

**Interschool Council  
Mini Grant Awards 2014/15**

All LMSD Home and School Associations and the Committee for Special Education generously contributed to the Interschool Council Mini Grant Program which resulted in funding 35 projects of which 17 were fully and 18 were partially funded for a total amount of \$10,350. A special thank you to all of the members of the Mini Grant Review Committee for all of their insightful input in awarding the following projects:

**Lek Sullivan, Tracy D’Orazio and Helene Scott, Welsh Valley** are “USING OFFICE WASTE—SUSTAINABLE SHREDDING” to create paper brick logs integrating chemistry concepts with environmental awareness.

**Bala Cynwyd** students will learn from **Beverly Rusoff** and **Christina Poplawski** about the history and art of Pennsylvania artisans in the project “MERCER CLAY TILE-A BUCKS COUNTY TRADITION.”

“SINGING WITH AUTOHARP” will give **Penn Wynne** students the opportunity to enjoy music on this special instrument with **Barbara Humes**.

**Penn Wynne, Gladwyne, Belmont Hills and Merion** each received an outside “BUDDY BENCH” so that when a student chooses to sit on the bench during recess, teachers and other students will know that student is looking for a buddy.

**Ellen Frank** is going to assist her students to “STRESS-LESS ELAPSED TIME” during math class at **Penn Valley**.

Students will continue the “PEER MENTOR PROGRAM” assisting new students to assimilate to **Welsh Valley** under **Beth Cooke**.

The **Bala Cynwyd** team of **Kelly Peterson, Kim Rycyzyn, Cate Mergner, Rachell Deitch and Moria Messick** will lead the “SEVENTH GRADE ECOLOGICAL GARDENING PROJECT” implementing an organic garden for the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

“PUT ME IN THE STORY, PART 2” continues to provide **Belmont Hills** students with multicultural literature under the direction of librarian **Cathy Kaufman**.

**Mike Borsch** from **Lower Merion High School** will be doing “LEGO COLLABORATION” with Autistic Spectrum students building the landmark Empire State Building as a way to promote collaboration, communication, positive interaction and fun amongst his students.

“GET THE WIGGLES OUT!” will be easier for the **Penn Wynne** learning support students. **Erica Heitz** will be using ball chairs in the classroom to allow students to “actively sit” engaging their body and then their minds.

Turning a classroom into a “3G SCIENCE CAMP” helps **Gladwyne** students have fun while learning science from teacher **Jennifer Welby Gilbert**.

“DITCHING DESK CHAIRS” and sitting on stability balls gives the **Penn Wynne** students in the regular classroom of **Lauren Bross** the opportunity to “actively sit” engaging both body and mind.

Nurses **Pam Reichert** and **Joan Molloy** will be doing “GARDEN REVITALIZATION” with **Cynwyd** students to provide hands-on educational experiences across all disciplines.

More trade books will be added to “ENHANCE THE CYNWYD BOOKROOM” as **Cynwyd** teachers **Allison Gilboy, Sara McMaster, Susan Bershada, Rosanne Fulmer, Al Ryan, Kim Horvath, Staci Dougherty and Diane DiFelice** provide students the opportunity to carry that instruction across multiple days.

**Nicole Malley** will use “OPERATION MONTSERRAT and TEAM 6-1” as part of **Bala Cynwyd’s** science curriculum. Students become part of an emergency response team in collaboration with a “live” Mission Control via video conferencing to save the people on Montserrat Island.

**Thomas Reed** promotes volunteerism/community service at **Lower Merion High School** as students are encouraged to give 100 hours of service each year. A dedicated wall reflects the “100 HOURS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION” to support and encourage student participation.

**Leslie Mastronardo, Gladwyne** will expand their nonfiction multicultural book collection with the project “I SEE ME” MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY BOOK COLLECTION.”

**Merion** gifted support students will be able to see the full plant cycle—even the roots! **Kimberly Glick** will be able to grow plants all year round with the project “HYDROPONICS.”

“USING A SLAB ROLLER TO IMPRINT CROSS CURRICULAR LEARNING ON STUDENT UNDERSTANDING,” **Dave Willis, Katie Lowery, Tom Ricker, Moira Messick, Beverly Rusoff** and **Christina Poplawski** will use a slab roller to introduce a unique artistic medium to **Bala Cynwyd** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to integrate art, language arts, history and science.

In the “PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS” **Yvette DeVoue** will support **Penn Wynne** students’ health with posters and printed materials available in the Wellness Office.

It was so successful, **Jennifer Kehoe** is doing “LEGO MANIA YEAR 2” at **Penn Valley**. The LEGO center will assist students in developing fine motor skills, problem solving, communication and self-esteem.

Engaging **Welsh Valley** students in Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1 just became more fun with “CLASSROOM RESPONSE SYSTEM SMART CLICKERS.” Students will be able to “click in” with an answer before feedback is shared with them. **Jacob Stankunas** and the math department can use this data for both formative and summative assessments.

“CAN UKULELE? I WISH I COULD!” will add excitement to both **Belmont Hills** and **Penn Valley** music programs. **Colleen Holmes** will be adding the ukulele to complement the current music curriculum providing students a unique musical experience.

**Vinetta Baselice, Kristen Murphy** and **Christine Gagliano** will have a “LEGO CLUB: BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS/BUILDING BRIDGES” with their students at **Belmont Hills**.

In “LITERATURE CIRCLES” **Cynwyd** 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will read about the American Revolutionary period under the guidance of **John Keeler, Mike Tavani, Beth Persofsky, Roe Fulmer** and **Diane DiFelice**.

**Harriton** 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are collaborating on “CULTURE RESPONSIVE TEACHING, COMMON CORE AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: DESIGNING A MODEL OF TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS THAT FOSTER STUDENTS’ SUCCESS AND A CULTURE OF LEARNING FOR ALL.”

Getting fit will be more exciting for **Merion** students who participate in the “MILEAGE CLUB.” **Ed Davis** and **Kristina Volertas** will promote fun and movement during recess with a structured walking program.

**Kathy Bromley, Welsh Valley**, is “IMPROVING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE THROUGH ANXIETY REDUCTION.” Adding an aquarium to the Wellness Office will help create and enhance a calm and relaxing environment. A variety of fidget items will also be available to student to support relaxation.

**Belmont Hills** students will have an afterschool club “GARDENING ON THE HILL,” providing them the opportunity to tend the garden, keep a journal to document changes and participate in a weekly Garden Blog under the leadership of **Kate Galer, Barbara Johnson, Jonathan Drucker, Kirsten Lawson**.

**Kate Witman, Su Carter** and **Laura Labrinakos** will support students in developing the “HARRITON HIGH SCHOOL ART GALLERY.” This will give art students a leading role in the organization, design and implementation of professional-quality art exhibitions.

After a harsh winter, **Titia Scherpbier** would like to put some “SPRING COLOR” in the **Harriton** courtyard. Students will plant bulbs in the fall as a team activity during advisory. Spring will be just a little more “cheery” as students and teachers can enjoy an array of flowers.

**Brandon Brown, Nicholas Bell** and **Lynne Partridge, Penn Valley** are encouraging 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade African American boys to meet once a week to explore STEM through the design and construction of bridges. “BRAIN STEM—BOYS RAISING ACHIEVEMENT IN STEM” also encompasses a mentorship component to encourage students to continue their studies in STEM through middle, secondary and post-secondary education.