



Lincoln School Foundation

Advancing Education Through Innovation

May 2010

Math and Reading Enhancements, Web Technologies, and Anti-Bullying Curricula Showcase Grant Awards

We are pleased to announce 22 new grant awards, totaling over \$50,000 in funding for the 2010/2011 academic year. Highlights include:

- *Innovative data-driven tools to assess and improve reading fluency and math skills*
- *A technology grant that will extend teacher knowledge and integration of Web 2.0 applications into the classroom curricula*
- *An extension of school-wide efforts toward bullying prevention and diversity training*
- *A raised-bed vegetable garden for the whole primary school to share!*

Take a few moments to read about all of these exciting programs and more inside our newsletter. The grants reflect the great initiative and effort taken by teachers to broaden their knowledge and enhance classroom learning, artistically, culturally, physically, and technologically.

Meanwhile, our spring fundraising programs are in full swing. If you've already made a donation this year, thank you. If not, take advantage of the opportunity to donate on-line at our website: lincolnschoolfoundation.org. There you'll be kept up to date on all LSF news and events. Also, don't forget the Honor-A-Teacher & Staff (HATS) program for year-end teacher gifts. This is an excellent way to thank faculty for a great year of learning while contributing to the important work of the LSF. A HATS donation form is included inside. Thank you, in advance, for your support.



To donate online and keep up to date on LSF news and events, visit our website at www.lincolnschoolfoundation.org

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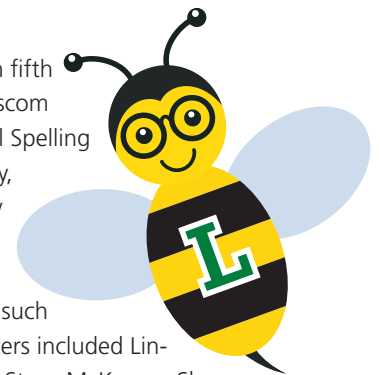
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Hanscom's proud third grade bee winners, "The Buzzy Bee Spellets," with (L to R) judges Erich Ledebuhr and Stacy Osur, and announcer Randy Davis.

This Year's 3rd Annual Spelling Bee Created Quite the Buzzzzzz . . .

Over one hundred third through fifth graders from Lincoln and Hanscom participated in the LSF's third annual Spelling Bee at Brooks Auditorium on Sunday, April 11th. It was another deliciously tense competition for all, with words ranging from the more common fare of "tomato" to the exotic such as "heirloom." Judges and announcers included Lincoln and Hanscom School principals Steve McKenna, Sharon Hobbs, Randy Davis and Erich Ledebuhr. Event organizers were Ruth Montero and Karen Prince. Congratulations spellers!



(More photos and bee winners on back page)

New Grant Initiatives for 2010–2011

FINE ARTS

Orff Instruments for Grades 5–8 Music Classes

Karen Sheppard, Lincoln music teacher

Students in the elementary school at Lincoln have long enjoyed using Orff instruments to develop a sense of rhythm, tempo, melody, harmony, and other elements of music, including music literacy. "Learning by doing" will continue for middle school students with the purchase of new Orff instruments to develop musical concepts.



Ballet Folklorica Mexicano

Karena Hansen, Lincoln Spanish teacher

The 4th grade students at Lincoln and Hanscom will attend an exciting performance of *Ballet Folklorico Mexicano: "Ollimpaxqui"* in conjunction with their study of Mexico. The energetic company of dancers creates a vibrant and authentic Mexican extravaganza, encompassing centuries of traditions in Mexico that have evolved from a variety of different cultures.



Calder Rewired

Donna Lubin, Hanscom primary art specialist

A one-man show brings to life the art of Alexander Calder, creator of the Mobile Sculpture, for Hanscom students in grades K–5 as part of their art curriculum.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Addressing Bullying

Prevention Program

Brian Garside, Lincoln School social worker

Diversity Focus Group

Alice Sajdera, Lincoln School librarian

With the unfortunate increase in bullying among students and the sometimes tragic consequences, the Lincoln School is aligning with state and national directives to end this abusive behavior. The *Bullying Prevention Program* will support the efforts of Lincoln School social worker Brian Garside to develop a research-backed, developmentally age-appropriate anti-bullying curriculum for the K–4 level that will include educational outreach for teachers and parents. The *Diversity Focus Group* has been meeting for over a

year now to discuss ways that the school might deal with negative student behavior. With this grant, Alice Sajdera, a Lincoln School librarian, and the other group members will develop training sessions for all K–4 staff and faculty dealing specifically with issues related to the Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered and Bisexual community and their families.

