



**BEF Classroom Innovation Grant Awards
November 2008**

587. Environmental Systems Action Project

Recipient: Sharon Cooper and Megan McLain

School: Beaverton High

Award: \$1,000

Students are to design a quantifiable project that will positively impact the environment and their school community. The primary objective of the Environmental Systems Action Project is for students to learn environmental science in a hands-on way with real world learning experiences. The projects will involve researching, documenting and organizing projects such as the study of solar cell/wind turbine on campus, rainwater recapture system for field watering and program to reduce disposable water bottle waste. Student projects will involve contact with school administrators and community professionals, and will culminate in a presentation before parents, the school and community members.

588. Exploring Latino Culture II – Teatro Milagro

Recipient: Elisabeth Rogolsky and Robert Wood

School: Merlo Station High

Award: \$1,000

This project will provide students an exciting opportunity to work with professional bi-lingual, English/Spanish, actors while learning the theory of Environmental Justice Theater. Students will explore current social topics affecting them and the Beaverton area directly. Teatrol Milagro, Miracle Theater, a bilingual professional theater company, with more than 25 years experience, will provide their education program – Bilingual Educator Arts Training. The course will explore environmental justice topics as theater. Students will develop dialogs and write scenes reflecting the topic.

589. The Wizard of Oz/ISC Spring Musical

Recipient: Michael Aucoin, Serena Meek, Catherine Tyson and Erica Humphrey

School: Ridgewood Elementary

Award: \$850

This spring the elementary Independent Skills Center will perform a full scale theatrical production based on the classical book The Wizard of Oz. The musical will star thirty-two students, grades K-5, with a wide range of physical and mental disabilities. More than forty students and staff members will participate in all aspects of this stage production, including set design and construction, props, make-up, costume design, directing, dancing, singing, acting and publicity. The work will culminate with a live performance.

590. Heroes Around Us

Recipient: Laura Purkey and Tina Myers
School: Meadow Park Middle
Award: \$850

Intermediate English Language Learners will participate in the Heroes Around Us project. Three different types of heroes from the community will be invited to speak to the students about their life experiences and their work. As part of the project, students will each pick a different hero about whom they will write a biography. The biographies will be published into a paperback book, with each student receiving a copy. To celebrate their achievement, parents will be invited to an authors' reception where their students will read their writing aloud.

591. Art Criticism Journals

Recipient: Alan Adams and Pam Edens
School: Jacob Wismer Elementary
Award: \$519

This project will introduce students to the basics of art criticism through the creation of individual art journals. Students will receive color art reproductions, background information about the art, writing time and instruction to improve students' use of descriptive and expressive language. The long-term goal of the project is to create an art based writing unit that can be taught by classroom teachers and art specialists.

592. Northwest Animal Adventure

Recipient: Helen Lovgren
School: Aloha High
Award: \$850

In this project, thirty-five English Language Learners (ELL), will be involved in a partnership and volunteer project with the Oregon Zoo. Language acquisition theorists agree that language is most effectively acquired when it is learned for communication in relevant situations. Under the direction of the Oregon Zoo Education Department staff, and the ELL teacher, this project will provide students with a meaningful learning opportunity. Students will be working as volunteers in the Cascade Trail exhibit at the zoo in the spring. In preparation, students will research the animals of the Pacific Northwest. Then the Oregon Zoo staff will train the students as volunteers working at the various "Discovery Carts" located throughout the exhibit. Students will be encouraged to use both their English and their first languages – utilizing their bilingual skills in a work setting.

