

March 15, 2011

Press Release

Avon Education Foundation

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The Avon Education Foundation (AEF) announced four new 2010-2011 grant awards during its Prize Patrol presentations on March 9, March 10 and March 11. These awards total over \$37,000 to support the enhancement of public and community education in the town of Avon.

At Thompson Brook School, \$30,172 was awarded to give Classrooms Access to 21st Century Technology. This was funded in part by The Hudson Family Grant going to the 6th grade, the Richard W. Kisiel, Ed.D. Grant (in honor of his retirement) going to the 5th grade Yellow Team, The UNICO Grant going to the 5th grade Red Team and The Oh Family Grant going to the 5th grade Blue Team. The funds will be used to purchase DLP projectors, speakers and hardware that will connect to existing classroom computers for all 26 fifth and sixth grade classrooms. This technology will engage students by directly connecting learning to the real world. Teachers and students will be able to use Google maps, collaborate with classes around the world using Skype, take online virtual field trips to museums or famous landmarks and instantly explore answers to questions posed throughout the school day. In addition, they will be able to use SMART Board™ interactive software they already have even without the SMART Board hardware. Ardith Franklin, Library Media Specialist, and Michael Netkovick, 6th grade Teacher, are directing the project.

The AEF hopes that this project is the beginning of a big initiative partnership with Avon Public Schools where the district will determine its technology upgrade needs and the AEF will help raise the funds to meet them.

Avon High School teacher Tracy Andreana was awarded The Flaxman Family Grant of \$2,174 to purchase a portable document camera for the math department. The camera can visually display an object placed on its platform so a teacher can model problem solving and measuring techniques, introduce graphic calculator programming and usage, work with algebraic tiles and geometric solids all from the front of the classroom, optimizing actual instruction time and learning. Work completed in class can be captured for additional use including uploading to teacher websites and sharing with other classes.

The Roaring Brook School Media Center, under the direction of Linda Miller, received \$1,941, funded by The Robert, Brian & Matthew Duffy Grant, to purchase a Mobile Overhead Projector Set-up. The equipment will be shared by all teachers to enhance students' learning by allowing access to a broad array of internet-based teaching tools. It will add depth to the curriculum in a visual and modern format and promote creative and innovative teaching.

Jennifer Bennett, Avon Senior Center Coordinator, was awarded the Mary Durant Grant of \$1,500 to pilot an iPad technology intergenerational learning program at the Center. Avon High School student volunteers will help the seniors learn how to use the iPads. This is the first grant award received by the Town of Avon. Before applying for this grant, Ms. Bennett learned that Brookfield, CT was using iPads in its senior center very successfully. The technology seems to be well suited to older citizens since they do not have to be solely located at a desk and keyboard, mouse and monitor.

In September 2010, the AEF awarded \$3,015 to the Avon Music Department to help get a collaborative choral and orchestral concert program going. Choral students and selected orchestra and wind ensemble students from Avon High School will be joined by treble voices from the Avon Middle School Arioso chorus at the upcoming concert, Wednesday, March 30th at 7:30pm at Welte Auditorium, Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. A program of diverse musical genres will be performed including John Rutter's "Mass of the Children."

The Avon Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit tax-exempt organization operated entirely by volunteers. Since its founding in 2003, the AEF has awarded nearly \$199,000 for projects to enhance learning opportunities in Avon. To learn more about the Avon Education Foundation visit its website at www.avonedfoundation.org.



Left to right: Ardith Franklin, Library Media Specialist, and Mike Netkovich, 6th grade teacher, accepting a plaque from Joanne Beers, AEF Chair, for the “Classroom Access to 21st Century Technology” grant at Thompson Brook School.



Left to right: Gary Mala, Superintendent; Anne Watson, Principal; Joanne Beers, AEF Chair; Richard Kisiel, AEF Board Member; Beth Hudson, AEF Vice Chair; and Beth Zweibel, AEF Grant Chair; Jodi Oh, TBS Parent and AEF Supporter ;Stacey Biernat, AEF and BOE Member; Carolyn Marshall, AEF Board Member; Gayle Bieluch, AEF Assistant Secretary; Ardith Franklin, Grant Recipient; Jody Goeler, Assistant Superintendent



Tracy Andreana, center, Math Teacher at Avon High School, receiving her award for “Document Cameras and Problem Solving” funded by The Flaxman Family Grant. Left to right: Robert Vojtek, Assistant Principal, AHS; Joanne Beers, AEF Chair; Tracy Andreana; Jody Flaxman; Sam Flaxman, AHS student

Photos by Gayle Bieluch



Roaring Brook School's "Mobile Overhead Projector Set-up" project receiving an award funded by the Robert, Brian & Matthew Duffy Grant. Left to right: Carolyn Marshall, AEF Board Member; Linda Miller, Library Media Specialist; Karen Haberlin, PTO Grant Committee; Joanne Beers, AEF Chair; Dr. Crisanne Colgan, Principal; Jody Goeler, Assistant Superintendent; Beth Zweibel, AEF Grant Chair and Board Member; Larry Sparks, Assistant Principal



Linda Miller, Library Media Specialist, and Karen Haberlin, PTO Grant Committee Member receive the plaque from Joanne Beers, AEF Chair, at Roaring Brook School's Prize Patrol.



Jennifer Bennett (right) Avon Senior Center Coordinator, with Joanne Beers, AEF Chair, excitedly receiving a grant for the “iPads for Lifelong Learning” project to introduce new technology at the Avon Senior Center.

Photos by Gayle Bieluch



Left to right: Beth Zweibel, AEF Grant Chair and Board Member; Joanne Beers, AEF Chair and Joanne Beers, AEF Chair, receiving a grant for the “iPads for Lifelong Learning” intergenerational project to introduce new technology at the Avon Senior Center using Avon High School volunteers as teachers.



Left to right: Peggy Roell, BOE Chair; Beth Zweibel, AEF Grant Chair and Board Member; Jennifer Bennett, Avon Senior Center Coordinator; Joanne Beers, AEF Chair at the Avon Senior Center.



Front row: Gayle Bieluch, AEF Assistant Secretary and Board Member; Beth Zweibel, AEF Grant Chair and Board Member;; Jennifer Bennett; Avon Senior Center Coordinator and Grant Recipient; Glenn Marston???.; Peggy Roell, BOE Chair
Back row: Carolyn Marshall, AEF Board Member; Beth Hudson, AEF Vice Chair; Joanne Beers, AEF Chair; Alan Rosenberg, Social Services/Senior Services Director???.; Jody Goeler, Assistant Superintendent



Avon Education Foundation 

No. 1011
DATE *March 10, 2011*

PAY TO THE ORDER OF *Jennifer Bennett* \$ *1,500.00*

One thousand five hundred and 00/100 DOLLARS

*Pursue for Lifelong Learning
The Henry David Thoreau*

Avon Education Foundation