

1) *Between the World and Me* - Casco Bay High School

This grant will allow Casco Bay High School to purchase a full class set (100 copies) of Ta-Nehisi Coates' new bestselling book "Between the World and Me" to deepen student understanding of concepts of race in the United States, persistent inequality, and of the challenges facing black Americans in today's society. Their expedition will conclude with students creating products that can be shared with the larger community. This text will be used in both English and Social Studies classes as students study race from multiple lenses.

2) *Using Theater to Put a Human Face on the Middle Eastern Struggle From Subject to Citizen* - Casco Bay High School

Students are studying the Middle East and the current struggle from subject to citizen. They explore and then adopt one of five countries, ultimately choosing a person they admire who has struggle for citizenship. Using Reza Jalali's play "The Poets and the Assassin," all 100 students will work with consultant Moira Driscoll (actor/theater educational outreach professional) to create a vibrant museum. Some students will contribute a piece of art, some will contribute artifacts, and others will contribute performance art.

3) *Deering Debate Team* - Deering High School

This grant will cover numerous operating costs for Deering's Debate Team (student and school membership fees, tournament fees, and transportation costs). Practicing public speaking and argument outside of school and being rewarded for it prepares students for using those skills in the real world. Students learn from the encounters by reflecting, revising, and returning again to the podium. They share and apply the skills and knowledge in a number of ways, from traveling to the middle school to conduct mock debates to going to USM's law school to meet members of Maine's state supreme court and watch a moot court.

4) *In School Residency with Telling Room* - Deering High School

A writer & teacher from the Telling Room will go to an ELL class for 6-12 sessions and help the students with an intensive writing curriculum built around individual student's interests. The Telling Room calls this program an "In School Residency." They encourage students to be better readers and writers based on the notion that children and young adults are natural story tellers. They help students build literacy skills through writing. It is a wonderful way to immerse students in the writer's world. The creation of a model writing program for the ELL department at Deering is also a goal. A community presentation at the end of the project will give students a chance to show and share their success.

5) *Martin Swinger, Improvisational Singing (Vocal Skinny Dipping)* - Deering High School

Martin Swinger, award-winning singer and songwriter, will visit classes and demonstrate and teach 'scatting' or vocal improvisation. Jazz and components of improvisation combine to build singing experience, self-trust, group trust, expand vocal possibilities and strength. This practice will encourage students to develop deep listening skills, self-awareness, trust in their own musical instincts through solo and group improvisations, and build confidence and experience as music creators and collaborators. In addition to classroom visits, Martin will return to work with the music students on a piece the chorus will perform at the December 16th concert.

6) Mindfulness for Success - Deering High School

With programming by *Wise Minds, Big Hearts* the Alternative Ed students will be taught how to notice their environment, thoughts, and emotions to become more available for learning and positive social interactions. By learning the techniques of Mindfulness, and teaching those techniques to younger students and/or peers, these students will have a set of tools that will help them to lower stress levels, to self-reflect and to better navigate through the demands of career and/or college.

7) Race, Racism and White Privilege - Deering High School

The AP 11 English teachers at Deering have developed an in-depth unit on race, racism and white privilege. One of the most important and relevant activists in the area of white privilege is Debbie Irving, whose book "Waking Up White" has become required reading for anyone interested in racism studies. Ms. Irving (whose mother is a Deering grad!) will come to speak and be a powerful addition to the unit. This grant will allow Deering High School to compensate her for her travel and time.

8) Textbooks for Art - Deering High School

In a subject that is often considered to be subjective, students will now have texts that point out the universal qualities and concepts in art and help them in understanding art processes, vocabulary and art history. These textbooks will be invaluable resources for students who process information more easily by reading. "Hands in Clay" is an excellent resource that offers detailed explanations, visuals and diagrams on the nature and properties of clay, how to build in clay, and throwing on the wheel. As well, they will receive in depth explanations and examples of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design in "Gateways to Art." These books will be used as study guides for art assessments on vocabulary, materials, processes, and art history.

9) A Maine Carousel - Portland Arts and Technology High School

This grant will allow the artist who created the Empire State Carousel (Farmers Museum, Cooperstown, NY) to visit and guide students to create a smaller Maine Carousel. The students will learn about woodcarving, see demonstrations and learn how the ESC carousel was created.