593. Connecting with Bicultural At-Risk Students and Their Families

Recipient: Vince Jones and Vince Rodas

School: Aloha High, Deerpark Academy, Health & Science and Westview High

Award: \$1,000

The goals of this project are to educate students and parents on the progressive stages of crime, facilitate parents in learning new skills that will help them raise challenging teens, and to promote student and parent communication, positive life skills and bonding. Thirty-five students from the four participating high schools will be invited to participate in the program. Students and parents will go a number of times to the Oregon State Penitentiary to work with model inmates who are members of Los Hermanos Youth Crime Prevention and Education Program. The focus of the program is on choices and helping take at-risk youth off the roller coaster of crime, violence and substance abuse. In addition students will go to the Emanuel Hospital Trauma Center to help them understand the physical, emotional, familial and community consequences of being a victim of violence.

594. Multicultural Dance Project

Recipient: Emily Stevens

School: McKay Elementary

Award: \$490.97

The Multicultural Dance Project will promote a positive school, family and community connection. Through multicultural dance, ELL students will be able to develop a sense of pride in themselves and their unique ethnic heritage, as well as awareness and respect for other cultures. Parents will be encouraged to participate in the project by helping with costumes and contributing ideas. The project will culminate in a dance performance for parents and the community.

595. 5th Grade Challenge to Care

Recipient: Allie Roth

School: Cooper Mountain Elementary

Award: \$505

This service project combines economic learning with social awareness, and was created to empower students to know that with hard work, determination and knowledge they can make a difference in other's lives. Students will be given money to donate to a non-profit organization. Students will investigate to find a cause they are passionate about. Students will engage in pursuits that will "grow their money" (matching funds, donations). Progress will be documented in writing and photographic journals. Students will use their materials to create a display board to present information on their chosen organization, reflect on their learning, their progress, and the actual donation event. The display boards will be the focal point at an open house event for parents in May.

596. Closing the Achievement Gap–Access Language Rich Home Environment

Recipient: Julie Rawland, Julie Bettis, Anita DeClerque

School: Hazeldale Elementary

Award: \$1,000

Funding provided through the Dave Gettling Technology Fund

This grant is designed to empower children and families, in partnership with Kindergarten teachers, to support language rich environments at home. In providing families with reader kits, children from every home situation will have access to literacy support outside school hours. Student reading readiness will be improved by providing at-risk kindergarteners with take-home book packs, accompanied with audio support. Students will enjoy reading a variety of books and listening to staff members read aloud to them via recorded compact disks.

597. Lego Robotics

Recipient: Brian Torres

School: Aloha-Huber Park Elementary

Award: \$982

Funding provided through the Dave Gettling Technology Fund

The goal of this project is to increase student achievement in science and technology by teaching an after-school course in robotics for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Using Lego Robotics Mindstorms equipment to teach weekly courses in elementary robotics, the project team hopes to send a robotics team to the Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program competition. The project will encourage students to consider careers in technology, science and computer programming.

598. Wii Can Do It!

Recipient: Christopher Siebert

School: Motor Development Team – All Beaverton Schools

Award: \$600

Funding provided through the Dave Gettling Technology Fund

The Wii Can Do It! Project will bring motor development activities to special education students for whom traditional physical education opportunities may not be accessible. Utilizing the innovative Nintendo Wii game system and accessories such as the Wii Fit Balance Board, students with physical and mental challenges will be able to engage in motor learning, take ownership of their own physical activity and participate in sports and games that might not otherwise be possible. Imagine a child in a wheelchair playing golf or tennis, or a child with autism engaged and motivated by full-body exercise. These dreams will be reality with the Wii Can Do It! Project.

599. Advanced Video Production

Recipient: Jason Engilis
School: Meadow Park Middle
Award: \$800

Funding provided through the Dave Gettling Technology Fund

This project will allow students to use cutting edge video production software at the middle school level. Students familiar with the basics of Imovie will be able to take their art to a new level as they incorporate animations, the use of green screen/blue screen for the creation of special effects, and other features available on Final Cut Express. The software will be used to enhance the product outcome for the Signal to Noise film competition, and be used in technology classes as an engaging way to work with digital media.

