



Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc.

# The Compass

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT, WEST HAS AWARDED  
33 GRANTS TOTALING \$42,500

Welcome to the third edition of *The Compass*, a bi-annual newsletter providing updated information on the activities of WEST. WEST is a non-profit organization working to raise private capital through corporate sponsors, creative fundraising activities, and individual tax deductible donations to fund innovative educational enrichment projects, to maintain the standard of excellence in the Wrentham Public Schools.

## Picturing a Great School!

Wrentham School Photographer Bill LaPrade Generously Gives Back by donating to WEST

Every October, photographer Bill LaPrade coaxes smiles out of the most dour of students in the Wrentham Elementary Schools so that every November parents gratefully receive pictures worthy of hanging in the hallway at home. Now they have one more reason to smile as for the fourth consecutive year, his company, LaPrade Studio, has made a generous holiday donation to the school through WEST.



Schools. WEST Vice President, Patrick King says, "WEST is very grateful for these donations. Over time, growth of these assets will provide the means for WEST to maintain our support of the Wrentham Schools even in challenging financial times such as recessions in future years."

LaPrade Studio is WEST's most charitable corporate sponsor to date, having donated over \$18,500 to the schools educational trust since 2007. It is a family business owned and operated by Bill and June LaPrade and based in nearby Slatersville, RI. LaPrade's donation will be invested to provide a long term source of income to ensure the standards of education are maintained for the future students of the Wrentham Elementary

LaPrade Studio. Mr. LaPrade is pleased to make a difference at the Wrentham Schools at a time when school districts across Massachusetts are being told to do more with less as state and local governments grapple with record budget shortfalls. We support LaPrade Studio.

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## Wampanoag People Visit Third Grade



Mr. Cederbaum's third grade students examine Wampanoag artifacts.

For the third consecutive year, the entire 3rd grade of Wrentham Elementary was visited by members of the Wampanoag People for an in-depth exploration of daily life of the Wampanoag People of the 17th century. The Native museum teachers showed slides, passed around artifacts, and brought to life the seasonal ways of the Wampanoag People. This program "enriched and enhanced the third grade social studies curriculum by providing an interactive learning environment for the students." Students learned more about distinguishing the differences in Wampanoag life throughout the four seasons and gained a better understanding of how the Native People were able to live in harmony with nature. The students also come to appreciate modern aspects of Wampanoag life by discussing daily life in the 21st century.

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Awarding Grants to Enrich the Wrentham Education Experience

# WEST AWARDS OVER \$10,000 IN SPRING GRANTS

The WEST Effect

Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc (WEST) has awarded \$10,500 in grant money to Wrentham Elementary School teachers to fund nine exciting educational enrichment projects that will soon benefit students in nearly all the grades.

Third grade teacher, Samuel Cederbaum was awarded the acquisition of 85 new books to the Open Circle Literature Library. This library is utilized by all teachers in the school to enhance their teaching of the Open Circle curriculum to students. This grant was funded in part by the Gary Vecchio Legacy Grant to honor the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher on his retirement earlier this year.

Deb Hanewich, grade 3 teacher was provided funds for a pilot reading program that aims to match readers with *Just Right Books* to improve reading fluency, comprehension skills and vocabulary development as well as instill a life long love of reading.

Grade 5 teacher, Arlene Wasdo was chosen by WEST for her grant entitled *Investigating Vernal Pools*. Twenty-five sets of child-sized hip wader boots were purchased to enable all fifth grade students to venture out into local vernal pools during the early spring and provides students with a hands-on opportunity to investigate the pools.

First grade teachers Lu McNeal and Liz Riccio were selected to receive funding for their grant entitled *Home-School Partnership to Promote Literacy*. This project creates a first grade lending library of leveled readers that will provide children with good literature that can be brought home on a daily basis throughout the school year.

Teaching specialists Nancy Boutin, Margo Quaglia and Dee Mead were awarded money to continue developing the *Project Read—Written Expression Program* in grades 1 through 3. This curriculum provides all students with mastery of sentence formation as well as paragraph development and composition.

Sarah Shaw and Kathy Danielson, third grade teachers, were

selected to pursue their project entitled *Revolutionary Wrentham—Wrentham in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*. Their students will be introduced to the study of local history by locating and researching historical information, comparing and contrasting architecture of local historical buildings, examining local artifacts and through role play of local historical events.

Preschool teacher Carey Lurie initiated a project to have naturalists at Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary visit the preschool classrooms once a month to present engaging seasonal wildlife units involving games, songs, puppets and live animals. This program will significantly strengthen the science curriculum for the pre-kindergarten students.

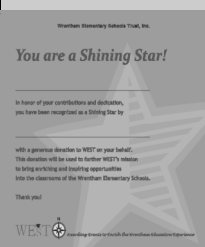
Second grade teachers Cindy Fuller and Casey Geary were provided with funds to create a second grade "Book Club" which will foster the students' love of reading by providing opportunities for students to read books of high interest, regardless of their reading level. The overall objective is to have students improve their reading comprehension and discussion skills using high interest books and to instill a lifelong love of reading.



