



Lincoln School Foundation

Advancing Education Through Innovation

December 2010

Greetings Parents, Friends and Neighbors,

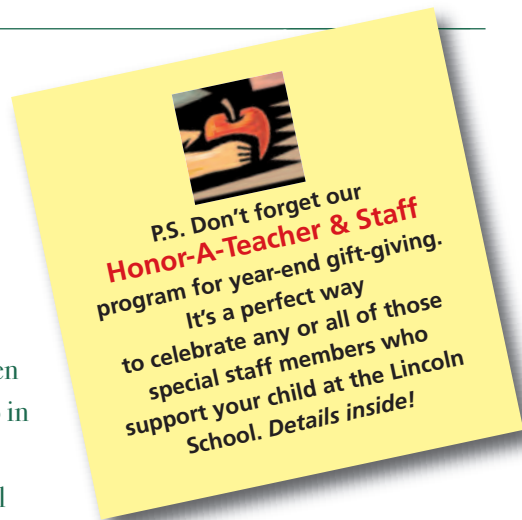
We hope you had a nourishing Thanksgiving break, on every level. We at the LSF feel very thankful this fall as we watch the grants we approved last spring come to life. Check out the photos in this newsletter to see some of the ways your child may have been touched by an LSF grant. The LSF awarded over \$50,000 in 22 grants to Lincoln and Hanscom grades K-8 last year.

From enlivening physical education classes to new musical instruments, a vegetable garden, many programs to improve literacy, help with math assessments and more, LSF grants enable teachers to reach beyond state standards and create more vibrant learning experiences for all our children. With your help, we hope to be as responsive this year to the innovative and inspiring grant requests our teachers dream up.

This year, in response to your feedback, we are moving all our fundraising efforts to the fall and hope to cancel our spring phonathon. Therefore, we are asking you to PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION NOW, before year end, so that we know how much we can award our teachers during our spring grant cycle. Our teachers often say how lucky they feel to be working in our school district because of the amazing support they receive from parents and this unique community. That support comes in the form of our collective time, involvement and the funding of "extra" programs by the LSF. Please give generously, and help keep our schools strong. We all benefit – our children, our schools, our town.

On behalf of the entire Lincoln School Foundation, we thank you, and enjoy your newsletter!

Eloise Patterson and Karen Prince, *Co-chairs*



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Why the LSF and PTA?

By providing seed money, the LSF enables our teachers and staff to reach beyond traditional programs and bring new and innovative tools and techniques to the classroom. The PTA plays an important role in funding longstanding programs that have become core elements of the curriculum, yet fall outside of the school's operating budget. Together, these two organizations provide tremendous resources, enriching our school community.



Save the date!
Sunday, April 10, 2011
The 4th Annual
LSF Spelling Bee



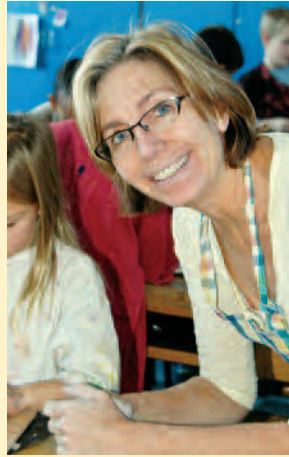
"We love GeoMats!"
Read more inside. . .

INTERVIEW WITH

Colleen Pearce

Lincoln School art teacher, Preschool–4th grade

Colleen Pearce is back at the Lincoln School, bringing her infectious energy and enthusiasm for art and her goal to develop the whole child to meet life's never-ending challenges. After an interim period with another school district, Colleen was lured back to Lincoln as the art teacher for preschool through fourth grade. During the 2010 grant cycle, Ms. Pearce applied for her first grant from the Lincoln School Foundation.



Tell me a little about your grant, "Bridge to DeCordova."