600. Catching the Power of Wind

Recipient: Tiffany Tran-Parta
School: Meadow Park Middle
Award: \$1,000

Funding provided through the Dave Gettling Technology Fund

Oregon is one of the leading states to set a goal of having 25% of all its energy production come from renewable resources by the year 2025. This project seeks to bring this current and important issue to life for students by providing them with an opportunity to explore how wind energy can be harnessed using a windmill. Students will work in groups to design, build and test a model windmill. The efficiency of the windmill will be evaluated by the rotational power of the windmill blades and the voltage produced. Students will use Vernier software to collect data and Power Point to communicate their research to their peers, teachers and professionals in the community.

601. ELL Family Nights

Recipient: Sharon Young
School: Rock Creek Elementary
Award: \$1,000

In order to help English Language Learner (ELL) parents become partners in their children's education six ELL family evenings will be planned with grant funding. The purpose of these evenings is to build community between ELL families and school, while giving parents tools they need to become more active in their children's education. The family evenings will focus on such topics as the school nurse addressing common health concerns, Will Hornyak, a well known storyteller, will share the art of telling stories and demonstrate ways parents and children can write stories in the air, a hands-on science inquiry workshop put on by Mad Science, THPRD and teachers will share ways for families to enjoy physical activity together, a math game night with an emphasis on basic math processes, and the final evening will be spent writing family books and discussing ways families can keep their kids reading and writing over the summer.

602. A Picture *Equals* a Thousand Words

Recipient: Jan Peterson-Terjeson

School: Nancy Ryles Elementary

Award: \$924

The phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words” takes on a new meaning when digital cameras are used by students to stimulate third graders’ interest, and inspire creativity in writing. Throughout the academic year, students will use their images, captured at school or on field trips, as writing prompts to create photo-essays demonstrating various writing styles. With the innovative integration of technology and the visual and communication arts, research demonstrates students’ fear of, or apathy toward writing changes to enthusiasm. Creating and writing about a personal photo releases a thousand words.

603. Civil War Zine

Recipient: Diane Tevlin and John Leitner

School: Conestoga Middle

Award: \$1,000

Eighth grade students will create a zine (a self-made publication that may include creative writing, artwork, comics, poetry, etc. With the help of clip art, rub on type and other antiquated office supplies, students can explore the cut and paste method to create a unique final product), of an event, person or topic of the Civil War. Students will receive Civil War instruction in their U.S. History class several weeks prior to the arrival of an artist in residence from Young Audiences of Oregon. Students will select a topic and perform independent research. The artist will inspire and motivate students to create a “real” product for a “real” audience. The zine will be written, illustrated, and bound, and will culminate in visits to elementary classrooms where students will share their creations.

604. ELL’s Homework Club

Recipient: Vesta Wynkoop

School: Raleigh Hills K-8

Award: \$770

As indicated by research, English Language Learners (ELL) often require support beyond that which can feasibly be provided in the regular classroom setting. The purpose of this project is to provide at-risk ELL students with explicit instruction in organizational skills, and provide a study center for them to receive assistance with homework assignments, and help them develop their ability to independently complete assignments. The project is based on research that shows that by focusing on the mentioned objectives academic achievement will increase.

605. Docudrama – Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Recipient: Ilana Rembelinsky

School: Whitford Middle

Award: \$1,000

Given a list of landmark Supreme Court cases relating to issues in the United States Constitution and/or Bill of Rights, students will form groups, select a case, and produce a video docudrama presenting the case. Students will receive training in digital videography and will take on specific roles within the group; i.e. producer, director, videographer, scriptwriter, actors, etc. Parent volunteers will assist students who wish to film on location, outside of the classroom. Movies will be shared at a family event, and selected projects will be submitted to the District's Signal to Noise Image Festival.

