



# Lincoln School Foundation

April 16, 2014

Dear Lincoln School Committee Members:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln School Foundation, it is my pleasure to present to you the grants we have approved for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Lincoln School Foundation has funded 17 grants at a total of \$48,089.57. These grants range from small initiatives that support the purchase of materials needed in the classroom, to projects that will have broad community impact, to grants that will help further new classroom initiatives and support the professional development of our teachers.

As a foundation, we continue to look for ways to make more of an impact with the dollars so generously contributed by our community. We are proud that this compilation of grants supports projects in math, science, reading, writing, art, music and foreign language. The teachers use these funds to get the kids outside, think about the world in interesting ways, and make our classrooms vibrant places to learn. We are honored to continue our support for Lincoln's hard-working educators in designing innovative and creative projects.

We look forward to the School Committee meeting on April 17 when you will address these grants. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me by email at [Jennifer.litzow@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.litzow@gmail.com) or by phone at 617-275-3221.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gill  
Grants Committee Chair  
Lincoln School Foundation

Enclosures (1)



# Lincoln School Foundation

## Approved Grants for 2014-2015

- 1. Colonial Rug Braiding** **\$ 1,315**  
**Colleen Pearce, Smith School art teacher**  
This new curriculum initiative will combine disciplines in the creation of a colonial style braided rug by third grade students. This project will weave together science, social studies and art as the students gather materials on a nature walk, make dyes from these materials, and braid them into a rug. A fiber artist, Katarina Krek, will help the children plan the layout of the rug and stitch it together.
- 2. Natural Outdoor Weaving Throughout the Seasons** **\$3,896.25**  
**Pamela DiBiase, Brooks School art teacher**  
This grant, which encompasses all three of the LSF mission areas, will create a permanent weaving loom to stand on Lincoln School grounds. Weaving materials will include scraps from the school garden or natural growth collected from the area. This work helps fulfill the fiber arts requirement under the materials and media standard of the Massachusetts State Frameworks for Visual Arts.
- 3. Muster Field-Wetland Observation Trail** **\$7,320**  
**Mairead Curtis, Science Engineering Curriculum Leader**  
As the Town of Lincoln moves forward with its support of the Wetland Observation Trail, LSF continues to help the project grow. This grant supports both summer curriculum development as well as the creation of a community organizer position. The community organizer will work with the project manager on logistics, timing, and feasibility for community work. In addition, up to eight preK-8 teachers and a leader will work for 2 summer days to design curriculum around the observation trail.
- 4. Innovative Eighth Grade Advisories** **\$ 5,000**  
**Julie Reynolds, Smith School 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher**  
This new curriculum initiative works to modify and enrich the existing 8<sup>th</sup> grade Developmental Designs Program, a program used by teachers to structure 8<sup>th</sup> grade advisory groups. The teachers believe 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, who have matured in an educational environment characterized by the responsive classroom, require some fresh approaches to advisory activities. The grant will provide support for classroom materials and teacher stipends.
- 5. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisory Curriculum: Building Awareness of Stereotypes and Developing Cultural Proficiency Skills** **\$5,000**  
**Claudia Fox Tree, Brooks School 7<sup>th</sup> grade special education teacher**  
This new curriculum initiative supports the development of a structured curriculum for the advisory time in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This curriculum would include activities that focus on the concepts of race, ethnicity, stereotypes and culture. The larger goal is to help students become more culturally sensitive.
- 6. Cross-Generational Literacy Tutors: A Three Year Pilot** **\$ 5,000**  
**Gwen Blumberg, Smith School literacy specialist**  
This school-community collaboration supports a pilot program that will bring senior volunteers from the Lincoln community into the school to work one-on-one with first grade students. The first grade team will chose students who could benefit from extra literacy support.

