



## 2007/2008 Grant Awards

In April 2007 the Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) solicited grant applications from teachers, administrators and other staff of the Canton Public Schools. Five applications were submitted requesting a total of over \$11,000. The CAPE Grant Committee reviewed all the applications approved four grants for funding. A second round of grant applications will be reviewed in the fall.

### Spring 2007 Grant Awards

---

<i>Project Name:</i>	<b>Time Passages: A Walk Through Canton's Past</b>
<i>School:</i>	JFK, Luce, Hansen in Collaboration with CHS CmPS Team
<i>Applicant(s):</i>	Patricia Phalan on behalf of the CmPS Team
<i>Cost:</i>	\$2,605

For the past two years the Canton Junior/Senior Division Community Problem Solving Team has been working on a project entitled, Time Passages: A Walk Through Canton's Past. As part of this project the team created a historic trail for Canton's citizens and a third-grade textbook. Learning local history is required for third grade students under the Massachusetts Frameworks. This grant will fund the printing of the third grade textbook and the teacher's edition. This curriculum will be introduced to third graders during the 2007/2008 school year.

\*Additional funds have been provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and an Outdoor Classroom Team Grant.

---

<i>Project Name:</i>	<b>Science in a Box</b>
<i>School:</i>	Luce
<i>Applicant(s):</i>	Bridget Wade
<i>Cost:</i>	\$550.00

The grant will fund *Science in a Box* hands on science kits three fifth grade classrooms at the Luce School. Students will take a different kit home each week, providing students the opportunity to participate in hands-on investigation. Each student will be responsible for completing a lab report. This project will provide an opportunity for review of all the concepts that appear on the fifth grade Science and Technology MCAS through hands on science inquiry. These kits will be used year after year with minimal upkeep and restocking.

---

*Project Name:* **Exploring Inuit Culture and Canada**  
*School:* Luce  
*Applicant(s):* Cynthia De Vito, Marie Lawrie, Kaitlyn Wroblewski, Elisa Blanchard  
*Cost:* \$950.00

Through this grant the 4<sup>th</sup> grade will expand the social studies curriculum to include the Inuit Culture. The Massachusetts Curriculum Social Studies Frameworks require 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn about at least two Native American tribes in Canada and the Inuit nation. This grant will provide funds to purchase materials for a multimedia unit of instruction that will teach students about the Native People of the Arctic, Canada and Nunavut, the newest territory of Canada. IT will enhance the existing Social Studies curriculum.

---

*Project Name:* **Technology and the Writing Process: First and Fifth Graders Collaborate on Writing through "Writing Buddies"**  
*School:* Hansen  
*Applicant(s):* Claire Lund and Mary Cawley  
*Cost:* \$3,358.40\*

This project will enhance the core curriculum by creating a first and fifth grade writing buddies program to build upon the teaching of writing process that takes place in individual classrooms. The program will augment the current curriculum programs and will use technology to support the writing process. Writing process software will be used in the computer lab. A team of parent volunteers will assist both 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with the development of keyboard skills. Additionally a visualizer will be used to demonstrate the writing process using 3-D materials and illustrations. It will enliven instructions, provide students with immediate feedback and support social collaboration, enhancing the development of writing skills.

\*Hansen School CAPT will provide additional funds to support this grant.

### Fall 2007 Grant Awards

---

*Project Name:* **Galvin Goes Global with Massachusetts Foreign Language Week**  
*School:* Galvin Middle School  
*Applicant(s):* Laurie Moore, Denise Buckley, Maryellen McNally  
*Cost:* \$720

Through this project the GMS students will celebrate "Massachusetts Foreign Language Week," March 3-9. This celebration will aim to increase global awareness with an emphasis on Hispanic and French cultures. Its goal is to enhance cultural diversity and students' awareness beyond the Canton community. In addition, the Foreign Language Department would like to honor the cultural diversity among students in grades 6- 8 within our own school population.

This will be a school-wide project including grades 6-8, approximately 718 students. In their foreign language classes, students will research famous people, create flags and maps of countries in which French and Spanish are spoken. English classes will focus on vocabulary, parts of speech, and word derivatives relating to Spanish and French. Social Studies classes will incorporate geography as well as famous people, like the Hispanic explorers. Art classes will be involved in the poster contest. Posters will have a specific focus: religion, customs/traditions, food, or language. In keeping with the Mass. State and National Frameworks the themes of communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and community will be addressed in the project's activities.

