



## 2008-2009 Grants to Educators

### **Andrews Elementary School, *Books of Hope*, \$800.00**

Susan Fegraeus

*Books of Hope* is a national, non-profit organization which sends books written by American school children to children in Africa. Andrews' students will write and publish fiction and non-fiction books throughout the year for their adopted school in Africa. At a celebration in May, the students will share the books they have written with their parents before the books are shipped to Africa. *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*

### **Armstrong Middle School, *Writers' Workshop*, \$800.00**

Shirley Sadowski  
Linda Eckstein  
Kristin Ernst

In two day-long Writers' Workshops, two different groups of seventh graders selected by their English teachers for their potential to raise their writing TAKS scores from one level to the next higher level (1 to 2, 2 to 3, or 3 to 4) will spend the day in a small group setting learning about and practicing specific techniques that will increase their TAKS writing scores while allowing them to have fun as they learn. One workshop will be in November and the other in early February. *This grant sponsored by the Plano ISD Council of PTAs.*

### **Armstrong Middle School, *A Jump on Spelling*, \$50.00**

Heidi Bellamy

Students at Armstrong Middle School literally "jump" at the opportunity to spell with their peers. In their Spelling Bee Club they increase word power and prepare for spelling bee contests by spelling words and jumping rope at the same time.

### **Barron EC - P-K, *Language Rich Environment for ALL Students*, \$1,500.00**

Sharon Latimer  
Nicole Cone  
Jessica Hoffman

The Language Rich Environment classroom includes students from all Pre-K programs: students with special needs, students who are at risk due to low-income status, students with English as their second language and students who are within their developmentally appropriate levels. Using interactive books, manipulatives and language games that have been created by their teachers, this diverse mix of students has easy access to a language- and literacy-rich curriculum.

**Barron EC - P-K, *Counselor's Corner*, \$1,500.00**

Aina Carruth  
Kay Glawe

*Counselors' Corner* provides easily accessible resources for teachers, parents, and students related to behavioral, emotional, family, and academic issues. A "library" of children's books in the counselor's office offers a quiet place for a teacher to bring a student to read books addressing difficult issues in a child-friendly way. The corner also has resources for parents and staff on how to teach appropriate behavior.

**Beverly Elementary School, *S'More Success Writing Camp*, \$1,500.00**

Abigail Aguirre  
Rachel Duenas  
Katie Bohannon  
Patsy Bova  
Leah Carpenter

*S'More Success Writing Camp* is a two-day event that extends the writing process in a practical learning environment. Each of five different "camp sites" (classrooms) highlight one of the traits of writing. The goal is to facilitate confidence and a love of writing that will last throughout the students' academic careers, as well as throughout their chosen vocational paths.

**Bowman Middle School, *Band Together*, \$1,500.00**

Chris Ostertag

During this time when renting a musical instrument can be a financial burden for families, *Band Together* helps with the daily materials students need for playing their instruments. This resource opens the door to a successful musical experience for disadvantaged students.

**Bowman Middle School, *Music is Instrumental*, \$1,500.00**

Mark Caspersen

Plano ISD has had a long tradition of a nationally recognized instrumental music program for its students. This grant allows Bowman Middle School band to purchase as many as 10 to 15 instruments, making musical enrichment available to all students regardless of their economic status.

**Bowman Middle School, *Proud Promising Raiders*, \$1,390.00**

Linda DeLaney  
Gayle Sott  
Karen Miller

*Proud Promising Raiders* is an after-school program created to enhance the academic, organizational, and social development of Special Education students. PPR includes a group of diverse learners who have limited access to the resources of our community. Through PPR activities and weekly meetings, these students increase their knowledge of community resources, mentor younger students, and practice life skills.