Lincoln has a wonderful world-class museum right in our backyard. I want to create a connection between the Hanscom and Lincoln Schools and DeCordova and to increase the visibility of DeCordova in the Town of Lincoln. The LSF generously provided funds to purchase easels for Hanscom and Lincoln so that I could post announcements about exhibits and events (such as the recent Family Sculpture Day) at DeCordova and other information that might be of interest to the community. The first step to increasing attendance is to increase awareness of all DeCordova has to offer. Many people do not know that admission to the museum is free for all staff and students in the Lincoln and Hanscom Schools, including those students who do not live in Lincoln. If you go to the Lincoln Schools website (lincnet.org), you can print a "DeCordova Pass" to enter the Sculpture Park and Museum for free.

How did the art show of student work at the DeCordova last May tie into the grant?

I also requested materials [from the LSF] to mount and hang students' artwork at a DeCordova show last spring. The four art teachers—Donna Lubin and Edy McAndrews from Hanscom, and Pam DiBiase and I from the Lincoln campus—each worked with students to prepare work for an exhibit in a gallery at the DeCordova. We had a reception for the parents and students and they made their way through the exhibit hall, viewing their very own art and that of their friends and classmates. The students actually saw themselves as artists that night!

Why is art such an important part of a child's education?

Our world changes so quickly and is filled with difficult issues. We need creative people to come up with solutions to these difficulties. Creativity is not something that you have or

don't have, but it does need nurturing. In art class, we are actively teaching children to be creative and flexible. We teach them that there is more than one solution to a problem and that they need to think and reason from more than one point of view. Art is a safe place for children to take risks. In fact, "mistakes" are encouraged, as a "mistake" may turn out to be their best work yet. The basics are certainly important, but we don't know exactly what skills our students today will need when they enter the workforce in fifteen or twenty years. We do know that we will need flexible, creative people who are willing to take risks in our ever-changing world. Art allows them to take those risks without fear and teaches them the value of taking risks.

Finally, I believe we need to teach to the whole child. We as educators must be open to all kinds of intelligence. We must teach and encourage art, music, dance, and sports alongside the academics. Children have different ways to access their own intelligence and must be encouraged to use the talents and gifts of their own brains.

How does the Lincoln School Foundation help make your wishes come true?

My greatest desire for myself and my students is one of time. I am grateful that the LSF, the Lincoln Schools and the community recognize the importance of art in the classroom and can provide funds for the program as well as parent volunteers to help me throughout my day. During my classes, the students and I get into such a wonderful flow. We become so engaged and mesmerized by our creations that I have to set a timer to remind myself that I have to end the current class and prepare for my next class of aspiring artists!

“BY ALL ACCOUNTS, this was a smashing success! We had the first-ever student exhibit at DeCordova. Families were thrilled to have their children's work so beautifully displayed at our 'home town' yet world-class art museum. And the museum was thrilled to have such a turnout from the local community.”

—Colleen Pearce



Welcome to Mrs. Green's Newest Science Lab

Earlier this spring, Terry Green, science & engineering teacher, applied for and received a grant she called "Science in the Garden," a project to build a vegetable and flower garden outside her science classroom at the Smith School. She wanted her students to be able to walk outside and have the full bounty of nature at their fingertips to study. And did they get their hands dirty!

With students' help, raised framed gardens were installed. Several students took their recess time to bolt cedar planks together to form the garden's framework, two large beds measuring 4 feet x 8 feet. They were filled with soil, peat moss and compost and a variety of seeds planted including radish, lettuce and sunflower.

Now this fall, Mrs. Green and her students are harvesting more lessons. When LSF arrived to view their project on a sunny day in October, her fourth-grade class was excited to be heading outside to collect seed pods for study. A flurry of activity around the garden ensued as they gathered many different kinds of roots and seed pods and brought them inside to dissect and examine under the microscope. Looking at a radish seed pod, Patrik exclaimed to his lab partner, "You have GOT to see this!" Emilie was struck by how many seeds she discovered in one small pod. And Itzel loved viewing the bugs swimming around on her slide of seeds under the microscope.

The final challenge from Mrs. Green to her budding "green thumbs" is to see if any of the seeds gathered this fall will grow in the spring. And the cycle will begin again!



“

I am VERY excited to start the school year with a knowledge of some amazing technology tools that will both improve my instruction as well as motivate my students. My first summer project this year involved creating a writing curriculum guide to use as a map for the upcoming school year. Today, I was flooded with thoughts connecting this writing project with this week's Web 2.0 ideas.”

