/time management materials. The program was only marginally successful, since there was inconsistent use of the materials among freshmen and their teachers. Last year, we didn't fund a second year for Jim, but we did fund agenda books for two freshmen teams, believing that this is an essential tool for young high schoolers and hoping that the teams could pilot a way to use them effectively. Use increased to 75%, according to a survey, with all team teachers expressing interest in continuing to use them. For this year, the committee wanted to support this effort, but also wanted to be sure there was some innovative approach that would increase use even more, and buy-in from all teachers. For

the resulting project, Carolyn Connolly, the grantee, will house the planners and require a written plan from each team for consistent and innovative use. All team teachers are on board, and some have already submitted their plans. The original request was for \$1200 to buy planners for all freshmen and sophomores; we would like to fund \$986, enough for all freshmen (around 420) and one sophomore team of struggling learners (around 40). We also voted to buy a few extra books for those sophomores whose counselors feel they can't afford to buy one (around 20).

**National Marine Educators Association Conference    40 students    \$475**

This grant pays tuition for this conference so that Cheryl Milliken, Marine Ecology teacher at Falmouth High School, can network with other teachers to learn about hands-on techniques and local resources that she can bring back to her students.

**This Land is Your Land                      120 students                      \$6030**

This project is a collaboration among art, graphics, a Social Studies/English team, The 300 Committee, and NPR. The project takes students onto conservation land to create art and posters that celebrate Falmouth's beauty and publicize the work of The 300 Committee. Students in the English/Social Studies team will produce, with the coaching of NPR staff, oral histories related to open space. Participating students will also create an exhibition/fundraising event including all of their work, to benefit The 300 Committee, the art program, and the student artists. The grant will be used to purchase materials and supplies for all aspects of the project.

This is an exemplary proposal: all required components are addressed, and the concept is wonderful. The committee decided to provide copies to the board, so you can have the fun of reading it.

**Summary information**

We approved 20 out of 27 proposals, which is 74%.

Of the 20, we fully funded 14 or 70%.

The total is \$55,679, around \$12,000 more than last year in funded proposals (not including the music and after-school support).

Of that total, \$9973 comes from the anonymous donation and \$1870 comes from LoRusso.

