

Record Applications for Fall Grant Program

The Board of Directors of the South Country Education Foundation, Inc. awarded grants totally more than \$27,000 to twenty different projects that will be launched this year district-wide.

A total of twenty-seven applications requesting more than \$50,000 were reviewed by the board. "It was an impossible but necessary task to choose from many worthy applications," said board president Gene Westhoff. SCEF, he said, will re-double its fundraising efforts in light of the ever-increasing interest in Foundation funding for innovative, exciting educational programs.

In its tenth year, the South Country Education Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country School District. The mission of the Foundation is to promote and enhance educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that are outside the South Country School budget. The Foundation seeks to forge a cooperative effort among the members of the community to help expand educational opportunities and to capitalize on the special resources we have available in our district.

Below is a listing of grants approved for the Fall 2008 grant cycle.

Peer Mediation Program

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$2,750

Jennifer Dinkel

Students will learn conflict resolution skills to address conventional interpersonal problems within the school setting. Selected students will attend a sixteen-hour training program offered by the Education and Assistance Corporation (EAC) Peer Mediation training staff. The grant covers EAC training charges for sixteen to twenty-four students and six adults/teachers as well as materials and on-going EAC support.

Fall Under the Spell of Reading

Kreamer Street PTA PARP Program

\$1,250.00

Ann Armann

This is a Parents as Reading Partners program for all students at Kreamer Street. Books are Magic is the theme and the event will begin with a puppet show. The four-week program includes themed books for the students, incentive prizes, decorations and supplies as well as a concluding assembly. The concept is to encourage a love for reading by encouraging parents, teachers and students to work together.

3rd Annual Author-Illustrator Night

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$365.16

Aimee Volk and Susan Gittler

The grant is for books, prizes and other supplies to support the 3rd Annual Author-Illustrator Night for Pre-K to fifth grade students in the district. Long Island authors and illustrators are invited to interact with students and explain the process of creating and illustrating literature.

Bellport Double Dutch PATY
Bellport Boys and Girls Club
\$729.00

Erica Martin

Books and DVDs on teen leadership skills will be used to train eight members of the existing Double Dutch team to reach out through workshops and training programs to area youth and encourage their participation in Double Dutch and other healthy activities. PATY is an acronym for Positive Activity for Today's Youth. The grant will cover the purchase of specific reading materials and a set of ten DVDs titled In Search of Character.

Altered Images
Bellport High School
\$1,882.42

Suzette Fandale, Art Department Chairperson

The Altered Images grant will make it possible for ninety photography students at Bellport High School to study alternative photo techniques and create original pieces of artwork using a variety of photographic materials. Students will use and explore various toners, emulsions and cameras.

The Postcard Exchange
Kreamer Street Elementary School
\$750.00

Maryanne Brandi, Maryann McCann, Denise Yee, Pat Mischler and Christine Belford

Third-grade students at Kreamer Street will exchange postcards with students in a rural school in South Carolina and an urban school in Florida. Each exchange will revolve around a thematic unit focusing on different areas of their local communities. The grant will cover the cost of postage, card stock for student-made postcards, art supplies, maps and software for artistic editing of photographs.

Structural Painting
Bellport High School
\$2,335.70

Lisa S. Conk

Approximately forty-five advanced art students at Bellport High School will study a variety of building and bridge architectural styles. They will view these structures first hand and document their subject matter in digital photographs. They will continue the theme in the classroom, embark on a new painting experience and work in the style of Antonio Masi, a New York City painter who focuses on bridges.

Jewelry Making with Fused Glass Pendants
Bellport Middle School
\$1,500.00

Stacey Patanjo

Local artist Julianna Kirk will work with forty-six seventh-grade students enrolled in the gifted and talented program in the making of fused glass pendants. The two-week workshop involves creative exploration and problem solving skills required to design and construct a three dimensional piece of art. Students will acquire jewelry-making skills and learn how glass is fused in a kiln.

