

Dear Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools,

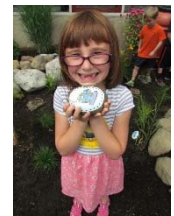
Thank you for your part in making WSSD an outstanding place to teach and learn! As a fourth grade teacher at Wallingford Elementary School, I have always looked for opportunities to enhance the curriculum and forge partnerships for the benefit of my students and the wider school community. Your financial support has made so many extra things possible.

In 2012, you funded the All Are Authors/All Our Authors, a grant that allowed my class with their first grade partner readers in Jenn Hole's class to publish their own mystery book, *The Undersea Mystery*. We took weekly field trips to Helen Kate Furness Library to study mysteries and selected Graeme Base as our mentor author. He inspired us to illustrate and write our own mystery, full of rhyme, hidden codes, and suspense. We then shared this book at a large community celebration. The project promoted the use of the local library and prompted students who did not already have a library card to get one.



In 2014, a grant from the Foundation purchased iPads for a teacher pilot program. Participating teachers used the iPads to enhance literacy instruction and assessment. In particular, teachers were interested in the apps *Confer* and *Engrade*. *Confer* allowed teachers to keep digital notes of reading conferences with individual students; *Engrade* allowed teachers to experiment with an on-line gradebook. I also enjoyed using my iPad to record my daily read aloud with my students, then posting that read aloud to my website for students who missed the read aloud to hear.

In 2015, the Foundation helped support another partner reading project between my class and Ms. Hole's first graders. This time, your support allowed us to build the Leo Leoni rain garden, a garden filled with plants and painted rock animals inspired by the timeless works of author/illustrator Leo Leoni. Your funding, coupled with parent support and expertise, transformed two grassy areas on the WES property into gardens.



Finally, most recently in 2016, the Foundation helped launch the Mural Arts Club, an after school art club that engaged a core group of fifth graders to go through a mural design project with local artist Mary Ellis Noel Hall. Their final design was used in the Artist Residency program where the entire school population painted their design onto giant mural canvases which were then affixed to a prominent corner in WES's hallway. The fifth graders culminated their study of murals with a Mural Arts Program trolley tour of local Philadelphia murals.

I am just one teacher of the many who have received grants through the Foundation. Your mission enables teachers to dream of projects, knowing that there is a way for our dreams to turn into reality. The mini grants you give impact the physical plant of schools, the intellectual lives of children, and the climate of great teaching here in the district. It is not a small thing, and I thank you for your vision, generosity, and mission.

Jeanette Kaplan, Grade 4 Teacher, Wallingford Elementary School