



Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools

Mini-Grants Awarded, 2011-12 School Year

The Kids Place -- Create a Book - Tara Irej, Lead Teacher. \$650. A noted children's book author illustrator will visit with all 222 students at The Kids Place to discuss the creative process and how to access creativity. The students will then collaborate to germinate their own "seed" ideas, and grow them into stories to be assembled into a class book.

NPE -- Study Skills – Karen Hirt, Special Education. \$99. "Study Skills and Strategies" program for 5th grade students at NPE. Learning Support students would gain enhanced study skills during the Social Studies/Science period two to three times per week.

NPE -- Wii Gaming – Don Buscaglia, NPE Phys Ed teacher. \$1,200. Interactive video gaming technology will become an integral part of the PE program. Four Wii consoles and four WiiFii games will be used as part of fitness stations to help motivate students to be physically active and set goals for physical activity. The program will also be available to elementary students at WES and SRS during regular PE classes.

SRS -- iPad – Renee Strehle and Liz Corson, 5th grade teachers. \$660. -- An iPad , adapters and apps will help 5th graders at in enrichment, remedial and standard learning situations. The iPad will support learning in all subjects, bringing new capabilities through an interface that is increasing part of students' lives outside school.

SRS -- Kindle -- Kimberly Aronovitz, Learning Support. \$390. Two Kindles and book downloads will enable SRS to help SRS first, second and third graders improve their fluency and reading comprehension. Kindle is a versatile and highly motivating medium for reading skills development.

WES -- Pollock Mural Project – Sarah Ryan, Art Teacher. \$500. The mural will be created this spring on an exterior wall of WES with paint purchased through this grant. Using the techniques of Jackson Pollock, all students in grades 1-5 at WES will create the mural under the direction of Ms. Ryan and other teachers and assistants.

WES All Are Authors – Jennifer Hole, 1st grade teacher, and Jeannette Kaplan, 4th grade teacher. \$600. First and fourth grade students will collaborate to research, write, illustrate and publish a book, and will read it aloud at a publishing party at Helen Kate Furness Free Library at the end of the school year.

WES -- 5th Grade Robotics – Debbie Wile, WES gifted teacher (also Bernadette Kutufaris at NPE and Eric McElroy at SRS). \$1,638. This grant will go toward 6 LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT robot construction and programming kits, to be shared among the three elementary schools. WES and SRS PTOs have already purchased 6 copies of the base set, as well as the NXT software on which the kits run. The 5th Grade Robotics program will prepare students for the middle and high school programs.

SHMS – 32 Smart Response XEs .Brian Fili, Math teacher. \$1,180. 32 SMART Response XE portable devices, to be “shared among all math classes across grade levels . These devices help gauge student understanding of the content, increase student engagement and participation, provide teachers with immediate feedback on student comprehension, and allow teachers to track student performance.”

SHMS -- Logitech Microphone Headsets. Deanna Czyszczon-McGovern, Foreign Language teacher. \$273. Ten Logitech headsets will help teachers improve the speaking skills of all middle school language students. The headsets enable students to access free web-based audio lessons, and are equipped with microphones, so teachers can evaluate and coach students’ diction.

SHMS -- 8th Grade Books – Chris Kimball-Kelly (French teacher) and Wendy Laird (Social Studies teacher). \$400. This grant will purchase a classroom set (in French and English) of copies of I Will Never Be Fourteen Years Old by Francois Lecomte. All 170 8th grade Social Studies students and 66 French students will share reading and lessons from this first-person account of the Holocaust in preparation for the class trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

SHHS --Panther & Google Earth – Page Brown, Technology & Engineering teacher. \$634. Based on the Engineering by Design problem-solving methods, this project of the SHHS Technology & Engineering Education Department will involve students to design and build benches at the northwest corner of the school’s grounds. The area will be used by students as an outdoor gathering place during lunch period. The design will be attractive at ground level; from above, it will form the shape of Strath Haven’s panther logo, as a size that will be apparent to users of Google Earth online satellite imaging.

SHHS Strong GALs. Laurie Bruch, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and Maria Neeson, Special Education teacher. \$200. One of the critical goals of HS educators is supporting self-esteem and self-reliance. This program will focus on recognizing and developing leadership potential and qualities in 9-12 SHHS female students. Weekly meetings and projects will bring these girls together with advisers, teachers and outside guests in weekly sessions and monthly off-site activities. Potential to develop programs and relationships which will continue outside the program.

SHHS --Kindles – English teachers Jeanne Pietrzak (11th grade), Tabitha Sabatino (9th grade) and Miriam Drew (10th grade). \$633. Acquire three Kindle Fires to investigate and implement use of these tablets in 9th, 10 and 11th grade English instruction. Work with a student pilot group to determine what uses of this technology will be most likely and most useful in CP English curriculum and classrooms of the future.

SHHS -- Finch Robots – Kathleen McLead, Computer Science teacher. \$306. Acquire 3 Finches and educate students in the programming and operation of these inexpensive but sophisticated robots. SHHS students in science and programming classes and in the extracurricular computer club will have the opportunity to learn and write programming code in several languages, then see their work put into action by these multifunctional robots.