



South Whidbey  
Schools Foundation

[SWSFoundation.org](http://SWSFoundation.org)

## 2012/13 Classroom Grants

Nineteen classroom grants totaling a record \$26,309 were made in 2012/13. They included:

### S.W. Elementary School:

- Exploring Renewable Energy
- Building Community From The Soil Up
- Read Naturally
- Artists in Action (Extension)
- Smart Art Cart
- Assistive Technology - Using Computer Books

### Langley Middle School:

- Maritime Studies
- 6th Grade Science Survival Tools
- 7th Graders Want To Know Even More
- LMS Science Team
- In-Residence Jazz Band & 6th Grade Band Clinicians
- LMS Library Materials

### South Whidbey Academy:

- SWA/SWES Collaborative Garden Project with Good Cheer
- Painting & Printmaking With Intention

### South Whidbey High School:

- Geo-Caching: Finding Fitness
- Class Lectures & Discussions On The Go
- SWHS Library Materials
- HD Camcorder & Cameras

### All Schools:

- Pre-K to 12-Grade Online Encyclopedia

# SWSF 2012/13 Annual Update

**Providing financial support for teacher-requested projects & learning activities to benefit our community's youth.**

### Foundation grant pairs professional musicians with students

## Helping students improve their performance

A Foundation grant brought professional musicians into the classroom to serve as clinicians for Langley Middle School Band students with sweet-sounding results.

"When the in-residence jazz and concert band clinicians were attending rehearsals, I was able to split up the ensembles to work on separate parts in need of refinement," said Jess Monett, LMS Band Director.

"The clinicians would take their par-

ticular section and work with them on concepts beyond notes and rhythms and delve into the style and nuance of the music and the technique of each specific instrument.

"When I put the ensembles back together again, I noticed changes in the students' sound, ability to play together, mastery of technical passages and overall bolstered musicianship.

"The students were able to hear these clinicians play and demonstrate exactly what they were looking for in a passage," Monett said.

*continued on page 6*



### Funded by two SWSF grants:

## School gardens support hands-on learning in several core subject areas

There's more growing in South Whidbey School District's gardens than just vegetables.

Student knowledge is also growing as the gardens prove an ideal place to learn and apply math, science and English composition.

The Schools Foundation made two garden-related grants last year. The first was a \$1,000 grant to Elementary School teacher Leslie Woods for a project she co-implemented with Service, Education, Adventure



*School Garden Apprentice Casey Jackson teaches a young student how to plant a seedling.*

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## School Gardens... *Continued from*

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(SEA) coordinator Susie Richards entitled: *Building Community From The Soil Up.*

"It gave us a year long focus into which we could weave just about any part of our curriculum," Woods wrote in her project summary.

"Students demonstrated the life cycle with the plants, but also measured them and compared their growth. They asked questions and predicted what might happen to plants when the weather was too cold or hot. They learned what happens if we forget to water! They took the facts they learned about peas and wrote fiction stories based on those facts, and compared their stories with fact-based fiction that we have read in class.

"They looked at the details of a plant and tried to accurately draw the plant. Some even had the opportunity to speak publicly about the project at Good Cheer's Fresh Food on the Table celebration," she wrote.

"Since we are growing food for Good Cheer Food Bank, we took a field trip there, where we also learned about helpful and harmful insects in the garden," Woods noted to illustrate just one of the many community partnerships in-



volved with the project.

The Foundation's other garden grant was used for funding a School Garden Apprentice through a partnership with Good Cheer's Garden Leadership Apprenticeship Program.

This was part of a larger effort to create a terraced garden on a back field of South Whidbey Academy, plus other improvements to the smaller Elementary School garden which sorely needed rehabbing.

"We moved the hoop-house from Bayview School and refurbished it, laid irrigation lines, built the terraced garden, repaired raised beds of a previous gar-

den, and planted the first crops," said David Pfeiffer, South Whidbey Academy Director.

They worked closely with Good Cheer Garden Coordinator Cary Peterson and Garden Apprentice/Americorps volunteer Casey Jackson, who worked nearly full-time on-site at the school's garden, utilizing her degrees in chemistry and biology.

"This year we will be adding a 100 by

100-foot fenced garden area and working toward constructing a larger hoop-house where we can hold classes and grow vegetables in the winter. We also hope to begin a hydroponics project and aquaculture project involving high school students," Pfeiffer noted.

A larger, longer-term goal under discussion is growing fresh vegetables that will be used in the schools' cafeterias. Garden produce is currently donated to Good Cheer Food Bank.