The National Circus Project
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$2,145.00

Nicole May-Parente

Two professional circus artists/instructors from The National Circus Project will offer workshops and assembly programs to fourth grade students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. Workshop sessions will be conducted in age-appropriate groups for fourth graders in ball juggling, scarf juggling, plate spinning, balance skills and other types of manipulations and spinning. The concept is to promote physical education skills that are non-competitive and self-motivating. The National Circus Project is the field division of Circus Education Specialists, Inc. a non-profit, tax-exempt cultural arts organization with a mission to preserve and promote the traditional circus arts through education and entertainment.

Student Development of Bi-Lingual Dictionaries

Kreamer Street Elementary School
\$1,300.00

Maryanne Brandi, Fran Dunton, Christine Daniels, Jill Fedge

First grade and ESL students will work together to create English/Spanish picture dictionaries and flashcards that will utilize and enhance the district technology and align with New York State Learning Standards. This project will enable students to work together to become familiar with the English and Spanish languages.

Science Innovation

Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$675.00

Aimee Volk and Stephanie Maffei

Two fourth-grade inclusion classes will participate in hands-on science enrichment programs administered by the Long Island Science Center. Instructors from the center will give lessons on the physics of toys, electricity and magnets and simple machines using Lego engineering. The students will be exposed to scientific equipment such as the Van de Graaff generator and the Tesla coil. The grant will pay for the instructors.

Students as Cool Tool Creators

Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1,821.86

Aimee Volk and Eileen White

Students in four fourth-grade classrooms will travel to the Long Island Children's Museum to visit the ToolBox gallery. With museum staff, they will participate in an interactive workshop focusing on science and technology. They will learn how to construct a simple, three-dimensional machine. They will also have a guided tour of the museum.

Garden Club

Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$150.00

Peter Cisek

This grant will cover the cost of purchasing mums, hay bales, pumpkins and cornstalks to be used by the Garden Club to beautify the school grounds.

Science Club
Bellport Middle School
\$1475.70

Matthew Gualtieri and Sharyn Plotnick

The Science Club will use this grant to pay entrance fees to the Science Olympiads and to purchase team shirts and a Quiz Machine Buzzer System that will simulate competition conditions. They will also use a portion of the funds to purchase technological and experimental supplies as well as fuel cell vehicle equipment and other teaching materials.

Honor Roll
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$845.25

Shannon Broderick and Donna Warshaw

Students are encouraged to improve their grades and show good character in this program. Student academic progress is represented by three Honor Roll designations: Gold, Silver and High 5 Club. Students must display good behavior and good character to earn a spot on any of the lists. SCEF funds will be used to purchase medals, ribbons and certificates for qualifying students.

1-800-School-to-Home-Connect
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$1,599.96

Jo Ann Tomaszewski and Kimberly Esposito

Kindergarten and first-grade students participating in early intervention services will be provided with white boards, markers, magnetic alphabets and special books to take home and use with their parents to improve literacy and encourage a love of reading. Parents will be given instruction in workshops at the school on how to encourage and support reading efforts of their children at home. The grant will pay for materials and supplies.

BNL Visiting Scientist
Bellport High School
\$2,800.00

Dr. Ann Ballester

Regents Chemistry students will learn from visiting Brookhaven National Laboratory scientists about a technique developed at BNL for the remediation of soils and wastes contaminated with toxic metals. The program uses hands-on laboratory techniques and will permit students to experience a real world application of chemistry and its use to help solve environmental pollution issues.

Open Space Stewardship Project
Bellport High School
\$2,994.50

John Romashko III

The marine biology and environmental science classes at Bellport High School will become stewards of a 30-acre parcel of land donated to the South Country school district. They will collect data on the parcel and share that data with Open Space Stewardship Project, a part of the GREEN ("Gaining Research Experience in the Environment") Institute of the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The grant covers the cost of computer software compatible with OSSP criteria as well as notebooks and waders.