



Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc.

Awarding Grants to Enrich the Wrentham Education Experience

Since it began in 2007, **WEST** has funded educational grants totaling nearly **\$300,000**. Our continued success is dependent on support from donors, matching donations and corporate sponsorships. Please consider supporting our mission.

WEST Grant Program Award Descriptions

2021 Spring Grants (Total Awards \$6,940)

Spring 2021:

Teachers Pay Teachers Digital Curriculum (All) Digital Curriculum Licenses were purchased for the Wrentham Public Schools. All staff had access to these resources ready for download or printing. This was a crucial tool for educators when the pandemic hit, and technology played a front role in accessing lessons for students. Lessons for our students continued seamlessly and new material was shared throughout the year. Children in Pre-K to Grade 6 were able to benefit from the resources this year and will continue to in years to come. **Kathleen Maloney, Sean Ahern \$6,000 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

Mad Scientist (Grade 6) The 6th grade will take part in a 60-minute Mad Science Special Event during their end of year celebration. During this program, students will be exposed to a plethora of experiments such as creating electrical circuits and creating tornadoes in a tube. This program is designed to excite students while they learn WHY things happen and how it affects the world around them. **Jude Haughey, \$540 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

Author/illustrator Ralph Masiello (Grade 1) The 1st graders will hear about reading and research skills while seeing original examples of Mr. Masiello's artwork. Complementing the writing process taught in Grade 1, the presentation will inspire students to read, draw, describe and observe the wonders of the world around them. **Patty Burke, \$250 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

Natural Resources Trust of Easton (Grade 1) The 1st graders were able to explore animal habitats and adaptations with a scientist over Google Meet. They also completed a hands-on science experiment learning how blubber keeps animals in the arctic habitats warm. **Erin Blake, \$150 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

2020 Grants (Total Awards \$11,833.73)

Spring/Fall 2020:

iPads for ABA Special Education Program (All) 7 iPads were purchased to help support the ABA Special Education Program Students of the Wrentham Public Schools. The iPads will be managed and maintained through the Remote Learning management system. ABA services has implemented an evidenced based online curriculum program called Teach Town Basics to improve their tele-therapy and home-based instructions. Students who use this program do not have the fine motor skills to use a Chrome Book and will find success with the touch screens of the iPads. **Annie Marcet, \$2,093 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

Generation Genius Subscription Spring (All) All students will benefit from a short-term subscription to Generationgenius.com. The standards aligned science website includes video lessons, read alouds teacher/parent guides, discussion questions and assessments. The lessons also include engaging experiments families can do at home. **Kelly Morissette-Foxx, \$99 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

Generation Genius Subscription Fall (All) The trial subscription was so well received our K-6 students will now have the benefit of using Generation Genius for the 2020-2021 school year. The standards aligned science website includes video lessons, read alouds teacher/parent guides, discussion questions and assessments. The lessons also include engaging experiments families can do at home. **Kelly Morissette-Foxx, \$795 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

SS Curriculum TPT (Grade 1) These digital downloadable resources for the Grade 1 team will aide teachers in planning appropriate distant learning activities. This curriculum packet aligns with the new History and Social Studies Frameworks released in 2018. The materials can be used in the future classrooms in the years to come as well. **Erin Blake, \$164.70 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

ELA and Science Supplemental Curriculum (Grade 5) These digital downloadable resources for the Grade 5 team will aide teachers in planning appropriate distance learning activities. Materials can be easily shared to students through Google Classroom. The resources line up with current standards and curriculum in both the ELA and Science Classrooms. **Michele McGee \$193.30 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

At-home Art Kits (All) Around 50 students and families in need received At-home Art Kits in order to participate in enrichment and creative projects at home. Art allows for creative expression, fuels students imaginations and can even reduce stress! The kits included a Doodle Pad, watercolor paint set with brush, a glue stick, colored pencils, and scissors. **Krista Langley-Haner, \$269.75 (EMERGENCY GRANT)**

Winter 2020:

Sphero BOLT Starter Kit (Grades 4-6). Students in the technology classes of the Roderick will have the chance to grow as coders, thinkers, makers, and problem solvers with the Sphero BOLT Robots. The STEAM activities are designed to inspire creativity. Students will be able to navigate a maze, program a painting, mimic the solar system, design a boat, and anything else their creative imaginations take them! **Heather Fox, \$2,678.99**

Scientists in the Field (Grade 5) Wrentham's 5th grade students will travel to the Boston Museum of Science to engage in experiential learning in a dynamic, informal setting with resources that complement and reinforce the science curriculum. **Brooke Kane and Katrina Bevilacqua, \$1540**

Freedom Trail Scholars (Grade 5) Wrentham's 5th Grade students experience the American Revolution brought to life by the Freedom Trail Scholars Program. Students are included in the presentation as the recoats, rebels and rabble in a dramatization of events leading up to the American Revolution in Boston. **Lori Detrolino, \$1000**

Monitoring Heart Health (All)

The students of the Wrentham Public Schools will have the opportunity to better understand the physiology of the heart, physical activity and how it affects the body's health. The Optic Heart Rate Monitors will allow the students the ability to view their heart rate zone in real time motivating each student to achieve maximum effort. **Kristin Pitman, Adam Moon, Mark MaGuire \$2,999.99**

2019 Grants (Total Awards \$34,532)

Spring 2019:

Mad Science (Grade 6) The 6th grade will take part in a 60-minute Mad Science Special Event. During this program, students will be exposed to a plethora of experiments such as creating electrical circuits and creating tornadoes in a tube. This program is designed to excite students while they learn WHY things happen and how it affects the world around them. **Jude Haughey, \$540**

Voyage of Odysseus (Grade 4) Students will see the story of Odysseus brought to life in this live performance by Joshua Feinman. This spoken word performance, based on a historical piece of writing, will facilitate and enhance the learning of the MA ELA Standards all while engaging our students in the art of storytelling. **Robert Worth, \$500**

Baseball Mysteries Author Visit (Grade 2) Author David A. Kelly will visit the 2nd grade class to teach them how an idea and some effort can become a written story and then a published book. The children will learn how Fenway Park became the inspiration for his first story. **Cindy Fuller, \$800**

Music Together (Pre-K) Music Together, a pioneer in music education, will be visiting each of the Pre-K classes at Project Blossom. This research based and comprehensive curriculum will help students develop music competence and will support their development in key early learning domains. This program is an engaging and fun way to bring music seamlessly into daily classroom life. **Annie Marcet, \$1350**

Sensory Path (Pre-K – Grade 3) The installation of a Sensory Path is an exciting addition to the Delaney school. This tool will help support the social emotional goals embraced by the Wrentham Public Schools. The Sensory Path will help meet the needs of all students as they learn to practice healthy coping skills,

improve their self-regulation, and get themselves prepared and ready to learn. **Judy Maxwell and Heather Ross, \$1500**

Alternative Seating (Grade 4) Wobble Stools have been added to the flexible seating available to the 4th grade classrooms. Incorporating a wider variety of seating options will continue to increase student ownership of learning. This will ultimately benefit students by giving them greater sensory input and movement opportunities during their time in the classroom. **Emily Bannon, \$1050**

Winter 2019:

Google Expedition Virtual Reality Goggles: Using future-ready technology to bring lessons to life with immersive, interactive virtual journeys (Grade 6). Google Expedition kits allow teachers to bring their students to locations around the globe and visit places they may not ordinarily have the chance to see. With these cross curricular tools, students can dive deep with a hands-on approach that will connect their learning in each of their disciplines. Google goggles will help our students grow in digital fluency needed to be successful in the 21st century. **Laura White and Judith Haughey, \$9,999**

Google App Creation Assemblies (Hour of Code) (Grades 3-6) A Delaney Parent and Google Software Engineer will be holding an hour of code event along with the WPS Technology Staff during which the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders will learn how to create their own app, using the same process as Google Engineers! **Heather Fox and Sean Ahern, \$837.61**

Seeds for STEM Growth (Grades K-3) Students will engage in activities that combine different elements of STEM to allow them to see technology through a different lens. They will experience guided inquiry while asking thoughtful questions, discovering answers, applying what they learn, and problem-solving creatively. **Jennifer Moon, \$2895.19**

Museum of Science Traveling Program: "Now Hear This: The Sound of Science" (Grade 4) The 4th Grade will take part in a 60-minute Boston Museum of Science traveling presentation, "Now Hear This: The Sound of Science". During this program, students will learn how sound travels through a medium, model sound waves in real time, manipulate properties of sound energy, and explore the relationship between energy, mass, and motion. **Stacey Farrell and Mandi Kelley, \$575**

Reason for the Season (Grade 1) High Touch High Tech of New England will come to 1st grade classroom to provide a hands-on, interactive experience for first graders. The scientists will bring engaging materials to teach how the Earth moves, rotates, and tilts to change the environment around us. **Erin Blake, \$1366.75**

Breakout EDU (Grades 4-6) This interactive experience will encourage students to think critically, problem solve and work collaboratively all while having fun. The Breakout EDU challenges teach core academic subjects all while preparing students for thinking skills necessary in the 21st Century. **Heather Fox, \$550**

Scientists in the Field (Grade 5) Wrentham's 5th grade students will travel to the Boston Museum of Science to engage in experiential learning in a dynamic, informal setting with resources that complement and reinforce the science curriculum. **Brooke Kane and Katrina Bevilacqua, \$1740**

Traveling Science Workshop (Grade 2) The Discovery Museum in Acton will come to each 2nd Grade Classroom to present a workshop on Physical Changes to Matter. This hands-on presentation will allow our students to investigate the physical properties of solids, liquids, and gases all while aligning with the new MA Science and Technology/Engineering Standards. **Jennifer Rosenkranz, \$1740**

Volcanoes: The Fires of Creation (Grade 6) The 6th grade students will attend “Volcanoes: The Fires of Creation” at the Hayden Planetarium. This, along with interactive exhibits on Our Changing Earth and Space Science, will enhance the 6th grade curriculum by providing a hands-on, interactive learning environment to complement classroom learning. **Lori DeTrollo, \$2359**