The artist will spend a week in Maine demonstrating and teaching at Lyseth School and Portland Arts and Technology High School. The students will explore Maine history and wildlife to create carousel animals and scenery panels that represent the State of Maine.

10) Class Gardening Library - Portland Arts and Technology High School

Well written, illustrated books will allow all of the Landscapes and Gardens students to participate in reading assignments. There are some very good books written for environmental, farming and nutrition concepts. This grant will allow all of these students, some with varying degrees of attention spans and reading abilities, to engage in reading activities this year and help to grow the library.

11) Interdisciplinary Project in Dance and Sculpture –

Portland Arts and Technology High School

This interdisciplinary project for dance students will provide dancers with the unique opportunity of working with a visual artist to create sculpture that will be incorporated or become the impetus for creating a movement piece. Artist Deborah Klotz works with a variety of materials and will collaborate with the students to create pieces from materials such as plaster, paper, wire, wood, and recycled materials. These high school students will directly experience the process of making art with their hands and then use a finished product as a prop or costume or set piece.

12) Project Lead the Way Field Trip Resource Kit - Portland High School

Portland High School has new engineering classes, with curriculum by Project Lead the Way, the nation's leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. In these classes, students investigate engineering design, computer aided drafting, circuits, mechanics, robotics, and more. A key adjunct to the curriculum is to connect the students to the engineering community. This grant will allow the students to see the engineers in their actual workplaces through a series of field trips not only to local companies but also to Boston-area companies and university engineering departments.

13) Bird Sculptures - King Middle School

“It’s For the Birds” is a learning expedition about the challenges facing some species of northern birds. Seventh graders will be educating the public and motivating them to help in the creation of migration paths for these threatened birds. Students will be sculpting birds out of wire, and installing them in Deering Oaks Park as well as designing an information plaque to educate the public about this issue, including action steps they can take to help alleviate threats to migrating birds. Students will create meaning in their sculptures and gain the understanding of the impact art can have on others.

14) It's for The Birds - King Middle School

This Fall, seventh graders at King Middle School are engaging in an expedition titled, “It’s for the Birds” and partnering with Maine Audubon Society to create The Portland Project. Students will learn about the connections between birds and native insects and native plants. This grant will enable the purchase of native seeds which the students will plant this fall in trays, nurture over the winter, and plant in those areas around the city that they have identified as important places to build native habitat. This expedition covers the content areas of Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Art.

15) Ukuleles for All! - King Middle School

Teaching nearly 200 students, the music teacher at King wants to get kids even more excited about music and go beyond digital music production by introducing ukuleles. This will give them the opportunity to learn a stringed instrument, and to play and sing with others in small or large groups. The ukuleles purchased with this grant will also be used to teach students the 3 chords that are the basis of blues, which will tie in with a text being used for their expedition. In addition, these ukuleles can be used in the afterschool chorus/ensemble, Knightlife.

16) Book Drive - Lincoln Middle School

This grant will allow the ELA teacher to purchase books that she and students have identified as valuable for the various reading levels in the class. The curriculum is the Teacher's College reading and writing units. They both require that the students do lots of reading from various genres. This project would allow lower readers to have a better variety of books to choose from, give the students who are higher readers choices of different genres and help students to increase their stamina by having a larger selection in the library.

17) Citizenship and Social Action Books Needed! - Lincoln Middle School

The curriculum for the seventh grade Social Studies department is focused on the foundations of American Society. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase an extensive classroom library of nonfiction texts that are multi-level and multi-subject, to correspond to the various units throughout the school year. With a wide range of texts students will encounter different writing styles and perspectives and be given a more real-life approach to research and learning.

18) Deepening and Extending the Book Nook - Lincoln Middle School

The funding of this grant will allow the ELA teachers, the Teaching Strategist, the ELL teachers and the Special Education teachers to choose book sets (4-5 copies of a text) for the recently relocated Book Nook. Students will have better access to more accurately leveled materials and be able to access them in deeper, more meaningful ways and practice higher level thinking skills.

19) Non-Fiction Leveled Reading Materials - Lincoln Middle School

This year the Social Studies department is implementing new curriculum for the 6th graders, which will be focused on the foundations of Ancient Civilization. The plan is to utilize a wide range of texts that account for student needs, reading levels, and interests. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase an extensive classroom library of nonfiction texts that are multi-level and multi-subject, to correspond to the various units throughout the school year.

