

SCEF APPROVES MORE THAN \$19,000 IN GRANTS

In addition to the over \$72,000 awarded in our Fall Grant Cycle, we are awarding over \$19,000 in the Winter Grant Cycle, a total of \$91,000. Thank you for being such a wonderful, giving community!

2025 Winter Grant Cycle Awards

THE ADVENTURES OF PETER RABBIT

Jaqueline Ward

Verne W Critz Elementary School

\$1,614.00

72 kindergarten students from Verne Critz Elementary School will attend a field trip to see *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit* at Theater Three in Port Jefferson in Spring of 2025. The performance will enhance students' knowledge of performing arts and literature.

OCEANOGRAPHY; EXPLORE THE WATERS AROUND US

Jennifer Klouse, Kaitlin Fitzgerald and Ashley Sagistano

Verne W Critz Elementary School

\$2,222.00

Oceanography: Explore the Waters Around Us grant will give the 3rd grade students the opportunity to work with a marine biologist to discover the ocean habitats that surround Long Island. The charter boat will take the students to the Fire Island Inlet to participate in multiple activities that support the 3rd grade Science curriculum. Not only does this amazing field trip teach the children about ocean habitats, but they will study the tides, examine plankton tows, discover bottom dredging and so much more!

OCEANOGRAPHY; EXPLORE THE WATERS AROUND US

Melissa Fels and Alissa Connell

Verne W Critz Elementary School

\$2,082.00

Oceanography: Explore the Waters Around Us grant will give the 3rd grade students the opportunity to work with a marine biologist to discover the ocean habitats that surround Long Island. The charter boat will take the students to the Fire Island Inlet to participate in multiple activities that support the 3rd grade Science curriculum. Not only does this amazing field trip teach the children about ocean habitats, but they will study the tides, examine plankton tows, discover bottom dredging and so much more!

THE BEACH IS THEIR HOME

Heather Nolan, Caroly Kelly and Anthony Melfi

Verne W Critz Elementary School

\$1,370.00

1st grade students at Verne Critz will take a field trip to Watch Hill to study the living environment. Students will explore the beach to talk about how sea life survives. They will discuss the environment - including the barrier reef, sea shells, sea turtle nesting areas, and the water itself. Funding is for the cost of busing to the ferry.

LONG ISLAND AQUATIC LIFE AND WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Donna Cimino, Christine McMahon

Verne W Critz Elementary School

\$2,022.00

Second graders will attend a field trip to the Long Island Aquarium where they will be engaged in interactive displays and programs, get a behind the scene tour, and attend an educational program called Wonderful Wetlands. Students will learn the importance of these ecosystems. They will discover how wetlands are nurseries to many species, nesting areas for birds, and a protection for our coastal areas against storm erosion. As they explore the interactive Salt Marsh, students will meet some of the animals who inhabit this most valuable ecosystem.

LONG ISLAND AQUATIC LIFE AND WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Jill Derosa, Melissa Satterly and Michelle Dunn

Verne W Critz Elementary School

\$2,664.00

Second graders will attend a field trip to the Long Island Aquarium where they will be engaged in interactive displays and programs, get a behind the scene tour, and attend an educational program called Wonderful Wetlands. Students will learn the importance of these ecosystems. They will discover how wetlands are nurseries to many species, nesting areas for birds, and a protection for our coastal areas against storm erosion. As they explore the interactive Salt Marsh, students will meet some of the animals who inhabit this most valuable ecosystem.

ARMADILLOS AND THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Keri Paolillo

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$2,450.00

In this action-packed assembly, award-winning author Elizabeth Shreeve will present the writing, research, and design process for *The Oddball Book of Armadillos* (Norton Young Readers, September 3, 2024). Ranger Eric Powers will share LIVE animals and artifacts, demonstrating the remarkable scope of animal adaptations to rainforest and other ecosystems. Two assemblies will include a multimedia presentation, 75 signed books plus bonus copies for school libraries, classroom activities including the Adaptation Game, and a demonstration with animals from CEED nature center.

SLOTHS AND THEIR RAINFOREST FRIENDS

Alicia Ulberg

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$2,200.00

In this action-packed assembly, award-winning author Elizabeth Shreeve will present the writing, research, and design process for her nonfiction book, *The Upside-Down Book of Sloths* (Norton Young Readers, September 10, 2023). Ranger Eric Powers will share LIVE animals and artifacts, demonstrating the amazing biodiversity of rainforest environments. The assemblies will include a multi-media presentation, 50 signed books plus bonus copies for school libraries, teacher guide emphasizing science/language arts connections, and a demonstration with animals from CEED's nature center.

MATH MAKERSPACE CLUB SUPPLIES

Lisa Salpietro, Lech Nhotsoubanh

Bellport Middle School

\$1,005.00

The Math Makerspace Club is dedicated to demonstrating the practical applications of mathematics in everyday life through creative, hands-on projects. With the guidance of advisors Mrs. Salpietro and Mrs. Khnotsobanh, students engage in activities that merge mathematical concepts with craft-making. This year, the incorporation of the Cricut Maker has allowed students to explore measurement, precision, and spatial reasoning while creating personalized items such as mugs and ornaments. To continue fostering student engagement and learning, we are seeking funding to purchase additional supplies for future projects.

WOODWORKERS PROGRAM

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,100.00

Eighty-nine 4th and 5th grade students at FPL will create bird feeders, bird houses, and flower pot holders with the Woodworkers after school program during the 2024-25 school year. The woodworkers club provides the opportunity for students to be creative and innovative with their projects.