“Overcoming Challenges: Past and Present” (Grades 3-6) Students will participate in discussion and classroom activities focused on heroic and brave people who have persevered to effect change on the world. Live performances by an actor portraying Helen Keller and the band Flame, a group of talented musicians who happen to have disabilities. **Sarah Shaw, \$3040**

Author/Poet Nancy Tupper Ling (Grade 2) Over 3 Days, the second grade will have the opportunity to listen to and work with a local author and poet, Nancy Tupper. She will share one of her own poems and then assist our students in creating their own. This hands-on approach to reading and writing will motivate our students while simultaneously helping them improve their fluency and comprehension. **Cindy Fuller, \$1800**

Fenway Park (Grade 2) After meeting Author David A. Kelly, the 2nd graders will have an opportunity to visit Fenway Park and see the author’s inspirations come to life. On their guided tours, students will see first-hand the setting for Kelly’s very first book aiding their excitement for reading and books. Visiting famous Fenway Park will be an experience many students will not have outside of school. **Cindy Fuller, \$1935**

“How to Make a Mistake” Present by Brett Outchunis of the Ooch World (Grade 4) The 4th Grade will take part in a 60-minute presentation “How to make a mistake” where students will learn how to become ‘good’ mistake-makers. The presenter, Ooch, will discuss what to do once a mistake is made but balances it with discussing the importance of honesty, courage, and not making excuses. Ooch teaches his audience how to become great mistake-makers in an active and fun way that will be remembered for a lifetime. **Stacey Farrell and Mandi Kelley, \$625**

2018 Grants (Total Awards \$26,701)

Spring 2018:

Ecosystems at Work (Grade 2). The 2nd grade class will observe plants and animals in their natural habitat when they visit Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary for a hands-on science lesson in ecosystems. In preparation for their visit, an ecologist from Stony Brook will visit each 2nd grade classroom to guide students in the creation of their very own habitat! **Cindy Fuller, \$1437.**

Baseball Mysteries Author (Grade 2). Author David A. Kelley will visit the 2nd grade class to teach them how an idea and some effort can become a written story and then a published book. The children will learn how Fenway Park became the inspiration for his first story. **Cindy Fuller, \$800.**

Illustrator Study with Ralph Masiello (Grade 1). The 1st graders will hear about reading and research skills while seeing original examples of Mr. Masiello's artwork. Complementing the writing process taught in Grade 1, the presentation will inspire students to read, draw, describe and observe the wonders of the world around them. **Patty Burke, \$1,800.**

Stadium Theatre Experience (Grade 1). The 1st graders will be introduced to the arts at an early age by attending an educational performance at the historic Stadium Theatre. The theatre offers musicals, Shakespeare, and interactive math and science shows geared toward young learners. **Christine Walsh, \$1380.**

Terrific Techsploration with Wonderful Waves, Sensational Sound, and a Lively Light Show (Grade 4). Seeing first hand how waves transfer objects and information will give the 4th graders a change to get "brains-on" with wave materials during this interactive presentation. Students will make their own model eardrum, experiment with how sound travels, and build devices that generate sounds. **Mandi Kelley and Stacey Farrell, \$3000.**

Winter 2018:

Sounds Like Fun (Grade 1). High Touch High Tech of New England will come to the school to provide a hands-on, interactive experience for the first graders. The scientists will come to each classroom and bring equipment showing students what sound is, how it is created and how it travels. **Erin Blake and Christine Walsh, \$1229.**

Scientists in the Field (Grade 5). Wrentham's 5th grade students will travel to the Boston Museum of Science to engage in experiential learning in a dynamic, informal setting with resources that complement and reinforce the science curriculum. **Brooke Kane and Katrina Bevilacqua, \$2462.**

The Earth in the Solar System (Grade 6). The 6th grade students will attend "Explore the Galaxy" at the Hayden Planetarium. This, along with three interactive exhibits on celestial objects and space exploration, will enhance the 6th grade science curriculum by providing a hands-on, interactive learning environment to complement classroom lessons. **Lori DeTrollo, \$2359.**

Lego Education/STEM (Grades 4-6). Lego WeDo 2.0 kits will be introduced in the Technology classroom at Roderick. These kits will integrate technology, engineering, and programming into the science curriculum. Students will become independent learners and develop 21st century skills including problem solving, comprehension, communication, creativity, and critical thinking by exploring and designing firsthand within a meaningful context. **Heather Fox, \$1871.**

Lego Makerspace (Grades 4-6). Students will be introduced to STEAM concepts and provided opportunities for collaboration and creativity. Lego challenges will incorporate scientific inquiry and

engineering design as children problem solve to research, test, and revise their projects. **Gretchen Lopez, \$1368.**

Celebrate Writing (Grade 1). The 1st graders have been participating in a yearlong Writer's Workshop and learning to write their own stories. This project will allow children to collaborate on a class book and learn the process of writing, editing and revision in a professionally published book. Each child will receive a copy to keep. **Lu McNeal, \$2760.**

Wrentham Students Weave (Grades 4-6). As part of the expanding art program, 48 looms will be purchased for use by the 4th through 6th graders. These looms can be used to develop weaving skills and interests and lend themselves to advancing patterns and intricacy as skills advance. **Andrea Lovely, \$2614.**

Making a Difference: Bringing Grade 3 Social Studies to Life (Grade 3). Students will participate in discussions and classroom activities focused on the character and traits of individuals from the past who have persevered to effect change on the world. Live performances by actors portraying Helen Keller, Benjamin Franklin, and Revolutionary War figures will facilitate and enhance learning of the Grade 3 Social Studies curriculum. **Sarah Shaw, \$2420.**

Specialized Sensory Learning Center (Grades Pre-K-3). Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate proactive coping skills in the new "Chill Zone" which will be furnished with sensory equipment to support the social-emotional learning goals of the elementary school. **Heather Ross, \$1200.**

2017 Grants (Total Awards \$19,322)

Spring 2017:

Ecosystems at Work (Grade 2). The 2nd grade class will observe plants and animals in their natural habitat when they visit Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary for a hands-on science lesson in ecosystems. In preparation for their visit, an ecologist from Stony Brook will visit each 2nd grade classroom to guide students in the creation of their very own habitat! **Cindy Fuller, \$1437.50**

Baseball Mysteries Author and Ballpark Visit (Grade 2). Author David A. Kelley will visit the 2nd grade class to teach them how an idea and some effort can become a written story and then a published book. The children will even visit Fenway Park, which is featured in Mr. Kelley's first book, and draw comparisons between the real stadium and the stories they've read. **Cindy Fuller, \$2735.00.**

Illustrator Study with Ralph Masiello (Grade 1). The 1st graders will hear about reading and research skills while seeing original examples of Mr. Masiello's artwork. Complementing the writing process taught in Grade 1, the presentation will inspire students to read, draw, describe and observe the wonders of the world around them. **Patty Burke, \$1,800.00.**

A Visit with Poet and Author, Nancy Tupper Ling (Grade 2). Enthusiasm for poetry will certainly result from Nancy Tupper Ling's visit to the 2nd grade classrooms. The children in each classroom will expand upon the required curriculum to read and write poems together with Mrs. Ling and learn how starting with just an idea or a feeling can lead to a beautiful piece of published poetry. **Cindy Fuller, \$1500.00.**

My Many Colored Days (Grades K-3). Music students in Delaney will benefit from the creation of a common language to express emotions. Using techniques like listening, dancing, moving, singing, and role playing, children will explore various emotions in the music room. Opportunities will abound to use these tools to identify, experience, relate and communicate emotions with their peers and their teacher. **Melanie Mariotti, \$215.88.**

Winter 2017:

Celebrate Writing (Grade 1). The 1st graders have been participating in a yearlong Writer's Workshop and learning to write their own stories. This project will allow children to collaborate on a class book and learn the process of writing, editing and revision in a professionally published book. Each child will receive a copy to keep. **Lu McNeal, \$2400.**

Books Galore (Kindergarten). New fiction and non-fiction texts will be purchased for the Kindergarten classrooms in order to meet the needs of all readers at their varied levels. By matching student ability with "just-right" leveled readers, it is expected that students will experience greater success in reading development. **Judy Maxwell, \$2,974.50.**

Sounds Like Fun (Grade 1). High Touch High Tech of New England will come to the school to provide a hands-on, interactive experience for the first graders. The scientists will come to each classroom and bring equipment showing students what sound is, how it is created and how it travels. **Erin Blake and Christine Walsh, \$1041.25**

Scientists in the Field (Grade 5). Wrentham's 5th grade students will travel to the Boston Museum of Science to engage in experiential learning in a dynamic, informal setting with resources that complement and reinforce the science curriculum. **Brooke Kane and Katrina Bevilacqua, \$1650.00.**

Engineering: Wind Energy Workshop (Grade 3). Materials kits and STEM task books will be purchased to enhance the science curriculum in the third grade. These materials will provide high-interest ways to engage children in the scientific method and apply STEM skills. **Yvonne Jeffries and Niki Sabatini, \$1000.**

Programming with Bee-Bots (Grades K-2). Wrentham's Kindergarten through 2nd graders will be offered an engaging, hands-on experience with basic computer programming language using a special floor robot called a Bee-Bot. Using specialized mats, the children will solve challenges regarding both directional language, geometric shapes, letter and number recognition and map skills. **Sue Traversi and Sean Ahern, \$2567.63.**

2016 Grants (Total Awards \$30,446)

Spring 2016:

Pro-Bot Robot Integration (Grades 4-6). Wrentham's 4th through 6th graders will be offered an engaging, hands-on experience with programming as well as robotic controls with the 24 new Pro-Bot Robots purchased by **WEST**. Programming and coding skills will migrate from textbook to true 21st century learning goals. **Heather Fox & Sean Ahern, \$3073.66.**

Baseball Mysteries Author and Ballpark Visit (Grade 2). Author David A. Kelley will visit the 2nd grade class to teach them how an idea and some effort can become a written story and then a published book. The children will even visit Fenway Park, which is featured in Mr. Kelley's first book, and draw comparisons between the real stadium and the stories they've read. **Cindy Fuller, \$2350.00.**

