

GRANTS - 2010

Sue Kanagawa - "Expanding Chinese Culture and Customs"

For most non-Chinese students, the only understanding of Chinese culture is taken from movies or books. In order to fully understand the target language, the student must also understand the cultural aspects of the language. Chinese New Year is traditionally the most important holiday in the Chinese culture. Many people in China spend several days traveling back to their home villages from the big cities they work in to celebrate this holiday with their families. For many Chinese people, this is the only time of the year they can see their families. As with many ancient traditions, those associated with Chinese New Year have deep meaning which the students will be able to experience first-hand. From the fireworks to the Lion Dance to the food that is eaten during Chinese New Year, the students will be able to learn what the true reasoning behind these traditions are by interacting with the Chinese community here in the United States. The target participation is Chinese I, Chinese II, Chinese III and Chinese IV classes (total of 140 students).

Lauren Plummer - "Literary Magazine"

The Literary Magazine greatly appreciates this grant money as it will be used to offset the cost of printing and binding our fifth edition of this publication in our school. The Literary Magazine, or "Lit. Mag." is a student-generated publication featuring pieces of original creative writing and artwork. Students enrolled in Creative Writing, Digital Design, and Art courses will be the primary contributors to the Lit. Mag., but all students are invited to enter their work and help with organizing submissions and coming up with a design and layout for the final product.

This publication is important for so many reasons. It gives students a chance to express themselves creatively and have their work published. It is a forum for the poets' voices and artists' visions to be experienced by peers, faculty and staff, parents, the community at large, and maybe even prospective interviewers in the college admissions process. Involvement in extra-curricular activities that promote literacy and composition skills as well as creative, non-linear thought demonstrates that the candidate is well-rounded as well as capable of working effectively with peers on a collaborative project. Additionally, the Lit. Mag. can act as a positive outlet for students who may not have any other acceptable ways to express themselves.

The poets, artists, authors, and photographers of our school are incredibly grateful for your support in helping them to maintain this publication as a home for their craft.

AnneMarie Potts & Teri Censoplano -- "Interactive Multi-Grade Garden"

This is a raised bed garden project developed jointly between the RHS Environmental Program and the Preschool programs. The project will aid students at both the high school and preschool levels in learning about planting, organic gardening/plant care, insects, and working together with others. The Environmental Science program and preschool plan to build, plant, and care for the garden during the school year and will solicit family volunteers along with the summer preschool program to harvest during the summer. We are going to bring in helpful insects (ladybugs) and set up housing for them to encourage pesticide free gardening. We also plan to set up a composting system to decrease collected trash levels as well as providing a useable product for the garden.

Pond Road Middle School

Linda Biondi - "A Ripple of Hope: Using History's Powerful Stories to Teach Tolerance"

The overarching goal of this project is to develop conscious and responsible citizens of society. Students will read trade books, listen to oral history stories, and examine artifacts on loan from local museums to help them understand bias and patterns of discrimination, interpret stereotyping, deepen their awareness of history's role in understanding the present, and increase their literacy skills. Students will record their thoughts, feelings, and questions in their *History Journals*. In addition, students will record their thoughts on Classpress, an educational blog forum.

The class will visit Kidsbridge, a non-profit Tolerance Museum and learning lab at The College of New Jersey. "Kidsbridge and The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). During the visit, students will share experiences through interpretative and interactive hands-on learning stations, such as "Prejudice Hurts" where students explore the stories of several children who faced prejudice and discrimination; and **Kid Heroes Room** in which children explore what it means to be a hero.

The culminating project will be a student created DVD. Students will select a role such as a journalist, history detective, or author and will record their reflections through genres such as poetry, interviews, stories, and plays.

This program will deepen their understanding of history while promoting attitude changes of positive behavior. This program will follow the *Robbinsville Township Public Schools Social Studies Curriculum* and will enhance the current curriculum.

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Robert F. Kennedy

Kim Brown & Jessica Cornelius – "Make it Interactive with Mimio Pads!"

Miss Brown and Mrs. Cornelius are currently using the Mimio XI in their classrooms creating an interactive environment for students to engage in learning. The added equipment would help maintain and add an interesting edge to the current interactive learning. These Mimio Pads will give the teachers an opportunity to engage students learning right at their seats! The students will have the capability to participate by controlling the computer and Mimio Notebook wirelessly from their seats! Miss Brown and Mrs. Cornelius will also use this technology as a pilot to eventually train all district teachers on this technology.

Miss Brown and Mrs. Cornelius already have the Mimio in their classrooms. Miss Brown has already taught teachers in many grade levels how to use their Mimios in the classrooms to replace overheads and create a dynamic interactive lesson using the Mimios. This new addition to the hardware currently available will keep our classrooms in the forefront of the new technology that is available. We have also met some challenges in time management that can be addressed by having the students stay in their seats in participating. At times, we are also presented with children that have physical limitations that do not allow them to come to the board and participate. This will give them the same opportunities as their peers!

Sharon Elementary School

Nicole McGrath, Deb Dauer, Darlene Jones – "K-1 Lap Books"

The grant will be used to purchase lap books for Kindergarten and 1st grade students. These books will enhance the shared reading component of Sharon's Schools balanced literacy curriculum by allowing all students in the class to engage in a common text. Lap books are an ideal size for Kindergarten and first grade students because they are large enough to allow all students in the class to see the text and small enough that students can reread them independently or in small groups.