Preschoolers learn about local hibernators at a recent Stony Brook Wildlife presentation.

The first grade classrooms will soon be receiving *Take Home Math Bags*. Teacher Kelly Foxx developed the bags to provide a home-school connection between the math that is being taught in the classroom and ways that parents can extend those math skills to everyday learning at home. Each first grade classroom will be provided with a math bag to rotate through their students. Bags include many activities and game ideas to foster everyday math skills. This grant was generously funded through a Harvard Pilgrim Community Spirit 9/11 Mini Grant.

## Make your Teacher a "Shining Star!"



Honor your teacher with one of these prestigious certificates by donating to WEST in their name.

Our thanks go to Sheri Allan

of SKA Communications for her design of our Shining Star Certificates.

See our website for details.

## WEST Awarded Harvard Pilgrim Grant for Math Education

WEST receives a HP mini grant for \$500. Nominated by Wrentham parent.

WEST has been awarded a Community Spirit 9/11 Mini Grant by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care thanks to Wrentham parent and Harvard Pilgrim employee, Elisabeth Steiner-Smith, who applied for the grant on behalf of WEST. The \$500 award will be used to fund an innovative project proposed by Grade One teacher, Kelly Foxx, to create "Take Home Math Bags" for the benefit of all first grade students at the Wrentham Elementary School.

The Math Bags will contain an exciting range of fun games, books, maps, recipes and other activities that require the use of basic math skills. The aim of the project is to extend the learning the children are receiving within the classroom to home and provide parents and children the opportunity to use math in real and practical ways. All children will have the chance to take a bag home for a week at a time to share with their families. Mrs. Foxx asserts, "These at home activities will show children how they can use math often throughout their day. These skills are evident while they are cooking, reading or playing a game. Math is often present and useful."

Awards such as the Harvard Pilgrim 9/11 Mini Grant provide Wrentham Elementary School with an additional source of financial support for curriculum enrichment programs that currently fall outside the reach of the schools' operating budget. The Community Spirit 9/11 Mini Grants program, to which Mrs. Smith applied, was created by Harvard Pilgrim to commemorate the first anniversary of September 11, 2001. The fund distributes grants on the recommendation of employees of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. WEST was chosen to receive this award based on her recommendation.



First grade students explore the exciting math activities in their new "Take Home Math Bags".

## WEST Receives Donations from Holmes Bus Company & VFW Post

WEST recently received generous donations amounting to a total of \$1500 from 2 local supporters, WT Holmes Transportation Company of Norfolk and the recently disbanded VFW Post #9658. Having just awarded over \$10 000 to the Wrentham Elementary School for 9 new enrichment programs, WEST is very grateful to both for their financial contributions.

WEST President, Audra Kennedy, expressed her appreciation of WEST's donors and corporate sponsors, "who value education and who generously support WEST in their mission of maintaining the highest standard of excellence in our schools. The money comes at a time when educational funding by the state is being cut to critically low levels," said Dr. Kennedy.

Richard Holmes, owner of WT Holmes Transportation Co. Inc, Myrtle Street Norfolk, MA becomes one of WEST's newest Corporate Sponsors with his generous donation of \$500. WEST was also selected to receive \$1,000 from the Cpl. Robert W. Topsham, Jr., VFW Post #9658 which disbanded its' charter earlier in the year.

The Wrentham VFW Post has faithfully served its members, members' families and the community for over 50 years with sponsored activities and donations. The Wrentham Post was named in honor of Cpl. Robert W. Topsham, Jr. a graduate of King Philip Regional High School and a Marine who served and died in the Vietnam War. When they turned in its charter on Aug. 17, 2010, members were faced with the noble task of distributing remaining funds to various charities. WEST is honored to be the recipient of money from this generous organization which will be used to fund enrichment programs.

## Gary Vecchio Receives Legacy Grant from Students

Retired 6th grade teacher Gary Vecchio was honored by his class of 2010 with a generous donation to WEST. The donation created the Gary Vecchio Legacy Grant. As part of this honor, Mr. Vecchio opted to have his name attached to one of the 9 grants selected for funding by WEST in December of 2010. The grant Mr. Vecchio chose was Sam Cederbaum's Open Circle Reading library grant. The funding enables Mr. Cederbaum to acquire 85 new books for the Open Circle Literature Library.

The literature selected by Mr. Cederbaum will include current children's books that reinforce the behaviors and correlates with the Open Circle Curriculum. The new book purchases each contain a bookplate with Mr. Vecchio's name on it. The Open Circle Library Collection is housed in the Delaney Library and is available for all Wrentham Public School teachers from preschool through sixth grade to enhance their teaching of the Open Circle curriculum to students. Open Circle is a social and emotional learning program that aids elementary school children in developing the skills needed to be good learners and to form healthy, positive relationships with people throughout their lives.



Mr Vecchio is seen here receiving his Legacy Grant award from his students.