Illustrator Study with Ralph Masiello (Grade 1). The 1st graders will hear about reading and research skills while seeing original examples of Mr. Masiello's artwork. Complementing the writing process taught in Grade 1, the presentation will inspire students to read, draw, describe and observe the wonders of the world around them. **Patty Burke, \$1,800.00.**

A Visit with Poet and Author, Nancy Tupper Ling (Grade 2). Enthusiasm for poetry will certainly result from Nancy Tupper Ling's visit to the 2nd grade classrooms. The children in each classroom will expand upon the required curriculum to read and write poems together with Mrs. Ling and learn how starting with just an idea or a feeling can lead to a beautiful piece of published poetry. **Cindy Fuller, \$1500.00**

Ward's Berry Farm Field Trip (Grade 1). First graders will travel to Ward's Berry Farm to extend learning of their science unit on the Life Cycle of Plants. Children will learn firsthand about the life cycle of plants from seed to harvest and observe how plants are grown on a larger scale. **Stephanie Albertini, \$1035.00.**

Winter 2016:

Science of Sound (Grade 1). Easton Children's Museum will come to the school to provide a hands-on experience showing students how sound is created and transferred to be felt, seen, and heard. **Erin Blake & Stephanie Albertini, \$1400.00**

Scientists in the Field (Grade 5). Wrentham's 5th grade students will travel to the Boston Museum of Science to engage in experiential learning in a dynamic, informal setting with resources that complement and reinforce the science curriculum. **Brooke Kane & Katrina Bevilacqua, \$1640.00.**

Embracing Engineering through Project-based Tasks (Grade 3). Materials kits and STEM task books will be purchased to enhance the science curriculum in the third grade. These materials will provide high-interest ways to engage children in the scientific method and apply STEM skills. **Allie Horne & Yvonne Jeffries, \$3215.79.**

Astonishing Animal Adventure (Grade 4). By visiting Roger Williams Zoo, the 4th graders will experience their science curriculum firsthand as they observe habitats, adaptations, classifications, and behaviors of the many animals they have been studying in the classroom. **Rachel Thornton, \$1927.00.**

STARLAB: Relationships between Earth, Moon and Sun (Grade 6). The Museum of Science will visit Wrentham's 6th Graders with their STARLAB, a portable planetarium. Students will be able to observe a close-up model of our galaxy and the night sky while discovering how the relationships between Earth, the Moon and the Sun cause phases of the moon and solar and lunar eclipses. **Jodi Fownes, \$915.00**

Light: A Visual Art Tool (Grades 3-6). Five light pads will be purchased. These illuminated work surfaces allow students to engage in a variety of creative and innovative art projects as well as improve in the development of fine motor control. **Andrea Lovely, 1795.50.**

Enhancing Nonfiction Readers (Grade 4). Four hundred new nonfiction texts will be purchased for the 4th grade classrooms to expose children to a wealth of information and inspire an appreciation for nonfiction reading. **Mandi Kelley & Stacey Farrell, \$1700.00.**

Celebrate Writing (Grade 1). The 1st graders have been participating in a yearlong Writer's Workshop and learning to write their own stories. This project, funded by **Wrentham Cooperative Bank** will allow children to collaborate on a class book and learn the process of writing, editing and revision in a professionally published book. Each child will receive a copy to keep. **Lu McNeal & Patty Burke, \$2100.**

Readers Theater for Primary Grades (Grades K-2). Reader's Theater books will be purchased for use by Grades K-2 to assist in building reading fluency and expression, encourage emotional growth, risk-taking, motivation, engagement and reading confidence. **Jill O'Reilly, \$350.00.**

Bully Prevention Project (Grade 2). The 2nd graders will attend a bully prevention presentation at the Stadium Theater in Woonsocket. The program will complement the existing socio-emotional work being done in the school and will focus on empowering students with the tools they need to make socially responsible decisions. **Kristin Pitman & Rafaella Paparo, \$1465.00.**

Making a Difference: Past and Present (Grades 3-6). This program focuses on some heroic and brave people in history who have persevered to overcome the odds in reaching their goals and bringing about positive change. Historical actors will bring classroom reading materials alive in a way that is sure to resonate strongly with the children. **Sarah Shaw & Judy Haughey, \$2,839.74.**

Stand-Up Desks (Grade 3). Students become more active learners when given the opportunity to stand or move during learning time. Standing desks were purchased for select 3rd grade classrooms to determine whether student engagement and involvement in classroom activities would be improved by using this alternative to seated learning. **Yvonne Jeffries, Deb Hanewich & Allie Horne, \$1339.00.**

2015 Grants (Total Awards \$31,912)

Spring:

David A. Kelly, An Author Visit and Fenway Park Tour (Grade 2). This grant was inspired by a first grade student's love of reading. The purpose of this grant is for students to improve their interest in reading as well as encourage their excitement for books. Meeting an inspiring local author provides students the ability to hear firsthand how a book is written and why it is written. Because the book takes place at Fenway Park, the students will take a trip to the ballpark to broaden their experiences and visit this author's inspirations. **WEST** also funded this program in December 2013 and May 2014. **Cindy Fuller, \$2375.00.**

A Visit with Poet/Author Nancy Tupper Ling (Grade 2). Nancy Tupper Ling will provide an inspirational experience that promotes enthusiasm for poetry. She will visit each class individually spiking the students' interest by reading poetry and writing a whole class poem related to the season and their senses. **Cindy Fuller, \$700.00.**

Ward's Berry Farm Field Trip (Grade 1). This program extends the learning of the first grade science unit on Life Cycles of Plants that aligns with the Massachusetts Frameworks on Science and Common Core State Standards of Life Science. Children will learn firsthand about the life cycle of plants from seed

to harvest and observe how plants grow on a larger scale. **WEST** also funded this program in May 2014. **Liz Riccio, \$1080.00**

An Author Study with Jerry Pallotta (Grade 1). With an emphasis on informational writing, students will be introduced to the process a published author uses to produce a book. Jerry Pallotta will present his techniques of writing, research and illustrating through a colorful PowerPoint presentation exposing the children to the wonders of writing. His presentation will complement the writing process taught in first grade. **Lu McNeal, \$1245.00.**

A Perfect Literary Marriage (Grade 2). *Making Meaning* fiction texts are the perfect complement to the *Primary Comprehension Toolkit* that was funded by **WEST** in January 2015. Both programs emphasize comprehension strategies such as making connections, visualizing, questioning, making inferences, and more! The texts bring a rich variety of fiction resources to the students' fingertips. **Kristin Pitman & Casey Geary, \$3480.01.**

Marvelous Mentor Texts to Build Blooming 4th Grade Brains (Grade 4). Through the use of mentor texts, students will be exposed to powerful messages and innovative writing styles that will strengthen reading and writing skills. Classrooms will focus on one genre at a time, intermingling in specific writing skills (such as similes, metaphors, adjectives, etc.) that the mentor texts accentuate. **Mandi Kelly, \$946.89.**

Winter:

Overcoming Challenges: Past and Present (Grade 3). This program focuses on the heroic and brave people who persevered to overcome the odds to reach their goals and bring positive change. With the help of an actor, Helen Keller comes to life vividly telling her story of courage, strength, and discovery. The students revel in Helen's discovery of language as she rises above her challenges. She relives her graduation from college, the writing of 12 books, and shows how she learned to speak and read in Braille. Helen's story helps children understand and accept differences and inspires them to be the best they can be with the talents they possess. This is a truly inspiring story. Another actor will portray Deborah Samson Gannett, the first woman to enlist, fight, and be honorably discharged from the American Military. This performance chronicles her life by taking the students back in time to experience her upbringing and active combat service as the first female professional soldier. Flame the Band consists of talented musicians with developmental disabilities who have captured the world's attention for over a decade! Flame will perform for grades 3-5 proving firsthand that you can do anything you set your mind to! **Sarah Shaw, \$3,437.63.**

A visit from Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Grades 4-6). Jarrett J. Krosoczka is a local award-winning author of over 25 books for young readers and is passionate about storytelling. He will visit the Roderick School to give a presentation about the importance of reading, creating books and perseverance in following your dreams. **Karen Arnold, \$1900.00.**

Our Core Values: An Immersion Into Our School Ideals (Grades K-3). The goal of this program is to teach younger students, and reinforce to all students, the WPS core values of respect, responsibility, communication, collaboration, and continuous growth and learning. Students will learn what the school's core values mean so that they are mindful of them every day. This will increase students' awareness and make these values an integral part of our students' life. **Pam Swartzendruber, \$2381.76.**

Nonfiction Necessities (Grade 2). This grant meets the high demands of the Common Core Standards by bringing a rich variety of nonfiction resources to students' fingertips. Students will be motivated when learning with engaging texts and lessons. Teachers will utilize informational texts and provide students with an opportunity to practice reading strategies. **Casey Geary, Kristen Pitman & Mary Ward, \$1008.00.**

Mission to Mars (Grade 6). The funding of this field trip allows all 6th grade students to go to the Christa McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University. The learning center offers programs that enhance students' understanding of Earth and Space Science. While on this field trip, students would take part in a hands-on space flight simulation as well as visit the university's planetarium and learn about seasonal changes affecting the Earth. During the simulation, the students will have the opportunity to apply their science, math, technology, problem solving, decision-making, and communication skills in a dynamic environment modeled after NASA facilities. **WEST** paid the cost of admission to this program and parents covered the transportation costs. **WEST** is honored to award this grant for the fourth year in a row. **Kathleen Maloney, \$3150.00.**

Have you Heard? Noise May Affect Learning (Grades K-3). Music will now be heard during each lunch period in Delaney allowing students to experience a calmer environment while eating. The goal of this grant is to reduce noise, affect food consumption positively, improve student behavior and increase academic success in afternoon studies and activities. **Colleen Wagstaff, \$455.00.**

Astonishing Animal Adventure (Grade 4). Aligning with the Massachusetts Science Frameworks students will travel to the Roger Williams Park Zoo to observe habitats, adaptations, classifications and behaviors of the many animals already studied in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to explore various habitats and the animals that call them home during an hour-long program at the zoo. This program allows students to take the knowledge they gain within the classroom and apply it to activities completed throughout the trip. **Rachel Thornton, \$1851.00.**

Leveled Reader Library Enhancement (Grade 1). Students will be provided a 'take home reading bag' that will reinforce the importance of reading at home. This will help students embrace their love of reading, boost student fluency, and increase the home/school connection. Students will have the

opportunity to read a variety of books at their own reading and interest level at school and at home. **Deirdre D'Egidio & Kelly Foxx, \$2286.42.**

Supporting the New Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Standards (All Grades).

