



Boxford Elementary Schools Trust, Inc.

Announcing the 2003 - 2004 B.E.S.T. Grants

The Letter People	PreK
Mobile Display Case for Multi-Cultural Art	PreK - 2
Fun with Phonemic Awareness	K
Origamido - Artist in Residence	K - 2
Reading and Technology: A Perfect Match	K - 2
Take a Closer Look	K - 2
Supporting Literacy with Decodable Books	1st
Walking Art Gallery	2 & Multi-age
Animal Habitats Across the Curriculum	3rd
<i>Partially funded by the Harriet Ernst Endowment Fund</i>	
Supplemental Reading	3rd
<i>Funded by Perley Parkhurst Cole Trust</i>	
Healthy Hearts, Year 2	3rd - 6th
American History Video Series	5th
On This Day in History	5th
<i>Funded by the Founders' Fund</i>	

Grant details on reverse side

B.E.S.T. would like to thank all of our generous contributors and supporters. We would like to specially thank the many Boxford families who support us with contributions to the Annual Grant Fund, the Harriet Ernst Endowment Fund, the Founders' Fund and the STAR teacher program. We appreciate your participation in B.E.S.T. fundraisers including the fashion show and the kitchen tour. **You** make the B.E.S.T. grants program a success!

Grant Sponsor Program Participants: Howell Design & Build; Gwen Washburn, Hunneman-Coldwell Banker; Lifestyles Kitchens & Baths

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2003 - 2004 B.E.S.T. Grants in Detail

The Letter People: This literacy program is a fun, motivating and enthusiastic approach to learning letter and sound recognition. Using sensory materials for hands-on learning, teachers are able to reach 3, 4 and 5 year-old students through themed lessons that include music, movement, puppets and stories. Students will be familiar with letter and sound recognition, which is the basis for kindergarten readiness skills.

Mobile Display Case for Multi-Cultural Art: In order to gain a more complete understanding of the role that art plays in a culture, students need to observe actual work created by artists. This case will give all Cole School students the opportunity to view the art collection at Cole School in a safe, respectful way. It will also be used to display student artwork as it relates to the multi-cultural collection.

Fun with Phonemic Awareness: Based on current research and proven studies, this grant provides kindergarten teachers with an array of new and innovative materials to assist students with reading acquisition. Through the use of manipulatives and printed materials, kindergarteners will gain an understanding of the elements of language that need to be analyzed in order to become successful readers.

Origamido: Students in grades K-2 will have the opportunity to work with internationally-acclaimed origami artist and author Michael LaFosse and learn about an art form that transforms paper into 3-D sculpture using nothing but folding techniques. This program will demonstrate to students the fundamental connections between math and art, with a focus on critical thinking. For this artist in-residence project, students will contribute to a collaborative origami mobile.

Reading and Technology: A Perfect Match: *Readinga-z.com*, a web-based subscription service, gives teachers round-the-clock access to a rich selection of resources to help children become proficient readers. The web site's database includes countless books, flashcards, reading scripts and numerous other activities -- all as close as the nearest printer. *Matchword* software package allows teachers to create learning games based on specific criteria determined by the user. Used in conjunction with *readinga-z.com*, teachers will be able to produce activities that meet a wide range of skill levels and instructional needs.

Take a Closer Look: A wonderful asset for budding young scientists, this grant provides K-2 students with the use of two Flexcam Multimedia cameras and 25' cables. This equipment allows students to record scientific observations over time and replay the video to note changes. The life cycles of animals, insects and fish, along with experiment changes and observations on various organisms will be closely monitored by students in science classes.

Supporting Literacy with Decodable Books: This grant enhances the first grade language arts curriculum, specifically the phonics and "Working with Words" blocks, with multi-sensory and systematic phonics materials. Funding will provide for multiple copies of decodable, phonics-based text and phonics games to be shared within classrooms across the grade level. Students will benefit from using these materials though additional practice in areas of phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency.

Walking Art Gallery: Combining technology and art, this project will enable all grade 2 and multi-age students to actually be a part of a "Walking Art Gallery." Throughout the year, each student will have one piece of artwork scanned into the computer, printed on a heat-transfer paper and mounted on a white t-shirt. The gallery of artists will wear their masterpieces during their musical performance for parents in April.

Animal Habitats Across the Curriculum: For six weeks, beginning in mid-March and continuing through April, third grade students will be immersed in the study of the sea. This grant will enable teachers to integrate studies, employing the use of creative arts, social studies, science and math in conjunction with the core instruction provided by the Houghton Mifflin reading program. The unit will culminate with a visit from members of the New England Aquarium staff who will present a special program that relates directly to the subject matter.

Supplemental Reading: At the third grade level, many students continue to benefit from systematic instruction in phonics, spelling, decoding, word recognition and word building. This grant provides materials that will allow grade three teachers to offer such direct instruction, using Month-by-Month Phonics, the Word Wall system, and related Carson-Dellosa teaching aids. The goal is to improve decoding and spelling skills, and to increase understanding of base words, word chunks, prefixes, suffixes, etc.

Healthy Hearts, Year 2: A vital role of our physical education instructors is to educate children about the benefits of regular exercise and the importance of a "heart healthy" lifestyle. This grant will provide individual heart rate monitors for 3rd-6th grade students to use during gym class. Students will be taught to use the monitors, to find their target heart rates, and to work for optimal aerobic benefit. This grant will let students see, firsthand, the health benefits of an active lifestyle.

American History Video Series: Sometimes, a picture is worth a thousand words. This video library, which covers such topics as the Mayflower voyagers, Plymouth in 1620, the birth of the Constitution, and wintering at Valley Forge will help bring history to life, on-screen, to supplement the fifth grade social studies curriculum.

On this Day in History: This nine book series features short, factual stories about people, places and events "on this day in history." There is one volume for each month from September through May, allowing fifth grade teachers to tie-in history at any point with high interest people and topics.