



May 6, 2008
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WFEE Awards \$107,215 in Teacher Grants 2008-2009 Grants Program Includes all Winchester Schools

Robots, storytellers, authors and solar cars will be coming to Winchester next year thanks to grants awarded today by the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence. "We saw an extraordinary number of creative, well considered proposals from Winchester teachers this year," said WFEE Grants Committee Co-Chair Susan Schwartz. "Teachers proposed innovative programs that will bring excitement to their classrooms, making learning more productive for all of our students."

The 15 educational grants awarded touch every school in the district, maintaining funding for Authorfest while adding new programs such as one to broaden student leadership at Winchester High School. Other educational grants include: a pilot curriculum to teach cursive writing, expansion of an educational video service district wide, improvements at the Vinson Owen science park and funding for an interdisciplinary after school club at WHS that will research and build a solar car.

"Teachers also came up with some amazing proposals for professional development," commented Grants Committee Co-Chair Ann Olmsted. "Some are individual such as one which will lead to the introduction of new metal working techniques at the middle school. But several collaborative grants will involve teachers across the district in learning best literacy practices for young children and new ways to teach student writing." WFEE has also increased funding for the Teachers As Scholars program, which will allow 45 Winchester teachers to attend seminars taught by professors at top colleges and universities throughout the region.

Funding technology improvements district wide is the focus of WFEE's efforts this spring. The Foundation is hoping to raise an additional \$100,000 to replace aging computers in the elementary schools. The technology initiative will also provide additional LCD projectors and interactive white boards at McCall as well as an expansion of the wireless environment at Winchester High School.

Proceeds from the Celebration of Education, slated for May 30th, will fund the technology initiative. The Celebration will feature performer Olu Dara, nationally known for his individual blend of blues, jazz and storytelling. Cocktails in the courtyard of the Parish of the Epiphany will be followed by dinner provided by Scutra, a live auction and concert. For tickets, contact WFEE at (781) 756-8050 or look on line at www.wfee.org.