



Boxford Elementary Schools Trust, Inc.

Announcing the Fall 2002 B.E.S.T. Grants

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For the first time in its six year history, the Boxford Elementary Schools Trust, Inc. funded grants in the spring *and* fall for the 2002-03 academic year! Teachers were recently awarded 10 new grants totaling \$8,298. Since its inception, B.E.S.T. has contributed over \$110,000 to our elementary schools specifically for curriculum-enhancing programs and materials. B.E.S.T. would like to thank all of our generous contributors and supporters. We would like to especially thank the many Boxford families who support us with contributions to the Annual Grant Fund and the Harriet Ernst Endowment Fund, and who participate in B.E.S.T. events and fundraisers. You make the B.E.S.T. grants program a success!

Grant Sponsor Program Participants: Fiore & Hamburger, Attorneys at Law; The Merriam Family; PTO; Anonymous (2)

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Fall 2002 B.E.S.T. Grants in Detail

Ceramic Tile Mural: The Artist in Residence program will introduce students to the intrinsic qualities of clay by creating a tile mural. With nature as their inspiration and the guidance of potter Robert Rossell, the Spofford Pond community will create a ceramic tile mural to adorn the entrance foyers and lobby of the school building. The students, staff and community members have all gathered together to create a welcoming and lasting interpretation of the environment in Boxford.

Fall 2002 B.E.S.T. Grants in Detail (continued)

Author Visit: This grant allows for author/illustrator Stephen Krensky to visit the students of Cole School. Mr. Krensky has published 67 titles to date. He will speak to the students about how his ideas are translated into the craft of writing, illustrating and publishing a book.

Fun with Phonemic Awareness: This grant presents an array of new and innovative materials used to assist students in the understanding of the elements found within phonetic reading. To facilitate reading, this grant will allow students to understand where sounds within words begin and end.

Inventing Flight: Imagine sitting in the Dayton, Ohio workshop of Orville and Wilbur Wright. This grant, through multimedia curricula, will aid students in examining three variables with regards to the physics of flight: control, lift and propulsion. Along with this scientific aspect, students will be learning the history of flight.

Journey North - Phase 2: What a fun and insightful grant this has been! This phase of Journey North grant will allow first and second grade students to experience the migration of a monarch butterfly, including mapping its travels due to seasonal changes. The students will also be reporting their findings on the “web” and communicating with students in Mexico.

Multi-Cultural Art: Cole School students will now be able to create art, inspired by different cultures. With the use of examples such as masks, the students will be provided with the opportunity to create original folk art for the school community. This will allow them to build a collection of original art rich in cultural traditions and craftsmanship.

Phonemic/Language Arts Centers: This grant will utilize technology with Language Arts Centers to assist students with reading and writing materials. The use of listening centers coupled with the use of an overhead projector (a student favorite) will allow for the needs of all learners to be met.

Science Matters: Using a weekly reader publication, students will be able to explore science units such as Rain Forest, Rocks, Space, and Energy with hands-on activities, supplemental reading and problem solving exercises. This grant will enhance the current fifth grade science program at Spofford Pond School.

Science Rocks: The Magic School Bus has been a favorite of children and parents alike for many years. This grant uses the Magic School Bus format to bridge literature and science. The Magic School Bus Inside the Earth project will help students in the areas of 4th grade Science, Literature, and Language Arts and introduce the students to informational text.

Timeless Traditions: Fairy tales, folktales, mythology and fables are all a part of growing up, with each genre either teaching us a valuable lesson or encouraging us to believe in happily ever after. What better way to “jump start” a reading/writing program than with the use of a diverse collection of these books? The sixth graders will use this program in Language Arts while working on their Social Studies International Country Project, rewriting their chosen tales from the perspective of their country. A great use of literature and cooperative teaching!