- 7. Music, Dance and Discussions with Orphans from El Salvador** **\$2,660**  
**Karen Sasky Hughes, Smith and Hanscom Primary School Spanish teacher**  
 This curriculum initiative and school-community collaboration works with a nonprofit organization called NPH USA to bring a group of student dancers and musicians from El Salvador to perform at the Lincoln schools. This is an opportunity for cultural education, as the performers will discuss life in El Salvador including typical foods and music, as well as an opportunity to discuss life as a child in El Salvador. The project supports the cultural strand of the Massachusetts standards for language learning as well as the Lincoln School objective of teaching culture in our foreign language classrooms. Students at all four schools will have an opportunity to benefit from this project.
- 8. Surf's Up! Time to Write! A new approach to practice handwriting** **\$ 650**  
**Kate Siegel-Melcher, Hanscom Primary School occupational therapist**  
 This pilot program will support the purchase of boogie boards, a tool to help teach handwriting skills to kindergarten students at Hanscom Primary School. The project will purchase approximately 25 boards to be shared amongst the kindergarten students. The hope is that these boards will provide extra support to students who may need additional assistance in learning to write.
- 9. Bounce Your Body, Stretch Your Mind** **\$1,500**  
**Tiffany Shaw, Hanscom Primary School second grade teacher**  
 This new curriculum, professional development grant supports a pilot program to explore the introduction of movement into the classroom. Ms. Shaw will work with Stephanie Powers, the Occupational Therapist at Hanscom, and develop this pilot across all first grade classrooms at Hanscom. The intent is to improve student attention, work completion and mind-body connections.
- 10. Programming Club STE(A)M Robotics Project** **\$1,890**  
**Josh Gold, Hanscom Middle School teacher**  
 This new curriculum initiative will support an afterschool computer-programming club run by Mr. Gold. The grant will purchase ten Hummingbird robot kits to program a robot they design.
- 11. Project Feeder Watch** **\$ 750**  
**Diane Mitton, Hanscom Primary School teacher**  
 This new curriculum/school-community collaboration supports the incorporation of Project FeederWatch into the second grade classrooms at Hanscom. This is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders in North America. The grant will provide the classrooms with the materials needed to attract and count birds. This grant meets standards set in the MA science and Technology/Engineering Framework.
- 12. The Power of the Playground** **\$ 2,500**  
**Stacey Clarkin, Hanscom Primary School wellness specialist**  
 This new curriculum/professional development initiative supports funding for staff training in playground programs that address the need for safe, healthy play during recess. Staff will be trained, assistants and tutors will receive stipend support and materials will be purchased with the funding.
- 14. Novel Review** **\$ 2,640**  
**Maurisa L. Davis, Brooks grade 5 teacher**  
 This curriculum initiative supports the enhancement of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading curriculum by providing teacher stipends for summer work that will choose more diverse, relevant and engaging texts to be used by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**15. Get Kids Growing! \$ 500**

**Siobhan Rooney, Smith kindergarten teacher**

This new curriculum initiative supports the creation of a first grade sensory garden that appeals to all five senses. Students will discuss the design, fragrances, sounds, and tastes of feel of the garden. The garden will connect the first grade Life Science "Organisms/Living Things and Habitat" science units.

**16. Reclaimed Rope \$468.32**

**Pam Diabiase, Colleen Pearce, and Donna Lubin**

**Hanscom, Smith and Brooks art teachers**

This new curriculum initiative and school-community collaboration will bring students to DeCordova for this exciting activity that focuses on art and ecology. Using the Orly Genger sculpture Red, Yellow and Blue that winds through DeCordova, students will explore line and space through a hands-on activity with reclaimed rope and string. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate on their own sculptures inspired by the Orly Genger.

**17. Adding it Up: Enrichment of the Core Math Curriculum \$ 7,000**

**Mary Sterling, Assistant Superintendent**

This professional development grant will work to enrich our core math curriculum in the elementary schools. Built around three math initiatives proposed by teachers from kindergarten through grade 4, this project is primarily focused on providing teacher stipends that will support summer time work. Expected outcomes for this work include new strategies for teaching mental math and computation strategies in engaging ways, curriculum development for connecting problem solving with key mathematical practices and enrichment of the Everyday Math curriculum.

**Total Dollars Awarded for 2014-2015 Academic Year: \$48,089.57**

**Out of Cycle Grants Awarded 2013-2014**

**1. Enriching Recess at Lincoln School \$ 2,333**

**Jilian Daly, Smith School kindergarten teacher**

This new curriculum initiative/professional development initiative is an out of cycle grant awarded for the 2013-2014 academic year. This grants supports teachers in the way they address ongoing challenges on the playground.

**2. Discover India! \$ 1,250**

**Mona Desai Patel, Desai Foundation**

The school-community collaboration supported Discover India! Lincoln Cultural Festival 2013. The event fostered a sense of community with an event that celebrated India's unique and colorful culture through art, education and performances.