

**The Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence  
Summary of Grant Awards  
December 2006**

***Exploring Diversity and Appreciating Differences.*** Students from Mrs. Nichols' and Mrs. Mandisodza's fourth-grade classes will participate in SEEDkids, a diversity experience geared toward children. Through literature, poetry and multimedia, students will explore and share their feelings about racism, gender, disabilities, stereotypes, inclusion and bullying.

Grant awarded: \$900  
Submitted by: Melanie Mandisodza and Jeanette Nichols

***Discovering the Written Word with Friends at Churchill School.*** Third-graders at Churchill School will supplement their regular reading instruction by participating in literature circles. Students will explore books and other reading material in small discussion groups and by writing in journals.

Grant awarded: \$1,750  
Submitted by: Christine Engels and Nancy Wood

***Building Self-Esteem through Art and Music at Churchill School.*** Renowned artist Tom Krueger will spend four days at Churchill School leading students in an innovative learning experience that combines visual arts and music. Students will paint and decorate a class-sized set of wood-headed drums. Krueger will demonstrate drumming techniques and invite students from every class to create rhythms together in a "drum circle" setting. The experience is designed to build self-esteem and community among students.

Grant awarded: \$1,750  
Submitted by: Patti Callahan and Joan Rachowicz

***Bringing Age-Appropriate Literature to Struggling Readers.*** A library of books on tape will be developed for use by James Hart's Daily Living Skills students who would greatly benefit from this type of supplemental reading assistance.

Grant awarded: \$575  
Submitted by: Kathryn Call

***Hands-On Science Project at James Hart.*** Seventh- and eighth-grade students will use their use their knowledge of science to plan and build an environmental courtyard where they can study native plants of Illinois, observe interactions between plants and animals, research habitats and behaviors of birds and insects and monitor local weather. Eighth-graders will do composting to fertilize the plants. When finished, the courtyard will become a quiet space for the entire student body to enjoy

Grant awarded: \$1,750  
Submitted by: Keith Huizinga, Jill Vagner, and Sharon White

***Bringing Math to Life.*** The purchase of new computer software, *My Mathematical Life*, will help Millennium and James Hart students answer the questions, "Why do we have to study math? When will we ever use this stuff?" When playing the game, students will live a virtual life in which they must choose careers, pay bills, apply for auto loans and home mortgages, balance checkbooks and save for retirement.

Grant awarded: \$525  
Submitted by: Jack Gaham

**Publishing Magazine to Develop Writing Skills.** Second-graders in Miss Rost's class will research, write, illustrate and produce a magazine entitled, *Munch: The Magazine for Hungry Readers*.

Grant awarded: \$465  
Submitted by: Lisa Rost

**Promoting Healthier Food Choices at Willow School.** Willow's *Bee Healthy, Bee Smart* initiative will be enhanced by providing uncommon fruits and vegetables for students to taste-test in their classrooms.

Grant awarded: \$1,120  
Submitted by: Dianne Lauterbach and Karen Schillings

**Traveling the Globe without Leaving Homewood.** Second-grade students in Miss Rost's and Mrs. Larsen's classes will gain an appreciation of other cultures after a year-long exploration of the languages, foods, clothing, music, artwork, currency, games, and landmarks from countries around the world.

Grant awarded: \$600  
Submitted by: Emily Larsen and Lisa Rost

**Applying Classroom Math to Real-Life Projects.** Accelerated second-grade math students will be challenged to use their knowledge of scale and measurement to design and construct the perfect chair for their own body's proportions. Students will delve further into the study of scale and measurement by attending a program at the Submarine Math Lab at the Museum of Science and Industry.

Grant awarded: \$510  
Submitted by: Cindy Rosenstein

**Shining a Spotlight on Willow School Students.** Monthly assemblies will highlight and recognize four students from each classroom for something he or she has improved. During the year, every student will be applauded for their particular success, whether it is good grades, good behavior or mastering a new skill.

Grant awarded: \$570  
Submitted by: Melissa Lawson

**Building Community by Enhancing Knowledge of Our Hometown.** The second grade unit about Homewood will be updated and enhanced with new materials and an extended field trip to the historical sites of our town.

Grant awarded: \$990  
Submitted by: Amanda Butler and Anna Kazmark

**Enhancing American History with American Girl Stories.** For years, Homewood's second grade teachers have used the American Girl stories to help bring history alive to their students. Instead of nine teachers sharing materials meant for five, additional books and supplies will be purchased.

Grant awarded: \$1,500  
Submitted by: Amanda Butler and Anna Kazmark