

SCEF funds more than \$19,000 in Fall Grants

The board of the South Country Education Foundation, Inc. acted at its October meeting to fund more than \$19,000 in grants to innovative educational initiatives in the South Country School District. Reading programs, field trips and projects requiring the purchase of a wide variety of special equipment were among the funded grants.

"It's not our goal to keep a large bank balance. We love giving money away and this cycle of grant requests was one of the most interesting we've seen," said board president Mary Mojallali. Below is a listing of the most recent awardees.

Master the Art of Reading

JAnn Armann, Kreamer Street PTA

\$2,000.00

SCEF will partially grant this request to bring the popular artist and author Richard Hight to Kreamer Street Elementary for a kick-off assembly of this year's Parents as Reading Partners project. Books will also be purchased with the balance of the grant.

Fused Glass Workshop

Barbara Gallagher, Bellport High School

\$1,250.00

Forty-six students in the Bellport High School arts program will attend a 2 1/2 hour workshop with local artist, Julianna Kirk, learning how to design, cut, fuse and fire glass. Each student will create two pieces of fused art. The workshop will be followed by a six week, in-class, glass fusion project.

"West Side Story" Conflict Resolution Strategies

Monica Pullows-Tetuan, Diane Bavosa

Bellport High School

\$1,942.50

Thirty students enrolled in the Bellport High School English as a Second Language program will attend a Broadway production of West Side Story as an extension experience to reading Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. These experiences will culminate in a research project in which students will evaluate methods of conflict resolution that may have changed the violent endings to these stories.

Inspiring Life-Long Learners Through Real Life Experience

Danielle Gulotta

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$800.00

Students with multiple disabilities will take a number of field trips to build background knowledge of life experiences. The grant will fund admission and transportation for these students to visit a grocery store, Atlantis Marine World Aquarium in Riverhead, Friendly's Restaurant and the Holtsville Park and Ecology Center.

Drumming and Drum Circles

Carmine Pastore and Dave Moir

Bellport Middle School

\$1,890.00

This grant provides for the purchase of ten African djembe drums to be used by 7th grade students enrolled in the General Music class. These instruments are particularly appealing to students at this age level and provide a valid musical experience for a student population not involved in a performing group.

Introduction to Robotics

Jaime Canjura, Bellport Middle School

\$2,000.00

This project will provide 7th and 8th grade technology students with an exciting program that will build their understanding of robotic concepts and develop their math and science technology skills. Guided by a team coach and mentor, students will use Lego Mindstorms NXT to design and build robots that meet specific requirements and solve specific challenges.

Exploring Multimedia

Jaime Canjura, Bellport Middle School

\$1,900.00

Exploring Multimedia is a grant designed to enhance participating 8th grade students' technical knowledge through the creation of digital films using camcorders and digital software.

Canoes for SEQ

Elise Budd, Bellport High School

\$1,789.86

Students for Environmental Quality, an extracurricular group at Bellport High School, will purchase two canoes and accessory equipment including personal flotation devices to be used for activities on Beaver Dam Creek and Carmans River. This will enhance the club members' sense of environmental awareness and will be used by current and future members of SEQ.

Authentic Research Class

William R. Corbett, Bellport High School

\$2,000.00

This grant is for the purchase of two Vernier LabQuest deluxe packages to be used by high school students as part of a group Authentic Research class project. The students will observe, measure and interpret local climate data with this sophisticated equipment.

Wii Fit for Adaptive PE

Charles Maragioglio,

Bellport High School

\$299.98

This grant is for the purchase of the Nintendo Wii console and Wii Fit Plus with a balance board bundle to be used by high school students in adaptive physical education. The Wii Fit program focuses on the improvement of strength, coordination and balance; all integral components of the adaptive physical education program.

Class Brass

Valerie Gilliam Esnes,

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,250.00

A professional brass quintet will offer a master class on each instrument and participate in a performance for fourth and fifth graders at Bellport Middle School. The project is designed to build upon beginning skills and expose students to the expertise and talents of professional musicians.

Dancing Classrooms

Stephanie Rucinski,

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$2,000.00

This grant will cover a portion of this program for fifth graders at the intermediate school. The entire class will attend twice weekly dance classes building social awareness, confidence and self-esteem through the practice of social dance. The program is funded with contributions from the Frank P. Long PTA Cultural Program, the Knapp-Swezey Foundation and SCEF.

Time Travel

Aimee Volk and Cheryl Ittig,

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$624.00

Fourth graders in Ms. Ittig's and Mrs. Volk's classrooms will visit the Long Island Museum of American Art, History & Carriages in Stony Brook and experience life on Long Island in 1850. They will learn about farm life, practice chores using historic tools, ride in a farm wagon, and study mid-century culture. The grant covers admissions fees and transportation.

Science Club

Matthew Gualtieri and Sharyn

Plotnick, Bellport Middle School

\$1,255.00

This grant will enable the Science Club to enter the Science Olympiad and to purchase the required team shirts and the experimental supplies, books, materials and equipment to construct a solar vehicle. At weekly meetings, students work on experiments and design projects to hone their problem-solving techniques and analytical reasoning skills in preparation for competition.