



Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc.

# The Compass

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT, WEST HAS AWARDED  
41 GRANTS TOTALING \$56,500

Welcome to the 4th edition of *The Compass*, a bi-annual newsletter providing current information on the activities of WEST. WEST is a non-profit organization working to raise private capital through corporate sponsors, creative fundraising, and individual tax deductible donations to fund innovative, educational, enrichment projects to maintain the standard of excellence in the Wrentham Public Schools.

## Digging in the Dirt A New Garden for our School!

Students at Wrentham Elementary will be getting their hands dirty this fall as they embark on a new school garden project. In it's inaugural year, *The Going Back To Our Roots Garden Project* will make the school district a local pioneer of agriculture in the classroom and serve as an interactive learning tool for all preschool through grade 3 students. The organic based garden, located behind the Janelli Annex, will provide students with a rich and diverse learning environment both inside and outside of the classroom.

and tie it into the Massachusetts frameworks lessons in her classroom.



A preschool class spends time in the garden planting lettuce with Love Fragola.

The endeavor, spearheaded by Wrentham mom Love Fragola and sponsored by the Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust (WEST), will enable new learning possibilities for the students and will link to their science, math, writing and social studies curriculum frameworks. Fragola acknowledges that this project would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of Superintendent Jeff Marsden, Principal Melissa Peterson and second grade teacher Janice Young.

The entire project was privately funded through the generosity of individuals and local business supporters as well as through the acquisition of grants. WEST is the largest sponsor of the garden program. Mrs. Janice Young, a Wrentham second grade teacher, was recently awarded a WEST grant for \$3050 to establish the garden and is the first teacher in the region to implement such a large-scale elementary school garden

for the Welcoming Garden Sign. Sherwin-Williams of North Attleboro donated the painting supplies and Lowes of Plainville offered the labor to get the classroom ready. Rebecca Zitomer from the It's All About Me! Art Studio added her artistic flair to the tables.

Local businesses providing labor, materials and services included Cataldos Paint and Hardware, Inc., the Bellingham Whole Foods Market, PrintMaster in Norfolk, John Deere of Walpole and Nature's Edge Landscaping. Norfolk Fence and Bourque Irrigation of Franklin provided fencing and irrigation respectively. The White Barn Farm and Groundscapes Express Inc. of Wrentham and Wrentham Master Gardener Ken Oles provided ground preparation and gardening expertise to the project. The United Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the project on June 17th. Several local officials attended the ceremony, including U.S. Senator Scott Brown, Superintendent Jeff Marsden and Wrentham School Committee Chairman, Edward Goddard.



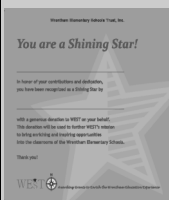
A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the garden in June.

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### Make your Teacher a "Shining Star!"

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



Many thanks to Sheri Allan of SKA Communications for her design of our Shining Star Certificates.

See our website for details.

## Awarding Grants to Enrich the Wrentham Education Experience

## WEST AWARDS FALL GRANTS

**Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc (WEST)** was pleased to award \$13,400 in Fall grant money to Wrentham teachers to fund 7 exciting educational enrichment projects.

Fourth grade teacher, **Samuel Cederbaum** was awarded funding for his grant titled, "Keeping a Pulse on Student Achievement."

**Third Grade Teachers** received funding for "People of the East." This will be the 3rd year that Wampanoag People from Plimoth Plantation will visit our third grade classes.

Third Grade Teacher **Judy Haughey** was awarded grant money to create a "Math Lending Library" for the third grade classrooms.

Second Grade teachers, **Kristin Pitman, Kelley Christy, Janice Young and Tammy Morgan** received funding for their project, "Enriching Student Learning through Differentiated Instruction."

Roderick Librarian **Heather Macpherson** received funding for a new "Who's Who Biography Fair" debuting for grades 4-6 later this year.

Second Grade Teacher **Janice Young** was presented a WEST grant for her "Going Back to our Roots School Garden Project" for all preschool through 3rd grade students.

To find out more about these grants and all the grants that WEST has funded in the past, please visit our website [www.WrenthamWEST.org](http://www.WrenthamWEST.org).

## GRANT SPOTLIGHT Revolutionary Wrentham

In the final days of the school year, two lucky third grade classes had the opportunity to see their hometown in a different and historic light. The children in Mrs. Danielson's and Ms. Shaw's third grade classes participated in a field trip, right in Wrentham, that tied their community today to the Wrentham that was alive and vibrant during the time of the Revolutionary War. Thanks to funding by WEST, a bus was able to take the students to five locations around town, each providing a tangible link to the Wrentham of old.

The field trip included a visit to Captain Pond's home on North Street, The Wampum Corner House, Center Cemetery, Old Fiske Library and the current Fiske Library. Each stop was designed to highlight life in 18th Century Wrentham and introduce students to local history and architecture. The idea for the special hometown trip was conceived in 2008, but it took a great deal of preparation to get the program up and running. "Hours, days, weeks and months of planning, coordinating and revamping were necessary to make this work," Shaw said.