**Bowman Middle School, *Project GOAL: From Soccer to Student Success*, \$1,300.00**

Lynn Ojeda

*Project GOAL: From Soccer to Student Success* is an extracurricular program comprised of intramural co-ed soccer teams. This program is open to all students at Bowman Middle School, attracts students who may not participate in other extracurricular activities, and is of high interest to the large Hispanic student population at Bowman. Students must have passing grades in order to participate; this motivates them to achieve and connects them to their school in a positive way.

**Bowman Middle School, *After School Art*, \$350.00**

Daniel Zock

*After School Art* gives students an opportunity to participate in additional art activities once a week. This program which is designed for both advanced and novice students is open to current art students and also those students who would not normally be able to take art during their regular daily schedule. *This grant sponsored by the Plano ISD Council of PTAs.*

**Carpenter Middle School, *Cowboy Civic Leadership Round Up*, \$1,500.00**

Joe deLarios  
David Welch  
Gavin Mundy

*Cowboy Civic Leadership Round Up* is a unique student government initiative designed to give pro-active students the opportunity to develop their current leadership skills and explore their future civic responsibilities. In addition to serving as elected student representatives, these students host a guest-lecture series featuring presentations by North Texas civic leaders. Students encounter first hand the processes of federal, state, and local government in Dallas, Austin, and Plano.

**Carpenter Middle School, *Reading Counts at Carpenter Middle School*, \$1,500.00**

Kimberly Seale  
Carol Valdez  
Lynn Jorgensen

Using Scholastic's Reading Counts program in conjunction with results of the NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Reading test and their TAKS Reading Lexile, each student learns what his/her individual reading level is and selects reading material to match it. Teachers offer differentiated instruction at each student's independent level. The result is reading growth achieved through challenging reading material and appropriate instruction.

**Carpenter Middle School, *Supplementary Instruments & Necessary Supplies*, \$1,500.00**

Daniel Najera

The number of students able to enroll and participate in the Carpenter band program has declined, not due to decreased interest, but because of the financial costs involved in obtaining an instrument and the supplies to maintain it. This resource allows Carpenter to offer the tangible, scientifically-proven benefits of music study to students who cannot afford to participate in Beginning Band.

**Carpenter Middle School, *Classroom Response System (CRS)*, \$1,500.00**

Marilyn Womack  
Nena Hughes

The *Classroom Response System (CRS)* is a technology that allows students to be more actively engaged in learning while providing teachers with data for differentiating instruction. Students use individual wireless remotes to answer standards-based questions and receive immediate feedback from the program. Teachers can then analyze the classroom data and create individualized student intervention plans.

**Carpenter Middle School, *Readers for Life!*, \$550.00**

Lisa Scott  
Chrissi Cawthon  
Megan McSherry

*Readers for Life!* is an afterschool book club designed to target English Language Learners. It provides novels in Spanish for use in the club, which meets once a month for discussion.

**Clark High School, *Help Us Save Ender!*, \$1,424.00**

Linda Grant  
Maria Gonzalez  
Renee Pezoulas  
Rhonda Smith

*Ender's Game* is a novel read by all 10th graders in the Plano ISD. New copies at Clark purchased with this grant replace old paperbacks which were literally held together with scotch tape. The source of revenue for replacement books in the past—soda machines—is no longer available.

**Daffron Elementary School, *It's in the Bag! Science Home/ School Connection*, \$1,300.00**

Cathy Chomistek

Science excitement grows and test scores soar with *It's in the Bag! Science Home/School Connection*. Students take home science bags filled with age appropriate materials to reinforce science skills taught in the classroom. Students have the opportunity to share the materials with their families to enrich and increase their knowledge of science. *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*

**Davis Elementary School, *Take-Home CD Packs for Computers at Home*, \$1,500.00**

Janice Watson

Students who participate in the Computers at Home program and do not have Internet access at home may check out Take-Home CD packs. Packs will be compiled for grades 1-5 and will consist of appropriate exercises in reading, math, science, research and higher level thinking skills. The program enables students to utilize their stand-alone computer after school, during the evening, and on weekends to improve their educational skills.

