

2010 Grant Award Recipients

(10 grants totaling \$12,484)

Ashland High School

Awarded To:	Christine Fletcher
Title	Art Library Flat File
Summary:	Last year, a generous donor gave Ashland High School an amazing 135-gallon salt water aquarium and supplies. Students in the marine biology classes have begun setting up the tank in anticipation of creating a tropical salt water fish and invertebrate environment to study. This unique gift has fueled great excitement and interest in marine biology classes and elsewhere throughout the high school. The aquarium habitat will enrich the marine biology curriculum, providing a hands-on opportunity to work with the living creatures studied in class. The AEFI grant provides seed money to purchase the necessary animal food, tank filter supplies, and water quality testing materials.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,100

Awarded To:	Tina Hunter
Title	Digital Scanner
Summary:	Parent volunteers have developed a 21st century website for the Guidance Department. This high-end scanner will enhance the High School's ability to digitize and upload forms to the website, keeping information current and easily accessible for students, parents, teachers and the greater Ashland community. This scanner will also enable Guidance to streamline college application documentation and submissions, scholarship postings, and other timely communications. Although originally proposed by the Guidance department, the district's Technology Department has offered to co-fund this scanner as a shared resource to fill a growing need by the main office staff and others throughout the school.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,350

Ashland High School and Ashland Middle School

Awarded To:	Daniella Alvarez-Bradley and Nicole Lynch
Title	ELL Classroom Library
Summary:	The Ashland Public Schools service approximately 70 English Language Learner (ELL) students each year. Research shows that reading not only increases literacy levels, but also increases student motivation and overall language proficiency, including writing and vocabulary. This grant enables the schools to purchase classroom libraries for the Middle School and High School ELL classrooms from inZone Books (National Geographic/ Hampton Brown). This will help our ELL students increase their reading skills and language proficiency by providing them with a wealth of books that are of high-interest, but at their reading and linguistic levels. These books will fill the gap in materials available to ELL teachers and students at the Middle School and High School.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,500

Ashland Middle School

Awarded To:	Lisa Beaudin
Title	Point of Sale System
Summary:	In 2007, the Ashland Public Schools installed a food services Point of Sale (POS) System in our new High School. This system allows students to prepay for meals, streamlines the free and reduced lunch application process while protecting confidentiality at checkout, tracks student food purchases, and will eventually be used to process other fees in the district. This grant helps to expand into the Middle and Mindess Schools this year, and Warren and Pittaway next year. At a time when we are experiencing an increase in fees and a reduction in staff, the POS System allows for safe and efficient management of funds while offering a critical service to students and their families.
Amount Awarded:	\$2,000

Awarded To:	Kimberlee Arnold and Maureen Welzel
Title	Linking Traditional Literature to Social Studies Topics and Contemporary Literature
Summary:	The roots of literature reach deep into the history of civilization with ancient societies and folk literature. This grant enables Ashland Middle School students to explore these connections. The teachers will purchase a collection of myths, legends, and multi-cultural folk tales for use across both sixth grade teaching teams in Social Studies and English Language Arts (ELA). Augmented by these materials, students will have the opportunity to read, discuss and connect these tales to Greek and Roman cultures presented in the Social Studies curriculum. Furthermore, in ELA, students will explore common themes and story patterns that have carried through to contemporary prose, poetry and dramatic literature.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,270

Awarded To:	Gerri Sprague and Ann King
Title	Jump for the Health of It!
Summary:	The Jumping Rope Project promotes physical fitness as a lifetime sport. One of the Grade 6 Advisory Groups jumped rope at the start of every school day for three weeks. Teachers introduced topics such as responsibility, self-esteem, and bullying, while also addressing healthy behaviors and choices. After just three weeks, the teachers noticed enthusiastic participation by previously uninvolved students and a once-chronically tardy student began attending more punctually. Through the equipment purchased with this grant, the Jump Rope Project will be expanded to help additional students focus on developing fitness skills, self-awareness and self-confidence. The social benefits will aid in the student's sense of being an integral part of a team.
Amount Awarded:	\$300

David Mindess School

Awarded To:	Patricia Kacevich
Title	Massachusetts Children's Book Award
Summary:	Each year, Salem State College sponsors the Massachusetts Children's Book Award, an award voted on by the children of Massachusetts in grades 4-6. The ultimate goal of the project is to encourage students to read and to give them an opportunity to voice their opinions. This grant funds two copies of each of the 25 books on the master list. In addition, this is an opportunity to expand the Mindess library collection and provide teachers with current titles for classroom read aloud.
Amount Awarded:	\$750

Awarded To:	Colleen Glynn
Title	Clay in Class - A Lasting Impression
Summary:	This grant will help to purchase a new kiln for the Mindess art program. Clay is a wonderful, tactile medium that many kids have never experienced. The new kiln will ensure the continuation of the clay unit at Mindess and increase capacity to include 3rd grade instruction. Exposing more students to this art form will encourage the creative spirit in every child and reinforce new skills for three years and beyond as they continue with clay instruction at the Middle School.
Amount Awarded:	\$2,000

Henry E. Warren School

Awarded To:	Teresa McCarrick
Title	Kites and Bikes
Summary:	A number of bicycles, helmets and kites were donated by parents, the Ashland Police Department and others in the community to enhance the Warren School physical education program. The bikes are actively used in teaching units that tie into many areas of the curriculum and include important instruction on riding safety, signals, and using proper equipment. The kiting unit provides additional exercise, teaches coordination skills and reinforces the science curriculum. The equipment was previously stored at a rented, off-site location, and this grant has funded an 8' by 8' secured shed to house more than 40 small bicycles, kites and related equipment on-site.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,600

Awarded To:	Jennifer Temple
Title	Calling All Scientists
Summary:	When Mrs. Temple says, "Calling all scientists" her first graders transition into science time. She has a puppet named Einstein, who wears a white lab coat and helps to get the students excited about science lessons. One day, one of her first graders suggested they should be wearing lab coats too. This inspired Mrs. Temple to apply for this grant to purchase lab coats and tools such as magnifiers, clipboards, specimen viewers and a microscope with prepared slides. The students will feel like real scientists as they learn and discover the wonders of science with their new equipment!
Amount Awarded:	\$614