606. Wii Fit Fun and Fitness

Recipient: Steven Baer

School: BSD Community Transition Program

Award: \$750

Adults with developmental disabilities are prone to weight gain and other weight related health problems beginning in their late teens and early twenties. Using the Wii Fit students will be encouraged to track their daily, weekly, monthly and yearly progress in areas such as weight, body mass index, goal setting, Wii Fit Age, Fit Credit and training. Using a gaming system to encourage students exercise will help them begin to rely on themselves to maintain a higher level of fitness rather than teachers, families or other care providers.

607. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Overnight

Recipient: Karen Harger, Hayley Kearl, Angela Baker, Celeste Darling

School: Vose Elementary

Award: \$1,000

Funding provided through the Mike Osborne Memorial Award Fund

The best way to learn science is to be immersed in it. As a culmination of the 5th grade class studies, students will go on an overnight trip to the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center. There, students will solidify their academic knowledge under the guidance of Opal Creek instructors. Students will explore sustainability, ecology, watersheds, astronomy and geology, through hikes, observations, and journaling. Students will then present a science fair project based on their experience.

608. International Baccalaureate Creativity Action and Service Project

Recipient: Celeste Colasurdo

School: Southridge High

Award: \$516

Funding provided through the Mike Osborne Memorial Award Fund

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program requires students to initiate and implement activities with global impact. For successful completion of the IB diploma, students engage in extracurricular activities that blend creativity, action, and service (CAS). Grant funds will be used to implement a CAS project. Students will read articles and the book Three Cups of Tea, with the objective of increasing student knowledge of the cultures, politics, geography, economics, religions and challenges that face Afghanistan and Pakistan. Students will then discuss the readings and initiate, plan and implement educational activities designed to fund raise for a goal the students set.

609. Students with Autism Learning Social Skills

Recipient: Mika Borbon, Jean Davidson, Robyn Downs, Karla Mayer

School: BSD Special Education Team

Award: \$960

Autism consultants will use video modeling to teach social and behavioral skills to children with Autism. Teachers and/or students will use Flip Video cameras to record students engaging in social interactions and school routine sequences. Staff and students will be able to instantly download videos to a computer for viewing and discussion.

610. Student Literacy Magazine

Recipient: Kathryn Beck, Kristen Schjoll

School: Five Oaks Middle

Award: \$1,000

A school literacy magazine will help students develop a passion and understanding for writing, art and photography. With this magazine, the goal is to enrich the school's environment so students feel comfortable and excited to share their talents outside their classroom. The project involves active student participation and teacher collaboration in every aspect of the process, from promotion and submissions to layout and production. Students will be invited to display and celebrate their work in the school community.

611. Advanced Robotics

Recipient: Jason Galbraith

School: Sunset High

Award: \$900

Grant funds will be used to purchase a robotics kit for this hands-on science project. Advanced Robotics combines mechanics, electronics, problem solving and working as a team in order to accomplish goals. Much of what the students will be doing involves presenting a problem that can be solved through the use of a robot. The students analyze the problem, discuss a variety of different designs, create a plan, and implement the solution in the form of a physical robot.

612. On-Site Outdoor School Experience

Recipient: Steve Sieg, Robin Schroeder

School: Whitford Middle

Award: \$1,000

This project will create an on-site outdoor environmental education adventure for all 6th grade students at Whitford. The staff will focus on literacy, higher order thinking, and environmental science learning target to develop exciting, interactive, hands-on projects. Central to the program is the use of the outdoors as a classroom. A close-by natural wildlife refuge will be used to greatly compliment the overall experience for the students.

With thanks to our generous donors, including the Dave Gettling Technology Fund and the Mike Osborne Memorial Award Fund, the Beaverton Education Foundation was able to award \$22,266.97, funding 26 classroom projects through out the Beaverton School District this award period.

In addition to BEF Classroom Innovation Grants, the Beaverton Education Foundation awards funds through the BEF Kids Count Grant program and BEF After-the-Bell Student Success Awards, funding after-school and summer programs. Please visit www.beavertonEDfoundation.org for more information.