20) Project Bookcase: Building a Better Classroom Library -

Lincoln Middle School

This grant will allow the 6th graders to fill their classroom bookshelves with titles they themselves have researched and selected. Having a large collection of books with a variety of genres will help these students find their identities as readers. When their bookshelves are filled with books - selected by the students for the students - they will become passionate about reading and become lifelong readers.

21) *The Many Faces of Commercial Street, Portland Maine* –

Lincoln Middle School

Students will use inquiry and research-based study to investigate the many businesses, buildings, and people of Commercial Street. Its development includes restaurants, fishing wharfs, condominiums, an outdoor music venue, tourism attractions, and a deep water fishing facility. Students will interview people who work and live there to seek out information about its rich history as told by the people who see Commercial Street every day. Students will travel to Commercial Street, lead interviews, take pictures, and visit buildings. The money will be used to travel there and back, develop film, create visual aids, and have guest speakers into school.

22) *Appropriate Texts for Meeting Standards* –

Lyman Moore Middle School

This grant will be used to purchase multiple copies of texts that can supplement the texts currently used in Language Arts classrooms. There are many ELL students of various levels, students with IEPs and others who may struggle to read grade-level texts while in the mainstream ELA classes. These texts will be used for the students' independent reading and partner reads throughout several units, working with Teacher's College curriculum and the Common Core Standards.

23) *History Speaks for Civil Rights!* - Lyman Moore Middle School

This grant will allow the purchase of fiction and non-fiction books for a Civil Rights unit for Social Studies to be discussed by students in literature circle groups. Students will lead discussions, find meanings of unfamiliar words, draw illustrations of key scenes, track travel by characters, and make connections to history. It is especially important to have varying leveled books so that all students have access to good literature, regardless of reading levels.

24) *Maine Pride Through Literature* - Lyman Moore Middle School

Through this grant a collection of books connected to Maine will be established: Maine authors, Maine settings, Maine heroes. It will reflect the diversity of the Maine experience with a balance of realistic fiction, historical fiction, and non-fiction and includes a balance of female and male protagonists. Another goal is to have Maine authors visit in person or by Skype.

25) *Pottery Wheels at Lyman Moore* - Lyman Moore Middle School

This grant will enable Lyman Moore to purchase ceramic supplies to support the new pottery wheels purchased last year. They will be used in an after school pottery wheel class. The tools purchased will be used year after year and the glazes will last a few years. The clay will be used by the 8th grade students, along with any others who sign up. Students can hone their skills and continue with ceramics in high school if desired.

26) *Investigating Birds* - East End Community School

The money received from this grant will be used to fund Audubon teachers to visit the East End School first grade classrooms and for the first grade classes to visit Audubon and the Scarborough Marsh. Audubon will do a beaks and feet presentation at the school where kids learn how the beaks function and why birds eat or sip what they do, and students will go a field trip to the Audubon to see the birds at their place. Students will then set up a smaller simulation of the beaks and feet for the celebration of learning to teach their parents what they have learned.

27) *Our Many Stories* - East End Community School

How does a person change a place and a place change a person? This is the guiding question as students study movement, including waves of immigration. The creation of a book, with immigration stories that represent the cultures of their student body, is the culmination of the year-long study. It also will serve as a vehicle for students to see similarities in their cultures, helping students learn about and understand each other, as well as bring families into their learning, and into the school for an end of project reading and celebration.

28) *The Garden Classroom Series* - East End Community School

Funding from this grant is for Cultivating Community/Food Corp and East End Community School to create the Garden Classroom Series, a program that fully engages youth with their school garden and food system while teaching a variety of academic concepts. This successful 5 year-old partnership enables them to use the school garden to teach about life science as well as make meals from the garden. These students come from a limited background and these experiences with the garden and different kinds of plants and food enhance their learning in an outside classroom that is hands-on and engaging.

29) *Wings of Wonder (2)* - Hall Elementary School

The 2nd graders are involved in a focused, year-long study of Birds. Funding will be used to enrich classroom learning when students participate in targeted activities with Audubon staff. Two Audubon sessions will be held at the school site and one field trip session will be in collaboration with the Biodiversity Research Institute at their research facility in West Falmouth. Students observe biologists at work! Hands-on experiential sessions, combined with year-long classroom inquiries and use of the adjacent Portland Trail as an outdoor classroom, will develop content knowledge, observation skills, research and data collection, environmental awareness, and stewardship.