This grant will provide a large range of books and materials for all WPS students that will spark and foster their interest in science and technology/engineering and enhance their skills in reading, writing, and researching. A variety of high quality, leveled reading materials will provide access to information necessary for learning the new science curriculum and for future success. **Judy Neville, \$5000.00.**

Supporting Common Core Writing through Mentor Texts (Grade 3). Students will utilize mentor texts centered on the three genres of writing—narrative, opinion, and informational—and explore strong examples to inform and enhance their own written work. These texts will allow teachers to highlight specific skills and strategies in an engaging manner through mini-lessons, small group instruction, and as references to differentiate instruction for all students. **Courtney Tufts, \$615.00.**

2014 Grants (Total Awards \$8,387)

Spring:

An Author/Illustrator Study with David Biedrzycki and Ralph Masiello (Grade 1). David Biedrzycki is a local author and illustrator. He will introduce his techniques of writing, research and illustrating through a colorful presentation exposing the children to the use of a graphic tablet to create digital art. The students will learn the process that a published author uses to produce a book. His presentation will complement the writing process taught in first grade. David Masiello will stress reading and research skills while showing children original examples of his artwork. Students will be inspired to read, draw, describe and observe the wonderful world around them. **WEST** also funded this program in May 2013 and December 2012. **Lu McNeal, \$1350.00**

David A. Kelly: An Author Visit and Fenway Park Tour (Grade 2). This grant was inspired by a first grade student's love for reading. The purpose of this grant is for students to improve their interest in reading as well as encourage their excitement for books. Meeting an inspiring local author provides students the ability to hear firsthand how a book is written and why it is written. Because the book takes place at Fenway Park, the students will take a trip to the ballpark to broaden their experiences and visit this author's inspirations. **WEST** also funded this program in December 2013. **Cindy Fuller, \$2205.00.**

Rotation and Revolution in our Solar System (Grade 3). This presentation included a 50-minute STARLAB interactive workshop offered by the Museum of Science and would enrich the existing curriculum by providing an interactive learning environment for the students. The STARLAB portable planetarium brings a dark, cloudless night sky to your school during the daytime. These programs present a realistic model of the night sky over your school's town. With the addition of video images and simulations, students get an up-close look at some of the most distant objects from Earth. The expectations of this project are for the students to better understand and analyze the information presented to them about rotation and revolution within our solar system. The grant included eight classroom STARLAB presentations. **WEST** also funded this program in December 2011, 2012 and 2013. **Cathleen Carceo & Yvonne Jeffries, \$1415.00.**

Now Hear This: The Sound of Science (Grade 3). This presentation by the Boston Museum of Science traveling educators includes exciting experiments to demonstrate the concept of sound energy. This presentation will enrich and enhance the third grade science curriculum by providing a dynamic learning experience for the students. Students will be exposed to a range of experiments including creating a sonic boom and a note that can shatter glass! The children will create sound sources such as a sound speaker, a musical instrument or a stethoscope. The students will better understand and analyze the information presented to them about sound as a form of energy. **WEST** also funded this program in December 2013. **Cathleen Carceo & Yvonne Jeffries, funded together with the STARLAB Grant above.**

Exploring Ecosystems and Life Cycles through Nonfiction Texts (Grade 3). This program creates a bridge between ELA Common Core State Standards and Massachusetts Science and Technology Standards. Students will read informational texts focused on various ecosystems and the species that live in them. Students will then be able to use the texts as sources for informational writing research. Using the knowledge they learned from the science texts, third graders will complete a short research project building on their written language skills. **Allie Horne & Yvonne Jeffries, \$402.56.**

Ward's Berry Farm Field Trip (Grade 1). This program extends the learning of the first grade science unit on Life Cycles of Plants that aligns with the Massachusetts Frameworks on Science and Common Core State Standards of Life Science. Children will learn firsthand about the life cycle of plants from seed to harvest and observe how plants grow on a larger scale. **Liz Riccio, \$1540.00**

Poetry: The Voices and Images of Our World (Grade 3). Funded by a **Harvard Pilgrim** mini-grant, this unit specifically addresses the Reading Standards for Literature, Foundational Skills, and Writing Standards. Students will develop an appreciation of poetry as a genre for expressing thought, emotions, and connections to topics and personal experiences. They will practice inferential thinking with text that is short, yet filled with meaning and will be exposed to a variety of subject matter, which will build their interests and inspire new ones. **Courtney Tufts & Niki Sabatini, \$500.00.**

2013 Grants (Total Awards \$39,084)

Fall:

Interactive Read Alouds (Grades 2-3). Students will become independent in practicing reading comprehension skills and strategies through the use of explicit modeling, guided practice, and independent activities. The lessons and accompanying literature are designed to bring children together to help promote comprehension on multiple levels encouraging deeper thinking, boosting language development, providing models of fluency and serving as models of great writing. **Kristen Pitman, \$1026.17.**

David A. Kelly: An Author Visit and Fenway Park Tour (Grade 2). This grant was inspired by a first grade student's love of reading. The purpose of this grant is for students to improve their interest in reading as well as encourage their excitement for books. Meeting an inspiring local author provides students the ability to hear firsthand how a book is written and why it is written. Because the book takes place at Fenway Park, the students will take a trip to the ballpark to broaden their experiences and visit this author's inspirations. **WEST** covered the cost of admission to this program and parents covered the transportation costs. **Cindy Fuller, \$2012.26.**

"Mission to Mars" Flight Simulation at the Christa McAuliffe Center (Grade 6). The funding of this field trip allows all 6th grade students to go to the Christa McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University. The learning center offers programs that enhance students' understanding of Earth and Space Science. While on this field trip, students take part in a hands-on space flight simulation as well as visit the university's planetarium and learn about seasonal changes affecting the Earth. During the simulation, the students have the opportunity to apply their science, math, technology, problem solving, decision-making, and communication skills in a dynamic environment, modeled after NASA facilities. **WEST** covered the cost of admission to this program and parents covered the transportation costs. **WEST** is honored to award this grant for the third year in a row. **Kathleen Maloney, \$3150.00.**

Rotation and Revolution in our Solar System (Grade 3). This presentation included a 50-minute STARLAB interactive workshop offered by the Museum of Science and would enrich the existing curriculum by providing an interactive learning environment for the students. The STARLAB portable planetarium brings a dark, cloudless night sky to your school during the daytime. These programs present a realistic model of the night sky over your school's town. With the addition of video images and simulations, students get an up-close look at some of the most distant objects from Earth. The expectations of this project are for the students to better understand and analyze the information presented to them about the rotation and revolution within our solar system. The grant included eight classroom STARLAB presentations. **WEST** is honored to award this grant for the third year in a row. **Cathleen Carceo & Yvonne Jeffries, \$1380.00.**

Now Hear This: The Sound of Science (Grade 3). This presentation by the Boston Museum of Science traveling educators includes exciting experiments to demonstrate the concept of sound energy. This presentation will enrich and enhance the third grade science curriculum by providing a dynamic learning experience for the students. Students will be exposed to a range of experiments including creating a sonic boom and a note that can shatter glass! The children will create sound sources such as a sound

speaker, a musical instrument or a stethoscope. The students will better understand and analyze the information presented to them about sound as a form of energy. **Cathleen Carceo & Yvonne Jeffries, funded together with the STARLAB Grant above.**

Revolutionary Wrentham—Wrentham in the 18th Century (Grade 3). Students will be introduced to the study of local history of the 18th century by locating and researching historical information, comparing and contrasting architecture of local historical buildings, drawing conclusions from primary resources, examining local artifacts and historical sites and through role play of local historical events. This local field trip will make stops at several local historical buildings, the old Fiske Library, the new Fiske Library and the town cemetery. Members of the Wrentham Historical Commission will aid the students in their research and foster a greater understanding of Historical Wrentham. W.T. Holmes Transportation Company kindly donated the buses for this fieldtrip. **WEST** is honored to award this grant for the fourth year in a row. **Sarah Shaw & Kathy Danielson & Deb Colella, \$1237.43.**

Redcat Infrared Classroom Amplification System (All Grades). **WEST** has provided the funding to purchase 4 new Redcat Infrared Classroom amplification systems to benefit hearing impaired as well as all non-hearing impaired children in the school system. The system can be utilized in different classrooms to amplify a teacher's voice to all areas of the classroom enhancing a teacher's presentation and improving student understanding and performance and testing scores. The system can also be utilized during student presentations to enable better voice projection to an audience. Mrs. Quaglia indicates that "teachers who use the Redcat classroom amplification systems have reported improved attention to task, decrease in unwanted behaviors, and elimination of repetition of oral directions." **WEST** is honored to have awarded this grant three times. **Margo Quaglia, \$3844.00.**

Meeting the Challenges of the Common Core: Non-Fiction and Informational Books and Materials for All Students (All Grades). With the help of a generous donation from **Wells Fargo**, this grant enabled WPS to purchase books and materials for students for grades Pre-K - 6 in order to align with the MA Curriculum for English Language Arts and Literacy. This grant will increase opportunities to learn about topics by providing at each grade level a variety of reading materials in social studies and science/ technology accessible to students at various reading levels. **Judy Neville, \$5000.00**

Spring:

