

All LMSD Home and School Associations and the CSE generously contributed to the Interschool Council Mini Grant Program, which resulted in almost \$10,000 being awarded to fully or partially fund 29 projects in 2012-13. The Mini Grant Review Committee working with Steve Barbato, Director of Elementary Education, and Wagner Marselle, Director of Secondary Education, awarded mini grants for the following projects:

1. **Belmont Hills** Librarian **Cathy Kaufman** received funding for "*Rock and Read*" which will allow her to purchase rocking chairs for the library to enhance the children's reading experiences.
2. "*Let Go, LEGO: Building Social Skills and Friendships*" is **Rebecca Wagner's** project at **Belmont Hills**. A LEGO center will be created to allow children to relax and regroup throughout the day while fostering development of social skills.
3. Second grade **Belmont Hills** children will have the opportunity to learn "*All the Right Moves*" as **Colleen Holmes** and **Chris Esibill** collaborate to teach the basics of hip hop during music and physical education lessons with the guidance of Clyde Evans – Founder and Artistic Director of Chosen Dance Company in Philadelphia.
4. **Barbara Johnson** is "*Inspiring Children in S.T.E.M.*" in her fourth grade **Belmont Hills** classroom by providing hand held digital microscopes and recorders to explore science, magnification and technology.
5. **Cynwyd's Joan Molloy, RN**, will add a compost bin to the "*LMSD Vegetable Garden Project Pilot Garden #1*" which will allow for education about recycling and composting in their outdoor classroom.
6. **Samantha Mancini** will place "*Rain Barrel for Kindergarten*" in her outdoor space at **Gladwyne** where the children will learn about recycling, ecology and nature – all while growing milkweed for their class butterflies.
7. Once indoors, **Samantha Mancini's** kindergarten class will enjoy working on comprehension and writing skills. An expanded "*Listening Center*" will provide them with new titles to listen to as they read.
8. **Gladwyne** third graders in **Jennifer Welby's** class will be going to "*Science Camp*" twice a year as they navigate their classroom/campsite that will include tents, hands on projects, special visitors and fun camp experiences.
9. As part of a "*Research Unit on Dogs*", all things "dog" – books, dvds, and magazines – are headed to **Laura Reilly's Gladwyne** fourth grade classroom. Her students will write a non-fiction book on a dog breed - incorporating history and anatomy - as a culminating science activity.
10. **Penny Glackman** and her **Merion** third graders are going to explore their heritages and ethnicities and incorporate what they learn in creative artistic projects – "*Patchwork Pillows*" – utilizing geometry in a meaningful way.
11. **Penn Valley** will be the site of "*Dream Flags*" as **Kevin Bray** leads the children through the writing of poetry and creation of flags inspired by Nepalese prayer flags.
12. **Shannon Quinn's** children will "*Get the Wiggles Out*" as they "actively sit" on their new ball chairs at **Penn Wynne**.
13. Music is going to be heard in the halls at **Penn Wynne** as **Barbara Humes** leads multiple grades in an "*All-School Sing*". New copies of "Get America Singing Again", which incorporates over 40 songs representing America's vast music heritage, will be the starting point for this project.
14. **Debra Bosin** at **BC** will be updating her "*Speech Therapy Materials*" to include colorful, engaging, hands-on materials to support students as they work to improve their speech and language skills.
15. As part of their Science curriculum, "*Operation Montserrat and Team 6-1*" – along with **Nicole Malley** at **BC** – will engage in critical thinking scenarios and collaborate as they apply what they have learned about weather, plate tectonics and elements specific to Earth's changing surface. A final videoconference will be held as the team tries to save the people of Montserrat from a hurricane and a volcanic eruption.
16. **Carolyn McKinney** has a plan to enrich and extend **BC** sixth graders' "*Consideration of Cultural Differences Through Literature*". With a new set of books, she will provide reading enrichment and extension for advanced readers through reading options that represent various cultures, perspectives and identities.

