



BOXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TRUST

Become a 2015 Supporter of BEST

BEST is one of the two parent-led organizations in town created to support and benefit our elementary schools through community based events and opportunities that enhance learning. Specifically, BEST raises private funds to support innovative teaching tools, technology, teacher training, and longer-term school initiatives. If a teacher wants to try something new, but needs help funding it – BEST provides funds to the teachers. We look to fund initiatives that have the broadest possible effect on our community, and the best chance of helping teachers bring innovation to our district.

Each year, BEST donates an average of \$20,000 to Cole and Spofford Schools by funding grants written by our teachers. These added extras in our classrooms are what differentiate Boxford Schools from those of surrounding towns. BEST is honored to bring these enhancements to Boxford, but we can't do it alone. In the past, we raised all of our funds through events and other fundraising programs. We are now reaching out directly to ask you to become a **Supporter of BEST**.

Your tax-deductible donation will enable us to fund grants for the current school year.

Your Name: _____

Your Email: _____

- I will donate:
- \$120 become a **Friend of BEST**
 - \$90 (3 children)
 - \$60 (2 children)
 - \$30 (1 child)
 - Other Amount: _____

If each family donated just \$30 per child, we would be able to meet our funding goals for the school year.

- I will **double my donation** by including my company's **Matching Gift Form**

Friends of BEST will be listed on the BEST bulletin boards at each school (for example: The Smith Family or In Memory of Nanna Jo). Use the line below to let us know how you would like your listing to appear. Leave blank if you would prefer your donation to be anonymous:

Donate Three Ways!

1. Send your donation in a sealed envelope to the school office via your child's backpack. Please mark envelopes: Friend of BEST
2. Mail your donation to BEST, P.O. Box 176, Boxford MA 01921, Attention: Friend of BEST.
3. Donate online at: www.bestforboxford.org/donate

What kinds of grants does BEST fund?

Thanks to your support, BEST funded the following grants this summer:

- \$15,000 - A state-of-the-art science pilot in grade 5 – **Science from Scientists** – that brings actual scientists into the classroom to run experiments and provide enhanced instruction every two weeks throughout the school year, with generous support from *New England Biolabs*.
- \$15,000 - A **complete 1:1 iPad classroom** for Ms. Sheldon's 6th grade class, with generous support from *Institute for Savings*.
- \$11,000 - A comprehensive teacher development course called the **Power of Our Words**, which will be implemented at both Cole and Spofford Schools. It focuses on verbal communication in the school environment and how word choice impacts student development and confidence;

Some examples of things we funded in the past include:

1. Construction of the **greenhouse and the weather station** at Spofford School
2. Cost of the **Smartboards** in every classroom at both Cole and Spofford School
3. Cost of the iPads and TV monitors for the **digital art studios** at both Cole and Spofford schools
4. Cost of iPads for small group instruction in **Mrs. Suther's 1st grade class**
5. Cost of a complete 1:1 iPad classroom in **Mrs. Puglisi's 2nd grade class**

Upcoming BEST Events.

December – We will again run the *Snowflakes for Teachers* program, which is a creative way to say thank you to teachers and staff who assist us all year

January – On **January 29, 2016**, BEST will be hosting a party at *Gymja Warrior* located at the Danvers indoor sports complex. For all those kids who are American Ninja Warrior fans, they will get to test their obstacle skill prowess in a controlled environment and get tips from one of this year's ANW contestants. Space will be limited so make sure to sign your kids up early for this event once school gets back in session after the winter break.

May – BEST is bringing back the *Boxford Homes Tour on May 7, 2016 – the Saturday before Mother's Day!* This is a fun day visiting several of Boxford's recently renovated homes to gather ideas, see the latest trends in home improvement or view some unique features to outdoor living. Order a gourmet boxed lunch, visit our coffee bar at one of the stops, and enjoy this self-guided tour through Boxford. For more details about The Tour or to be notified when tickets go on sale, please visit the Boxford Homes Tour website: www.boxfordhometour.com.

BEST's focus is on raising private funds from individuals, families, foundations or local businesses to provide innovative teaching tools and strategies that foster substantive, positive improvement in our schools.

We hope you'll support our mission by becoming a Friend of BEST.

Stay Connected!

Visit us at: www.bestforboxford.org or LIKE us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BESTforBoxford to see photos and read stories about our grants in action.