

## **Foundation for Fort Mill Schools 2014-2015 Grant Award Winners**

### **Innovative Classroom Project Grants: \$750**

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**Tamara Jones & Jade Durham, ELL Teachers, Fort Mill School District:**

***English Language Learners: The Benefits of Bilingual Books on English Language Acquisition***

This project will provide culturally diverse and bilingual books for the ELL population in the Fort Mill School District. There are currently 400 students identified as ELL in 13 schools representing more than 30 countries. Bilingual and culturally sensitive books will help teach reading, writing, listening to and speaking English, and help students acquire vital information such as language, fluency, and vocabulary.

**Colonel Sean Mulcahy & Sergeant Major Andrew Yagle, Marine Instructors, Nation Ford High School:**

***Land Navigation and Orienteering Program***

This project will teach students the fundamentals of map based navigation, develop leadership and organizational skills, improve their physical fitness, enhance a sense of teamwork, develop an appreciation of nature, cultivate a sense of good sportsmanship, and provide opportunities for competition.

**Elizabeth Eppes, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Orchard Park Elementary School:**

***Study Buddies=Powerful Partnerships***

This project creates a partnership between 2 OPES 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and Westminster Towers Senior Living Center. Students share breakfast and conduct interviews with their seniors study buddies, asking questions about historical events that they have studied during social studies including WWI, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, WWII, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Vietnam Conflict. Students utilize their writing skills by composing biographical sketches of their buddies, reflections following each interview, and memoirs about the experience.

**Jennifer Molnar, Business & Technology Teacher, Fort Mill High School:**

***Buzzing Entrepreneurs: Giving Back the Jacket Way!***

This is a project of business social responsibility. Students will learn the main aspects of running a business, which results in the students writing a business plan for a future business endeavor. The final business plan involves students selecting a local charity that his/her business would support. Students compete during a 2-day event to raise the most money for the charity, with a final presentation of a check to the charity at the end of the event.

**Paul Richardson, Environmental Science Teacher, Nation Ford High School:**

***Nation Ford Aquaculture Project: Teaching our students to go GREEN!"***

Students will learn about the benefits of using aquaculture (fish farming) and hydroponics (soilless plant culture) for food production. This is a great way to teach our students an

innovative way to incorporate green technology by growing plants and raising fish in a dual environment.

**Kari Klatt, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Tega Cay Elementary School:**

***Project “Reading Success” featuring Kindle Fire eReaders***

This project provides Kindle eReaders to students for use during guided reading groups. Students will not only use them for reading but can also use them to practice math skills, complete classroom research, practice spelling and repetition, listen to audio books, and apply 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills through technology.

**Noel Blaschke & Sally Shaw, Kindergarten Teachers, Orchard Park Elementary School:**

***Bonkers for Bookflix!***

Scholastic “*BookFlix*” is an online reading resource that provides quality pairing of fiction and non-fiction literature on a variety of subject areas and topics. This project provides a subscription to *BookFlix* for use by all students in the school. Students will be able to continue building their love of reading anywhere there is an internet connection.

**Sharon Neff, Technology Related Arts Teacher, Doby’s Bridge Elementary School:**

***Let’s Put the STEArtM into Our STEM: Integrating Digital Art and Design with Common Core Mathematical Standards and STEM***

This project integrates art with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through an engaging, integrative, and collaborative approach using a high quality digital art software program called Art Rage, an Intous tablet and pressure sensitive stylus. Students will integrate artistic design to communicate and model concepts as a strategy for increasing comprehension of STEM and Common Core mathematical standards.

**Brandy Heisler, Reading Specialist, Doby’s Bridge Elementary School**

***S.C. History in a Book Bag***

This project provides each third grade class a set of book bags, one for each student, with a different book about SC as well as a journal with a variety of writing activities that corresponds with each book. The backpacks will be rotated weekly. This program encourages family communication because families can read and discuss the books together at home.

