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**Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools Announces First Grant Recipients**

The Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools has awarded its first grants to teachers in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District (WSSD), funding special projects and teaching tools in technology, language and math, the arts, physical and social development.

Teachers at The Kids Place, in all three WSSD elementary schools, Strath Haven Middle School and Strath Haven High School submitted a total of 29 grant applications, according to Foundation President Frannie Reilly. "Our Grants Committee was thrilled with the innovative and diverse grants applications. The Awards will be made in time for programs to be carried out during the Spring semester of this school year." The funds for the awards were presented to the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District Board of School Directors on Monday, February 27, 2012.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation; its mission is to support innovation and excellence in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, and to enhance the quality of public education by engaging the support and energies of educators, parents, students, alumni and the greater community. The Foundation raises funds with various activities and events throughout the year. If you would like to learn more about the grants and the Foundation, and get involved as a supporter or a member, please visit our website at <http://supportwssd.org/>

Grant recipients at Strath Haven Middle School included:

- \$1,180 to Math teacher Brian Fili for 32 Smart Response 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.
- \$273 to Foreign Language teacher Deanna Czyszczon-McGovern for ten Logitech headsets to 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.
- \$400 to teachers Chris Kimball-Kelly (French) and Wendy Laird (Social Studies) to purchase a classroom French and English set of I Will Never Be Fourteen Years Old by Francois Lecomte. All 170 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Grant recipients at Strath Haven High School included:

- \$634 to Page Brown, Technology & Engineering teacher for materials to be used by students who will 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.

- \$200 to Laurie Bruch, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and Maria Neeson, Special Education teacher for a new program called “Strong GALS”, focusing on recognizing and developing leadership potential and qualities in 9-12 SHHS female students. Regular meetings and projects will bring these girls together with advisers, teachers and outside guests in weekly sessions and monthly off-site activities.
- \$633 to English teachers Jeanne Pietrzak (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Tabitha Sabatino (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and Miriam Drew (10<sup>th</sup> grade), to acquire three Kindle Fires to investigate and implement use of these tablets in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> grade English instruction. Work with a student pilot groups will determine what uses of this technology will be most useful in English curriculum and classrooms of the future.
- \$306 to Kathleen McLead, Computer Science teacher, to 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.

These innovative programs are described in more detail at the Foundation’s website at [supportwssd.org](http://supportwssd.org). Grants to elementary school teachers will be announced in early March.

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In picture from left: School Board President Vincent J. Marriott III; Foundation President Frannie Reilly; Superintendent Richard Noonan