

2007 Fall Grant Cycle
Innovative and Exciting
More than \$22,500 awarded

The South Country Education Foundation awarded more than \$22,500 in grants to programs designed to motivate students in areas ranging from academics and artistic development to wellness.

Board President Eugene Westhoff said, "This was one of our most exciting grant cycles." He noted that the grant committee reviewed 24 grant applications, the largest number presented in the history of the Foundation.

What follows is a summary of the grants approved by the foundation board.

South Country Concerts, Ltd.
\$600

The grant is for a program titled "The Teddy Bear and the Animals" suitable for primary school aged children and will introduce them to classical music. The program will be performed at the South Country Library by musicians on the violin, cello and piano.

Improvisational Workshop Michael Douglas Jones Companion Star Inc.
\$1,600

Mr. Jones will give a singing and acting workshop for students ages 12-18. The improvisational workshop will be held at the Frank P. Long Elementary School.

"Slavery in New York" Exhibit
Mary Haines, Director
South Country Library
\$750

The library is to receive this grant to pay for the shipping and handling of the New York Historical Society's popular "Slavery in New York" exhibit. The eight panels in this traveling exhibit will be on display from mid-January to mid-March and the library will host programs that compliment the exhibit and attract viewers, particularly school age children and teens.

"Wintuk" for ESL Students
Loraine McCray, ESL Specialist
Bellport Middle School
\$1,300

Ms. McCray will take 20 English as Second Language students to New York City for the Cirque du Soleil production "Wintuk." The show portrays a boy named Wintuk and his quest to find snow and adventure. Ms. McCray feels the trip will be a brilliant culminating activity for her winter/snow theme. Many of the students in the ESL program come from climates where snow is an extraordinary event.

"Smart Board = Smart Children"
Robert Galasso and Colleen Murphy
Bellport High School
\$2,760

The applicants will receive this grant for the purchase of a digital white board (called a Smart Board) and software. The grant, titled "Smart Board = Smart Children," will take advantage of a popular technology tool to demonstrate math concepts.

Collage Artist Workshop
Juliette Marotta
Bellport High School
\$900

The grant will fund a three-day workshop with collage artist, Amy Ernst. BHS students will create collages using techniques demonstrated by Ms. Ernst and will visit her New York City studio.

Science Olympiads and Science Bowl
Matthew Gualtieri and Sharyn Plotnik
Bellport Middle School Science Club
\$1,462.70

This grant will fund official buzzers, team shirts and other supplies as well as entry fees for the Science Olympiads and the Science Bowl.

Art Out East
Juliette Marotta
Bellport High School
\$650

This grant will fund transportation and registration for BHS art students to participate in the "Art Out East" program where students will visit and work with artists in their studios for the day using the techniques and media of the mentoring artist.

Dance, Dance Revolution
Alfred Nolan
Frank P. Long
\$1,032.70

The foundation will fund the purchase of 12 practice pads for the existing Dance, Dance Revolution which is an alternative exercise program combining music, dance and exercise.

Take-Home Math Kits
Connie Havens, Theresa Palermo
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$918.05

This grant will fund take-home kits where students can teach others how to play a variety of games and activities that coincide with the New York State Math Standards. The concept behind the project is that teaching a math game to others enhances one's own mastery of the concepts.

"Fear Math No More"
Connie Havens, Theresa Palermo
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1,128.42

"Fear Math No More" will help train and equip ten special education teachers in instructional techniques including math games that will help them in the classroom.

"The Doors of Bellport"
Suzette Fandale
Bellport High School
\$2,547.35

40 art students at Bellport High School will study the architecture of Bellport Village and participate in the creation of a poster depicting "The Doors of Bellport." Students will use digital photography, Photoshop techniques and design skills acquired in a workshop setting with graphic designer and BHS graduate Cheryl Steinhauer. The funds will be used solely for the purchase of materials and equipment, including three digital cameras.

2nd Annual Math Olympics
Aimee Volk, Connie Havens, Kristin
Christie and Lisa Nabi
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$735.95

This grant will purchase materials and supplies for the 2nd Annual Math Olympics: an event that enhances students' mathematical abilities in measurement, addition, subtraction, estimation and reasoning.

2nd Annual 24 Game Tournament
Aimee Volk, Connie Havens, Kristin
Christie and Lisa Nabi
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$942.38

This grant will fund the 2nd Annual 24 Game Tournament. The purpose of the 24 Game is to strengthen mental mathematics and problem solving skills. The grant will be used to purchase stop watches and 24 Game tournament mats as well as other supplies.

2nd Annual Author-Illustrator Night
Aimee Volk and Susan Gittler
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$817.53

More than 35 successful authors and illustrators of children's books will focus on the value of reading at the 2nd Annual Author-Illustrator Night. The evening is for all district students, Pre-K through Grade 5, and their families.

Digital Alphabet Book
Christine Belford, Maryanne Brandi,
Jill Fedge, Camilla Ciervo and
Michelle Stiriz
Kreamer Street Elementary
\$2,464

The project involves students in two grade levels who will collaborate and create their own books in digital and hard copy formats. Students in both grade levels will learn how to work together, cooperate, respect each others' opinions and create an alphabet book that can be used by all classes in the district. The grant will cover the cost of digital cameras, software, book binding materials and other supplies.

Pan Caribbean Music Festival
Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area
\$900

This grant will cover workshop fees when members of the Steel Drum Band travel to the Pan Caribbean Music Festival. The band consists of 20 musicians, ages five to 20, who have delighted the community with their calypso beat.

Parents as Reading Partners
SDM Committee
Verne W. Critz Elementary School
\$1000

This grant will fund the purchase of items relating to the Parents as Reading Partners program such as incentive parties, awards, bookmarks and pencils. The program encourages parents and students to read together for ten to 20 minutes a day as a way of promoting reading as an enjoyable life-long skill.