

SCEF Awards More Than \$16,000 in Fall Grants

Literacy, gyroscopes, fashion funk and hunger were among the topics discussed in funding submissions by school teachers and community organizations in the South Country Education Foundation's fall grant cycle. More than \$16,000 was awarded to 13 applicants.

Recycling Club

Peter Cisek, Frank P. Long
Intermediate School
\$216.00

The Recycling Club is asking for funds to purchase trash bags, scales, storage cans and books to be used in their collection and quantification of recyclables at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. The club has been in existence for five years and students have expanded their skills in weighing, measuring and charting of waste products.

Book Collector

Aimee Volk, Lisa Nabi
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$235.70

Classroom book titles, narratives, cover pages and reviews can now be uploaded through a unique library system that catalogues and classifies books within each classroom at the intermediate school. The information is stored and organized in a program called Book Collector. The organizational program makes it possible for students to preview a particular section as they make their book selection. The grant pays for the purchase of the program and the applicants feel it will support existing reading programs in the building.

Wilson Fluency Program

Annamarie O'Sullivan
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$561.00

This grant is for the purchase of the Wilson Fluency/Basic Program to boost reading comprehension and fluency for struggling young readers. Wilson Fluency/Basic is a supplemental fluency program for student in the early grades. The program is proven to help students become fluent readers by providing them with instruction and oral reading practice.

Amazing Author Visit

Annamarie O'Sullivan, Dorothy Durand
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$2,000.00

Children's Author Jerry Pallotta will visit the Brookhaven Elementary School and talk on his special message, "Read a Zillion Books!" Mr. Pallotta is the author of more than 22 books on nonfiction topics such as reading, writing, math and science. The grant will pay his performance fee as well as his travel expenses.

Gyroscope Exhibit

Helen Geraghty
Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society
\$1,000.00

This grant is intended to improve the signage for the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society's gyroscope exhibit. According to officials for the historical society, the museum has a treasure trove of gyroscopes, gyrocompasses and related materials. The signage will make the collection understandable for young visitors. Volunteers at the Brookhaven National Laboratory have offered their services to produce a video explaining the operation and function of gyroscopes.

Junk to Fashion Funk

Barbara Gallagher
Bellport High School
\$1,990.17

More than 30 students in the Bellport High School Fashion Program will work collaboratively to create games and accessories out of re-cycled materials. The end products are called "Trashion," according to the grant writer, and such creations offer students the opportunity to connect, conceptualize and receive art in a creatively re-used form. The grant covers the cost of materials such as glue guns, drills, hacksaws and mannequins.

"Empty Bowl" Project

Mary Trentalange
Bellport High School
\$2,000.73

In a series of after school workshops, students, community members, artists and potters will learn to create clay bowls and woven baskets to be sold at the first Empty Bowl Dinner in the spring when community members are gathered to contemplate hunger. The proceeds from the sale of the bowls and baskets will be turned over to the Lighthouse Mission and earmarked for needy families. The grant pays for the purchase of clay, glazes and other materials used for the creation of the bowls.

Technology for Literacy

Monica Pullows-Tetuan,
Diane Bavosa
Bellport High School
\$1,860.59

Reading vocabulary and comprehension skills for English as Second Language students will be enhanced with the use of the Kindle Fire electronic reader. Special features of the Kindle Fire are its ability to access the web giving students without home computers the opportunity to complete research assignments that are part of their reading curriculum. In addition, the electronic reader has the ability to improve reading fluency with the text-to-speech capability. This is a great learning tool for English language learners whose reading skills often lag behind speaking and listening skills. The grant pays for eight Kindle Fire E-Readers and an Amazon gift card for purchase of materials.

Community Learning

Danielle Gulotta
Kreamer Street, Frank P. Long,
Bellport Middle School
\$1,000.00

Students with multiple disabilities will participate in real life experiences that foster language and communication skills through a series of field trips. The goal of the project is to create opportunities needed to become active members of society. The field trips will supplement classroom exercises in life skills instruction focused around manners, hygiene, appropriate restaurant behavior, money exchange and other topics. Field trips to a grocery store, restaurants and a mall are part of the grant. The grant pays for transportation, admission and meals.

SEQ Bottle Recycling Program

Samuel Hoff
Bellport High School
\$988.23

Students for Environmental Quality will expand the high school's recycling program by adding recycling bins to the outdoor athletic fields and practice areas. SCEF funds will pay for the purchase of five indoor recycling bins, three outdoor recycling containers and bin liners.

The Fab Way to Comprehend

Stephanie Pirozzi
Kreamer Street
Elementary School
\$274.73

An engaging team of puppets with names like Clara the Clarifier and Sammy Summarizer will help students improve their reading comprehension skills and gain meaning from written text. The grant provides for the purchase of the puppets.

RAZ-Kids.com

Sean Clark, Victoria Williams,
Maryanne Brandi, Katherine Frankie,
Kreamer Street, Brookhaven and
Verne W. Critz, Elementary Schools
\$1,978.35

RAZ-Kids.com, an interactive online reading program, will allow first and second grade students to independently practice their reading skills at their ability level. The program allows the teacher to select appropriate text for each child and effectively monitor student progress. The program also lets teachers communicate with parents. The grant pays for RAZ-Kids subscriptions for all first and second grade classes in the district.

Belle Lumiere

Suzette Fandale
Bellport High School
\$1,978.36

Approximately 45 high school photography students will study traditional and unique lighting techniques on a field trip to the Staley-Wise Gallery in Soho where they will be exposed to the work of master photographers. They will then create their own pieces of artwork using a variety of photographic and lighting equipment as part of a unit of study called "Belle Lumiere." The emphasis will be on analyzing and recreating lighting techniques used by the masters. The grant pays for train fare to the gallery, lighting equipment and supplies to be used in the creation of the original art.