



Lincoln School Foundation

Advancing Education Through Innovation

May 2011

Announcing Another Amazing Year of Grant Awards

In April, the Lincoln School Foundation approved over \$41,000 in new grants to Lincoln and Hanscom Schools for the upcoming year. Your generous donations are being channelled directly into our schools to the teachers who wrote these innovative grants. Our children will be the beneficiaries.

This year's awards include a grant authored by reading specialist Gwen Blumberg to build two libraries of "Mentor Texts" for the primary school reading specialists at Lincoln and Hanscom to enhance writing instruction. This resource will be a fantastic tool for ALL primary classroom teachers.

Next year, we are also funding "Bridging the Culture Gap," a major middle-school conference bringing both Lincoln and Hanscom grades 5-8 together to spend the day addressing issues of diversity and bullying (written by Claudia Fox Tree and Janice Fairchild).

Look inside this newsletter to read more about the 13 grants awarded this cycle. . . .

In the meantime, we hope you enjoyed the 2011 Spelling Bee in which almost 150 students participated in an afternoon of tense excitement. Congratulations to all of our excellent spellers. They were a tough bunch to stump!

If you've already made a donation this year, thank you! Your generosity is enriching our schools in so many ways. If you haven't made a donation yet this year, please consider doing so before the end of the school year. Visit our website to donate and catch up on other LSF news. Also, it's almost HATS (Honor-A-Teacher & Staff) season again! Take advantage of this wonderful way to thank faculty for a great year. A HATS donation form is part of this newsletter or fill one out online. Thanks for another great year and for all your support!



THE LSF ANNUAL MEETING will take place on Monday, June 6th at 7:00 pm at 15 Beaver Pond Rd. All members/donors are welcome. Please RSVP to eloise.patterson@verizon.net if you plan to attend.

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Can You Spell Well? Lincoln Kids Can!

Spring has sprung in Lincoln and the "buzz" around town schools last month was the annual LSF Spelling Bee held Sunday, April 10th. This year's Bee saw the largest turnout of third through sixth graders since its inception four years ago—nearly 150 students from Lincoln, Hanscom, private and home schools. Students and their families and friends showed up to Brooks School Auditorium on a beautiful, warm spring afternoon ready to take on the Bee Challenge!

Continuing in the Lincoln Bee tradition, students participated in teams of two or three, keeping the focus on team spirit and fun rather than individual performance. Bright yellow Bee t-shirts were worn by all contestants during competition, thanks to town sponsors AKA Bistro, Barrett & Company and Maynard Design & Architecture. Refreshments and snacks were available throughout the afternoon to all participants.

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Jubilant third grader Ty Blumberg jumping out of his seat upon successfully spelling the team's winning word. As he proudly accepted his trophy, Ty announced to everyone, "Thank you so much. We LOVE this Spelling Bee!"



New Grant Initiatives for 2010–2011

Viva Salsa!

Nancy Rote, K–8 librarian at Hanscom, and a team of her colleagues bring a celebration of the music, dance and culture of the Caribbean to Hanscom School. “Manguito” comes to the school in the morning to introduce the students to the dance and music of Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic through an interactive assembly. Then students are off to the transformed cafeteria for a lunch of Caribbean culinary delights! Throughout the week, students will spend their Wellness classes learning dances of the region.



Music to Our Ears

Blake Siskavich and his kindergarten team in Lincoln are singing their way through the alphabet using songs about animals to teach their students about letters and sounds. They will each record the songs that they have created and make them available for download on their website. Each kindergartner will also receive a CD to take home and share with their families. Interactive fun for the whole family during those long car rides!

Howard Worona, music teacher at Hanscom Middle School, will purchase two new timpani drums and one new piccolo for student use. Stay tuned for results next year from this “top to bottom” enhancement of the music program!

Finally, Pam Anzaldi, the music specialist at Hanscom Primary, will purchase software for a new curriculum initiative that targets both music and technology. Students in grades 1–3 will use “Groovy Jungle” and “Groovy Shapes” software to explore music concepts and create their own masterpieces! They will showcase their compositions at the end of the year.



Magnets and Matter and . . . Dancing Robots? Oh, My!

Terry Green, science and enrichment teacher for the district, will be busy this summer working with the Hanscom grade 1 and grade 3 science teachers to review and revise the first grade Solids and Liquids unit and the third grade unit on Magnets. The teachers will modify the plans for the diverse learners at Hanscom Primary School and create special lessons for the many students who transition into the school mid-year. Ms. Green will also work with the three Wellness teachers from the two campuses to design a new program that will supplement the science unit on building and programming robots. Students will choreograph their own dances using GeoMats (funded by the LSF last year). Students will then use videotapes of their dances to program their robots to dance just like them! Quite a combination of art, science, and healthy movement.

Puppets and Plays

The second grade team of Debbie Carpenito, Cheri Wing-Jones, Jen Mastrullo, and Jen Cummings, and art teacher Colleen Pearce will work this summer to revitalize the extremely successful puppet project. Second graders create puppets in art class and then use them to present a puppet show. This enthusiastic team



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This year saw some very special guests volunteering their services as announcers and judges, including State Representative Thomas Conroy (D-Wayland) and Colonel Parker Planté and Chief Master Sgt. Alfred Wilkes from Hanscom Air Force Base. The four school principals of Lincoln and

Hanscom schools and two teachers joined the activities, as did representatives from the town's Police and Fire Departments, Parks & Recreation and the Public Library.