17. Communique at **BC** is receiving a "Tool Upgrade". **Dennis Dool** and **Moira Messick** use the colonial/organic garden and composting projects as cornerstones for their curriculum. With a new set of gardening tools the students will be able to continue participating as they explore Botany, Biology, Ecology and other facets of the curriculum through hands-on work in the garden.
18. **Beverly Rusoff** and **Christina Poplawski** will provide their **BC** eighth grade students with the opportunity to create a "Textile Extravaganza". With this fiber arts project, the artists will learn about a variety of hands-on textile techniques while studying fiber artists from Latin America, Africa and Asia.
19. **WV** ARTIFACTS students and **BC** eVOLVE students – along with their teachers **Debbye Wolfe** and **Mary Beth Hegeman** – are going to do "The Red Pyramid Moodle". As the students study Ancient Egypt, they will read [The Red Pyramid](#). Then the classes will engage in a collaborative dialogue - via a Moodle - as they discuss and analyze the fantasy adventure.
20. "We Are All Scientists" is what the **WV** seventh graders of **Chris Lewis**, **Sharon Schindler** and **Mary Beth Raidy** will be thinking as they read a new collection of nonfiction titles. Emphasis will be placed on biographies of female scientists with the intention of inspiring female students to continue pursuing their education in the field of science.
21. **Josh Gansky** and **Melissa Lamberg** are teaming up at **WV** to create a new program - "Peer Mentor/Tutor Program/SEALS (Student Education and Leading)". The focus of their efforts is to help new students assimilate into the WV community. Students also will have the opportunity to serve as peer mentors.
22. **Kathy Bromley, RN** will be piloting a new project, "Health Concerns of Student Athletes" at **WV**. The purpose of her project is to target middle school athletes at the beginning of each sports season with an interactive educational presentation that reinforces district efforts directed at safe participation in PIAA sports.
23. "Outta This World" is what the sixth and seventh graders of **WV** teachers **Elaine Wisser**, **Patricia Markey** and **Patricia Erdos** will be saying as they participate in Literature Circles. Science fiction titles have been chosen to differentiate and extend science topics for their students.
24. **WV** teachers **Bernadette Bartholomew**, **Rosheen Campbell**, **Janet Chung**, **Brett Davis**, **Nancy Ferguson** and **Steve Murray** will be sharing [The Colors of Freedom](#) with their eighth grade students. Janet Bode's anthology of poetry and short stories will enable the WV students to "hear" from contemporary immigrant teenage voices as they study the topic of immigration to the US in a unit titled "*Immigration: Common Threads*".
25. In "*Crossing Borders*", **Betty Corcoran** and **Patricia Rooney** will introduce their **WV** seventh graders to multicultural literature through literature circles and independent reading choices.
26. Under the guidance of **Laura Vogel**, IB Physics students at **Harriton** will be "*Building Electrosurgery Units*". Upon completion, they will be donated to the Engineering World Health Organization, which then will distribute the units in developing countries. Students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of electricity and currents to a hands-on activity in a collaborative project that broadens their knowledge of world health inequities.
27. **Harriton** students who participate in DRE3AM (Daring to Reach and Excel in Academics, Activities, and Athletics Club) will work with **Andrea Wilson-Harvey** in a project titled "*Learning to be a Social Activist for the Good of Our Community*". Using [It's Your World – If You Don't Like It, Change It: Activism for Teenagers](#), students will develop leadership capacity and learn about social activism.
28. **Allison Mellet** is going to bring her **LM** Spanish students and the students from an elementary World Language program together to celebrate "*El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day)*". Using books from around the world, the elementary and high school language programs will celebrate children, literacy, languages and cultures in an annual celebration.
29. **Glenn Brooks** and the "*Lower Merion Chess Team*" and are going to gear up to continue competing in the Main Line Chess League. With new sets, boards and clocks, the **LM** team hopes to accommodate more students and become more competitive in their league.