MEC Grants 2011-2012

### The following Grants were awarded in the Fall 2011:

**Meet The Animals**  
**School:** Forest Avenue Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Doreen O’Neil

Meet the Animals is an engaging outreach program provided by the Norman Bird Sanctuary’s education department. This interactive class teaches the children about the habits, behaviors and physical features of a few different animal groups.   This presentation is a meaningful connection to our **science** unit called Animals 2×2.  It also will be utilized when teaching **Informational Writing** and **non-fiction reading**.

**Kaleidoscope Theatre Presentation of “B.U.L.L.Y”**  
**School:**  Forest Avenue Elementary School and Aquidneck Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Patricia King

“B.U.L.L.Y.” or “Better Understand by Listening and Learning about You” is a theatrical presentation performed in-the-round in which the actors enact various bullying situations that may be encountered in a school setting.  Some of the topics covered include physical bullying, emotional bullying (and the consequences of these). The program stresses self worth and helps students develop the social skills needed to co-exist in a peaceful atmosphere.

**March Into Reading**  
**School:** Forest Ave. Elementary School; Aquidneck Elementary School and J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Chyleene O’Connor

March Into Reading will bring 3 book authors to Forest Ave. Elementary School, Aquidneck Elementary School and Gaudet Middle School.  The program will expose the students to **literature and a love of reading**. This year’s theme is “Wild About Animals” and supports both **informational and fiction text**.  The event includes a week of activities at each school, culminating with the authors’ visits on Friday, March 2, 2012.   MEC is partially funding this program; the Aquidneck Collaborative for Education (ACE) is funding the majority of the program.

**Biomes Field Trip**  
**School:** Aquidneck Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Diane Lukowicz

Kindergarten students will attend a 1 hour tour at the Biomes Marine Center to enhance its **science curriculum**. Each class will explore the 12 different learning stations which include 100 different species of locally collected marine life. Students will learn about adaptations, habitats, feeding behaviors and tropical strays. This hands on experience will allow the students to investigate touch tanks hence providing a multi-sensory learning experience.

**BrainPop, Jr.**  
**School:** Aquidneck Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Melissa Bolton

BrainPop, Jr.  is an educational internet site for students in the areas of **math, science,  reading/writing and social studies**. It can be used by all students at Aquidneck, in grades K-3,  as a resource for the topics covered during lessons in the academic areas mentioned above. It is easy to use for teachers and engages students throughout the presentations. This visual medium gives students another learning modality to access and acquire new information and/or review class topics. This program can be used in the computer lab with an entire class. Games, quizzes, and vocabulary word walls are a few of the other features. Teachers can also use this program to get ideas for lesson plans that directly link to the standards.

**Project Chicks**  
**School:** Aquidneck Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Laura Pasyanos

A farm educator will teach the students about the endangered Dominique Chicken breed during an in-class, hands-on presentation.  The presenter will set up an incubator in the classrooms and provide a clutch of eggs to observe until the chickens hatch. The baby chicks are returned to Casey Farm at which time students will tour the facility and learn about farm plants and animals.  This program is a meaningful connection to the students’ **science** unit, and will also be utilized when teaching **Informational Writing** and **non-fiction reading**.

**Alternative Energy Enrichment**  
**School:** J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Heidi Gauch

Alternative Energy Enrichment uses the Thames and Kosmos science kits for students to work on high-interest activities that are an extension of the **6th grade science curriculum**.  The kits will be used during flex-time.  They will also help the students work on their **inquiry skills**, which is an area that needs improvement  according to recent NECAP scores.

**BrainPop**  
**School:** J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Donna Murphy

BrainPop is an educational internet site for students in the areas of **science, social studies, English and math**. It can be used by all students at Gaudet, in grades 4-8,  as a resource for the topics covered during lessons in the academic areas mentioned above. It is easy to use for teachers and engages students throughout the presentations.  This visual medium gives students another learning modality to access and acquire new information and/or review class topics. This program can be used in the computer lab with an entire class. Games, quizzes, and vocabulary word walls are a few of the other features. Teachers can also use this program to get ideas for lesson plans that directly link to the standards.

**Music Curriculum Resources**  
**School:** J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Claire Johnson and Emily Hookway

The purchase of a new  musical score entitled, “Choices Count”, to be performed as our 4th grade Spring Musical. This musical score will support the **positive behavior program** “PBIS” at Gaudet, as well as incoming third graders from Forest and Aquidneck schools. The grant will  purchase 2 Director’s Scores, 95 student’s scores and 1 performance/accompaniment CD.