—Web 2.0 Summer Seminar participant



Cindy Matthes, Lincoln instructional technology teacher and Web 2.0 Seminar creator

“

The iPad shifts how we collect and share data in the classroom and with parents. Data become instantly usable for supporting student learning and can be updated and shared with parents almost daily.”

—Matt Reed, first grade teacher



MORE 2010-2011 GRANT AWARDS

- Web 2.0 Summer Seminar for Teachers
- Bullying Prevention Program Research for K-4
- "Handy Activities," Toolboxes for Fine Motor Strength
- Reader's Theater for the Third Grade
- Orff Instruments for Lincoln Middle School
- Ballet Folklorico Mexicano, Coming to Fourth Grade
- Pioneering with the iPad, First Grade
- Diversity Focus Group
- Calder Re-Wired, Coming to Hanscom
- Using FIG's to Enhance Fluency for K-4

For a full list of grants, go to lincolnschoolfoundation.org.

“

I can speak for the whole group when I say we will all be sharing with our colleagues how wonderful it was to have the time to work on a project like this. Very rarely do we have the opportunity to sit down with one another and think outside of the box in order to begin or try out something new. More valuable than the stipend was the time we were given.”

—Cathlin O'Reilly, third grade teacher



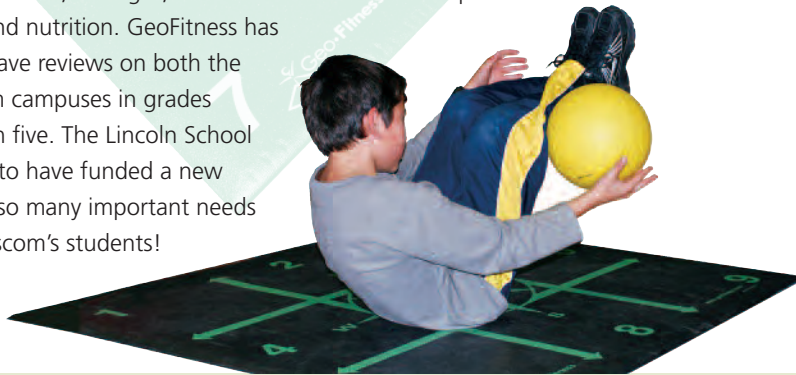
“GeoFitness integrates all aspects of Lincoln’s Wellness curriculum in such a fun and exciting way. It is accessible for all grades (K–8) to use and with the use of technology you can’t go wrong!”

— *Stacey Clarkin, Hanscom Middle School physical education teacher*



Grant in Action: **GeoFitness**

Kids need to get fit. Kids need more learning time. And let’s not forget, kids need to have fun. With GeoFitness, kids can get fit and learn while having a blast! Hanscom Middle School physical education teacher Stacey Clarkin first saw GeoFitness in action at a conference she attended. After watching a demonstration of the GeoMats, she was immediately hooked on the idea of combining movement, learning and fun all in one. Through movement and games on the special GeoMotion mats, students learn about number concepts, number patterns, left/right, forward/backward and compass directions, shapes, and nutrition. GeoFitness has been introduced to rave reviews on both the Lincoln and Hanscom campuses in grades kindergarten through five. The Lincoln School Foundation is proud to have funded a new program that meets so many important needs of Lincoln’s and Hanscom’s students!



“It uses your brain. You have to change directions quickly. I think it can help in other sports.”
— *Jack, fourth grader*

“It’s really cool! It makes you move. I’m trying to memorize the steps.”
— *Hadley, fourth grader*

“I like bouncing the balls and playing corner tag with the mats.”
— *Penelope, kindergartner*

“It’s kind of tiring.”
— *Piper, fourth grader*

Our schools, our town. Keep them strong!

The Lincoln School Foundation welcomes and relies on your financial support. Please help us continue to fund important grants that enrich our students and schools. Simply return this form with your check payable to *Lincoln School Foundation* and mail to: Box 256, Lincoln, MA 01773.

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Patron	\$500 – \$999
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DECTO NEWS



Check our website at lincolnschoolfoundation.org to donate online and keep up to date on LSF news and events.