To pull the event off required a great deal of coordination among different town groups and departments including Fiske Public Library, WEST, the Cultural Commission, and the Department of Public Works. Shaw said each group was willing to do just about anything to make the trip a success. "Their involvement with our school is beneficial to the children," she explained. Audra Kennedy, president of WEST said the group awarded the grant for the Revolutionary Wrentham program because of how it fit perfectly with the mission of the organization. "This grant was an easy funding choice for WEST because it is the epitome of what WEST stands for. It is a unique, educational enrichment project that couldn't possibly exist within the classroom setting or be derived from a textbook. Miss. Shaw and Mrs. Danielson demonstrated passionate, teaching ingenuity by seeking out and researching Wrentham's important, but almost forgotten, history of a time during the American Revolution. The teachers then translated their findings into a colorful, multifaceted project for their students discovery."

Article by [Pat Coleman@Wrenthamtimes.com](mailto:Pat.Coleman@Wrenthamtimes.com)



Third graders spend time studying the past in the Wrentham Center Cemetery and at the Old Fiske Library during their recent school fieldtrip.

## WEST Receives \$2,500 Donation from Wrentham Co-operative Bank New Science Equipment Purchased.

The Wrentham Co-operative Bank has donated \$2,500 to the Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc. (WEST) to fund new a SPARK Science Learning System that will benefit students in grades 3 through 6. The SPARK Science Learning System is a discovery-based learning system that provides computerized, hand-held science probes to students enabling them to gather scientific data for forms of energy including temperature, sound, light, motion, force and weather. In the coming year, students in grade 3 will explore energy with units of study that align with the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Frameworks. Technology director Becky Stockbridge acknowledges, "This system will be a dramatic improvement of current methods of teaching these themes in the classroom. The district believes that this new system will improve instruction for all students through differentiation and the implementation of effective research-based strategies and will help foster systemic change and be implemented by all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers in subsequent years. It will also act as a catalyst for change in other curriculum units."

Jeffrey Liber, president and CEO of Wrentham Co-operative Bank on South Street in Wrentham, presented a check to WEST President Audra Kennedy in June. The bank is once again pleased to be in a position to aid the elementary school in improving their science education opportunities. In 2010 Wrentham Co-operative Bank donated \$5,000 to fund the purchase the WeatherBug weather tracking system for the school. "We are very grateful to have such a strong community supporter in Wrentham Co-operative Bank during a time of financial hardship for our town", said Kennedy. "Their donations have enabled us to make strong improvements to our science program despite deep budgetary cuts in recent years." In addition to improving the third grade science curriculum with the technology purchase, WEST funded the purchase of additional probes for the SPARK system that will impact the science curricula for grades 4-6. The science and technology department at the Wrentham Public Schools will be developing new hands-on science learning modules for these grade levels in the coming year.



Jeffrey Liber, President of Wrentham Co-operative Bank presents a check to WEST President, Audra Kennedy

Congratulations to Dionne O'Toole for winning the 2011 Ball Drop Early Bird Raffle on June 20. Dionne won on iPod Touch valued at \$229 generously donated by Robert P. Moskal DMD & Family.

## Rockland Trust Supports Library

Recently, WEST was selected to receive a \$1,000 contribution from the Rockland Trust Charitable Giving Foundation. WEST applied for the grant on behalf of Roderick librarian Heather Macpherson. WEST president Audra Kennedy was pleased to accept the check from Rockland Trust Foxboro branch manager Mark Coletta and Senior Loan Officer, David Peterson (a Wrentham dad).

The funding will be used to purchase 50 new science and technology books for the school library. Due to budgetary restraints placed upon the school district in the past several years, there has not been a book budget to allow the school to purchase up-to-date science and technology materials for students and staff. Following recommendations from the American Library Association, Ms. Macpherson will begin to replace all science and technology related materials five to ten years or older from circulation, as is the general standard for those areas of study. Ms. Macpherson acknowledges, "the new additions to the science and technology collection will benefit our students learning and interest. Teachers will enjoy these books as well. All of the collections are widely utilized by the staff for classroom use, but our current science and technology collection is quite dated. I think our teachers will be happy to use these new titles as part of their curriculum!" Many thanks to Rockland Trust!"

The Rockland Trust Charitable Giving Foundation is committed to the welfare of youth and the vitality of the support systems that are available to children and families of the communities they serve. A major focus of their charitable giving is directed towards education, health and human services. To find out more about Rockland Trust and their Charitable Foundation, please visit [www.RocklandTrust.com](http://www.RocklandTrust.com).