**PawSox Field Trip**  
**School:** J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Christine Clancey

6th Grade students  have mini-lessons in the areas of **math, ELA and PE** taught by RIC students during McCoy Stadium’s Curriculum Day. Students learn how to score a baseball game and the history behind the team and the stadium. After two hours of math and history lessons, students watch a PawSox game to see the things they have learned taking place, since everything they have done relates back to baseball.  The field trip enhances the students’ math and social studies curriculum; relating baseball to their areas of study.

**Flocabulary**  
**School:** Middletown High School  
**Applicant:** Rachelle Myllymaki

Flocabulary mixes hip-hop music and curricular materials to teach academic content in grades K-12.  Flocabulary will help **social studies** students remember the curriculum as it is set to music. Flocabulary strives to test scores and foster a love of learning by making it fun.

**Geometer’s Sketch Pad** **Software**  
**School:** Middletown High School  
**Applicant:** Gus Steppen

The Geometer’s Sketchpad Software is an interactive math education software that allows **geometry** students to see and manipulate sides and angles of shapes. It is also a powerful tool in **algebra/trigonometry** for seeing and relating to functions. It can be used at all levels of math instruction at Middletown High School.

**Harvard Model U.N.** **Club**  
**School:** Middletown High School  
**Applicant:**  John Cunic

Students/club members will attend the 2012 Harvard Model United Nations Conference in Boston in January 2012.  Students will gain insight into the workings of the U.N.; will debate issues that confront world leaders; and, will draft resolutions in response to global issues.  Students work on their knowledge of world governments, economics, cultures and customs, and social issues, as well as honing their writing and presentation skills.

**Latin Dance Instruction**  
**School:** Middletown High School  
**Applicant:** Anita DeLima

The MHS PE/Health and World Language Departments have been working collaboratively for the last few years to introduce our students to Latin Dance. P.E. students will be instructed by Sara and Chris Baker from the East Bay Ballroom in a  **bi-lingual** “Spanish/English” Salsa, Rumba and ChaCha dance unit.  400+ high school students will have the opportunity to experience the **art and culture** of Latin Dance. Some students will showcase their newly acquired dancing skills talents at the high school’s annual International Festival.

**Que Tal magazine**  
**School:** Middletown High School and J.H. Gaudet Middle School  
**Applicant:** Amy Kalif, Kristen Lyon,  Christine Karoly

**Spanish 1** students in both Middletown High School and Gaudet Middle School will be provided with a 6-issue subscription of Que Tal magazine This magazine provides current, age-appropriate cultural information that students may access both inside and outside of the classroom. Additionally, students will be reading informational material in the target **language** which directly ties into the new common core standards.

### The following Grants were awarded in the Spring 2012:

**LEGO Engineering Robot C**  
**School:** J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Joshua Beagan

LEGO Engineering Robot C  is a software program for the **STEM** classes. Students will learn **computer programming** through this software program.  Beginning in 5th grade, students will have the opportunity to begin computer programming at a basic level.  The program culimnates in 8th grade, when 8th grade students will start the more complex programming of the NXT Robots using code.   This program will prepare the students for computer programming at the high school level.

**Hatching Chicks Brooding Kit and Incubator**  
**School:**  J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Heidi Gauch

The Hatching Chicks Brooding Kit and Incubator  is used by the 6th grade **science** classes where students learn about life cycles.  The students work together to incubate chicken eggs until they hatch.  The students then take care of the chicks for a few weeks before returning the chicks to a local farm.

**Starbase Atlantis** **Academy**  
**School:**  J.H. Gaudet Middle School and Learning Academy  
**Applicant:** Deb O’Bryan

Starbase Atlantis Academy  is a program offered through the Newport Navy Base.  Each 5th Grade class at Gaudet will attend classes at the Navy facility one day a week over a five-week period.  Students learn **astronomy, model rocketry and the physics of flight**.  Students learn how **math** concepts are applied in the real world.  Students engage in **team-building** exercises through-out the curriculum, teaching students to work effectively with others.  This year’s Starbase program was funded through the United States Congress, except for transportation.  MEC is paying for 50% of the transportation cost.

**Piano Amplifier**  
**School:**  Middletown High School  
**Applicant:** Phillip Statser

High school music students will use the new piano amplifier in music classes, performances, clubs and band exercises.  The amplifier is an integral part of the equipment necessary for the students to use the electric piano already in the schools.  The piano is not functional without an amplifier, so the purchase of the amplifier allowed the students use of the piano.

**Art Display Panels**  
**School:** all Middletown schools  
**Applicant:**  Susanne Suprock

Student artwork will be displayed on the art display panels at the Middletown Public Schools’ Annual Art Show.  The change in venue for the 2011 Art Show demonstrated the need for more art panels due to the restrictions in size and display area.   The new venue requires the use of more display panels in order to showcase as many works of art as possible.   These art panels can be utilized by all the schools’ art departments to display student artwork.