

2011– 2012 “INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM PROJECTS”

At the Fort Mill District’s school board meeting on October 4th, the **Foundation for Fort Mill Schools** recognized the recipients of its “Innovative Classroom Projects” grants. The funds themselves were awarded at the beginning of the school year to teachers and teaching teams all over the district; these teachers presented creative classroom proposals that otherwise cannot be funded at this time.

Thirteen grants in the amount of \$500 each were awarded for the 2011 – 2012 school year to the following teachers and teaching teams:

Kimberly C. Nees, Elementary Library Media Specialist, Sugar Creek Elementary School:

One School , One Book Family Literacy Initiative

This project seeks to improve student reading comprehension and vocabulary by educating families about the importance of reading aloud to their children. It provides an exciting program that encourages fifteen minutes of reading aloud every night for a month.



Teachers receive recognition for Foundation grants at Oct. 4 school board meeting.

Florence H. Ramsey, Physical Education Teacher, Springfield Middle School:

Recreational Games

This project addresses district beliefs that wellness is an essential goal for the individual and for society and that the family is the primary influence in the development of the individual. Students learn and practice recreational activities that they can enjoy with their families for years to come.

Carol Claypool, Rebecca Benvenuto, First Grade Teachers, Gold Hill Elementary School:

Text to Math Connection

This grant provides one first grade and one second grade set of The Marilyn Burns Classroom Math Library. The curriculum allows math instruction for a large or small group as well as for individualized attention. The library also provides comprehensive teacher support tools.

Continued on page 2...

“INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM PROJECTS”

(continued from page 1)

Crystal Taylor, Rick Solt, English Teachers, Nation Ford High School:

Developing the Narrative Voice

This project incorporates the use of multi-cultural literature to teach writing and speaking skills while emphasizing the importance of diversity and tolerance. Students learn and apply literary and stylistic terms, compose their own vignettes, and present their final work to their peers through dramatic readings.

“Thank you . . . for taking the time to read our proposal and for granting our wish! Our students will certainly benefit from this wonderful gift.”

—Crystal Taylor, NFHS

Joshua Hope, Special Education / Special Setting Teacher, Nation Ford High School:

Falcon Life Skills Classroom

This project helps students with special needs put “real life” writing, reading and math skills into practice in the **Falcon Life Skills** classroom. Funds are used to “stock” the classroom with “real world” stations: a grocery store, department store, restaurant, and vocational workshop. These stations will allow students to practice needed skills without the expense of a field trip.

Sharon T. Mitchell, Preschool Teacher, Early Childhood Center, Fort Mill High School:

A Sense of Science

This project introduces preschool children to the fundamentals of science through literature with a hands-on approach for mastering concepts in both science and literacy. Materials and equipment provided by the grant will help to foster language and science development.



Student Matthew Preusser works in the newly stocked “real world” classroom at NFHS with items funded by teacher Joshua Hope’s grant.

Jennifer Jolly, Fourth Grade Teacher, Orchard Park Elementary School:

Making Mathematics Count

This project implements **Every Day Counts**, a research-based curriculum that provides repeated exposure to basic mathematical

“Thank you for your commitment to the students and teachers of Fort Mill Schools.”

Jennifer Jolley, OPES

concepts and encourages conceptual understanding and fluency.

One of the goals of this program is to increase test scores and mathematics proficiency in our students.

Treva Hamlin, Sixth Grade Teacher, Fort Mill Middle School: *Telling Our Story: Writing Memoirs Using Literature and Technology*

“Telling Our Story” combines a variety of writing topics, the use of digital photography for recording life events, and interviews with family members to complete personal student memoirs. Along with strengthening reading, writing, and technology skills, this project can potentially impact the lives of these students in surprising ways through the process of self-discovery.

“INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM PROJECTS”

Stephanie Haecherl, Jamie Livingston, Amy Rohring: Kindergarten Teachers, Gold Hill Elementary School: *Sailing into Reading*

With the goal of increasing student literacy, this plan provides a comprehensive, progressive and challenging curriculum, with instruction and assessment for all students in the seven Kindergarten classes. The program will allow for small, teacher-directed groups offering students the opportunity to grow in different facets of literacy.

Lynn Given, Reading/Reading Support Teacher, Orchard Park Elementary School: *Kindling a Love of Reading*

This grant provides two Kindle e-readers and funds to purchase audio books and e-books. These tools provide an innovative approach to literacy instruction among struggling upper grade readers.

The Kindle formats and fonts can be adjusted to make reading easier and will be used by multiple students, who will alternate reading traditional books with using the Kindles.

Emily Gaither, Second Grade Teacher, Riverview Elementary School: *Lending Library: Getting Leveled Books to Kids at Home*

This program seeks to help improve reading scores by getting leveled books into children’s homes for nightly reading. Reading improvements will be measured through the *Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment*.

These assessments will be given at least three times a year, tracking student reading levels to measure their reading progress.

(continued from page 2)

Sydney Field, Jessica Catledge, Fourth Grade Teachers, Riverview Elementary School: *Effectively Implementing Guided Reading & the Daily 5*

The Guided Reading grant funds the necessary materials to implement reading stations and incorporate guided reading, along with the Daily 5, into the class literacy block.

Two classrooms will utilize these reading stations to strengthen their essential reading and writing skills.

“We are excited about working together and with the other teachers. It is our hope to expand this effort in similar projects with more students in other grade levels.”

— JoNelle Gardner, GHES

JoNelle Gardner, Technology Teacher, Rebecca New, Art Teacher, Joy Price, Media Specialist, Gold Hill Elementary School: *Catawba Collaboration*

This project enhances the third grade Social Studies curriculum as students study the Catawbas and other Native American groups in South Carolina. Students will use the media center, the art and music departments, the PE department, and the technology lab to learn about Catawba culture through research and the study of tribal arts, working to document their studies in this collaboration.