**Forman Elementary School, Forman Falcons "SOAR INTO READING" Program, \$1,500.00**

Armandina Louis-Charles  
Andrea Jaramillo

*Soar into Reading* is a school-wide reading program that encourages students (K-5) and their families to read together on a daily basis. A literacy night educates and encourages families to share storybook reading in their homes. The goal is to develop a love of reading and to improve language skills and literacy development through pleasure reading at school and supported at home.

**Frankford Middle School, Bridges to Success, \$1,485.00**

Bonnie Mueller  
Misty Warren

*Bridges to Success* is a family night event with three workshops designed to provide math and science resources and information to parents of Hispanic students. In the math workshop, families receive the Middle School Math Toolbox (Spanish or English version), a teacher-written booklet of step-by-step instructions for all fraction and decimal operations. One science workshop includes a problem-solving activity for parents and students. The other workshop provides a teacher-written vocabulary handbook geared toward skills in science.

**Frankford Middle School, Reading is the Key to Success, \$860.00**

Peggy Schmidt  
Sharon Moore

Reading comprehension is the key component that all students need to be successful in school. In this program, at-risk readers use additional reading materials that are differentiated for their reading level. Fiction and non-fiction books are individually selected to use during independent reading.

**Haggard Middle School, Haggard Eagles Book Club, \$1,500.00**

Sherri Riskind  
Lori Greenho  
Judy Koehl

*Haggard Eagles Book Club* is designed to encourage reading for pleasure among seventh grade students. Members select high interest books to discuss at weekly meetings. This offers the opportunity to develop critical thinking and reading skills as they create the topics and questions for discussion.

**Haggard Middle School, Learning to Play and Playing to Learn" The Whole Child Classroom, \$960.50**

Jimmy W. Moses

*Learning to Play and Playing to Learn* pairs a student who has special needs with a general education peer. The purpose is to promote physical activity, good health and fitness and to increase positive social interactions with peers. In addition to peer support, special-needs students are provided resources that enhance fitness and promote social activities, life-long recreational, leisure activities and classroom performance.

**Hendrick Middle School, HELP (Hendrick Extended Learning Program), \$1,500.00**

Rachael McClain

*Hendrick Extended Learning Program* is designed to provide individualized assistance to students based on academic need throughout the school year. Every Saturday morning teachers and National Honor Society students from Clark High School assist students with assignments provided by their teachers for remediation and extension of the lessons studied in the classroom. Through objective-driven activities the students are able to fill in the "gaps" and become more successful both in the classroom and on standardized tests.

**Hendrick Middle School, Project-Connect: Makuleke, South Africa, \$1,500.00**

Kim Durall

*Project-Connect: Makuleke, South Africa* buys equipment to connect students in Plano with students from Makuleke, South Africa via real time video, emails, and virtual artifact exchanges. This project is affiliated with *Traditional Knowledges of African Villages*, a project run by Clapperton Mavhunga (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Dr. Simon Kang'a (New York University). *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*

**Huffman Elementary School, 4L Club - Learning Language With Laughter and Love, \$1,500.00**

Claudia Eckert  
Andra Harris  
Carolyn Curfman

This project consists of sets of vocabulary, phonics, reading, and science games for third-through fifth-graders, their parents and teachers. These games are checked out by targeted students and their teachers to improve skills in reading and science.

**Huffman Elementary School, Back to Books Backpack Kits, \$1,200.00**

Sandy Williams

With funds from this program, the school librarian purchases a variety of *Back to Books Backpack Kits* for students to take home. Each kit has a book, story on CD or story on DVD, and a laminated worksheet to use as an extension of the story. These kits provide reading models at home to students who are from a low socio-economic background or who have parents who speak or read only limited English.

**Huffman Elementary School, The Write Stuff, \$620.00**

Jennifer Hall  
Nicole McCasland

*The Write Stuff* is a collection of writing materials which extend the students' writing experiences into the home. The program consists of a backpack filled with writing prompts, books, pictures, and tools that assist with the writing process. The goal of the program is to promote student writing success and an overall love of writing.

