

The Michael E. Smith Endowment for Excellence in Education is proud to announce the 2007 grant recipients. This year, twelve grants have been approved for an array of exciting grants throughout the school district. At Plains School, Anna Naiman and Jeanne Chenier will receive a grant for an interdisciplinary program "Learning Through Texture" which includes a field trip, hands-on tools and a texture wall; the PTA has been awarded a grant to bring The Bamidele Dancers and Drummers to the school for two performances and Anna Naiman has received funds for a digital camera to photograph and upload children's artwork to the www.Artsonia.com website where artwork can be viewed and purchased in various formats with a portion of the proceeds being returned to the school. At Mosier School, Deborah O'Brien has been awarded funds to purchase "I Love Math" computer software for the lab which will challenge all grades in math concepts; Deborah Rist and Paula Pietras have been awarded a grant to bring Eshu Bumpus, a local storyteller and writer to the school to work closely with grade 2 on writing skills. Deborah Vanderpoel, from Mosier School, and Lisa Manzi from the Middle School, have received a grant for GIS/GPS Exploration that will be utilized at both schools, including equipment and an after school Geocaching program; Beth Craven has been awarded the funds to purchase a sophisticated weather station which will be mounted on the roof of the Middle School; Jenny Speck-Sherson has received additional funds to continue her annual Mexican War program; Amy Riddle has received a grant to fund an after school program for Chinese language and culture and Stephanie Holmes has received a grant for a Pedometer program, integrating wellness and mathematics in an interdisciplinary program. At the High School, Tina Daponde and Jane Janovsky have received a grant to create "Inspirations: Art and Literary Magazine" to showcase the creative works of our high school students; Meghan Keane has been awarded a grant to bring the Artistic Director of the Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Ms. Lucinda Kidder, to the sophomore class for a program on Merchant of Venice and Margaret Eckert will enhance the Forensic Law course with a grant for the components for a Mock Trial program.

The Board of the Endowment is grateful for the support the community has provided so that this grant program can be funded each year. Our main fundraiser, The Education Ball, sponsored by PeoplesBank with generous support by Mount Holyoke College, is set for March 24, 2007. All proceeds benefit the Endowment. This year's theme, Miami in March, will feature an opening performance by Ron Curran, featuring a tribute to Jimmy Buffet. Dancing will continue into the night with Tom Cat Productions. This year's silent auction includes four tickets to a Red Sox game in the 406 club, a private cruise on the Lady B, three beautiful combinations of Vera Bradley bags, jewelry, a visit to the Canyon Ranch, artwork and much more. For more information visit our website at www.mesendowment.org or call Pam Simpson at 536-9931. Because space is limited, tickets can not be purchased at the door. Tickets of \$50 per person can be purchased by sending a check to P.O. Box 847, South Hadley, MA 01075.