**Sara Wallace-Special Education, Deanna Koverman-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science, Karen Weston-8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, Nancy Mischker-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts/SS, Eve Hoberek-FACS, Pat McNaughton-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science, and Gail Vawter-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science/SS, Springfield Middle School:**

***SMS Garden***

This project will allow students, faculty, staff, and community members to construct raised bed gardens and plant seeds to grow vegetables, flowers, and plants. The gardens will be used to facilitate project based learning within multi-curricular subjects. Students will record data, analyze information, work and connect with each other to strengthen their understanding of cultural differences and build relationships.

**Lauren Copeland & Shannon Dustin-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers, Springfield Elementary School:**  
*Report with a Purpose*

This project will allow students the opportunity to create, organize, produce and read a school newspaper. Students will write and produce articles about events in the school community and around the world ultimately increasing their time spent writing and reading.

**Lauren Copeland-5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA/SS, Sally Fickeln-Media Specialist, Heather Wolf-Reading Specialist, Springfield Elementary School:**

*Saddle Up for a Wild Western Ride into Informational Writing*

This project will provide eBooks and hard copy texts for each classroom that can be utilized during Social Studies, Reading, and Writing. Due to the nature of eBooks, an entire classroom of writers, a small group of researchers, or one curious learner could all utilize the same eBook simultaneously. This access will increase the amount of knowledge accessible for students to learn about Westward Expansion and increase discussion and collaboration.

**Miriam Hunt-Math Specialist, Orchard Park Elementary School:**

*Picture This...*

This project focuses on giving a visual approach to solving abstract word problems by using Singapore math strategies and model drawing. Students will be able to break apart most problems, allowing visualization of numbers that are often abstract.

**Brenda Marshall-Paraprofessional & Sally Ficklen-Media Specialist, Springfield Elementary School:**

*One School, One Book*

This project is designed to promote reading at home and improve literacy at a number of levels. The central theme of the program is that all families of a school engage in reading the same chapter book together. The goal is to increase students ELA abilities, help them to listen better and longer, build bigger vocabularies, understand concepts, and feel positive about both books and learning.

**Samantha Warren-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Orchard Park Elementary School:**

*A Novel Approach: Using Newberry Award winning chapter books and Kindle Paperwhites to teach theme, craft, and text analysis*

The goal of this project is to create young readers who use critical thinking, problem solving, and analytical skills to read high quality literature and prepare for reading outside the classroom. This project will provide books and Kindle Paperwhites for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to use.

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**Professional Development Grants: \$250**

**Gail Vawter-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher, Springfield Middle School:**

Mrs. Vawter will attend and present at the Association for Middle Level Education Conference in Nashville Tennessee.

**Marion Cook-Lead Teacher & Heather Wolf-Reading Specialist, Springfield Elementary School:**

Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Wolf will establish a book club for SMES 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers using the book Notice and Note. This book will help guide teachers on how to develop their students into disciplined readers.

**McCollum Art Grant: \$500**

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**Paige Palanica-Elementary Art Teacher, Orchard Park Elementary School:**

***Wingspan: A Children's Mural Project***

This project will allow students to create murals for a child advocacy center than will enhance the overall center environment, which educating elementary students on mural art.

**TEC Dowling Grant for Technology: \$500**

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**Billy Foxx-K-5 Music Teacher, Riverview Elementary School**

***Quaver's Marvelous World of Music***

This grant will purchase the "Quaver's Classplay" section of a comprehensive, fully-digital activities based song literature program. The software is computer/internet based and has great graphics and audio with lessons that approximately 600 students will have access to.

**Principal Project Grant: \$1,000**

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**Peter Olinger-School Principal, Springfield Elementary School:**

***Integrating the Responsive Classroom***

This project will provide the school and staff with additional strategies to foster positive and caring classroom environments while providing innovative and engaging lessons for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. The *Responsive Classroom* is a social and emotional learning program focused on student achievement, teacher effectiveness, and improving school climate.