

SCEF Awards More Than \$11,000 in Spring Grants

Flowers will bloom and chimes will sound in school buildings of the South Country School District with the approval in May of eight innovative grants approved by the board of the South Country Education Foundation. Below is a short description of the grants

Outdoor Classroom

Jessica Weinberg
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$2,000.00

The Courtyard Committee at Brookhaven Elementary School will create an outdoor classroom and composting site on the school grounds. Students will plant their own vegetables and learn about composting, health, conservation and citizenship. The funds will be used to purchase materials such as lumber and chicken wire to build a compost pile, along with other materials such as seeds, plants and fruit trees for the garden. Additional funding is being sought through the Welch's Harvest Grant program.

Welcome to Brookhaven!

Michelle Procida and Merrill Banks
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$1,675.00

In an effort to welcome mid-year transfer students to the Brookhaven Elementary School, students and teachers will create a book using student artwork to help explain basic school information. This illustrated book will be given to incoming students prior to their first day. The grant will provide the funding for printing 125 copies of the book.

Contrast and Tone: Artist in Residence

Michelle Procida
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$1,500.00

Students will explore various drawing techniques with artist Lorena Salcedo-Watson using a wide range of drawing materials. The artist will take up residency in the school for one week in January 2012.

Technology: Smart Document Cameras

Cari Negri
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1,398.00

This grant is for the purchase of two SMART Document Cameras to be used by fourth and fifth grade students. The cameras, which quickly complete reproduction tasks, will add spontaneity to the classroom and spark an interest in learning, especially for disabled students and others with learning disabilities.

Tone Chimes

Michelle L. Stiriz
Kreamer Street Elementary School
\$1,950.53

First graders, whose curriculum includes hand bells, will add tone chimes to their musical repertoire this year. The purchase of two sets of chromatic choir chimes, known as tone chimes, will enable students to become fluent in their reading of musical notation while expanding their performance experience.

Woodworker's Club

Peter Cisek
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1,000.00

Birdfeeders, foot stools and bat houses are some of the items constructed in the Woodworkers' Club at F. P. Long Intermediate School. Approximately 135 children participate in the popular club which meets before classes begin. The club has been in existence for 10 years and students find it an enjoyable way to hone their mathematic and artistic skills.

Garden Club

Peter Cisek
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$750.00

Fourth and fifth grade students develop an understanding of environmental issues, measurement and mathematics skills, organizational and project management skills by participating in the F. P. Long Intermediate School's Garden Club. Club members have made many improvements to the school's courtyard by planting and tending perennial gardens, vegetable beds and a small fruit orchard. This grant will enable the purchase of plants, including six more fruit trees and additional garden supplies.

Bellport Youth Ensemble Summer Clinic

Deborah and John Kocay
174 South Country Road, Bellport,
\$1,000.00

A grant from SCEF will cover a portion of the staff honorariums for the Bellport Youth Ensemble Summer Clinic in its inaugural season. This new program will give local students an opportunity to continue with instrumental and vocal studies during the summer. The two week program will commence this August. There will be a fee to participate in the summer clinic but scholarships will be offered.