

Because of generous contributions from each Home and School Association, the Interschool Council Mini-Grant Program was able to award \$10,250 to fully or partially fund 25 projects in 2009-10. This represents an increase of \$1,400 over grant funding last year. The review committee included Jennifer Bale-Kushner, Jeannie Hollander, Anne Horn, Sheila Kineke, Colleen Kunz, Mary Broach, and Steve Barbato, Director of Curriculum Services.

1. At Belmont Hills, Colleen Holmes will get all students to *Speak Up, Speak Out and Sing!* through a portable amplification system that will develop public speaking skills in the classroom and on stage.
2. Jim MacCall will teach sign language to 1st graders at Belmont Hills in his *Signing and Reading* project that will increase kinesthetic learning of literacy skills.
3. Barbara Johnson and Belmont Hills 4th graders will be *Making Measurement Matter* by applying real-world circumstances to the study of math and science, in areas like aerodynamics and food chemistry.
4. Cynwyd's Human Relations Committee, led by Lisa Ruzzi, will run the *Cynwyd Bucket Fillers*, a year-long, school-wide project focused on positive character traits, based on the book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*.
5. At Gladwyne, Keith Jones, Judy Allison, Kelly Bragg, Kim Goss, and Lisa Zimmerman will have an additional *Document Camera for Classrooms* for 5th grade to increase teachers' ability to use these cameras more spontaneously.
6. Debbie Miller at Merion will purchase *Hands On Active Learning* materials, including a puppet tent, to build a classroom setting that offers kinesthetic, abstract, and creative opportunities to learn.
7. Merion's Garret Morton, Janet Lawson, Ann Friedlander, and Helene Stalberg will acquire a *Digital Document Reader* as an additional document camera to support those purchased by the district to use in 5th grade classrooms.
8. Janie Partridge and Sherri Hulcher at Penn Valley received funds for their *Literary Circle and Tea*, a 1st/2nd grade cooperative weekly program that develops children's interest, oral fluency, and listening skills in poetry and literature.
9. Kindergarten teachers Nina Swartz and Mary Donati at Penn Valley will introduce *Music Play for Kindergarten*, a program for weekly music instruction conducted by classroom teachers, since kindergarteners do not have scheduled time with the music specialist.
10. Chris Vaccaro, Deb Strickland, and Alison Mooney at Penn Valley will run *Reverse Inclusion - "Cooking Buddies,"* a weekly cooking project between a 5th grade class and the 4th 5th autistic support class.
11. At Penn Wynne, Christa Scheidly will add a *248 Classroom Listening Library*, a small collection of CDs and books, for the 3rd through 5th grade Learning Support classroom.
12. Kelly McDermott, Catherine Malatack, and Sameena Mughal at Bala Cynwyd will purchase materials that *Make Reading Accessible to All* by increasing the library's offerings to the ESL population.
13. Kelly McDermott and Catherine Malatack will also partner to bring *Stories of Attitude, Resilience, Justice, Compassion and Courage* to Bala Cynwyd's library, to provide an outlet and positive solution for problems like bullying, death of a loved one, physical adversities, and economic difficulties.
14. Through a project called *Get Mikey Reading!*, Kelly McDermott will enhance Bala Cynwyd's graphic novel collection to increase reading in the school community, especially amongst boys who are reluctant readers.
15. Meredith Dyson at Bala Cynwyd will buy albums produced by Education Rap in the four major subject areas of math, science, language arts, social studies in her project *Rhythm, Rhyme, Results*.
16. At Welsh Valley, Bernadette Bartholomew, Patricia Erdos, and Elaine Wisser will run *STEM @ HR*, an enrichment activity conducted during homeroom for Challenge students, especially girls, to build interest and skills in science, technology, engineering and math.
17. Steven Van Mater and Marybeth Raidy at Welsh Valley will add *Nature's Window: A Bird Identification Initiative* to the Waterbound curriculum, using a wired microphone to bring sounds from birdfeeders into the classroom.
18. Welsh Valley's Lek Sullivan will purchase a "lock-out" *Buzzer System* to make reviewing for tests and quizzes more engaging and entertaining for students.

19. Emily McCarthy will take advantage of *Quick Video Modeling* to offer immediate video feedback to her autistic students at Welsh Valley about expected and unexpected social behaviors, and to promote self-awareness of certain targeted behaviors.
20. Nancy Ferguson and Yvonne Wilmore at Welsh Valley will create an *Equitable School Environment* by photographing the diverse student and staff population engaged in a wide range of activities, and displaying these photographs throughout the campus.
21. Cheryl Langdon will enhance the Welsh Valley *Mentoring Program* with mini-grant funds to support weekly informal meetings, and occasional attendance at organized events that build upon the mentee's connection to a caring role model.
22. Barbara Ranson and Heidi Cooke at Harriton will offer *Highlander Quests - Exploring Cultural Opportunities* for interested students who may not have had the chance to visit cultural destinations in the area.
23. Mark Piotrowski and Rich Kressly at Lower Merion will acquire *Robotics Competition Control Electronics* for use by students, staff and Lockheed Martin volunteers in Tech Ed classes and the Technology & Engineering Club as they learn about engineering design, electrical systems, applied math and physics concepts, and many other areas related to robotics.
24. At Lower Merion, Beth Hampton and Harriet Ackerman will use a Flip video camera in *Learning Beyond Classroom Walls* in a wide range of activities that include creating "how-to" videos by teachers; acting out scenes from literature; telling stories digitally; and demonstrating science experiments.
25. Lower Merion's Heather Van Horn, Michael Borsch, Melissa Gibson, and Marianne McGuire will install a *Wii for the Afterschool Friendship Club*, which provides an opportunity for special ed students to interact with regular ed peers in a nonacademic setting.