

Milton Foundation for Education

July 18, 2002

The Milton Foundation for Education awarded the Sam Cichello Grants during its recent Board Meeting. "It is with great pleasure that we award this year's Cichello grants for hands-on science activities for Milton's elementary school children," announced MFE President Herb Voigt. "Each school will receive a grant in keeping with the wishes of the Cichello Family."

"This year we opened the grant proposal to any grade level at the schools," added Sam's father, Tony Cichello. "And we also asked teachers to think about grants that could be used in following years so that children coming along could also benefit from the grants, rather than a one shot activity for that year's class. This year's proposals reflected those changes."

The students in the Third Grade at Collicot School will participate in two presentations from "Mad Science" which will complement and enrich their understanding of two units of the third grade science curriculum. They will learn about the three states of matter and their properties, and, in Mineral Madness they will learn about the structure and composition of the Earth and the three types of rocks.

During their unit on weather, Fourth Grade Students at Tucker School will follow weather patterns in Milton with a Wireless Weather Station. The Weather Station instruments will be mounted on the roof of the school and will measure wind speed and direction, rainfall, humidity and temperature. Weather indicators from at least one other geographical site will be collected from either the Internet or through pen pals at a 'sister school.' These local and distant weather patterns will be compared for trends and climate information.

First Graders at Glover School will participate in a "Mad Science" program on sound. As part of their science unit exploring Sound,

the students will experiment with paper cup telephones; discover that vibrations of a tuning fork can become waves in a liquid, and experiment with pitch by vibrating rubber bands.

The students in Grade Five at Glover will participate in a visit from "Mad Science" and learn about physical and chemical changes through the program, Matter of Fact. This program will build on the concepts the students have learned in third grade by providing new experiments for expanding their hands-on science knowledge.

In a multi-grade collaborative effort, the Second and Fifth Grade teachers at Cunningham will lead their students in an observation of the life cycles of plants and animals using a Growth Chart. The mobile Growth Chart will be accessible to all classrooms in the school. In the Second Grade, children will study the life cycles of plants and animals. In addition, students study plants in more detail in Grade Five.

The Sam Cichello Memorial Fund Grant Program was established in memory of Sam Cichello, a second grader at the Tucker Elementary School, who died in 1999 in a tragic playground accident.

Last Halloween, the Annual Milton Monster Dash raised over \$9,000 that was put into the Sam Cichello Grant Program, with a small percentage going toward the MFE's sustaining fund.

The selection committee was comprised of Board Members Jim May, Ada Rosmarin and Sam's parents, Chris and Tony Cichello. Six proposals were received and reviewed, with each being recommended for funding.

The Milton Foundation for Education is an independent, not-for-profit corporation, separate and distinct from the Milton Public Schools. The Foundation was established in 1995 to make possible innovative programs and opportunities that are beyond the reach of the school system's budget. Foundation Trustees are people from the community who donate their time to help the Foundation achieve its goals. The Foundation is currently running its Annual Appeal. Gifts are accepted in the form of cash

contributions, will bequests, insurance policies, memorials and tributes, all of which are tax deductible.

The Foundation has just begun operations on its new web site www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org. Please visit the Milton Foundation for Education web site and discover the many activities the organization have been, and are, doing for our children. The guidelines and application for the Cichello Grants are now on the website. And remember to **SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE**, Saturday evening, November 23rd, 2002 at Lombardo's in Randolph for the MFE's "Celebration for Education."

For more information or to make a contribution, please write to Milton Foundation for Education, 532 Adams Street #162, Milton, MA 02186, or donate on-line! Invest in our children so that they might reach for the world.