**Jackson Elementary School, *ELMS To Go*, \$1,500.00**

Angela Marshall  
Liz Steinbaugh

*ELMS To Go* is an afterschool program for students and their families who speak a language other than English. Often, English language learners are unable to attend after school clubs and activities due to transportation issues. *ELMS To Go* will hold club meetings at the students' apartment clubhouse and provide learning materials that will be available for weekly check-out from school.

**Jackson Elementary School, *Breaking the Barrier: Unlocking Language for all Parents*, \$1,500.00**

Kimberlee Speer  
Laura Fix

*Breaking the Barrier: Unlocking Language for all Parents* allows limited English speaking parents the opportunity to learn English. By learning English, parents support their children's learning at home and feel more a part of the school family. When parents feel invested in the school community, they are more invested in their children's education.

**Jasper High School, *Lunch Bunch*, \$500.00**

Lisa Wilson  
Lisa Samsel

*Lunch Bunch* is a weekly on-campus mentoring program targeting academically at-risk students. Student tutors, provided through the PALS program, work with students during their school study hall to help close academic learning gaps, specifically in core subjects. *This grant sponsored by the Andrea-Mennen Foundation.*

**Meadows Elementary School, *Blooming Baby Readers*, \$1,500.00**

Crystal Hume

*Blooming Baby Readers* provides a library collection of board books in both English and Spanish for parents to check out, read at home to their infants and toddlers, and return. In addition, parents attend workshops showing the benefits of reading to infants and toddlers and offering tips on choosing books, using voices, and talking about illustrations. Through this family support program, parents lay the groundwork for a love of reading that ensures their children's success as readers later in life. *This grant sponsored by the Carole Greisdorf Fund.*

**Mendenhall Elementary School, *Science Experiments To Go*, \$1,494.29**

Christine Barrantes  
Susan Weislak

*Science Experiments To-Go* is designed for students and their families to talk about science while working on experiments at home. Students check out one of the 32 different Science Experiments To-Go kits from the school library. Each kit contains instructions and literature written in both English and Spanish and all the materials needed to conduct the experiment. *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*

**Mendenhall Elementary School, Watch D.O.G.S (Dads Of Great Students), \$500.00**

Michele Loper

*Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)*, a national organization, promotes the committed involvement of fathers and father figures in the lives of their children and students in every school in America. The goal at Mendenhall is to motivate fathers to be present in the school when the children are at an early age. *This grant sponsored by the Plano ISD Council of PTAs.*

**Pearson EC - P-K and Davis Elementary School, Listen and Learn!, \$1,500.00**

Brittney McGee  
Cheryl Kraemer  
Staci Gee  
Renee Campbell

*Listen and Learn* facilitates the development of auditory skills in children who exhibit hearing loss in early childhood and at elementary age. The listening abilities of children are enhanced by involving parents and other family members in the habilitation process. Parents and family members attend family education nights and have the opportunity to receive training and borrow materials to support practice of listening goals at home. *This grant sponsored by the Plano ISD Council of PTAs.*

**Pearson EC - P-K, Book Buddy, \$1,246.00**

Molly Twist Schulte

Early language and literacy development is essential at the pre-kindergarten level. *Book Buddy* allows students the use of technology to "read" aloud at this young age. It is engaging and exciting for all students, regardless of ability, to be able to "read" aloud to their peers.

**Pearson EC - P-K, Family Math and Literacy Night, \$1,100.00**

Mindy Ann Schoen

*Family Math and Literacy Night* encourages parents to partner with the school so that they become resources in their child's educational experience. This collaborative learning community forged from the teaching staff and the diverse families they serve—special needs, bilingual and low-income—results in academic gains for the students. *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*

**Plano Senior High School, Writing Center, \$1,500.00**

Meredith Dobbs  
Megan Bourgeois

Teachers in the *Writing Center* help students throughout all phases of the writing process from planning and drafting to revision and editing. This service is provided by appointment or on a walk-in basis. Because no two writers are the same, teachers tailor writing instruction to the specific needs of each writer, going above and beyond the capabilities of regular departmental tutoring times.

