

Milton Foundation for Education

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www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org

For Immediate Release
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Milton Foundation for Education Awards Spring Teacher Grants

In what is now a spring tradition, the teachers and staff of the Milton Public Schools were excited to learn about the grants just received from the Milton Foundation for Education. On Tuesday, May 17, members of the MFE Board of Trustees surprised teachers with grants ranging from \$250 to \$1,200 to fund a wide range of educational projects and initiatives.

Twice a year—in the fall and the spring—the MFE accepts proposals from teachers and staff at each of the six public schools in town. Leslie Collins chaired the 2011 Spring Grants Committee for the MFE and was impressed with the proposals her committee received. “This spring we received 34 applications from all schools (pre-K through MHS) and encompassing almost every subject area, including phys ed.” Collins said. “The teachers are amazingly creative in their ideas for engaging all of their students and making learning fun and effective.”

In addition to Collins, the committee included Mary Keohane, Yoshi Belash, Erika Donahue, Meg Kaster, Don Greene, and one teacher from each of Milton’s Public Schools.

Marilyn Decker is the Director of Science K-12 in the Milton Public Schools; this year she developed a grant request to purchase a video microscope and video camera to be used in the high school chemistry and physics classes.

The science teacher was thrilled to learn that her request had been granted. “Scientists are increasingly using real time images and visualization to help understand complex phenomena. The “Visualizing Science” project will enable Milton students to observe and record phenomenon in real time for analysis later,” according to Decker. “In addition, teachers and students will have access to video images as a tool for learning. It’s terrific to have this project be selected for a grant from the MFE.”

In all, the Milton Foundation for Education awarded 21 teacher grants totaling \$14,960 this spring:

At Pierce: John O'Leary (Omnikin balls for cooperative physical education activities); Jeff Stoodt (binoculars for observing birds); Jenifer Gilbert (Roller coasters for designing and executing experiments); Elizabeth MacElhaney (Supplies and plants to expand the science curriculum; Robyn Thompson and Louisa McCarthy (Panels to create an art gallery in the library).

In a shared grant for Pierce and the High School: Richard Guarino, Lisa Veldran, Marion Van Nostrand (Partial funding for a two-day presentation on bullying).

At Tucker: Elizabeth Spitz (English, French and Spanish ebook subscription for the entire school); Debra Fidrocki (Electronic spelling and math flashcards); Amy Chew and Eileen Keaney (Materials to expand the adaptive book library to improve reading skills for students with learning disabilities).

In a shared grant for Tucker and Glover: Soumela Amanatidis-Kotsalidis (Books to help ELL students master speaking and reading English).

In Pre-K: Maureen Butler (Materials to help improve students' fine motor skills).

At Cunningham: Janis Powell (Multi-media science programs and materials); Mary Rooney and Annemarie Calnan (Science learning center supplies for 1st and 2nd grade classes); Sherette Malloy (Science stories for use in 1st and 2nd grade science and language arts).

In grants shared at Cunningham and Collicot: Josh Coben (High-interest library books to attract reluctant readers); Robert Williams (Additional levels of reading fluency software); Emmanuelle Segall, Margaret Sadock, Fatima Bourras-Elzein and Alicia Fessenden (Literacy materials for 1st graders).

In all four elementary schools: Martha Sherman (A student atlas set for each 2nd grade). At Glover: Adina O'Neill (Leveled French reading books for 2nd grade).

At Milton High School: Mary McMullan (High-interest library books to attract reluctant readers); Marilyn Decker (Video microscope and video camera to be used in the high school chemistry and physics classes); Teachers and staff will be able to purchase their items over the summer and will have them in place when students return in the fall.

The Milton Foundation for Education is a private, non-profit organization established in 1996. Its mission is to enhance the quality of education provided to students in the Milton Public Schools. The Foundation generates and distributes financial resources for enrichment programs that would not otherwise be available through the regular school budget. Their goal is to supplement, not supplant the

regular school budget. For more information on Milton Foundation for Education or on the recent teacher grants, please visit www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org.

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