Science Laboratory sponsored by Wrentham Cooperative Bank (Grades PreK-6). With a generous donation from **Wrentham Cooperative Bank**, Wrentham Elementary Schools will open a dedicated science lab available for all students. This room is located in the Vogel building and will allow all students to conduct experiments, provide a space for hands-on learning, and share information with the entire school population. Teachers will be able to store all science equipment in one place making it easier to share and acquire more tools for use. The possibilities are endless! **Sheena Acosta-Frizzell, \$5000.00**

Interactive Read Alouds (Grades 2-3). Students will become independent in practicing reading comprehension skills and strategies through the use of explicit modeling, guided practice, and independent activities. Funded by a **Harvard Pilgrim** mini-grant, the lessons and accompanying literature are designed to bring children together to help promote comprehension on multiple levels encouraging deeper thinking, boosting language development, providing models of fluency, and serving as models of great writing. **Courtney Tufts, \$500.00.**

A Visit with Helen Keller: Champion of the Disabled (Grade 3). With the help of an actor, Helen Keller comes to life vividly telling her story of courage, strength, and discovery. The students revel in Helen's discovery of language as she rises above her challenges. She relives her graduation from college, the writing of 12 books, and shows how she learned to speak and read in Braille. Helen's story helps children understand and accept differences and inspires them to be the best they can be with the talents they possess. This is a truly inspiring story. **Sarah Shaw, \$1080.00.**

Wampanoag Presentation: People of the East (Grade 3). The Wampanoag People are returning for a sixth year to provide all 3rd graders with an interactive program to enhance the History and Social Studies Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Standards. Representatives from the Plimoth-based Wampanoag Museum will come to the Wrentham Elementary School to provide first hand insight into the culture and way of life of the local Native Americans. Contemporary Wampanoag presenters visit with all third grade students, and with the aid of a colorful slide presentation and real artifacts explore the culture of the local Wampanoag People in both the 17th and 21st centuries. Students have opportunities to examine Wampanoag clothing, toys, animal skins and tools and to learn about the seasonality of the lifestyle of Native Americans in New England. The program has proven highly successful in its aim to excite and inspire students to learn more about the Wampanoag People and literally bring history to life! **Lori DeTrollo, \$1030.00.**

An Author/Illustrator Study with David Biedrzycki and Ralph Masiello (Grade 1). David Biedrzycki is a local author and illustrator. He will introduce his techniques of writing, research and illustrating through a colorful presentation by exposing the children to the use of a graphic tablet to create digital art. The students will learn the process that a published author uses to produce a book. His presentation will complement the writing process taught in first grade. David Masiello will stress reading and research skills while showing children original examples of his artwork. Students will be inspired to read, draw, describe and observe the wonderful world around them. This grant was funded by **Rockland Trust. Patty Burke, \$1600.25.**

Dell Tablet Integration in Preschool Curriculum (Pre-K). The Dell Tablets provide students in the integrated program with ease of access, independence, a feeling of accomplishment, and decreased frustration through educationally appropriate applications. The tablets provide innovative ways to introduce curriculum at the varied developmental levels of the students. **Mary Elizabeth Clark, \$1674.38.**

Zooming In On Thinking (Grade 4). This grant funded 12 wireless document cameras for the Roderick School in order to increase student participation and enhance instruction of the newly adopted Common Core Curriculum Standards (CCCS). The document cameras enable students to meet the heightened requirements of the CCCS on a daily basis within the classroom. Students are now required to learn content in more depth while sharing their thinking with fellow classmates both visually and orally. Document cameras allow students to show their thinking as well as articulate it orally to others. They also allow for other students to discern the speaker's key points, request clarification and ask relevant

questions. The use of these document cameras will enable students and teachers to gain a depth of conceptual knowledge that would not otherwise be attainable. **Sam Cederbaum & Deb Poirier, 7799.88.**

Math Manipulatives (Special Ed). WEST was awarded \$2000 from the **Staples Foundation** Program 2 Million and Change to fund an expansion of the Saxon Math program at the Wrentham Public Schools. WEST was nominated to receive this grant by Ruth Walker, a Wrentham Elementary Parent and Staples employee. Karen McNamara, Director of Student Services, was pleased to be able to expand Saxon Math to reach more students. Saxon Math is an alternative math program that is used for students with learning and language difficulties. It uses a multi-sensory approach to build and reinforce math skills and concepts. The goal of the Saxon Math Program is to help all students achieve grade level math skills and concepts aligned with the common core. **Karen McNamara, \$2000.00.**

2012 Grants (Total Awards \$19,212)

Fall:

Vernal Pool Laboratory (Grade 5). The initial funding for this project enabled the fifth grade team to renovate a Vogel classroom into a Vernal Pool Observation laboratory. Fifth grade students embark on their vernal pool exploration with a local trip to vernal pools. Following fieldwork at local vernal pools, the collected species are temporarily brought to the laboratory and housed in observation tanks where they can be further examined by 5th grade students. This laboratory ensures consistency throughout the vernal pool unit for all fifth grade students and allow students to apply their knowledge and skills obtained prior and during field work to practical use. The laboratory provides a multi-faceted learning experience and allows students the opportunity to make connections between their actions and the world around them. **Sheena Frizzell, \$1982.47.**

Moving Forward with the Common Core Math Standards (All grades).

Partial funding for this grant enabled WPS to further the implementation of Common Core Math standards. Funds will be used to purchase materials to be made available to all staff to enhance their background knowledge of math common core. Some of the funds will be used to purchase a research-based series of texts to enhance classroom instruction in problem solving by integrating non-routine, real life problems into the current math program. **Deb Hanewich , \$600.00.**

Zooming In On Thinking (Grade 4). This grant funded 5 wireless document cameras for the Roderick School in order to increase student participation and enhance instruction of the newly adopted Common Core Curriculum Standards (CCCS). The document cameras enable students to meet the heightened requirements of the CCCS on a daily basis within the classroom. Students are now required to learn content in more depth while sharing their thinking with fellow classmates both visually and orally. Document cameras allow students to show their thinking as well as articulate it orally to others. They also allow for other students to discern the speaker's key points, request clarification and ask relevant questions. The use of these document cameras will enable students and teachers to gain a depth of conceptual knowledge that would not otherwise be attainable. **Sam Cederbaum & Deb Poirier, \$3040.00.**

"Mission to Mars" Flight Simulation at the Christa McAuliffe Center (Grade 6). The funding of this field trip allows all 6th grade students to go to the Christa McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University. The learning center offers programs that enhance students' understanding of Earth and Space Science. While on this field trip, students would take part in a hands-on space flight simulation as well as visit the university's planetarium and learn about seasonal changes affecting the Earth. During the simulation,

the students will have the opportunity to apply their science, math, technology, problem solving, decision-making, and communication skills in a dynamic environment, modeled after NASA facilities. **WEST** covered the cost of admission to this program and parents covered the transportation costs. **Kathleen Maloney, \$3150.00.**

Rotation and Revolution in our Solar System (Grade 3). This presentation included a 50-minute STARLAB interactive workshop offered by the Museum of Science and would enrich the existing curriculum by providing an interactive learning environment for the students. The STARLAB portable planetarium brings a dark, cloudless night sky to your school during the daytime. These programs present a realistic model of the night sky over your school's town. With the addition of video images and simulations, students get an up-close look at some of the most distant objects from Earth. The expectations of this project are for the students to better understand and analyze the information presented to them about the rotation and revolution within our solar system. The grant included eight classroom STARLAB presentations. **Cathleen Carceo & Yvonne Jeffries, \$840.00.**

Grade 4 Dives Into Ponds at Stony Brook (Grade 4). This fieldtrip is designed to enhance students' knowledge of life science by enabling all 4th grade students the hands-on experience of plant and animal classification in the field according to physical characteristics. It will also allow them a firsthand investigation of plant and animal adaptation. Students will take the knowledge that they gain within the classroom and apply it to a real world scenario. Students will travel to the Stony Brook Audubon Center in Norfolk, MA and will use nets and bug boxes to conduct an in-depth survey of the pond with a focus on populations and specific identification. Students will also investigate animal adaptations for survival in this watery habitat. W.T. Holmes Transportation Company kindly funded the buses for this fieldtrip. **Sam Cederbaum, \$1320.00.**

Revolutionary Wrentham—Wrentham in the 18th Century (Grade 3). Students will be introduced to the study of local history of the 18th century by locating and researching historical information, comparing and contrasting architecture of local historical buildings, drawing conclusions from primary resources, examining local artifacts and historical sites and through role play of local historical events. This local field trip will make stops at several local historical buildings, the old Fiske Library, the new Fiske Library and the town cemetery. Members of the Wrentham Historical Commission will aid the students in their research and foster a greater understanding of Historical Wrentham. W.T. Holmes Transportation Company kindly donated the buses for this fieldtrip. **Mrs. Shaw & Mrs. Danielson, \$1715.44.**

Spring:

Wampanoag Presentation: People of the East (Grade 3). The Wampanoag People are returning for a fifth year to provide all 3rd graders with an interactive program to enhance the History and Social Studies Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Standards. Representatives from the Plimoth-based Wampanoag Museum will come to the Wrentham Elementary School to provide firsthand insight into the culture and way of life of the local Native Americans. Contemporary Wampanoag presenters visit with all third grade students, and with the aid of a colorful slide presentation and real artifacts explore the culture of the local Wampanoag People in both the 17th and 21st centuries. Students have opportunities to examine Wampanoag clothing, toys, animal skins and tools and to learn about the seasonality of the lifestyle of Native Americans in New England. The program has proven highly successful in its aim to excite and inspire students to learn more about the Wampanoag People and literally bring history to life! This grant was funded by **Rockland Trust. Lori DeTrolgio, \$1045.00.**

Mad Science (Grade 5). The Mad Science program will increase student interest and create a way for students to connect with a difficult subject matter by presenting hands-on materials and activities that relate to what they are learning in the classroom. This activity will complement the existing curriculum by reviewing with the students the fifth grade framework in Motion of Objects, Forms of Energy and Transfer of Energy. This program will help students apply what they have already learned in the classroom to real-life experiments. **Dawn O’Connell, \$1090.00.**

Returning to our Roots (Kindergarten).