**Plano Senior High School, AVID: Clawing our way to the TOP!, \$1,500.00**

Aimée Noelle Ratliff  
Jackie Dillon  
Lance Davis  
& AVID Site Team Teachers

*AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination): Clawing our way to the TOP* provides funds for an SAT novel library, offers incentives to tutors, guest speakers, students, and site team, and increases awareness of the AVID program. AVID demonstrates to low-income students that hard work and the right materials and resources can change a life through higher education, no matter what one's background is. The program inspires their success and enhances their potential for admission into a four year university after high school graduation. *This grant sponsored by the Andrea-Mennen Foundation.*

**Plano Senior High School, Vines High School and Haggard Middle School, Writers Unblocked, \$1,500.00**

Lauren Canfield  
Susan Mullins  
Wendy McKee  
Pauline Decker

Middle School, High School, and Senior High School students from the Plano Regional Day School Program for the Deaf participate in a year-long project to produce and publish a literary magazine featuring their own writing and artwork. Students and their families celebrate the unveiling of the finished product . Each student gets a copy of the magazine.

**Plano Senior High School and Vines High School, Getting Ready to Get Real!, \$2,970.00**

Lonna Chastain  
Susie McGee  
Susan Mullins

The Plano Regional Day School Program for the Deaf offers community based vocational education (CBVE) to students with hearing impairment at the high school and senior high levels. Students are exposed to "real world" experiences as they develop basic vocational and independent living skills. The main focus is the acquisition of vocabulary and language concepts through a variety of specialized, visually oriented materials, in conjunction with simulated work experiences and planned community outings.

**Plano West Senior High School, College Preparatory Resource Library, \$1,500.00**

Rebecca Taliaferro  
Allison Morrow

*College Preparatory Resource Library* envisions a college preparatory collection of books, catalogs, and magazines targeting the specific needs of AVID students, but serving the entire student population as well. Chosen resources address issues ranging from preparing for college entrance exams, succeeding in AP courses, choosing the right college and the right major to paying for college through financial aid and scholarships, living on your own, managing a social life responsibly, and eating well on a limited budget.

**Schell Elementary School, *Comprehension Café*, \$900.00**

Cynthia Smith  
Hannah Clawson  
Michelle Hardy  
Madalyn Sierra  
Lindsey Aune  
Nicki Johnston

Third-grade students practice reading selections of poetry and assorted fiction and nonfiction picture books, then host first-grade and kindergarten students at their *Comprehension Café*. The younger students receive a menu and choose a poetry “appetizer”, a picture book “entrée”, and a joke or riddle for “dessert.” The third graders read each selection while their younger partners enjoy a delicious muffin to round out their “meal.”

**Sigler Elementary School, *ESL for Parents*, \$1,500.00**

Sheryl Sanguinetti  
Luz Valentin

*ESL for Parents* is a year-long adult education program for parents of bilingual students. Parents attend weekly classes that focus on the acquisition of English, the reinforcement of first language skills, and the knowledge of the required TEKS for academic success. These classes provide parents with the necessary knowledge and skills for self-improvement that result in parents gaining positive attitudes toward themselves, the school environment, and academic goals for their children.

