

2011-2012 Teacher Grant Awards

1.) Building Home Libraries - Hall Elementary School

<http://hall.portlandschools.org/>

This grant helped students and their families build libraries at home. The project targeted struggling readers who are socio-economically disadvantaged and those whose first language is not English. Students were provided with books to take home and share with their families, making time for reading and discussion as a way to connect with each other and improve their language skills.

2.) Protecting Our Ecosystem: Ocean and Pond Studies - Longfellow Elementary School

<http://longfellow.portlandschools.org/>

For this project, students conducted water quality studies on Baxter Woods Pond, the ponds at Evergreen Cemetery, and the pond in the Longfellow School garden. When studying oceans, students took a field trip to Crescent Beach State Park to collect samples and study the ecosystem. They learned about the connection between clean water and animal life, the water cycle, and water clarity.

3.) Animal Adaptations: A Chewonki Presentation - Lyseth Elementary School

<http://lyseth.portlandschools.org/default.php>

Webbed feet, camouflaged fur, or spines on your back are all amazing ways that animals use adaptations to survive in the wild. In this fun-filled presentation, kindergarteners learned about adaptations, tried on costumes, and saw firsthand how live animals have adaptations that help them thrive in their habitats. After the presentation, students created their own animal with adaptations they made up.

4.) Art Van Visits West - West School

<http://www.portlandschools.org/schools/westprep/west/west/Welcome%20to%20West.html>

West School partnered with ArtVan, a mobile arts therapy program, to bring therapeutic art workshops to its elementary students. Students engaged in creating art as a direct way to channel feelings, adjust to new circumstances, and devise creative solution to problems.

5.) Early Risers Book Group - King Middle School

<http://king.portlandschools.org/>

This grant provided funding for some of the books used for King's Early Risers Book Group, which meets weekly to discuss modern and traditional classics. Students met with residents of State Street Nursing Home in February and March to discuss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.

6.) Highlighting the History of Evergreen - Lincoln Middle School

<http://www2.portlandschools.org/schools/middle-schools/lincoln-middle-school>

Working in collaboration with the Friends of Evergreen Cemetery, this service learning project helped educate students and the greater community about historically significant sites within the cemetery. Students developed research skills to study the sites, and produced informational pamphlets for distribution.

7.) Physical Science Hands On Activities - Lyman Moore Middle School

<http://www2.portlandschools.org/schools/middle-schools/lyman-moore-middle-school>

This grant funded equipment for three 8th grade physical science activities. 1.) A thermal insulation design challenge, in which students designed and built an insulating device to keep in heat produced by an incandescent light bulb. 2.) An interdisciplinary unit on the science of sailing and Maine sailing history, in which students engaged with sailing history and designed/built hulls and sails that were powered by a fan and raced in a tank. 3.) A physics study with model rockets, in which students designed and built rockets and measured their altitude and average speed.

8.) “Paige in Full” Workshops - Lyman Moore Middle School

<http://www2.portlandschools.org/schools/middle-schools/lyman-moore-middle-school>

Portland Ovarations presented “Paige in Full”, a performance by Paige Hernandez in which she blends poetry, hip hop, visual arts, and live music to tell the story of a multicultural girl growing up in Baltimore. 6th and 7th graders attended the performance, and this grant funded two workshops with Hernandez at the middle school.

9.) The Art of Ecology - Casco Bay High School

<http://cbhs.portlandschools.org/>

This grant funded cameras to allow 9th grade Art and Biology students to record seasonal changes, use photos to help identify plants, and create photo files on their computers used to inspire and create works of art.

10.) Indoor Estuaries - Deering High School

<http://www2.portlandschools.org/schools/high-schools/deering-high-school>

Indoor estuaries, a combination of a window boxes and aquariums, integrate a marine habitat with a terrestrial habitat, much like a salt marsh. This grant helped to find the construction of twelve indoor estuaries for use by students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.

11.) The Joy of Composting - Portland Arts and Technology High School

<http://paths.maine.cte.org/>

The funds from this grant were used to buy cedar planks for the construction of compost bins by Carpentry students. Funds were also used to purchase worm bins and worms. The bins were utilized in multiple ways by the Culinary class, the Fast Foods class, the Early Childhood Education class, and the Greenhouse class.

12.) Workshop and Conducting at All-City Orchestra Concert by Gunther Schuller - King Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, Lyman Moore Middle School, Casco Bay High School, Deering High School, Portland High School

American Composer, Conductor, and Educator Gunther Schuller presented a workshop and conducted at the Portland Public Schools’ All-City Orchestra. The workshop was on Schuller’s “Adagio, an Ode to the Minor Second and Major Seventh” for String Orchestra. It was open to string students throughout the area, and featured side-by-side participation by members of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, who played alongside students and presented master classes in their individual instruments.