30) *The Art of the Book: Looking at Books AS Art* -

Longfellow Elementary School

Rebecca Goodale is a book artist and professor at USM and on the cutting edge of her field. Her work combines bookmaking, printmaking, ecology, storytelling and literacy into inventive and beautiful forms. She will do a residency at Longfellow Elementary to demonstrate several kinds of bookmaking and printmaking, discuss the process behind the product, and assist students in creating book projects of their own. Funding will be used for her stipend and to purchase some supplies necessary for the work.

31) *Exploring History Through our Eyes* - Lyseth Elementary School

Third grade conducts a year long study of Portland including visits to many historical sites such as Portland Observatory, The Longfellow House, Victoria Mansion, Portland City Hall and many more. Students will work with Gretchen Berg to create a piece of physical theater, which they will share with the school community. The performance will allow students to use their bodies, minds and energy to create a final performance that helps teach families and 2nd graders about Portland's history in a fun and meaningful way.

32) *Library Audiobooks for Lyseth* - Lyseth Elementary School

This grant will be used to purchase self-contained audiobooks called Playaways. Learning to read and learning to love reading are two important goals of the school library program. Students in grades 3 - 5 make the transition from learning how to read to becoming a life long reader. Research has shown that students who listen to audiobooks benefit from the experience of listening to the book as much as students who read the actual text. This is truly helpful for the growing population of ELL students and also for those students who are struggling to read at grade level.

33) *Stop, Look, and Listen to a Book* - Lyseth Elementary School

This grant will allow the purchase of a listening center, books with multiple copies, and corresponding CDs. This will enhance the current Reading Workshop practices in the classroom by involving students in phonics word work, small group instruction, independent reading of book boxes and an additional read aloud. It will give them another opportunity to experience language and communication, allow them to get closer to the stories, replay when needed and help with comprehension.

34) *TroutKids at Lyseth School* - Lyseth Elementary School

Students will raise approximately 300 brook trout from egg to releasable fry by teaming up with the Portland Water District who works with area schools to bring TroutKids of Maine into the classroom. Students will study watersheds, the water cycle, the trout life cycle, and related environmental topics such as storm water runoff. This experience culminates with the students releasing their fry into a local stream or river in the Spring. This grant will go toward a tank, a chiller, a microscope and transportation.

35) *Museum of African Culture comes to Peaks Island* -

Peaks Island Elementary School

Students will create a traditional self-portrait, and then learn the art of mask making. Oscar O. Mokeme from The Museum of African Culture in Portland will then visit Peaks Island and speak to the children about the significance and meaning of African masks and explain how they can apply that meaning in their own lives and artwork. His presentations always come with stories, explanations about the meaning behind certain symbols or forms, and a talk of how everyone has weaknesses as well as strengths and that both of these need to be celebrated. The funding would be used to pay The Museum's fee.

36) *Field Study to Strawberry Banke Museum –*

Presumpscot Elementary School

The 4th grade teachers will take their students to the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth New Hampshire to experience the living history museum, where they will get a hands-on learning experience to truly understand what it was like to live in Colonial America. This fieldtrip will complement their classroom learning as they create written historical narratives of a trades person. They will create their own living history museum to present to members of the Presumpscot Community.

37) *Maine Book Awards and Multicultural Collections –*

Presumpscot Elementary School

With a very diverse student population and their current library collection 98% printed in English, Presumpscot will use PEF funding to broaden their collection of picture books, fiction, and non-fiction that would complement the units of study, and languages, throughout the range of grades and content areas. With the appropriate resources, literacy specialists can join grade-level and/or content teams to build a wonderful, diverse, content and genre-rich collection to nurture a love of reading and finding information. In addition, children can bring cultural language-specific materials to share with their families, translating for them and further extending the skillful practice of the English language.

38) *Book It Home -* Reiche Elementary School

This grant allows for the purchase of books for classroom libraries. With the guidance of teachers, students can regularly take a book home and once returned, take another. As a result, they will have access to the necessary resources to practice reading beyond the classroom. Students are taught to be careful and respectful with the books so that they may be enjoyed for years to come by other kindergartners. This is the second year of this initiative and the program is a success with students and parents alike.