Gardens are an outdoor classroom. By supporting the school garden, every child in the Wrentham schools has the opportunity to enjoy learning in all subject matter. Children may explore expository writing by keeping a journal of what they experience while gardening. They may work on measuring and graphing, as well as computation and data. The science curriculum will be aligned with projects in the areas of earth and life science, including a unit on plants. Each grade level can benefit from what the garden has to give. **Pam Swartzendruber, \$1066.81.**

An Author Study with David Biedrzycki (Grade 1). David Biedrzycki is a local author and illustrator. He will introduce his techniques of writing, research and illustrating through a colorful presentation exposing the children to the use of a graphic tablet to create digital art. The students will learn the process that a published author uses to produce a book. His presentation will complement the writing process taught in first grade. **Stephanie Albertini, \$1012.20.**

Creating Wonderful Writers (Grade 4). Students will learn the joys of creative writing by learning the correct use of exciting adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors while utilizing thesaurus skills during writing workshops throughout the year. Having students work one-on-one with a thesaurus will deepen their vocabulary knowledge in written and oral formats. Students will also enhance their writing skills and oral reading skills by building a stronger reading and writing foundation through the interaction of exciting books like The Polar Express and Marley: A Dog Like No Other. **Mandi Kelley, \$2350.00.**

2011 Grants (Total Awards \$27,849)

Fall:

Revolutionary Wrentham—Wrentham in the 18th Century (Grade 3). Students will be introduced to the study of local history of the 18th century by locating and researching historical information, comparing and contrasting architecture of local historical buildings, drawing conclusions from primary resources, examining local artifacts and historical sites and through role play of local historical events. This local field trip will make stops at several local historical buildings, the old Fiske Library, the new Fiske Library and the town cemetery. Members of the Wrentham Historical Commission will aid the students in their research and foster a greater understanding of Historical Wrentham. The cost of this fieldtrip includes \$550.00 for materials and \$1,200.00 for fieldtrip busing. **Mrs. Shaw & Mrs. Danielson, \$1747.55.**

REDCAT Amplification System (All Grades). Our special needs department has requested the funding to purchase new REDCAT Infrared Classroom amplification systems to benefit hearing impaired as well as all non-hearing impaired children in the school system. The system can be utilized in different classrooms to amplify a teacher’s voice to all areas of the classroom enhancing a teacher’s presentation and improving student understanding, performance and testing scores. The system can also be utilized during student presentations to enable better voice projection to an audience. Research has shown that teachers who

use the REDCAT classroom amplification systems have reported improved attention to task, decrease in unwanted behaviors, and elimination of repetition of oral directions. **Margo Quaglia, \$978.00**

Where in the World Am I? (Grade 2). Funding of this grant will provide the necessary tools, games and reference materials to enhance the Massachusetts Grade 2 Social Science and History Curriculum Frameworks. Children of Grade 2 classes will “travel” around the seven continents and five major oceans to discover that citizenship embraces all kinds of people from many different countries and continents. The main goal of this project is to introduce world geography through exciting and engaging activities and learning centers utilizing maps, puzzles, compasses, globes and games. **Cindy Fuller & Mary Belmonte, \$808.41.**

The Irresistible Tool to Encourage Writing (Grade 2). This grant includes the purchase of the *Stationery Studio Writing Collection* software program for use by all students and teachers in Grade 2 to encourage students to write. The technology can be used to write about any subject and allows students to create books, essays, reports and letters. The goal of the project is to get students motivated to write and the objective is to have all students leave 2nd Grade with a willingness, eagerness and enthusiasm to write. **Kristin Pitman, \$749.95.**

Enhancing Visual Learning (All Grades). This proposal would allow for all students to receive a broader perspective of the visual arts by exposing them to new instructional guides, visual aids and DVDs. This project will complement existing curriculum goals by having the students understand the principles of design and elements of art, make connections to art history, and identify various art media. Through visual aids, the students will be able to make learning connections not only in the field of art but in areas of math, science, and history. **Laine Hendy, \$968.00.**

Rotation and Revolution in our Solar System (Grade 3). The purchase of new visuals and models of the solar system would be used to enhance the existing science curriculum of the third grade classes. These materials would include a 50-minute STARLAB interactive workshop offered by the Museum of Science and would enrich the existing curriculum by providing an interactive learning environment for the students. Students will get an up close look at some of the most distant objects that cannot be seen from Earth. The expectations of this project will be for the students to better understand and analyze the information presented to them about the rotation and revolution within our solar system. The budget includes seven classroom STARLAB presentations and the purchase of planetariums for each class to use in their science classes. **Cathleen Carceo & Yvonne Jeffries, \$1702.80.**

Grade 4 Dives Into Ponds at Stony Brook (Grade 4). This fieldtrip is designed to enhance students’ knowledge of life science by enabling all 4th grade students the hands-on experience of plant and animal classification in the field according to physical characteristics. It will also allow them a firsthand investigation of plant and animal adaptation. Students will take the knowledge they gain within the classroom and apply it to a real-world scenario. Students will travel to the Stony Brook Audubon Center in Norfolk, MA and will use nets and bug boxes to conduct an in-depth survey of the pond with a focus on populations and specific identification. Students will also investigate animal adaptations for survival in this watery habitat. **Sam Cederbaum, \$2363.75.**

“Mission to Mars” Flight Simulation at the Christa McAuliffe Center (Grade 6). The funding of this field trip allows all 6th grade students to go to the Christa McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University. The learning center offers programs that enhance students’ understanding of Earth and Space Science. While on this field trip, students would take part in a hands-on space flight simulation as well as visit the university’s planetarium and learn about seasonal changes affecting the Earth. During the simulation, the students will have the opportunity to apply their science, math, technology, problem solving,

decision-making, and communication skills in a dynamic environment modeled after NASA facilities. **Kathleen Maloney, \$3150.00.**

Maximizing Mini-lessons using Outstanding Children's Literature (Grade 3). Funding for this grant provides the beginnings of a professional literacy library to enhance classroom teachers' knowledge of *Best Practices of Literacy Instruction for the 21st Century*. Several professional resource books will be purchased and shared among teachers to enhance the existing classroom reading programs. Funding would also provide Grade 3 students with copies of outstanding children's literature to maximize reading instruction and instill a lifelong love of reading in the students. **Deb Hanewich, \$1075.00.**

Spring:

Keeping a Pulse on Student Achievement (Grade 4). This grant funded the acquisition of new handheld technology for Grade 4 classrooms. Twenty-eight *Classroom Performance System* units and a teacher control unit were purchased enabling teachers to receive instantaneous classroom feedback from students and allowing teachers to keep a strong pulse on student performance. This technology will be integrated into daily lessons across the curriculum. Building student confidence, involvement and, ultimately, achievement are all desired impacts from the implementation of this technology. **Sam Cederbaum, \$2594.00.**

Wampanoag Presentation: People of the East (Grade 3). The Wampanoag People are returning for a fourth year to provide all 3rd graders with an interactive program to enhance the History and Social Studies Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Standards. Representatives from the Plimoth-based Wampanoag Museum will come to the Wrentham Elementary School to provide firsthand insight into the culture and way of life of the local Native Americans. Contemporary Wampanoag presenters visit with all third grade students and with the aid of a colorful slide presentation and real artifacts explore the culture of the local Wampanoag People in both the 17th and 21st centuries. Students have opportunities to examine Wampanoag clothing, toys, animal skins and tools and to learn about the seasonality of the lifestyle of Native Americans in New England. The program has proven highly successful in its aim to excite and inspire students to learn more about the Wampanoag People and literally bring history to life! **Lori DeTrollo, \$935.00.**

Enriching Student Learning through Reading Intervention & Differentiated Instruction (Grade 2). A previously funded grant enabled this team of teachers (Kristin Pitman, Kelley Christy, Janice Young & Tammy Morgan) to purchase leveled materials for both struggling and at-grade-level readers. Results of the program were so successful that **WEST** has now funded similar materials to reach above grade-level readers. This funding provides materials to meet the needs of all 2nd Grade readers. Books will be shared throughout all 2nd Grade classes. Students are provided with rich fiction and nonfiction texts appropriate for their individual reading levels. Students will experience greater reading success and will continue to progress with their individual reading development. **Kristen Pitman, Kelley Christy, Janice Young & Tammy Morgan, \$2331.91.**

Probing Light, Sound and Other Forms of Energy (Grades 3-6). Generous funding provided by **Wrentham Cooperative Bank** has been used to purchase new science technology. The *SPARK Science Learning System* is a discovery-based learning system that provides computerized, handheld 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 states, "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. It will also act as a catalyst for change in other curriculum units." WEST is grateful to Wrentham Cooperative Bank for its generous funding of this project. In addition to improving the 3rd 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. **Becky Stockbridge, \$2500.00.**

Math Lending Library (Grade 3). This grant will provide a collection of texts to 3rd Grade teachers that will serve as a lending library correlating literature to the eight units of the Harcourt Math Program. The third grade *Mathematical Literature Library (MLL)* complements the eight units of math and connects literature with math in a variety of interesting fiction and non-fiction stories. The MLL can be used as an introduction or reinforcement of each mathematical unit. **Judy Haughey, \$400.00.**

Who's Who Biography Fair (Grades 4-6). The main goal of this grant is to purchase up-to-date biographies to accompany the existing collection and support ongoing yearly classroom projects as well as a new Who's Who Biography Fair for Grades 4 through 6, scheduled for the coming school year. The fair will complement and enhance existing curriculum goals through the current standards. Materials will assist our teachers and staff with biography-related projects including book reports, writing biographies, the study of inventors, explorers and other historical figures relating to the standards. **Heather Macpherson, \$1500.00.**

