

Fall 2009 Grant Awards

The board of the South Country Education Foundation awarded 10 grants during the fall grant cycle to projects such as poetry, life skills, strength training and electric violins. A total of 25 projects were reviewed before the final selections were announced.

Friends and Family

Suzette Fandale

Bellport High School

\$2,939.94

Ninety students in the photography program at Bellport High School will study portrait photography with a local portrait photographer creating original pieces of artwork using a variety of materials and equipment. They will also study the history and styles of portrait photography as well as digital photography, and they will explore lighting techniques using black and white film. The grant covers the cost of a SLR digital camera, inkjet print cartridges, lamps and floodlights.

Bellport Electric Strings

James Uzzi

Bellport High School

\$2,773.00

This grant will fund the purchase of a Wood Electric Violin and a Wood 5 string Electric Violin to be used by students in the orchestra program at Bellport High School. This project coincides with a workshop and performance project funded by the Becker/Gambles Music Committee that ends in a performance by noted electric violinist Mark Wood and Bellport High School students in February. The performance is part of a two-day workshop with Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood has developed a series of electrified string instruments that are growing rapidly in their accessibility and use throughout public schools, colleges and universities.

Keep a Poem in Your Pocket

Jo Ann Tomaszewski, Kimberly Esposito,

Carmela Quirk, Nicole O'Leary

Brookhaven Elementary School

\$1,850.00

Students at Brookhaven Elementary School will enjoy a visit from popular poet Darren Sardelli who is known for his creativity and humor. The organizers also see the project as a way to offer additional opportunities for struggling readers to express themselves through poetry. The grant pays for Mr. Sardelli's one-day visit as well as the purchase of 140 copies of his books of poetry for remedial students.

Home Literacy Connection

Jeanine Madrigales

Verne W. Critz Elementary

\$500.00

Home Literacy Connection for English Language Learners and Their Families would create a bilingual

book exchange. The program would include books in English and books in the students's native language in order to promote literacy conversation between the students and their parents. To ensure that the program touches upon all student learners, books on tape in English would be available for early readers. The majority of the grant funds would be used to purchase books in Spanish, Bengali and Urdu.

Life Skills

Danielle Gulotta

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$500.00

This grant will fund a variety of field trips for students with multiple disabilities. The goal is to use the trips as an opportunity to re-enforce life skills such as appropriate manners, hygiene, restaurant behavior, grocery shopping and money identification.

Garden Club

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$300.00

This grant will fund the purchase of a garden mini-tiller, hoses, pumpkins, hay bales and mums for the existing Garden Club at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. The Garden Club is responsible for a new 600 square foot garden in the school courtyard as well as for other beautification projects.

Dancing Classrooms

Aimee Volk, L. Zaccaro

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$2,500.00

Fifth grade students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School will have the opportunity to participate in the Dancing Classrooms program of the American Ballroom Theater. The classes will be given twice a week as part of the school day. The program is designed to help students learn to dance while developing qualities of showing respect for others, among other things. The program will run from January to March and has additional funding from the nonprofit dance organization CoDanceCo Foundation, the Frank P. Long PTA Cultural Program and New York State Assemblywoman Patricia Eddington.

Science Club

Matthew Gualtieri, Sharon Plotnick

Bellport Middle School

\$1,000.00

The Bellport Middle School Science Club will use this grant to pay for admission to the Science Olympiad and to purchase team T-shirts, technological and experimental supplies and books. The Foundation has funded other Science Club projects, and the students have performed well at several scientific competitions.

Kettlebell Training

Charles Maragiolio

Bellport High School

\$652.70

This grant is for the purchase of six kettlebells in a variety of weights to be used by male students in grades 9-12 to improve their muscular and cardiovascular strength. Kettlebells are Russian cast iron weights that are considered the ultimate tool for extreme all-around fitness. They will be used during the wellness unit of physical education classes.

How Did That Sound?

Brian Dinger

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

\$2,000.00

This grant provides funding for the purchase of computer equipment and software to be used to make and edit digital recordings of children's musical performances at the Verne W. Critz Elementary School. Recorded performances of older children will be used as a teaching tool for younger children, according to the grant writer. The new equipment will also be used to enhance assemblies, school functions and slide shows.