39) *Curriculum Support for English Language Learners*

Grades 3-5 - Reiche Elementary School

Grant money will be used to purchase books to support English Language Learners (ELLs) in accessing the mainstream curriculum in grades 3-5. These include biographies, multicultural fairy tales, student atlases, American Civil War and WWII books, leveled science readers and memoirs. These books will prove to be invaluable resources to ELLs in mainstream classrooms not just this year, but for years to come, as all of the units/topics are repeated by each grade level each year.

40) *Gulf of Maine Ecosystem -* Reiche Elementary School

Second graders will be studying the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem, the science unit that involves studying the various animals and their adaptations and behavior in the ecosystem. Students will be researching a specific animal and sharing their knowledge through a writing piece. This grant will provide for a field trip to Maine Audubon's Scarborough Marsh. Prior to the field trip, an expert from Maine Audubon will visit the classrooms and provide a lesson as well as bring some taxidermy creatures that live in the marsh. The same expert and other Maine Audubon staff will provide a guided and informational tour through the Marsh where students will observe and witness real animals within the marsh.

41) *Language and Literacy for Every Student in Every Lesson* -

Reiche Elementary School

This grant will enable the purchase of a variety of materials to enhance the learning of fourth and fifth graders, with the goal of “making every lesson a language lesson.” The books (in English, Spanish, French and Arabic), book envelopes, and CD players and headphones will be an important addition to the Reading Workshop and will quickly become integrated into the existing routines for students' independent and partner reading work. Pocket charts, sentence strips, and flash cards for content and language objectives and vocabulary work will be used daily in the different subject areas--reading, writing, science, social studies, and math. All these items will be immediately incorporated into the classroom.

42) *Maine's Indigenous People: Wabanaki Culture and History* -

Reiche Elementary School

Newly arrived English Language Learners will become experts in the indigenous culture and history of Maine. They will study the myths and legends of the Penobscot, Maliseet, Micmac, and Passamaquoddy, as well as the history and culture of each tribe. Grant funds will be used to pay for a guest speaker, Chris Sockalexis, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Penobscot Nation, to facilitate a full day of hands-on workshops with all fourth grade students. Additionally, funds will be used to purchase highly visual texts appropriate for ELL's who are new to the English language. These books will also be available for use in mainstream classrooms during the grade four Maine study unit.

43) *Read Us a Story, Play Us A Tune* -

Reiche Elementary School

Through PEF funding books will be purchased to be used at the kindergarten level throughout the school year, and in subsequent years as well. This project is innovative and creative as it strengthens and supports the kindergarten curriculum by integrating music education. Reiche kindergarten teachers, the Reiche music teacher and two PSO musicians have been working together to plan and implement meaningful lessons which enrich the kindergarten literacy program and deepen comprehension through musical activities.

44) *Rhymers are Readers* -

Reiche Elementary School

This grant will allow the purchase of children's literature as well as three Fairy Tale Problem Solving STEM kits where students can use hands-on materials to engineer happier endings for the characters (such as a house the wolf cannot blow down or a chair Goldilocks cannot break) during their WIN time. Children will have multiple opportunities to hear the language of the songs, rhymes and tales to help them develop much needed vocabularies in playful ways. All regular education teachers, Title I staff and ELL staff will be interventionists during this WIN block and will all have access to these materials.

45) *Secrets of the Forest* -

Reiche Elementary School

First grade students will be participating in a comprehensive study of nature and wildlife working with staff from Maine Audubon. The unit will consist of 3 visits to the classroom and 3 field trips to two Maine Audubon facilities, Gisland Farm and Evergreen Cemetery, to provide authentic nature experiences. This place-based learning experience will help students understand the various types of habitats and wildlife that supports Maine and our communities. Many of these students have never left the city limits, and many are new to the United States and have never seen snow. What an adventure this will be for these inner city and immigrant students!

46) Guiding Readers Toward Independence - Riverton Elementary School

Guided reading is an essential component in classroom instruction, and having the appropriate number of books for low-language and low-reading proficiency readers is crucial to their becoming independent readers. This is particularly important for ELL's who need guidance to help make meaning for some of the culturally confusing subjects where they have no background knowledge.

Funding will be used to purchase a classroom set of non-fiction Newbridge books to use in the classroom during push-in instruction.