

Grants of \$14,000 Awarded This Spring

The board of the South Country Education has awarded eleven grants in the fields of arts, technology, and character development for the Spring 2010 cycle. Several of these provide enhanced opportunities for students with special needs.

Be Cool, Be Safe

Donna C. Warshaw

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,025.00

Fourth and fifth grade students will learn to tame their tempers, prevent violence, stop bullying, build positive self images and celebrate their differences by using skills explained during an assembly program titled "Be Cool, Be Safe." The assembly offered by Encore Performing Arts, Inc. will include music, circus activities and other tools to help students develop creative methods to maintain harmony at school and safety in the outside world.

Kids and Technology: SMART Board Learning Equipment

Aimee Volk

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,996.00

This grant pays for the purchase of two SMART Document Cameras and two SMART Slates to compliment SMART Boards already in the classroom. These new tools will help teachers and students retrieve information from technological sites as well as enhance the use of computer programs. The equipment will be shared with other classrooms in the building and become the property of the school.

Explore Reading Bags

Cathie Morgani & Victoria Williams

Kreamer Street Elementary School

\$1,000.00

Reading reinforcement materials will be sent home in special Explore Reading bags with funds from this grant. These materials will be given to students considered to be at-risk in comparison to their peers and who are receiving reading services. Students will be able to: practice letter identification; reinforce their knowledge of beginning, medial and ending sounds; enhance rhyming and phonetic awareness; and learn decoding skills with their parents.

Vegetable/Herb Garden

Diane M.C. Coleman

Bellport High School

\$1,000.00

Funds from this grant will help support the students in the Special Education Life Skills Program who will plant, maintain and harvest a vegetable and herb garden in the high school atrium. They will learn to cook and improve the flavor of foods with herbs they have grown. The project also includes the composting of cafeteria waste to produce nutrients for the garden.

Motor Development and Fitness Fun

Kerry Hogan

Kreamer Street Elementary School

\$1,975.63

Autistic students at Kreamer Street Elementary School will use the Nintendo Wii system to promote an interest in recreational sports, individual fitness and team sports. The Wii is known to help individuals with balance, speed, agility and individual fitness. The program will be supervised by physical therapists who work with autistic children. The grant will fund the Nintendo Wii system, the games, projector, Apple iPod and other items. The system will be shared with other classrooms in the building and become the property of the school.

Woodworker's Club

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$750.00

This grant is for the continued support of the Woodworker's Club which attracts 135 energetic students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. Students learn to construct bird feeders, bird houses, foot stools, book holders and bat houses. The grant also funds Advanced Woodworker's Club for fifth graders who excelled as fourth grade participants and now work on more intricate, elaborate projects. Funds will be applied to the purchase of saw blades, screws, sandpaper, wood stain, nails, and a table saw all of which become the property of the school.

Garden Club

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$750.00

This grant supports the Frank P. Long Intermediate School Garden Club which for the past nine years has been responsible for the beautification of the school's courtyard. The garden provides learning experiences for club members as well as for the entire student body. Plans for this year include planting a perennial garden and an orchard consisting of apple, fig, and pear trees as well as blueberry bushes.

Finding Inspiration in Nature

Michelle Procida

Brookhaven Elementary School

\$1,500.00

Artist and printmaker Lorena Saicedo-Watson will hold a five-day residency workshop at Brookhaven Elementary School in January 2011. She will share drawing techniques and discuss nature as an approach to studying shape, texture, line, and color. Techniques for using a variety of materials such as graphite pencils, colored pencils and charcoals will be explored. The project will conclude with an art show in June.

'Clickers' for Educating a New Generation

Maryanne Brandi, Laura Earl

All District Elementary Schools

\$1,934.00

This grant will provide funding for 32 Classroom Participation System 'clickers' and a portable interactive tablet. The 'clickers' operating similarly to a television remote will permit students to interact with a classroom computer or SMART Board which has been shown to enhance student participation in classroom lessons. The 'clickers' and tablet, as property of the school district, will be moved from building to building according to a schedule designed by the staff.

Encaustic Painting with Jeremy Penn

Lisa S. Conk

Bellport High School

\$1,792.06

This grant will pay for a workshop offered to 25 advanced art students who will study encaustic painting with New York artist Jeremy Penn. Penn works in encaustics, a mixture of pigment and hot wax, building up countless layers of wax and then strategically removing parts creating a detailed sculptural effect. Funds are also being provided to purchase heat guns, plywood, electric griddles and paints.

"Kids' Club" Arts & Crafts

Lighthouse Mission,

1543 Montauk Hwy

\$500.00

The Lighthouse Mission "Kids Club" Program is a character-building program for district students living at poverty level in the HELP Suffolk homeless shelter. This grant will help fund arts and crafts supplies for lessons focusing on a character skill such as kindness. The program meets every Saturday and is for at-risk children, ages 4 to 12.