

# Westerly Education Endowment Fund

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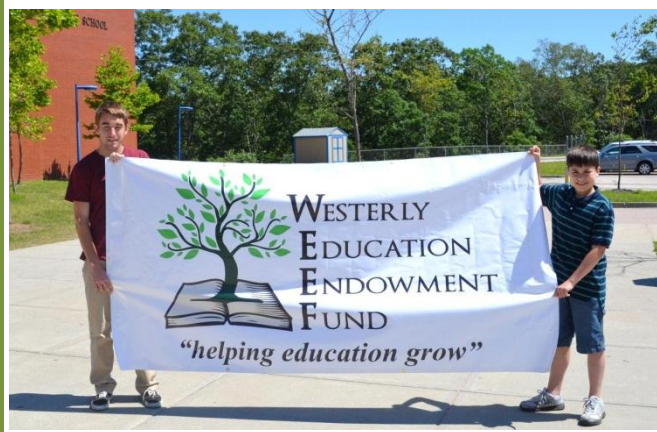
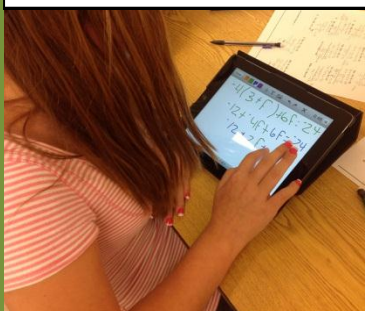
## iPads in the Classroom

This year, a collaborative effort between the Westerly Public Schools Technology Department and WEEF resulted in a special grant opportunity at the Westerly Middle School for a cart of 25 iPads –enough for a full classroom. The collaborative committee sought grants which would enhance and augment the WPS curriculum in a meaningful way, especially addressing the needs of a variety of learners. The quality of each proposal received by the grant committee indicates a high level of innovation, dedication, and enthusiasm for the project by WMS teachers. Finalists were required to demonstrate their proposed use of the cart, and each presentation was outstanding. The cart of iPads was awarded to the Granite Team for their proposal, **iPads in the Classroom**.

The committee was inspired by the Granite Team's presentation on the applications of the iPad cart to various aspects of teaching and learning, which clearly demonstrated the use of iPad technology to inform instruction, to differentiate learning for students of all abilities, to level the playing field for those with learning difficulties, and to inspire and challenge students who are ready for further instruction and/or enrichment. The team's choice of applications was pertinent and exciting, and both WEEF and the WPS Technology Department look forward to seeing the Granite Team share what they learn this year with the greater WPS community. Their work with new technologies paves the way for others throughout the district. We are pleased that WEEF could play a role in this important process.

### Feedback from Rob Gouvin

*"I made a video lesson for the students to watch online at home. They came in the next day with their notes. While I checked their notes, they took an assessment to see if they understood the concept. When they finished the assessments, they then got the iPad from the cart and self-corrected by seeing the answer key on the web (which I had posted on the team site). When finished we then did the homework in the classroom and students were able to re-watch my lesson again when they got stuck on a problem. My role that day was to facilitate and coach the kids in the right direction if needed. It was one of the best classes I had ever done, to see the students take charge of their learning process was beautiful."*



### WEEF Logo Winners

Congratulations to Steven Ottaviani and Brett Mayne for winning our logo contest! WEEF held a district wide logo contest and received hundreds of submissions! It was a tough choice for our board members! Steven, a senior, developed the concept of the tree and the book. Brett, a seventh grader, came up with the slogan "helping education grow"! Special thanks to John Tedeschi for helping us spread the word and offering his creative expertise!

## 2012 to 2013 Grant Recipients

Fifteen grants totaling \$18,109.66 have been awarded for the 2012 to 2013 school year. The following grants were partially or fully funded:

**Before and After School Enrichment (BASE) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Activities**—to provide materials to support hands-on, collaborative STEM activities for students participating in the BASE program.

**Classroom Clicker**—to provide technology which allows students to respond instantly to a question or set of questions by using a transponder which tallies and displays answers on a screen in the front of the room.

**Community Girls Club**—to support a middle school program for girls to improve self-awareness, self-confidence, and self-esteem through activities such as crafts, community field trips, and community service projects.

**Cooking Tools**—to purchase cooking tools which will introduce students to a variety of new cooking techniques and methods, and to assist in the growth of the culinary arts restaurant program at WHS as a self-sustaining program.

**CPR/First Aid Books**—to provide funds for American Red Cross CPR/First Aid certification textbooks for the Westerly Parent Academy, a district-led, town-supported, community-driven initiative to support parents and families of Westerly students.

**Currently Current**—to provide students in grades 6-8 the opportunity to learn the latest news about their world using the latest technology.

**Great Groovin' Guitars**—to provide 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade general music students the opportunity to explore the musical elements on quality guitars.

**Grins and Giggles**—to provide partial financial assistance for Westerly children who would otherwise be unable to attend any preschool or early education program before entering kindergarten

**HDMI-Ready Projector**—to provide an HDMI-Ready Projector, an Apple TV, and 1 iPad to teach, demonstrate, display, and access the internet from anywhere in the classroom, benefitting WHS art students and optimizing the teaching/learning experience

**WHS LMC electronic book group**—to provide technology for an electronic reading group/study project at WHS Library Media Center.

**It's Elementary**—to purchase technology equipment and programming which will support the interdisciplinary creation of a publicly shared anthology of poems about the elements of the periodic table, written by chemistry classes at WHS.

**Reaching Reluctant Readers**—to support the purchase of graphic novels and series books that will appeal to a wide variety of students and instill a lifelong love of learning.

**Tech Support for Students**—to assist in the purchase of mini-laptops for special needs students to facilitate science writing and other required writing activities.

**Ukuleles for Kids**—to support the purchase of ukuleles for all elementary schools to enhance instrumental instruction and provide hands-on understanding of chord theory.

**Westerly's Granite Story**—to continue the development of a tabbed, interdisciplinary curriculum guide that explores the history of the local granite industry for students in grades K-12.

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We can now accept  
donations online!



Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf  
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