

# Harrison Educational Foundation

## Grants Awarded in 2007

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### All Elementary Schools

#### 1) Beginning Reading at Home - (2007/08 School Year)

Mary Ellis, Supervisor of Elementary English / Social Studies, has requested funding for Kindergarten Book Bags. These bags are given to all incoming kindergartners at orientation each year with a letter stressing the importance of reading to young children. This program helps establish a supportive relationship between home and school.

#### 2) Teaching of Phonemic Awareness - (2007/08 School Year)

Catherine Johnson and Jayne Marraccini are requesting funding of 264 books to be made available in each of the libraries in the 4 elementary schools. This past year the elementary language arts curriculum began incorporating a phonics program into the balanced literary curriculum. The phonics program, developed by Irene Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell includes targeted lessons to develop phonetic awareness and understanding, in order to improve reading ability. The Fountas and Pinnell lessons make use of authentic children's literature to introduce and reinforce literacy concepts, phonetic awareness, letter knowledge, letter sound relationships and word study. These books will be available for use by classroom teachers and students.

### Harrison Avenue Elementary School

#### 3) Family Heritage Mural / Artist in Residence - (2007/08 School Year)

Christine Vitarello would like to have the first and fourth grade students at HAS work with a professional artist to produce a curriculum related mural. Last year the entire fifth grade produced a patriotic mural which is permanently displayed in a central hallway in the school. This year's mural will supplement first graders' learning about families and their role in the community and fourth graders' studying immigration and national culture. It will similarly be permanently installed in HAS.

To create the mural students will work together on references, composition, drawing and color palette. Students' original drawings will be enlarged and used for mural design with the help of the Artist in Residence. Ms. Vitarello believes that in addition to helping students learn about our country, families and heritage, this project will show them that they can achieve a goal larger than one they could have created on their own.

### LMK Middle School

#### 4) Spotlight Night/Science Fair - (2007/08 School Year)

Tracy Viola at LMK is making this request on behalf of the school. Spotlight Night is a school-wide Arts and Science Festival. This night is a "show and tell" for various art, writing, science and just about any other type of student projects. Many members of the community attend this event from grandparents on down to younger siblings of existing students.

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### 5) Literary Magazine / Writing Competition – (2007/08 School Year)

This request is being made by Mr. Wood and several of the English teachers at LMK. The grant will support a recognition ceremony similar to the one funded at the High School for their writing journal.

The program has two parts:

1. LMK Literary Magazine, "Literature Molded by Kids", is open to all students. Writing pieces are submitted to the English teachers and/or editors of the magazine for approval. This magazine provides a stimulus to encourage children to creatively express themselves in an artistic manner whether through writing or drawing. Knowing their hard work will be rewarded through the publishing process, children generally invest significant amounts of time in the creation and revision process. This is a great way for children to learn the effective usage of writing/drawing skills. In the past, The National Council Teachers of English annual literary magazine competition ranked the Literature Molded by Kids magazine as superior among national middle school literary magazines. The printing of this journal is funded by the district.
2. Writing Competition – students submit writing samples to be evaluated and included in a journal. Awards are issued in multiple categories.

## Harrison High School

### 6) Writers Among Us - (2007/08 School Year)

Marie Perrotta is making this request on behalf of the high school English Department. This was formerly known as Writer of the Month Program but has been expanded to be more inclusive. Grade level teachers will be responsible for selecting writing pieces during the school year. Upon selection, each student is recognized in various ways cumulating with a recognition breakfast held in May for the writers, parents, BOE and the Superintendent. Last year The National Council Teachers of English annual literary magazine competition ranked Harrison High School's magazine, Imagine, as excellent among national high school literary magazines.

### 7) Law Day - (2007/08 School Year)

Tiffany Theodous, a teacher of Law Studies, is requesting funding for Law Day to be held in May 2008. Harrison High School will host a mock trial as part of a national celebration of Law. HHS is inviting approximately 6 high schools from the area to participate and 20 community leaders and citizens will serve as judges. Students compete in a mock trial and have the opportunity to experience law first hand. The program is intended to bolster the understanding and appreciation of the law, encourage civic involvement and foster a sense of community. Students develop critical thinking skills and have the opportunity to explore career options and interact with adults from the community. The cost of this program includes a breakfast, lunch, awards and printing costs associated with publicity for the event.

### 8) Endangered Species and our Role - (2007/08 School Year)

Robert Johnson, an environmental science teacher, is requesting funding for an in-house program for science students given by the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY. The WCS will provide a trained environmentalist and naturalist who will conduct a program on the endangered wolf species, Canis Lupis. As part of the program they will bring a live wolf to the school so that students can truly connect with nature. Roughly 60 students taking AP Environmental Science and others will be included in this program.