Going Back to our Roots School Garden Project (PreK-Grade 3). The 180' x 33' 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. The endeavor, which has received funding from a number of different sources including WEST, will enable new learning possibilities for the students and will link to their science, math, writing and social studies curriculum frameworks. The lessons students will learn will not only involve the scientific aspects of gardening such as seed germination and plant life cycles but will also teach the students patience, hard work and reaping the fruits of their labors. Students will participate in classroom lessons as well as physical cultivation of the garden. **Janice Young, \$3045.00.**

Updated Science & Technology Library Collection (Grades 4-6). Generous funding provided by **Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation** has been 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. Per recommendation by the American Library Association, this donation will enable Ms. Macpherson to begin to replace all science- and technology-related materials five to ten years or older from circulation as is the general standard for these areas of study. **Heather Macpherson, \$1000.00.**

2010 Grants (Total Awards \$20,583)

Spring:

Be a Weather Bug (Grade 4). The aim of this exciting project, funded by **Wrentham Cooperative Bank**, is to bring the study of the Weather Unit of the Science and the Technology/Engineering Curriculum alive for the 4th Grade. The grant will finance the installation of a weather tracking station at the Wrentham Elementary Schools to record local weather parameters and allow students to study the different elements of weather in real time. The weather station will encompass sensors to measure and record wind speed and direction, average wind speed, and the highest gust for the day, temperature, relative humidity, heat index, barometric pressure, dew point and more and a rain gauge that will record five weather parameters, including daily, monthly and yearly rain measurements and amounts of rain per hour. The program will present an exciting opportunity to master the weather objectives which make up a large part of the of 4th Grade science curriculum. The unit will be made more relevant through the collection of live local weather data, the use of current web based technology and the conduction of real scientific observation and predictions. The WeatherBug will be a permanent installation and allow enrichment for years to come. **Grade 4 Staff & Becky Stockbridge, \$5000.00.**

Science is PICTURE Perfect! (Grades 3-6). The main goal of this project is to integrate English Language Arts (ELA) and Science in an exciting and innovative way for students in Grades 3-6. The grant will purchase a collection of picture books selected for their colorful and detailed illustrations that capture the interest of students while providing a real life context for the exploration of scientific concepts. Once engaged in the topic, the students will work through the inquiry-based design of the book series to explore, explain and experiment the subject in areas of physical science, life science and Earth and Space. By combining the appeal of children's picture books with the excitement of scientific investigation and exploration through the enquiry based method, the approach will complement existing curriculum goals and provide a rewarding challenge to those with a strong interest in science who are visual learners. The program will be made available through the GATE/ Enrichment Department for collaborative projects with classroom teachers in Grades 3-6. **Mary Belmonte, \$415.11.**

Wampanoag Presentation: People of the East (Grade 3). As has been shown in the previous years, this program provides 3rd grade students with an enlivening interactive workshop to enrich and enhance the Grade 3 History and Social Studies Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards. Representatives from the Plimoth-based Wampanoag Museum will come to the Wrentham Elementary School to provide firsthand insight into the culture and way of life of the local Native Americans. Contemporary Wampanoag presenters visit with third grade students, and with the aid of a colorful slide presentation and real artifacts explore the culture of the local Wampanoag People in both the 17th and 21st centuries. Students have opportunities to examine Wampanoag clothing, toys, animal skins and tools and to learn about the seasonality of the lifestyle of Native Americans in New England. The program has proven highly successful in its aim to excite and inspire students to learn more about the Wampanoag People and literally bring history to life! **Lori DeTrolio, \$1060.00**

Steps to Respect: Bullying Prevention Program (Grades 3-6). The aim of the program is to support and reinforce the Wrentham Elementary Schools code of conduct to promote a safe school environment free from bullying. The grant will cover the cost of materials to facilitate engaging interactive lessons, DVD's to promote dynamic class discussions and supportive parent material for Grades 3 to 6. Students will learn skills for assertiveness and friendship while recognizing and reporting incidents of bullying. The curriculum will be accessible for use by all staff, including counselors, classroom teachers, and health teachers. **Marilyn Diamond, Raffaella Paparo & Daniela Paparo, \$801.43.**

Pilgrims, Puritans, the Revolutionary War, Oh My! (Grade 3). The grant will purchase a series of supplemental materials to enrich the Social Studies curriculum for the 3rd Grade as they learn about life

in America during the period from 1620 to 1776. Books, reproduction artifacts, electronic field trips, time period music, plays and pictures will illuminate the lives of the Pilgrims, Puritans and Colonists during the time leading up to the Revolutionary War. Interactive hands-on activities will hold the attention of the students as they learn about a formative era in our nation's history. All third grade students will have access to the materials that will be reusable and will provide an exciting approach to meeting the Grade 3 History and Social Studies Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards for years to come. **Lori DeTrollo, \$1000.00.**

Improving Student Learning through Reading Intervention and Differentiated Instruction (Grade 2).

This grant will contribute to the purchase of reading books and supplemental materials to provide a range of rich fiction and non-fiction texts appropriate for the at-risk readers in 2nd Grade. The aim is to help students reach grade level reading standards while also providing supplemental materials for differentiated instruction and small group intervention with students reading below level at Grade 2. It is aimed at boosting the skills of the novice reader and ensuring that the needs of all students are met at all times. The materials will be reusable for years by all classrooms in Grade 2. **Kristen Pitman, Kelley Christy, Janice Young & Tammy Morgan, \$1500.00.**

Learning Through Literature (Grades 4-6). The aim of the program is to use children's literature to focus on the development of social and emotional skills while also complementing the existing literacy and comprehension goals of the ELA curriculum. The grant will begin the purchase of specially selected picture books and novels that can be used to anchor discussions on social and emotional issues such as problem solving in social situations, expressing and managing emotions, developing tolerance and acceptance and evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses. While certain aspects of these social and emotional skills are embedded in the curriculum, they are not taught explicitly. Many students learn these skills implicitly while others need direct instruction and guidance. The program will teach those students in grade appropriate lessons how to express their emotions, appreciate the point of view of others, and how to disagree in a respectful manner. **Marie Garozzo & Andrea Crabtree, \$225.00**

Fall:

Open Circle: Learning through Literature (All Grades). This grant funded the acquisition of 85 new books to the *Open Circle Literature Library*. This library is utilized by all teachers to enhance teaching of the *Open Circle* curriculum to students. The books selected are current children's literature to reinforce the behaviors and correlates of the *Open Circle* curriculum. *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. **Sam Cederbaum, \$1000.00.**

Revolutionary Wrentham—Wrentham in the 18th Century (Grade 3). Students will be introduced to the study of local history of the 18th century by locating and researching historical information, comparing and contrasting architecture of local historical buildings, drawing conclusions from primary resources, examining local artifacts and historical sites and through role play of local historical events. Members of the Wrentham Historical Commission will aid the students in their research and foster a greater understanding of Historical Wrentham. **Sarah Shaw & Kathy Danielson, \$797.39.**

Home-School Partnership to Promote Literacy (Grade 1). 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. An additional aim is to provide parents with information on how to help their child with the reading process at home. **Lu McNeal & Liz Riccio, \$2000.00.**

Bringing Nature into the Classroom: A Stony Brook Wildlife Experience (PreK). Project Blossom Preschool students will be given the unique opportunity to experience science material presented by a local wildlife expert. Naturalists at Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary will visit the preschool classrooms once a month to present engaging seasonal wildlife units involving games, songs, manipulatives, puppets and live animals. This program will significantly strengthen the science curriculum for the preschool students. **Carey Lurie, \$1004.92.**

Matching Readers with Just Right Books (Grade 3). This pilot reading program aims to match readers with “Just Right Books” to improve reading fluency, comprehension skills and vocabulary development as well as instill a lifelong love of reading. Students will be exposed to various genres in both fiction and nonfiction to widen their reading interests as well as enhance their general and specific knowledge base. Students will read and discuss these books with partners or in small groups with a teacher, parent book group leader or with other students. **Deb Hanewich, \$986.93.**

Take Home Math Bags (Grade 1). The first grade classrooms have received *Take Home Math Bags* with funds provided to WEST by Harvard Pilgrim. 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. Each child will have an opportunity to take the bag home for one week. Bags include many activities and game ideas to foster everyday math skills including recipes, dice games, board games, interesting math book, and a family journal for reflection. This grant was generously funded through a Harvard Pilgrim Community Spirit 9/11 Mini Grant. **Kelly Foxx, \$422.08.**

Circling Around Great Books (Grade 2). 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. Small groups of students will read high interest books at home and meet in literature circles during the school week to discuss the books. 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. **Cindy Fuller & Casey Geary, \$2500.00.**

Project Read: Written Expression—Framing your Thoughts (Grades 1-3). Teaching specialists Nancy Boutin, Margo Quaglia and Dee Mead were awarded funds 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. The program aims to improve all students’ writing abilities. **Margo Quaglia, Nancy Boutin, & Dee Mead, \$795.00.**

Investigating Vernal Pools (Grade 5). Twenty-five sets of child-sized hip wader boots were purchased to enable all 5th Grade students to venture out into local vernal pools during the early spring and provide students with a hands-on opportunity to investigate the pools. The waders will allow students to physically enter the pools in order to collect egg masses, fairy shrimp and other inhabitants. This hands-on approach to teaching will create enthusiasm and a greater learning for the subject matter. **Arlene Wasdo, \$1075.00.**

2009 Grants (Total Awards \$15,327)

Spring:

Traverse Climbing Wall (All Grades). A traverse climbing wall will be installed in the Gibbons Gymnasium during the winter of 2010. This piece of equipment will be utilized by all students at the Wrentham Elementary Schools for many years to come and will greatly enhance the quality of physical activity and increase the learning potential for students. Students will participate in climbing activities that are designed to develop different physical, mental, social and emotional aspects of learning. Due to the magnetic capabilities of the wall, Mr. Moon explains “there will be opportunities to incorporate and combine different school subjects (including math, reading and geography) within certain climbing lessons.” The climbing wall will provide gym classes with a variety of activities including regular introductory climbing, obstacle course climbing, climbing wall scrabble, following a route map, and speed climbing. **Adam Moon, \$7999.00.**

Author Celebration, Celebrate Writing (Grade 1). First Grade teachers are participating in a grade-wide, year-long project enabling students to write and produce their own professionally bound, published books. Students are examining the entire process of publishing, starting with brainstorming and the creation of drafts, to editing and illustrating the final product. It is Mrs. McNeal’s hope that this grant will enable all students to “see themselves as writers” and “become motivated to continue writing”. All students will “know the thrill of being the author of a professionally bound published book”. Students will receive a copy of their final product and classrooms will retain some copies of books to inspire and demonstrate to future 1st Grade students what can be accomplished during their 1st Grade year. **Lu McNeal & Stephanie Albertini, \$1575.00.**

Creating a Hands-On, Multi-Sensory Curriculum (Special Education). Mrs. Boutin has begun developing hands-on learning games to benefit the special education students she educates. She has found that these “activities allow our special education students access to the curriculum and they become more academically engaged. In addition, they are excited to learn and become confident in themselves.” Until this time, teachers have been absorbing the costs associated with the materials used to create the learning games as well as the time needed to assemble the activities. **WEST** has agreed to fund the materials that will enable Mrs. Boutin to create more learning games to enhance the special education curriculum. This will allow students the opportunity to successfully learn concepts and reinforce academic learning while having fun utilizing the created games. This grant will impact students in all grade levels at the elementary school. **Nancy Boutin & Dee Mead, \$555.26.**

Eyes on Owls (Grade 4).