**Sigler Elementary School, *Making Time for Kids*, \$865.00**

Kari Tolle

Children have a natural curiosity about the world in which they live. Through nonfiction periodicals such as *Time for Kids* and *Kids Discover*, students build prior knowledge and strengthen reading comprehension strategies. These strategies benefit students as they continue their educational journey and throughout their lives. *This grant sponsored by the Plano ISD Council of PTAs.*

**Sigler Elementary School, *Mountain Math Grant*, \$379.75**

Suzie Ouellette

*Mountain Math* provides a bulletin boards that reinforce the elementary math program. The bulletin boards cover multiple strands of mathematics and offer a constant visual for second graders. This approach supports efficient use of the teacher’s time with the students as it allows the teacher to review and preview concepts on a weekly basis to keep the math concepts fresh in the minds of the students. *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*

**Stinson Elementary School, *Experience Texas*, \$317.00**

Amy Kittelson  
Cathy Lawrence

A field trip to the Heard Museum provides an opportunity to explore various aspects of the Texas natural environment. Students have opportunities to interact with North Texas ecosystems and specimens through hands-on activities and other multi-sensory experiences. Additionally, an outdoor experience reinforces concepts learned in Life Skills class. *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*

**Thomas Elementary School, *ELMS Club (Every Day Language Made Simple)*, \$900.00**

Carolyn Beall  
Sheri Lutz

*ELMS Club* provides our limited English speaking students and their families the opportunity to practice English through games and activities. These activities are introduced in class and practiced at an afterschool meeting for students and parents. The students are encouraged to check out the materials and practice them at home with their families. *This grant sponsored by the Andrea-Mennen Foundation.*

**Thomas Elementary School, *Books of Hope*, \$400.00**

Amy Moore

*Books of Hope* is a service-oriented program in which U.S. schools sponsor a school abroad and create books to help meet the students' educational needs. PACE students in grades 1-5 will create a nonfiction book and bring it to the publishing stage, then send it to a group of students and teachers in Africa who do not have resources available to them. In addition to writing and illustrating a book, students will have the opportunity to collect and send other supplies for their sponsored school.

**Williams High School, *Williams Warriors Writing Camp (WWWC)*, \$1,500.00**

Jill Engelking

*Williams Warriors Writing Camp* provides students with the opportunity for small group writing instruction outside of school hours. Students sign up for this camp where they receive individual instruction, encouragement, and prizes. The purpose of these camps is to help students build confidence in their writing abilities.

**Wilson Middle School, *Filling the Need of ALL Readers...*, \$1,500.00**

Mary Long

All students have the right to go into their campus library and choose a book to read for pleasure. *Filling the Need of ALL Readers* fulfills this right for visually impaired students. This program provides for the development of a large-print collection at Wilson and at all campuses using the district's interlibrary loan program.

**Wilson Middle School, *Go Green Team*, 1,000.00**

Tanis Roelofs  
Tim Phillips  
Robert McClintick  
Jossette Storey

*Go Green Team* works in coordination with the Plano environmental community to promote environmental awareness by recycling both single stream and organic materials, beautifying the campus with native Texas plants and trees, and practicing conservation. In addition, lessons during science classes focus on eco-friendly practices that students can apply in their daily lives.

**Wilson Middle School, *Growing with Grammar through Picture Books*, \$750.00**

Misty Jacobs

*Growing with Grammar through Picture Books* challenges students to identify and analyze various grammar concepts in authentic pieces of literature and then transfer those concepts to their own writing skills. The goals are to get students away from isolated grammar practice and to hook students with simple creative literature that serves as an effective model.

**Wilson Middle School, *Wilson Garden and Butterfly Club*, \$675.00**

Sharon Valeriane

*Wilson Garden and Butterfly Club* is a year-long project with some extended afterschool activities. Students are involved in four main garden activities including butterfly collection and tagging, a nature journal, and nature photography. *This grant sponsored by the Plano ISD Council of PTAs.*

**Wyatt Elementary School, *The Dinner Club*, \$261.28**

Jennifer Snyder  
Katie Taylor  
Veronica Soltys-Niemann  
Julie Kendrick

*The Dinner Club* sponsors a restaurant excursion for autistic students. Teachers, therapists, and students will sit together at a designated restaurant and go through visual step-by-step instructions on the process of going out to dinner. Students learn how to place an order with their servers and how to start and carry on conversations with those at their table. *This grant sponsored by Nortel.*