



GRANTS 2005-2006

✓ **Literacy Centers** *Center School • Stacey Homan, Michele Andel, Rebecca Williamson, & Linda Jacob*
Games and tools will be used at interactive literacy centers throughout the classroom as part of a guided reading program. Literacy centers offer the opportunity to explore and make discoveries through hands-on, meaningful activities and facilitate individualized learning by offering a variety of choices.

✓ **Differentiated Reading Packets for Supplemental Readers** *Center School • Nina Farquharson, Moriah Macdonald, & Michele Andel*
This grant will create differentiated activities in the areas of social studies, science, and math, helping begin preparation for the MCAS test in 3rd grade. Children of all reading levels will use differentiated activities that will improve their reading and writing strategies, and develop self-confidence.

✓ **Teaching Elementary Social Studies through Real Literature** *Center School • Sharon DeCarlo & the K-2 Teachers*
This grant provides multiple copies of fiction and non-fiction literature to the classrooms, to allow grade level teaching teams to select literature that will allow the teachers to improve their instruction in the area of Social Studies.

Decoding for Comprehension *Elmwood School • Fran Hruska*
This grant will provide decodable literature books with accompanying study cards, which combine high-interest stories with a focus on an identified phonetic sound. Teachers will have the option of instructing an entire class, a small study group, or individual students in phonetic sounds that they are not proficient in using while reading.

Dramatic Reading Improvement *Elmwood School • Rona Stein*
This grant will fund the purchase of a number of reader's theater plays and poems. Multi-leveled plays enable students of various reading abilities to read together fluently. The format of the plays allows for repeated reading, with readers gradually taking on more difficult parts as familiarity grows.

Listening to Reason *Elmwood School • Fran Hruska & Rona Stein*
This grant provides materials to enable a whole class, small group, partner or individual, reading instruction through the use of recorded books and texts. Listening to recorded books while reading improves fluency, comprehension, motivation and a student's quantity of reading. Excellent fluency is modeled and practiced as students read along at a constant pace.

Dynamic Duos *Elmwood School • Anne-Marie Altavilla*

Each book in this series is written on two different levels, with the odd pages leveled at or above grade level and the even pages leveled below grade level. The fluent reader reads the even pages, introducing the words and explaining the topics. The student reads the odd pages where vocabulary is repeated and sentence structure is simpler, enabling fluent readers to remain challenged while assisting struggling readers.

Exercising Reading Muscles *Elmwood School • Bridget Donahue*

Topics like fictional sport stories, biographies of sport heroes and non-fiction sport texts will provide high-interest reading to motivate reluctant readers and to expand the choices available for classroom literature circles. The collection will include reading materials at regular, remedial and accelerated reading levels.

Writing Wizards *Elmwood School • Catherine Joyce & Mary Oldach*

Supplemental resources for the writing program include a variety of thesauruses, writing guides, grammatical references, and class informational posters; providing a wealth of reference materials to enable students to enrich their vocabulary and improve their accuracy as they write.

✓ **Growing Resilient Children: Parent/Teacher/Student Education** *Hopkins School • Martha Starr & Jayne Shea*

A multi-pronged Home/School education series addressing pressing social and academic challenges best described as Student Resilience and the coping behaviors of Teasing/Bullying and Harassment will be addressed through this grant. This grant addresses the overall need for parent education and the need of the entire school community to better understand the issues facing preadolescent boys and girls.

Talking up Reading *Hopkins School • Joan Frank & Betsy Weldon*

"Talking Up Reading" will use Booktalks, which are short "advertisements" that give the students a short synopsis or short introduction to a book. To help alleviate the students' frustration and to facilitate their "spark of reading interest," a number of copies of some popular and well-written books will be purchased.

The Writing Life *Hopkins School • Pamela Pendleton, Lorraine Logan, Susan Anderson, & Geraldine Joseph*

Students will write, edit, and publish a magazine with three editions the first year, working side by side with teachers to learn about and be involved in publishing a magazine. Students participating in this program will learn interviewing techniques, journalistic writing/editing skills, photography layout and design, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Those "Mean" Green Carnivores *Hopkins School • Jill Kaufman & Joan Frank*

This is an interdisciplinary hands-on learning experience for students, connecting reading, writing, science, social studies, and math. Students will construct a classroom terrarium, to provide students with the information they need in order to understand that carnivorous plants are not the every-day typical houseplants.

Math Grant *Hopkins School • Barbara Capalbo*

This project provides students and teachers with a wealth of on-line problems to enhance mathematics instruction. Through membership in the Math Forum@Drexel, students and teachers gain access to a bi-weekly Problem of the Week and access to a library of math problems that reflect all strands identified in the Massachusetts frameworks.

Let our Voices be Heard *Middle School • Cynthia Fiore, Dawn McNally, Maria Savell, Diane Johnson, & Eduardo Velazquez*

The grant funds the addition of headphones with voice recording capabilities to provide students with further opportunities to participate in authentic listening and speaking activities, including having life-like conversations with a native-speaking video character, helping to improve foreign language skills. Additionally, they will be able to individually practice pronunciation as well as record and listen to themselves speaking in the target language.

✓ **Mimio Whiteboards** *Middle School • Sandy Stymiest, Joan Bauman, Johanna Dross, Elizabeth Hickey, Bill Howard, & Kristin Dykstra*

This grant will enable the purchase of interactive whiteboard technology (Mimio), allowing teachers to differentiate their instruction through an innovative, multimedia approach. Whether used for whole class or small group instruction, the Mimio encourages more student interaction and engagement, allowing teachers to quickly adjust to meet students' learning needs.

Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing *Middle School • Kristen Santos, Marian Hopkins, John Parker, and Debra Pinto*

This grant will fund the purchase of skiing and snowshoe equipment to promote active and healthy lifestyles for the entire Hopkinton Middle School community. The equipment will enable the Middle School to implement cross-country skiing and snowshoeing as part of its Wellness curriculum, helping combat obesity.

✓ **Teaching Jazz Improvisation** *Middle School • Steven Yavarow*

This grant provides students with 20 weeks of Jazz Improvisation. The art of improvisation or spontaneous composition is a learned skill that students with musical backgrounds can master. Students will acquire the basic knowledge and skills needed to be able to improvise in various jazz styles.

✓ **Taking the Pen to the Pixel** *High School • Sterling Worrell*

This grant will fund 15 Wacom tablets and two more advanced models, enabling students to use a pressure sensitive, wireless "pen" on a special tablet. The pen more closely resembles traditional drawing & painting techniques and materials, allowing students to maximize the capabilities of the Digital Imaging software.