



Lincoln School Foundation
P.O. Box 256, Lincoln, MA 01773

May 17, 2019

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 2019-2020 academic year.

The Lincoln School Foundation has voted to award six grants for the 2019-2020 academic year, and three SY 2018-2019 out-of-cycle grants, for a total of \$19,680. These grants align with our mission to inspire and fund innovation that fosters critical thinking, collaboration, and authentic learning experiences for every student in the Lincoln Public Schools. We are excited to support Lincoln's dedicated educators,

In fitting with our mission to advance education through innovation, we continue to focus on supporting our schools push towards more creativity, collaboration, risk taking and authenticity. These grant initiatives will allow our teachers to take risks through professional development opportunities and integrated, authentic projects across the curriculum. We are excited to be able to support these thoughtful initiatives. In addition, we are thrilled to see the town's support and the district's ongoing work toward new school buildings (three in just several years), whose design will enable flexible learning as innovative learning practices evolve.

We look forward to the School Committee meeting on May 23rd when you will address these grants. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me by email at holleran@gmail.com or by phone at 617-645-7652.

Sincerely,

Jen Holleran
Grants and Project, Lincoln School Foundation

Cathie Bitter
Lincoln School Foundation Chair

Enclosures (2)

Lincoln School Foundation Grant Applications and Awards 2019-2020

May 17, 2019 total for spring cycle: \$18,130; total with grants made during the year: \$19,680

| | Grant | Teacher | School | Amount | Awarded | Notes/ Liaison |
|---|--|--|-------------|---------|---------|---|
| 1 | Bluebird Nest Box Trail | Siobhan Rooney, 1 st grade | Smith, LPS | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | Alison Donnelly |
| 2 | Digital Book and Reading Clubs | Monica Albuixech, Technology | HMS | \$500 | \$500 | TBD |
| 3 | Digital Photography | Mary Keane, 2nd grade | HPS | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | Pete Hussey |
| 4 | Upstander Academy PD | Claudia Tree Fox, Special Education | Brooks | \$660 | \$660 | Tricia Thornton- Wells |
| 5 | Racial Equity Discussion - <i>Waking Up White</i> | Jamie Moody, METCO coordinator, lead, and Claudia Fox Tree | Brooks, LPS | \$6,470 | \$6,470 | Jen Holleran |
| 6 | Heart Rate Monitors | Kevin Leahy, Wellness | HMS | \$1,578 | Hold | HOLD - District follow-up |
| 7 | Ready Bodies, Ready Minds | Samantha O'Brien | HPS | \$6,258 | | Hold - for new principal and bldg |
| 8 | Lincoln Opera Company | Blake Siskavich, Music with Carolyn Dwyer 4th grade | Smith, LPS | \$6,330 | \$6,500 | Anne Wang |

LSF Out of Cycle Grants

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Oaxacan Weavers | Donna Lubin, art | HPS | \$350 | \$350 | |
| 2 | Follow-up to school visit mini-grants to facilitate projects | Sharon Hobbs, principal | Brooks, LPS | \$1,000 | Up to \$1,000 | |
| 3 | Exploration of teaching video | Jenny Nam | Brooks, LPS | \$200 (check) | \$200 | |
| 4 | Possible grant for innovating teaching class and projects | Jess Rose, assistant superintendent | | Large | | In exploration |

LSF Summaries 2019-2020

Bluebird Nest Box Trail (Siobhan Rooney – 1st grade teacher at Lincoln Schools): \$1000

This grant is for funding to install, observe, and maintain bluebird nest boxes on school grounds. 1st grade students will study the habitats and life cycle of nesting bluebirds, monitor and observe nesting birds, and collect and analyze data. This curriculum aligns with 1st graders' year-long study of backyard birds and with Next Generation Science Standards. Students will be able to extend their learning of birds to include the life cycle, see how their efforts are helping with bird conservation, and enjoy the outdoors and nature. The Lincoln school property is an ideal location for a bluebird box trail with its open fields alongside wooded areas.

