

# Westerly Education Endowment Fund

Fall/Winter 2011-2012

4th Issue



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We recently redesigned  
our website! We can  
now accept donations  
online!

## 2011 to 2012 Grant Recipients

Seventeen grants totaling \$19,428 have been awarded for the 2011 to 2012 school year. The following grants were partially or fully funded:

**Engineering is Elementary:** to help teachers and parent volunteers plan, deliver instruction, and assess student performance in project-based learning using *Engineering is Elementary* curriculum units developed by the Boston Museum of Science.

**Affordable Computing for 21st Century Learning:** to bring Neo 2's, affordable durable laptops specifically designed for classroom use, into grades 2-4 to improve proficiency in math, reading and writing.

**Summer Bridge Field Trip Program:** for continuation of this program that uses summer field trips and instruction to prevent academic regression over the summer in mathematics, reading and writing.

**American Sign Language Instruction:** for American Sign Language instruction in first grade classrooms.

**Build-A-Book Literacy Program:** to support this program and its mission to provide students with tools and techniques to enhance their creative writing skills.

**Tracking Natural Catastrophic Events:** to allow students to track and learn about natural events such as major storm systems and volcanic activity.

**Westerly's Granite Story:** to develop a six lesson plan curriculum about the history of granite in Westerly, RI.

**Study Island—Science:** to support this computer based program designed to help students master the science content expectations of the NECAP preparation program.

**Kids Play Keyboards:** to provide 6th-8th grade students the opportunity to learn music on high quality keyboards.

**Rachel's Challenge:** to support a program at Westerly High School which will inspire, equip and empower every person to create permanent positive culture change in local schools, businesses and the greater community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion.

**Grins and Giggles Playschool:** to support tuition for at-risk district preschoolers at Tower Street School Community Center.

**Training of Westerly parents of preschool children:** to promote partnerships between parents and educators to maximize outcomes for children.

**Before and After School Enrichment (BASE) Program projects:** to support five individual BASE programs including Biomes, Project CHICK, Save the Bay, Norman Bird Sanctuary, and Roger Williams Zoo Community Zoo Mobile.

## Faculty/Staff Contributors

We sincerely appreciate the support of all of our donors, but we would like to recognize our list of faculty/staff contributors who have been generously donating from their paychecks every pay period. Many of them have been donating since 2004!

Frank Pendola, Melissa Stoehr,  
David Whelan, Joseph Purtill,  
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Lynn Wardle, Mark Lamson,  
Louise Kodzis, Nicholas O'Donnell,  
Sylvia Blanda, Andrew Bonner and  
Frank Bergren

Please note: Some of these faculty have recently retired, but we still wanted to recognize their past contributions. Thank you!

## Student Testimonial for Author visit to Dunn's Corners School:

*"Thank you for funding our author visit. I loved having him visit, he is the best author ever! We read all of his books, literally, we even got to write our own endings to one of his stories. It was awesome! My favorite part was when, well THE WHOLE THING!! The presentation inspired me to love reading, even be an author! Thank you so much for funding the author visit, if you didn't fund the visit I would still be arguing with my parents every time they tell me to read. Thank you!!"*

## Teacher Testimonial for The Primary Autism Technology Suite Venture:

*"This was a great opportunity to be creative in ways to approach supporting students in their academic and functional needs. In a society that is highly technologically based, giving students an opportunity to learn with this technology is not only motivating but a very effective and modern way to support instruction. Students have benefited greatly from the visual supports that have supplemented social skills instruction, music to help them regulate their emotions, and utilize applications that support their academic growth as well."*

## Teacher Testimonial for Visual Arts Technology submitted by John Tedeschi:

*"Thank you for fostering changes and allowing new technologies to better the delivery of art instruction within Westerly Public Schools. Words can not describe how effective this tool is in the art room. It is certainly a necessity for any art room to have the piece of equipment. It maximizes time which is greatly appreciated within the limited amount of contact time with the students. It enhances any type of visual that the student needs to see, with the conveniences of being able to work at the same time."*

## Student Testimonial for Inspiring Students to Read Write Poetry:

*"After working with Mr. Madden in our poetry unit, the work we did really showed me how poetry can be a creative outlet for expressing my feelings. This unit helped me to appreciate poetry and the poet's ability to communicate their feelings in a melodic way."*

**Your donation makes a difference!!  
Thank you for supporting these students!**

If you would like to learn more about WEEF check out our website at [www.weefri.org](http://www.weefri.org) or email us at [weef@cox.net](mailto:weef@cox.net) to join our mailing list! Join us on Facebook.



Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was a great success! Special thanks to all our sponsors and players. If you would like to see more photos please check out our website at [www.weefri.org](http://www.weefri.org).