## Coming Soon! Comedy Night & Auction Saturday, March 12 @ Restaurant 3

Following up on the popular successes of previous years, WEST is hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual comedy night dinner and live auction at Restaurant 3 in Franklin on Saturday, March 12. The event starts at 7 pm and features popular local Comedian Tony V. All are welcome!

Hailed as Boston's funniest comedian Tony V is a longtime Boston landmark and was most recently seen in the Boston Based Ben Affleck thriller "The Town". He will headline the evening and oversee a live auction of a variety of Boston pro-sports memorabilia such as club seat Celtics Tickets and other items of local interest.

So come and enjoy a laugh with a cocktail over hors d'oeuvres, followed by a buffet dinner and light desserts. There will be a cash bar. Tickets, which are available in advance, are \$75 per person. Discounted tables of eight are also available for \$500 but must be reserved by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The event sold out last year and space is limited so ensure your seat by sending a check to WEST P.O. Box 852 Wrentham, MA 02093 or visit our website [www.WrenthamWEST.org](http://www.WrenthamWEST.org)



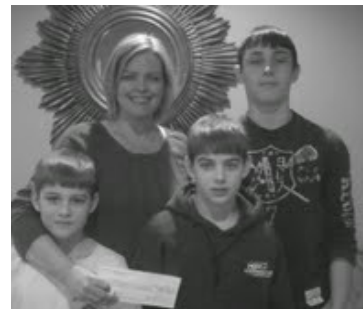
Boston funnyman Tony V. promises to have us laughing in our seats.

## WEST Seeks Sports Equipment

Are your closets cluttered with out-grown and unused sports equipment? Are you wishing your mudroom had a little more room for . . . mud? Do you have cleats, tap shoes, life-jackets, or skis too small for your children but just too good to throw away? Please consider donating them to WEST to recycle, resell and reuse. As part of their Summer Fundraising Festival, WEST will be hosting a sale of used sporting goods at the Crackerbarrel Fairgrounds on Saturday June 11, 2011. To contribute to the event, WEST is seeking donations of all sports and dance equipment, such as skis, skates, cleats, ballet and tap shoes, balls, rollerblades, rackets, hockey sticks; baseball, football, golf, lacrosse, water sports equipment, and team jackets. Items must be in good condition and suitable for resale. Donations will be gratefully accepted in bins located at all entrances of the Wrentham Public Schools and the Fiske Library until Monday June 6th.

## Ball Drop Winner Gives Back

Last Wrentham Day, lucky ball number 103 landed closest to the flag and Wrentham resident Julie Mignacca was declared the winner of the 2010 WEST Golf Ball Drop on Wrentham Common. Mignacca won the grand prize of \$1,000 in the raffle but selected to donate half her winnings back to WEST. Julie acknowledges that the donation is on behalf of the Wrentham Elementary School teachers in recognition of their hard work and dedication to their students. WEST is appreciative to the Mignacca Family for this generous contribution. The money will help to fund upcoming teacher grants.



The Mignacca Family receives their winnings from WEST.

# Our Corporate Donors

Thank you to our Donors!



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## Our Comedy Night Auction Donors

as of 2/25/11

Tom & Michelle Tormey	Ficco's Bowladrome	Wrentham Recreation Department	Reebok
Kelly and Jamie Snead	Hy-line Cruises	Nicky's Restaurant	Chris Young
Jeff Marsden	Portland Sea Dogs	The Tavern	American Girl
The Boston Bruins	Panera Bread	The Music Box	Kennedy & Associates, PC
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Boston Duck Tours	Ecotarium	The Hasselbeck Family	Water Wizz
Franklin Martial Arts	Sturbridge Village	Lance Buick - Mansfield	Pine Oaks Golf Course
Gymnastics Academy of Boston	AAA Franklin Branch	Jen Osojniki—photographer	Dr. Cynthia Poulos
Showcase Dance Productions	Zoo New England	Restaurant 3	Ed Goddard
OSM, Inc.	Manny Barros		

For information on how to become a corporate sponsor of **WEST** please contact [info@WrenthamWEST.org](mailto:info@WrenthamWEST.org)

## 2011 Annual Appeal



Every dollar raised will help to fund our endowment and support Wrentham Elementary School programs that will dramatically impact the quality of our children's education as well as the vitality of our community. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

### I Wish to Donate:

- \$200
- \$100
- \$75
- \$50
- \$25
- other \_\_\_\_\_

- Credit Card**— visit [www.WrenthamWEST.org](http://www.WrenthamWEST.org) and click on Donate Now to make your donation
- Check** — Complete and return this form with your check made payable to **WEST** and mail to P.O. Box 852, Wrentham, MA 02093

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please provide me with a receipt. \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to remain an anonymous donor.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*\* My company/employer will match my contribution to **WEST**!

\*\*Please contact your benefits or human resource director to determine if your company will match your gift to **WEST**. Share with your company that we are a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing and maintaining educational excellence in the community.

**Thank you for your considerate contribution.**

**Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc. P.O. Box 852 Wrentham, MA 02093**

**WEST** is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Our tax identification number is 74-3230404