ABOUT FOUNDATION GRANTS...

The Foundation awards grants annually for *Innovative Classroom Projects*. These projects address special opportunities, needs or circumstances in the classroom. In preparing a grant proposal, a teacher may find solutions through innovation, creativity, student involvement or special study methods.

All Fort Mill public schools, grade levels, and fields of study are eligible for these awards.

Beta Sigma Phi Contributes \$7,000 to Foundation

On Monday, October 3rd, the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority of Fort Mill/Tega Cay presented the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools with a donation of \$7,000.

At the District School Board meeting on October 4th, Beta Sigma Phi was recognized by the Foundation as one of our most generous and consistent supporters this year as well as for the past several years.

Last year this organization was the largest single contributor to the Foundation.

The Beta Sigma Phi Sorority sponsors a charity golf tournament every spring at Fort Mill's Springfield Golf

Course. This year they have announced that all proceeds from the 2012 tournament will benefit the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools, so please encour-

age the golfers you know to participate. To learn more about Beta Sigma Phi, visit their website at www.betasigmaphi.org.



Left to right: Karla Racer, Terry Patterson, Martha Kinard, Cheryl Hill, all of the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools; Christina Knighten, Jodie Murrell, Elena Bowen, Heather Harr, and Kim Biehl of Beta Sigma Phi, Fort Mill / Tega Cay Chapter

If you know someone who would like to contribute to the Foundation of Fort Mill Schools in support of our teaching grants, please ask them to use the form below.

Foundation for Fort Mill Schools
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Mail contributions to:

**Foundation for Fort Mill Schools
PO Box 476
Fort Mill, SC 29716**

Name _____

Amount: _____

Address _____

Check No: _____

City _____

Date: _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Email _____

The Foundation for Fort Mill Schools is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent the law allows. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution. Thank you for your support!

Please keep my contribution anonymous.

The Foundation for Fort Mill Schools: Current Scholarships

If you know high school seniors who are seeking scholarship money to use toward higher education, please encourage them to check with their school guidance counselors about the requirements for these Foundation scholarships:

- **Harold (Mac) and Phoebe McCallum Scholarship**

This scholarship honors Mac and Phoebe McCallum. With a combined 53 years of teaching, both Mac and Phoebe helped shape students' lives in many lasting ways.

These scholarships of \$2,500, established in 1993, are awarded annually to those students who pursue vocational or technical teaching or nursing at Fort Mill High School or Nation Ford High School.

- **Elizabeth Palmer Collins Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship was established in 2002 in memory of Elizabeth Palmer Collins, a local teacher who was devoted to her students for 17 years.

This \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to a Teacher Cadet participant at Fort Mill High School.

- **Lillian Dickert Gainey Scholarship**

Lillian Dickert Gainey, a teacher, colleague, coach and sponsor for 21 years, is memorialized through this scholarship established in 1996.

This \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding foreign language student at Fort Mill High School.

- **Hugh White Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship was established in 1994 in memory of Hugh White, an outstanding football player who excelled at life, showed love, defended the underdog, led by example, and was a friend to all that that knew him.

This \$1,500 scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding football player from Fort Mill High School.

- **Donna Helton Memorial Scholarship**

Donna Helton, a Fort Mill High School teacher and coach, is remembered through this \$500 scholarship, awarded annually to a female soccer player at Fort Mill High School.

- **Doug Walters Memorial Scholarship**

In memory of Doug Walters, a professional chef who was passionate about friends, fun and food, this scholarship was established in 2008. Either two \$500 or one \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a culinary arts student at Fort Mill High School and/or Nation Ford High School.

- **Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship**

Tim Hawkins was a hard-working, compassionate, devoted swim coach who was a friend to all that knew him.

This scholarship in memory of Tim was established in 2008. A \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding member of the Fort Mill High School Swim Team.

OUR MISSION

To promote academic excellence in the Fort Mill School District of York County, South Carolina, through direct financial support of projects, activities, educational assistance and professional development.

Wells Fargo Bank Donation and Ribbon Cutting

On September 27, in commemoration of the conversion of Wachovia to Wells Fargo Bank, Wells Fargo presented the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools with a contribution of \$10,000, presented at the new Wells Fargo branch at Tega Cay.

Wells Fargo made donations of this kind to each of the school districts in York County in recognition of their increased presence in our communities.

Present to accept the gift were Terry Patterson, Lori Hillman, Karla Racer, Marc Howie, Mary Kathryn Green, (all members of the Foundation board), and Cheryl Hill, Executive Director of the Foundation.



Accepting the check from Wells Fargo, from left to right: Marty McGinn, Terry Patterson, Lori Hillman, Chuck Epps, Cheryl Hill, Karla Racer, Marc Howie, and Mary Kathryn Green.

Dr. Chuck Epps, Superintendent of Fort Mill Schools, and Marty McGinn, Assistant Superintendent, represented our school district. A ribbon cutting ceremony followed the

presentation. The funds received from Wells Fargo will be managed by the Foundation in order to provide more of the “Innovative Classroom Project” grants for qualifying teachers.

*Want to know more about the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools?
Just Ask . . .*



Mary Kathryn Green, Karla Racer



Anna Epps



Terry Patterson



Martha Kinard

You can also contact Cheryl Hill, Executive Director, by email at chill@foundationforfortmillschools.org or by leaving her a voicemail message at the Foundation office: 803.548.5559.