GeoFitness

Stacey Clarkin, Hanscom physical education teacher

Get up and move! And learn! And have fun! This is an exciting integration of technology and exercise for students in grades K–5 at Hanscom and Lincoln Schools. Students will move to music using special mats to learn number concepts, spatial relationships (left/right, front/back, compass directions), pattern recognition and nutrition. Students will have so much fun moving to the music that they will forget they are learning new skills while working their muscles!



Handy Activities

Kate Siegel-Melcher, Hanscom occupational therapist

With so many new educational requirements, educators are increasingly challenged with finding a balance between teaching more academics and providing opportunities for the youngest students to build and strengthen the fine motor skills needed for handwriting, drawing and cutting. This grant seeks to find that balance by introducing "toolboxes" of fine-motor strengthening implements to each Kindergarten and first grade classroom at Hanscom Primary School. By engaging in fun activities such as rubbing plates and tongs together and playing with pop beads, children will actually be working toward improved pencil grasp, wrist and finger movements, and hand-eye coordination (required for drawing, writing and cutting) without even knowing it!

LANGUAGE ARTS

Enhancing Word Study in the Elementary Grades with Hands-On Manipulatives

Gwen Blumberg, Lincoln literacy specialist

Students have successfully used hands-on manipulatives to improve their math skills for years. This grant seeks to utilize vari-

ous word and letter manipulatives, such as letter tiles, in a greater number of classrooms and grades at the K–4 level in the Lincoln School, providing students the opportunity to explore and extend their word study knowledge and practice what they learn in class.

Non-Fiction in Third Grade Literacy Programs

Elizabeth Stanziola, Lincoln third grade teacher

Seeking to broaden third graders' exposure to a greater variety of reading materials, the third grade team at the Lincoln School will organize and group non-fiction texts into different levels, providing all students in the grade with high-quality, non-fiction reading at their own ability level.

Enhancing Fluency

Enhancing Literacy Through Reader's Theater

Cathlin O'Reilly, Lincoln third grade teacher

A Guide to the Explicit Teaching of Speaking/Reading Fluency Using FIGS (Fluency Initiating Gestures)

Lisa Falcone, Hanscom speech/language pathologist, and Elizabeth Paige, Hanscom reading specialist

Reading out loud, concentrating on pacing, expression, and taking breaths at punctuation, have been shown to improve the overall reading skills of students. Groups of third graders at the Lincoln School will use Reader's Theater scripts, some acquired, some to be written by our third grade team to practice and enhance their reading fluency (*Enhancing Literacy Through Reader's Theater*). Over at Hanscom, Lisa Falcone, speech/language pathologist, and Elizabeth Paige, reading specialist, have already successfully used *Fluency Initiating Gestures*, or FIGs, to increase speaking and reading fluency among a small group of students. They will extend the program by writing lesson plans for teachers in grades K–4.



MATH AND TECHNOLOGY

Web 2.0

Cindy Matthes, Lincoln instructional technology teacher.

Following up on their successful seminars last summer, the Lincoln School technology team will prepare a seminar on Web 2.0 technologies for interested Lincoln and Hanscom faculty. Teachers will learn how to expand their classroom web pages and apply Web 2.0 programs to the curriculum, as well as to strengthen their communication with students and families.

Pioneering with the iPad

Matt Reed, Lincoln first grade teacher

Teachers and technology staff will explore uses of the new iPad to more efficiently collect and share data to support learning and enhance the curriculum in this grade.

Assessing Math

Assessing Math Concepts— Using the Online Component to Track Data

Claire Groden, Hanscom math specialist (retiring)

Tiered Math Assessment and Differentiation for Grade 1 Students New to School and New to Everyday Math

Mary-Ann Sullivan, Hanscom first grade teacher.