Digital Book and Reading Clubs (Monica Albuixech – HMS Instructional Technology Specialist): \$500

This grant is to pay for a one year license for Seesaw for Schools for the 5th grade HMS class and teachers. The platform will be used to host book club and interactive read aloud discussions which can take the form of drawing, voice, video, or text. Through teacher moderated discussions, students will learn how to discuss and critique books, use writing to express their thoughts, and develop a joy for reading. The project is aimed to inspire reading and increase reading levels in an environment that makes it easier for shy students to engage. As the discussions will be moderated by teachers, it will promote socially responsible interaction between peers while encouraging an open mind to new points of views and ideas.

Digital Photography in the Classroom (Mary Keane – 2nd grade teacher at Hanscom Schools): \$3,000

This grant is to pay for 20 digital Canon cameras with WiFi capability. 10 cameras are currently being used for a 5 week, grade-wide service learning project, but the current cameras are old so they don't hold a charge for a whole class session, of different brands which makes tech support difficult, and don't allow for wireless uploading which makes compiling the photos time-consuming. The current service learning project teaches students how to be observant when creating a photo composition and to think about the audience of the photos, who are homeless veterans. The photos are framed and hung in apartments provided for homeless or near-homeless veterans. With new cameras, their use can better be incorporated while studying science and math, and will make it easier for other teachers to use them in their classes. They can also be used in conjunction with the green screen in the MakerSpace to create posters and books and facilitate learning about digital editing which is a valuable 21st century skill. The cameras will be shared with other teachers on an as needed basis as well, providing a resource for the school overall.

Upstander Academy PD - Studying Genocide to Encourage Decolonization and Upstanding (Claudia Tree Fox - Special Education Teacher Brooks School): \$660

This grant is to support a 6-day "Upstander Academy" professional development experience for special education teacher, Claudia Tree Fox. The course is designed to explore new content about post-genocide Rwanda and genocide against Native peoples in New England. Additionally, it will focus on bringing innovative teaching methods that support the inquiry arc, and critical and creative thinking, practicing and modeling the skills of upstanders in their classrooms and communities, and integrating genocide education and strategies for decolonization into the curriculum. Claudia plans to bring her learnings back to help with curricular transformations, most notably in seventh grade where she

envisions integrating upstander teachings into seventh-grade advisory sessions on bullying and stereotyping, bringing literature and other material to augment African studies in seventh grade, as well as enhance the First Nations unit in eighth grade. She also envisions this training developing understanding of our students with Native American backgrounds. Claudia has a track record of bringing material back from her PD experiences and working to transfer it to other teachers.

Racial Equity Discussion - *Waking Up White* Author Discussion Project, Debbie Irving (Jamie Moody, METCO coordinator, lead, and Claudia Fox Tree collaborator): \$6,470

The grant proposes an all-day learning experience with Debbie Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, to enhance our community's ability and skills to have deeper conversations about race/racism and raise awareness of race/racism and actions to take to dismantle oppression. Though programming is still in development with the assistant superintendent and principal, it proposes to be comprised of two 50 minute sessions for Lincoln Middle School students, a ~ 2.5 hour Lincoln Middle School professional development after school, and a two-hour community event in the evening. This work builds on the Brooks School's professional development of the last two years around culturally responsive teaching as well as the book group/community conversations around works by diverse authors, which Jamie and Claudia have organized for the community and which have been received well.

Lincoln Opera Company (Blake Siskavich- Music Teacher- Smith School, LPS with Carolyn Dwyer, 4th grade teacher LPS): \$6,500

This grant will allow the 4th grade LPS teaching team and the Boston Lyric Opera teaching artist program to help facilitate students in creating a student-led opera company building in themes from other areas of study from the year.. Students will write, compose, design, promote, and perform an opera to a public audience. This year, this interdisciplinary work is already being run as an initial pilot. In the future, this program could take the place of the current Nikki & Guy residency which LPS students have had the opportunity to experience for the last 25 years. This meaningful and enriching artistic experience puts students at the center of creating and leading the process and shifts teachers into facilitating roles.