---

*Project Name:*        **Advancing Math Competency through Mobil Math Literacy**  
*School:*                Hansen  
*Applicant(s):*        Maryanna Biedermann  
*Cost:*                    \$4200

This project utilizes a creative, non-threatening interdisciplinary format to explore and explain number sense, problem solving, powerful math vocabulary, and mathematical concepts. By using math literature as a springboard to explore math content in a low-risk, safe environment, children are more likely to share their ideas regarding how math works. By sharing a variety of math picture books and then exploring related manipulatives and activities, students in grades first through fifth are exposed to visual representation of both concrete and abstract concepts. Using math literature provides a different presentation format of essential curriculum topics. Key objectives include solidifying math vocabulary in grades 1-5; reinforcing number sense, what numbers mean and the relationships between them; and developing a stronger understanding of geometry and patterns.

---

*Project Name:*        **Reading Literacy Book Club**  
*School:*                Kennedy  
*Applicant(s):*        Susan Mathieson, Julee Jaruszawicus, Kim MacKay, Aimee Lyden, Jennifer Henderson  
*Cost:*                    \$2550

The project will establish a book club for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at the JFK. The book club will encourage children to participate in discussion activities that emphasize collaborating with others, constructing meaning, and using a variety of texts to arrive at new understandings. Through these activities that foster peer interactions, children will develop discussion skills and the confidence to discover new ideas within a supportive environment. Led by trained volunteers, students will rotate through the book club in groups of five. Students will assume roles in the group supporting them to participate in the group in unique ways such as the artful artist: (draw a picture), the word wizard (pick a new word), the discussion director (lead the group), the passage master (do the linking) and the connector (talk about the characters). Books will be selected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers and the reading specialist.

---

<i>Project Name:</i>	<b>Assessment of Early College Awareness and Postsecondary Planning</b>
<i>School:</i>	Canton High School and Galvin Middle School
<i>Applicant(s):</i>	Stephanie Shapiro, Marla Schay
<i>Cost:</i>	\$785

Numerous studies have found that parents and students are not planning sufficiently and rely on schools for guidance. This is especially true for families in which the parents are not college graduates. If Canton wants to help its high school students succeed in college and ultimately in their careers, it needs to become more proactive with middle school students and parents. Before the guidance departments at the middle and high schools can develop programs and curriculum for middle school families, a better understanding of the post-graduation perceptions, goals and plans of both students and parents and how these views change as students approach the college application process is needed. The proposed project is intended to examine the extent of career and college exploration and planning among 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents as compared to that of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. Based on an analysis of this information, developmental programs for middle school students as well as information sessions for middle school parents that will ultimately improve the college readiness of all Canton High School graduates can be more effectively planned.

---

<i>Project Name:</i>	<b>Teachers as Scholars</b>
<i>School:</i>	All
<i>Applicant(s):</i>	John D'Auria, Robin Billings
<i>Cost:</i>	\$4,400

Teachers as Scholars (TAS) brings together classroom teachers and university professors in two or three day seminars that allow teachers to become reacquainted with a love of knowledge and learning. These seminars nurture the mind and spirit of classroom teachers in a way that inspires them to deepen their own passion for learning and that passion is, in turn, passed onto their students. The mission of TAS is to "provide teachers with the time to become students again and to immerse themselves in scholarly issues, regardless of the grade level they teach or their area of expertise. Thus Kindergarten teachers eagerly study the work of Flannery O'Connor or an English teacher enrolls in a calculus seminar and, although Flannery O'Connor and calculus will never appear in their classrooms, what remains is their belief in the power of ideas to be transforming and inspiring...a belief that crosses all grade levels." This grant money will allow 15 teachers to participate in TAS. Each teacher will present to the larger faculty at their schools what their experience was like engaging in one of these seminars. Through this form of professional development the schools gain "hard-to quantify" dividends because teachers re-center their teaching on big ideas and developing a love for learning in their own students.