

Interschool Council
MINI GRANT PROJECTS
2013-2014

All LMSD Home and School Associations and the CSE generously contributed to the Interschool Council Mini Grant Program, which resulted in over \$10,300 being awarded to fully or partially fund 35 projects in 2013-14. The Mini Grant Review Committee working with Harris Lewin, Interim Director of Elementary Education, Wagner Marseille, Director of Secondary Education, and Jen Goldberg, Elementary Technology Specialist, awarded mini grants for the following projects:

1. **Cathy Kaufman, Belmont Hills'** Librarian, will "*PUT ME IN THE STORY*" by celebrating cultural diversity through literature with the addition of award winning books to the school's collection.
2. Music will be heard throughout **Belmont Hills** as **Colleen Holmes** leads a "*We Sing America: Celebrating Diversity Through Song*" with a new collection of music reflecting the "melting pot" of American music.
3. Students of **Vinetta Madaffari Baseline** at **Belmont Hills** are going to have the opportunity for "*Seeing is Believing & Listening Guides Instruction*" using two new iPod Touches.
4. **Deb Strickland's** students at **Belmont Hills** will be able to work on pro-social skills as they sit in two HowdaHug Chairs and play board games with their peers as they participate in the "*Bernard's Buddies Peer Mentor Program*".
5. **Cynwyd** teachers **Sara McMaster** and **Allison Gilboy** are going to use the "*Read Naturally Encore Materials*" program to build reading fluency, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension skills in their classrooms.
6. The "*Green Council*" at **Cynwyd**, led by **Michael Tavani, John Keeler, Natalie Thibault, Shannon Siet and Kim Horvath**, will create a recycling station for the cafeteria and use new gardening equipment in the school vegetable garden.
7. The **Cynwyd** classroom of **Melissa McGuire** is going to be "*On the Ball in Challenge*". Exercise balls will be introduced to address the needs of dually identified students.
8. "*Lights, Camera, Body Systems!*" will be heard in **John Keeler's Cynwyd** class as they make movies explaining body systems with the addition of a tripod and tripod dolly for filming.
9. **Cynwyd** third graders in **Jessica Watkin's** classroom are going to have the opportunity to participate in a "*24 Competition Club*" with the addition of the math game.
10. Upcoming kindergarteners at **Gladwyne** will receive a special "*Kindergarten Book*" at their orientation program thanks to the efforts of **Samantha Mancini**.
11. **Jennifer Welby Gilbert's** third grade **Gladwyne** class will have the necessary supplies to enrich the science curriculum as they attend "*Science Camp*" to explore different topics.
12. "*Reading*" materials that specifically appeal to boys will be added to the classrooms of **Jennifer Gilbert and Katie Reuben** at **Gladwyne**.
13. **Merion's Donna Newsom** will use the Elapsed Time Classroom Set to teach elapsed time with manipulatives creating "*Stress-less Elapsed Time*" lessons for her students.
14. In order to "*Extend, Enrich, Excite, Encourage*" students, **Debbie Miller** will provide **Merion** students with creative avenues to practice, review, enrich and extend the math curriculum.
15. **Kristina Volertas** plans to provide "*Health Education in the Health Room*" at **Merion** by introducing new information and reinforcing positive health practices through literature.
16. "*Heritage Patchwork Pillows*" will be created by **Penny Glackman's Merion** students as they integrate the study of heritage, geometry and literacy.
17. Kindergarteners in the **Merion** classrooms of **Stephanie Kim and Barbara Grippi** will use "*Styluses for iPads*" to practice their pencil grips and proper letter formation while working on their handwriting.

18. *"Social Skills Instruction"* in the classrooms of **Lisa Barber and Wendy Phillips at Merion** will be provided through the use of specific social skills games and materials.
19. **Gina Ruzzi** will use the manipulative tools and resources in the *"Story Grammar Marker"* kit to help her **Merion** students develop speaking, reading and writing skills.
20. **Jennifer Kehoe** will create *"LEGO Mania"* in her **Penn Valley** classroom to add a new dynamic as she works with her students.
21. With the introduction of *"Signing Time"* videos, **Lauren Seaman at Penn Valley** will be able to provide her non-verbal students with another way to increase their sign language vocabulary and to create a Signing Club for other students interested in learning sign language.
22. **Elizabeth Caldwell** will be adding current print materials to the **Penn Valley** library's *"Multicultural Collection"* to provide a multicultural perspective.
23. **Janie Partridge and Susan Rose** will put *"Poetry in Motion"* in a cooperative weekly program with their second and third graders at **Penn Valley** using a new collection of poetry to develop children's interest, fluency and skills in various elements of literacy.
24. *"Henry the Hand, Champion Hand Washer"*, a school infection prevention tool kit, will allow **Elizabeth Russom, RN** to lead the **Penn Valley** community as they learn the 4 Principles of Hand Awareness endorsed by the AMA and AAFP.
25. More **Penn Wynne** students will be able to climb longer distances when **Corey Luttrell and Kathleen Geiger** have their *"Rock Wall Extension"* installed for their physical education program.
26. All six elementary schools will participate in a *"Ruby Bridges Project"* that brings age appropriate literature and film to the students. The following individuals will be overseeing the projects at their respective schools: **BH - Lynne Partridge; Cynwyd - Terri Tyler, Natalie Thibault and Heather Schoettle; Gladwyne - Leslie Mastronardo; Merion - Alison Schumacher, Ann Friedlander and Jackie Gaines; PV - Betsy Caldwell and Joseph Mudd; PW - Brahin Tabb.**
27. **Bala Cynwyd** seventh and eighth grade students of **Beverly Rusoff and Christina Poplawski** will learn about *"Mexican & Peruvian Pottery: A Study in Culture"* to provide insight into the creativity that dominated these cultures.
28. As part of their Science curriculum, *"Operation Montserrat and Team 6-1"* - along with **Nicole Malley at Bala Cynwyd** - 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.
29. **Stuart Shore and Tasha Gesacion** will work with incoming **Bala Cynwyd** sixth graders and their parents/guardians in a pilot program to ensure that *"Building Connections"* contributes to the students' success in middle school.
30. **Elizabeth Cooke, Josh Gansky, Boris Oden and Melissa Lamberg** are teaming up at **Welsh Valley** to continue offering *"Peer Mentor/Tutor Program/SEALS(Student Education and Leading)"* to help new students assimilate into the Welsh Valley community.
31. **Michael Lek Sullivan, Meg Hunt and Jason Gagliardi** will be creating a sustainable classroom using *"Alternative Energy"* at **Welsh Valley**. Two solar power packs and a digital converter will allow this team to seamlessly integrate the usage of the sun and its power into the curriculum.
32. As part of an engineering unit, **Welsh Valley's** TSA and eighth grade Science students, along with **Tim Brockman, Lek Sullivan, Maureen Keeney and Addie Eichman**, will be designing and building *"Theater Storage Room Shelving"*.
33. Students in **Margaret Lesch's Harriton** classes will have the opportunity to explore Chemistry - specifically seventeen molecules that "changed history" - through *"Napoleon's Buttons Projects"*.
34. **Laura Vogel** and her AP Environmental Science class at **Harriton** will have a hands-on inquiry based application for an environmental science unit on solar energy when they undertake the project - *"Building Passive Solar Houses"*.
35. **Myra Rios** is going to lead her **Lower Merion** Spanish level 5 students through an exploration of "El poder de los murals - The power of murals" as they study Diego Rivera and Mexican Muralists.