There were many exciting heats of ferocious spelling over five hours with announcers digging deep into their word banks to try

to stump these tough competitors. In the end, Ty Blumberg, Sofie DeChristofaro and Agnes Shan, The Honey Bees, took first prize for third grade. The Fab 3, with Ashley du Toit, Audrey Ory and Iris Sodowick, took fourth grade's top prize. Fifth graders Isaac Newell and Ruby Carmel, team Black &

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will rewrite plays to incorporate the study of continents. Additionally, they will interweave an anti-bullying theme into the traditional folk tales, providing children a chance to role-play healthy responses when dealing with conflict through their puppets.

The Wave of the Future

Lincoln School library media specialist Alice Sajdera will purchase two new Kindle reading devices, along with a variety of books related to various curricula. She and Hanscom librarian Nancy Rote will explore how these devices can be used in an elementary school setting, analyzing the benefits for students and faculty and the potential for future investment in the devices.

Little Artists

Hanscom Primary art specialist Donna Lubin will purchase new easels and aprons to enhance the art classes for her preschool students. She will also buy several CDs and read-aloud books to inspire the students while creating their masterpieces.



Enhancing Writing Instruction with Mentor Texts

Gwen Blumberg, Lincoln School literary specialist, along with Jennifer Cummings and Cathlin O'Reilly (2nd and 3rd grade teachers, respectively), are tackling the district's ongoing writing initiative by purchasing a large library collection for the Literacy Center. The collection will contain books that provide writing

examples that focus on the various writing traits and conventions students must learn to become good writers. Ms. Blumberg will create a database of the books and their different traits, and organize the books so that teachers may easily access them for use in their classrooms. A similar program will be developed for Hanscom.



Bridging the Culture Gap: Creating Relationships that Respond to Differences

Claudia Fox Tree, Lincoln special education teacher, and Janice Fairchild, Hanscom Middle School social studies teacher, are teaming up once again to bring another conference to the middle school students and teachers of Hanscom and Lincoln! This conference will focus on the opportunities and responsibilities of building a respectful culture for our schools and beyond. The conference will begin with a keynote speaker, followed by break-out workshops on a variety of topics about power, access, discrimination and stereotypes. The conference will occur during "no name-calling week," with the goal of raising awareness of current issues faced by students across the country and creating a safer, more inclusive and welcoming school climate for all.



SPELLING BEE — APRIL 10, 2011

Yellow, won for a third year in a row. And the bright green bowler hats on team HAT, with Helen Rhines, Amelia Patterson and Tara Christian, brought them good luck as they took top honors for sixth grade. All went home that day eagerly clutching their shiny red and gold "Lamp of Knowledge" trophies!

The LSF Spelling Bee "buzzzzzed" with excitement from start to finish! Many thanks go out to all students who participated and to all volunteers and sponsors who helped make this such a fun and successful event. See you all again next year!



To view our 2011 Spelling Bee picture gallery including Bee winners, visit lincolnschoolfoundation.org



"I am so happy to have our students experience these instruments. They allow young musicians access to early success, creativity and exploration of rhythm, melody and harmony. It's wonderful to hear what can be created and see how proud they are of their work."

—Karen Sheppard

Lincoln Middle School music teacher



Lincoln School sixth graders energetically "making music" with new Orff instruments.

Music is in the Air

Developing a sense of rhythm, tempo, melody, harmony and other elements of music are difficult concepts to learn without musical instruments. Karen Sheppard, Lincoln Middle School music teacher, was using old, 'hand-me-down' xylophones she'd scooped up from the elementary school on their way to the town dump. "Some instruments were better than none," she reasoned. And that's what she has been using for three years with 5th–8th grade students—until just recently. Now, however, Karen is the proud owner of a set of Orff Musical Instruments—the first new set of instruments for the middle school in many years—purchased this winter through an LSF grant.

Carl Orff was a 20th-century German composer and influential music educator. His system of music education for children, based on developing a sense of rhythm

through group exercise and performance with percussion instruments, has been widely adopted. In Karen's classroom, she now uses two new glockenspiels, five new large bass bars and one new metallophone. The older ones made of rosewood would expand and contract in different temperatures, but the new high-tech synthetic and metal ones do not. They are more durable and stay in tune longer—and that makes for better music! "But most importantly," she says, "the sound difference is INCREDIBLE."

When LSF folks recently attended her music classes, Karen was instructing sixth graders in the careful use of the new xylophones and mallets. She says the initial focus has to be on the care and preservation of this expensive equipment. But soon after, the entire class is engaged in playing the xylo-



phones and singing the "blues," one of four sections Karen is teaching this year with Orff instruments.

The other sections include spirituals, traditional African music and hip hop, as well as music composition for eighth graders.

Speaking with students, you can hear their enthusiasm. Mirrah says, "The bass bar sounds cool!" "They make such a clean sound," raved Lia. Danny likes how powerful the ringing sound is and Lucy likes how the teacher has the class set up now for all students to play. And when the students sing along to the music, Larsen is amazed at how good their voices sound together with the instruments. "I love the harmonies!" she exclaims.

So, the lessons are learned and objectives achieved—another successful LSF grant is in motion supporting another one of our fine Lincoln School teachers and her students.



Gwen Blumberg, Literacy Specialist in her K-4 Literacy Center, Lincoln School

Gwen's 2010 LSF grant provided funds for Word Study Manipulatives allowing K-4 teachers to more easily implement hands-on word study lessons. The materials purchased included letter tiles, magnetic writing boards, linking letter cubes, lego-style letters, word family games and alphabet stamps. Gwen states, "This grant sparked

teachers to think 'outside the box' in terms of best practice in word study. It opened up dialogue among teachers about what word study looks like now and what it *could* look like." And second graders loved the manipulatives saying, "The materials are creative and make it fun—it makes you want to learn ALL of your words!"