Naturalist Marcia Wilson presented an in-school enrichment program designed to enhance the 4th Grade animal science curriculum called *Eyes on Owls*. This **WEST**-funded presentation provided all 4th Graders with an experience to observe owls and discuss and examine the physical adaptations to nature that owls possess. Naturalists discussed how to locate owls in natural habitats and how to attract owls and protect them. Students had the opportunity to meet six live owls and observe their behaviors. Mrs. Kane states that the program “will reinforce and bridge science curriculum content between 4th and 5th Grades by addressing adaptations necessary for survival in changing environments, animal behaviors, and food chains found within native ecosystems.” **Brooke Kane, \$645.00.**

Mathematicians - Past, Present and Future! (GATE Students)

This program will enable a small group of advanced mathematics students in the 6th Grade to partner with advanced math students at King Philip High School and utilize new technologies to solve non-routine, engaging and challenging mathematical thinking problems. Mrs. Belmonte states “the main goal of this project is for students to identify with mathematicians as modern practitioners. By studying famous problems and the mathematicians that solved them, they will realize that math discoveries are the result of intellect, hard work, experimentation, and persistence.” The funding provided by **WEST**

enabled the purchase of graphing calculators that allow students to move away from paper-pencil tasks and experiment with the collection of data and interpretation with the calculators. **Mary Belmonte & Deb Hanewich, \$1350.97.**

Open Circle: Learning Through Literature (Grades K-3). This grant provides all teachers in the elementary school with a library of books to be utilized in conjunction with the *Open Circle Curriculum*. Currently in the Wrentham Elementary Schools, the *Open Circle Curriculum* is being utilized in many of the elementary school classrooms on a regular basis. In the upcoming years, more teachers will incorporate this curriculum into their weekly class schedule. *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. There is a large selection of current children's literature that reinforces the behaviors and correlates with the *Open Circle Curriculum*. **WEST** has offered funds for the purchase of a variety of children's literature titles that will benefit all grade levels. Mr. Cederbaum affirms that "teachers will utilize the *Open Circle Literature Library* to enhance their lessons both in and out of *Open Circle*" while "students will enjoy the stories and connect them to *Open Circle*". **Sam Cederbaum, \$1000.00.**

Redcat Infrared Classroom Amplification System All Grades (All Grades). **WEST** has provided the funding to purchase a new Redcat Infrared Classroom amplification system to benefit hearing impaired as well as all non-hearing impaired children in the school system. The system can be utilized in different classrooms to amplify a teacher's voice to all areas of the classroom enhancing a teacher's presentation and improving student understanding and performance and testing scores. The system can also be utilized during student presentations to enable better voice projection to an audience. Mrs. Quaglia indicates that "teachers who use the Redcat classroom amplification systems have reported improved attention to task, decrease in unwanted behaviors, and elimination of repetition of oral directions." **Margo Quaglia, \$917.00.**

Wampanoag: People of the East (Grade 3). Due to the past success of this **WEST**-funded project, **WEST** is again funding this grant to bring representatives from local Native People to the Wrentham Elementary School. In the fall of 2009, Native American presenters will visit with all 3rd Grade students to discuss present day life as well as explore 17th century culture and lifestyles of the Wampanoag People. Students will have opportunities to examine Wampanoag clothing, toys animal skins and tools and to discuss the seasonality of Native American home and life in New England. Mrs. Kelly describes the program as a "hands-on workshop, designed to excite and inspire students to learn more about the Wampanoag people" and it complements the Grade 3 History and Social Studies Massachusetts Curriculum Framework standards. **Lori Kelly, \$1035.00.**

2009 Wrentham Day Stars (Grade 3). The stars were shining at Wrentham Day – visitors to the **WEST** table at Wrentham Day on September 12, 2009 supported Wrentham Elementary educators and students by buying "Shining Stars" to nominate teachers for a drawing. The winner of the random drawing was Sam Cederbaum, a third grade teacher, who received a **\$250** unrestricted grant for use in his classroom. **Sam Cederbaum, \$250.00.**

2008 Grants (Total Awards \$6,034)

Fall:

From Sap to Sugar: Maple Sugaring (Kindergarten). This grant enabled the entire kindergarten class to attend a winter program at Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary to learn about maple, trees, the history of

maple sugaring, and the production of maple syrup. This program offered kindergarten teachers a way to enhance the existing science curriculum unit on trees. The field trip “offers a natural extension that involves a hands-on experience with a common native tree to our area.” In addition to the scheduled trip, children read about and discussed trees, maple syrup, sugaring and utilized tree growing kits in the classroom. **Helen Nunes, Meredith Lamb & Pam Swartzendruber, \$1841.00.**

Multi-sensory Mathematic Learning Activities (Grade 2). After being awarded an earlier successful grant creating language arts learning activities for student use, several second grade teachers were awarded a grant to design math games. The games are comprised of common items such as counting chips, craft sticks, dry erase surfaces and buttons. These learning activities provide students with “additional opportunities to maximize on student learning outcomes. The activities are designed to reinforce previously taught lessons while students work towards skill mastery.” The teachers acknowledge that students have been “having so much fun using the activities that they are unaware that they are learning and fine tuning their math skills”. **Janice Young, Kristen Pitman, Kelley Christy, Tammy Morgan & Casey Geary, \$858.00.**

World Drumming (Grades 2-6). The focus of this grant was to enhance the existing curriculum of the Wrentham Elementary School Music Department with the addition of the *World Music Drumming Curriculum*. A large variety of African instruments purchased will be used by students in Grades 2 through 6. Each year, over 800 students have the opportunity to participate in authentic sounding African drum ensembles and learn more about other cultures. This curriculum “will help develop students’ listening and critical thinking skills through analyzing music they hear and play.” The results of the ensembles learned in the classroom will be demonstrated at concerts, gym show and workshops. **Donna Cohen, \$2085.00.**

2008 Wrentham Day Stars (Grade 5). The stars were shining at Wrentham Day – visitors to the **WEST** table at Wrentham Day on September 6, 2008 supported Wrentham Elementary educators and students by buying “Shining Stars” to nominate teachers for a drawing. The winner of the random drawing was Arlene Wasdo, a fifth grade teacher, who received a **\$250** unrestricted grant for use in her classroom. **Arlene Wasdo, \$250.**

Spring:

Daily Bite Program (Grade 6). Several 6th Grade classrooms participated in this program designed to be a morning warm-up activity integrating a full range of academic disciplines including language arts, analogies, math, geography and science. The *Daily Bite* is “a rigorous, standards-based academic warm-up lesson created to help teachers get students productively on-task every day.” Students started each day with an overhead transparency activity enabling them to focus and be prepared for daily classroom tasks thereby optimizing productive learning time. **Jodi Fownes, \$500.00.**

Wampanoag: People of the East (Grade 3). The entire 3rd Grade class (190 students) 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 3rd 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. **Lori Kelly, \$500.00.**

2007 Grants (Total Awards \$1,150)

Fall:

Multi-sensory Language Arts Learning Activities (Grade 2). Janice Young and Kristin Pitman, the project directors for the “Creating Multi-sensory Language Arts Learning Activities” stated that the main goal of their project “is to provide the students with the opportunity to participate and engage in purposeful, hands-on, learning experiences, therefore increasing their level of understanding the skill at hand.” And, “additionally, through this project, teachers will be able to address the needs of all learners through differentiated instruction.” Mrs. Young and Mrs. Pitman, each 2nd Grade classroom teachers, will initiate this project in their respective classrooms of the Delaney School and plan on expanding the program to additional 2nd Grade classrooms. **Janice Young & Kristen Pitman, \$500.00.**

Paul Revere Rides To Wrentham (Grade 5). The recipients of this **WEST** grant were Shelly Baglino and Arlene Wasdo, both 5th Grade classroom teachers. Their program “Paul Revere Rides to Wrentham” plans to make “history more personal for the students” by “contracting with *The Paul Revere House Program* in Boston providing an in-school enrichment opportunity.” The program was presented to all eight classes of the 5th Grade, followed by collaboration between the 5th and 3rd Grades. The 5th Grade students partnered with the 3rd Grade students “to share the knowledge obtained in the workshop.” **Shelly Baglino & Arlene Wasdo, \$500.00**

2007 Wrentham Day Stars (Grade 5).

The stars were shining at Wrentham Day – visitors to the **WEST** table at Wrentham Day on September 8, 2007 supported Wrentham Elementary educators and students by buying “Shining Stars” to nominate teachers for a drawing. The winner of the random drawing was Shelly Baglino, a fifth grade teacher, who received a **\$150** unrestricted grant for use in her classroom. **Shelly Baglino, \$150.00.**