Students new to the Hanscom School throughout the year often struggle with learning the concepts currently being taught and have never been exposed to the *Everyday Math* curriculum. Claire Groden, Hanscom math specialist, will use a proven online tool to assess student performance throughout the year in the primary grades (*Assessing Math Concepts— Using the Online Component to Track Data*). Separately, Mary-Ann Sullivan and the first grade team at Hanscom will test every first grader who transfers into the school to determine their understanding of the math concepts currently being taught and the students' prior exposure to *Everyday Math* (*Tiered Math Assessment and Differentiation for Grade 1 Students New to School and New to Everyday Math*). With both of these grants, teachers will use the results to provide differentiated teaching to ensure that all students are being taught effectively.

SCIENCE IN THE NATURAL WORLD

Science in the Garden

Terry Green, Lincoln School science teacher

Fourth grade students will plant a fall garden in new raised beds built over the summer. Over the winter, they will learn how to put the garden to rest, and then in the spring, they will tend the garden and sample some of the herbs and lettuces they have grown! K–3 classes will also explore curriculum links to this shared garden.



Journey North

Sarah Wood, Lincoln fourth grade teacher

Fourth grade students will study the plant life cycle by planting tulips in the fall and following their growth patterns in their own school garden as well as in varied climates all over the world via the "Journey North" website.

The Circus Comes to Town!



Artist-in-residence Rick Davis gets assistance from a second-grade volunteer

Lincoln and Hanscom students joined the circus—at least for two weeks in April when a resident artist from Circus Smirkus came to town to teach elementary students the 2,000-year-old tradition of juggling, plate spinning, devil sticks, and more.

The idea was the brainchild of Stacey Clarkin, Hanscom physical education and health teacher, who learned about Circus Smirkus at a health fair and became intrigued with the idea of teaching rhythm and balance skills as a creative art form. With the added support of Lincoln teachers Melissa Nordstrom and Ryan Cassidy, circus arts replaced physical education class at both Hanscom and Lincoln schools for the kindergarten through fourth grades, plus two fifth grade classes in Lincoln.

Artist-in-residence Rick Davis introduced the circus arts concept to students in a first day orientation. Then, using only a harmonica and

LSF funded Circus Smirkus last week, and I had a run on 793.8 books thanks to Rick sharing the “magical secret” of library numbers!! It was a magnificent week for our school. Many, many thanks. We appreciate it so much.

— Nancy Rote, Hanscom Librarian

vocal chants, he modeled each of the steps of juggling, feather balancing, plate spinning, diabolos, and scarf juggling, pointing out that “kids don’t learn well with a lot of language.”

Students agreed that some props were easier to learn than others, but even those not requiring much movement still made them “sweat.” Second grader Kaitlin Beard’s favorite act was scarf-throwing, which she said involved “tossing it up in the air, looking at it, clapping two times, spinning around, and catching it behind my back.” Fourth grader Ava Liepert liked the simpler arm lengthening and shortening stunt, which needed no props at all. When students struggled, they were taught the “famous circus secrets” including: “try, try again, try a new way, go slow, and step-by-step.”

Following their training, Hanscom students treated parents in attendance to a 90-minute show with every child performing a favorite trick. In Lincoln, “Mr. Rick” presented an assembly of demonstrations and entertainment.



In addition to the circus arts training, the Lincoln School Foundation grant provided for the purchase of circus arts equipment so that both campuses can continue the curriculum for years to come.

3RD ANNUAL LSF SPELLING BEE, APRIL 11, 2010



At first I was nervous but then my friends (teammates) helped me to overcome my fear and it turned out to be a lot of fun!

— Nelle Carmody, fifth grade bee participant



< Clockwise from top left: Hanscom fourth grade team “Monstrous Beez” spell checking; fourth grade bee winners, “The Who’s,” with (L to R) announcer Steve McKenna, and judges Dan Pereira and Officer David Regan; fifth grade bee winners, “The Friz-Bees” and team “H-A-T” savoring a winning moment!