## Comedy Night a Big Hit WEST raises a fun \$10,000

Boston's funniest comedian Tony V, who recently starred in the local thriller *The Town* was a huge hit at the third annual comedy night held recently by WEST at Restaurant 3, in Franklin. As well as keeping the audience laughing, Tony V. played the leading role of Auctioneer with great success, exchanging banter for bids on a wide range of exciting sporting items and memorabilia including a hockey stick signed by the entire 2011 Boston Bruins team which fetched a cool \$1,700, a pair of Club Seats for the upcoming Bruins vs. Blackhawks game which netted \$350 and a pair of tickets for a Red Sox Yankees opening weekend game that sold for \$400. In addition to a live auction, WEST introduced a new silent auction to the evening that featured many items donated by local businesses. All items were donated to WEST for sale by auction and by the end of the evening, WEST had raised over \$10,000 towards funds that will be available as grants to the Wrentham Public School teachers and staff in coming months.

WEST would like to thank everyone who supported the evening and to acknowledge the generous contributions of the evening's live auction sponsors. These sponsors included the Boston Bruins, Kennedy and Associates, PC Certified Public Accountants, Steve and Julie Corcoran, Wrentham Superintendent Jeff Marsden, and Tom and Michelle Torney. WEST would also like to acknowledge the many local businesses and restaurants who donated gift cards and silent auction items including Franklin Martial Arts, Eagle Brook Saloon, Nicky's Restaurant, The Tavern, Jen Osojniki Photography, Jamie & Kelly Snead, and Restaurant 3.



Comedian Tony V. plays auctioneer with the help of WEST Member Deirdre Foley.

## A Fun Day for All!

WEST and The Friends of Wrentham teamed up to put on Wrentham's first annual "Fun Day" FUNdraiser. The event was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Cracker Barrel Fairgrounds despite the rain and the cold. There was fun for all who attended and many local groups came out to offer exciting events including a petting zoo put on by 4-H, pony rides, a rock climbing wall, face painting, and a bouncy house. Many local sporting groups including Wrentham Youth Baseball and Softball, KP Football and Cheer, KP Hockey, Field Hockey, and the boys' basketball team created fun challenges for the kids. Other organizations rounded out the events providing intriguing booths featuring challenges like a water balloon trebuchet by Cub Scout Troop 131, an authentic camp site and ropes course by Boy Scout Troop 131, a chance to try the sport of cricket and even an opportunity to fly stunt planes with the NES stunt team.

The State School staff provided food booths featuring all sorts of drinks and snacks and even met the weather head on by providing hot chocolate in the ice-cream booth! All participating groups generously donated raffle baskets and several local business donated prizes, so many of those who braved the weather fared very well; including Jared Wheeler who walked away a bit soaked but carrying a new Ipad.

Although the weather did not cooperate, the event was a success and WEST would like to thank all the groups who participated and all the families who endured the rain for a good cause. We look forward to seeing you all at our second annual FUN DAY on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in the sun!!

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## Weatherman Visits 4th Grade

Last May, fourth grade students at the Roderick School got a first hand introduction to the field of meteorology by a veteran New England forecaster. Barry Burbank, meteorologist with Boston's WBZ-TV, visited Wrentham students to discuss weather phenomena and formulating weather predictions, quizzed the students on U.S. geography, and fielded questions from the eager students. Burbank also shared a movie created by the entire meteorology team at Channel 4, which humorously addressed a day in the life of a meteorologist. The students really enjoyed hearing about his daily activities and finding out about a career in front of the TV cameras.

Burbank has been a weatherman at WBZ TV for 30 years, and he shared some personal stories of how he became interested in weather. As a kid growing up in New England, he was filled with curiosity about why the weather was always changing. Burbank also shared a cautionary story from his childhood days in southern Maine. One afternoon, a 12' snowstorm had been predicted by the local weatherman, "and I decided I was not going to do my homework." Fully believing that a foot of snow would fall and result in a school cancellation, he told his mom not to worry about his homework and enjoyed his night off. Confident that the weatherman had been correct in his prediction, a young Burbank went to sleep until just before dawn, when he looked out his bedroom window and saw the sun beginning to rise on the eastern horizon and still not a flake had fallen. "I was flabbergasted that the lawn was still bare." It turned out that the big snowstorm had missed his town by only 10 miles. His advice to students, after more than three decades in the business of predicting the weather: "Always do your homework, no matter what the weatherman says!"

This weatherman visit was arranged by 4th grade teacher Tracy Phipps and the Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust (WEST) and is part of the expansion of the 4th grade science curriculum on Weather. Last year with the help of generous donation from Wrentham Co-operative Bank, WEST installed a WeatherBug weather tracking system on the roof of the Roderick School.



WBZ Weatherman, Barry Burbank visits with 4th Graders.

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Every dollar raised helps 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.

To donate to WEST please visit our website [www.WrenthamWEST.org](http://www.WrenthamWEST.org) or send a check payable to WEST.

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

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