***"Thank you so much for this great opportunity to have these computer books available for our struggling readers!"***

**—Becky Breeze  
M.S., CCC-SLP  
Speech Language Pathologist  
Assistive Technology Grant**

**"I am always looking for new and innovative methods/strategies/curriculum which meets the needs of a large array of learning styles and multiple intelligences.**

**Students do not all learn the same and the cookie cutter approach to teaching does not always work well.**

**I have always found that variety spiced up the curriculum."**

**— Steve Jones,  
SWHS Physical Ed Teacher  
Geo-Caching: Finding Fitness Grant**



Dear Patron of the South Whidbey Schools Foundation:

**What if you could:**

- ...inspire students to pursue scientific careers through a hands-on DNA analysis project or by building an underwater robot?
- ...empower students to create a ‘greener’ world through renewable energy choices and recycling efforts?
- ...assist struggling readers to become confident readers?
- ...ignite students’ passion for music through sessions with visiting professional musicians?

Well, you did just that with a gift to the South Whidbey Schools Foundation!

Thanks to you, the Foundation funded 19 classroom projects last school year with a total of \$26,309. Some of the projects included:

- a DNA analyzer to assist future scientists
- solar car kits to inspire future engineers
- professional musicians to play for and instruct budding musicians
- Kindles and audio textbooks to help struggling readers
- high-definition video cameras for hands-on video production (a growing field in our digital media society)

There are, of course, always more new and exciting teaching opportunities that could benefit our students. Whether those can be realized, however, comes down to money, money our district often does not have under the current funding system. This is where you can continue to make a difference.

When you donate your time, money, services and goods to the Foundation, our expert staff of volunteers turns them into funding for innovative teaching projects, just like we have since our inception in 1994.

As the Foundation heads into its 20th year, please take the time to look at what it has accomplished (visit [SWSFoundation.org](http://SWSFoundation.org)), and how much more it can do in the future with your continued support. Tell your friends, family and professional associates about the Foundation, and encourage them to do as you have done – to contribute in whatever way they can so that our district staff have the resources to teach our children the way they deserve to be taught.

Respectfully,



Chris Gibson, President  
South Whidbey Schools Foundation

P.S. Donations may also be made on PayPal via our website ([SWSFoundation.org](http://SWSFoundation.org)).



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PO Box 24  
Freeland, WA 98249

Visit our website:  
[SWSFoundation.org](http://SWSFoundation.org)

# More than \$21,000 in grants awarded for this school year's projects

For the second year in a row the South Whidbey Schools Foundation provided more than \$21,000 in funding to South Whidbey School District educators for a wide range of innovative education projects.

On November 4, 2013, the Foundation awarded 20 grants, to 16 different educators at the District's four campuses, ranging in value from \$325 to \$2,000.

The Foundation received 31 grant applications from District educators this year, seeking more than \$39,000 in total funding.

According to Foundation president Chris Gibson, "There was not an unworthy grant proposal in the bunch, which made it very difficult to decide how to distribute the Foundation's limited funds. We had to make some very difficult choices." (Fortunately alternative funding outside the Foundation was found for several grants for which the Foundation lacked money.)

This year's successful grant applications include funding for 3D mRNA, DNA and Amino Acid modeling kits for use in high

school biology; financial support for building and operating an underwater robot for the underwater robotics club; funding to allow Elementary School students the opportunity to raise young salmon in the classroom; and funding to bring numerous local artists into South Whidbey schools to help maintain a meaningful art curriculum on every campus.

The Foundation also provided funding for several garden projects aimed at providing multi-disciplinary learning opportunities and, eventually, locally grown food for the school cafeterias.

We invite you to consider making a generous tax-deductible donation. Mail a check in the enclosed remit or donate online via our Paypal page.

If you prefer to make a payment online, simply snap this QR code with your cell phone. Thank you!



## 2013/2014 Classroom Project Grants

NAME	SCHOOL	TITLE	AMOUNT
1. Curgus, Danni	SWES	2nd Grade Listens and Writes to Read	\$325.00
2. Ballog, Greg	SWHS	Applying Modern Genetics to Your Life	\$1080.00
3. Pfeiffer, David	SWA	Underwater Robotics Club	\$1,500.00
4. Stelling, Craig	SWES	Square Dancing Instruction	\$400.00
5. Wodjenski, Donald	SWHS	Artist in Residence (AiR) Supplies	\$1,000.00
6. Greene, Jeff	SWHS	Yearbook Photo Journalism - DSLR Cameras	\$1,418.00
7. Milan, Susan	LMS	LMS Fresh Food for Lunch	\$1,500.00
8. Zisette, Don	LMS	STEM in the Classroom (solar car components)	\$1,150.00
9. Zisette, Michele	SWES	Early Literacy in the K-3 Special Ed. Classroom	\$465.00
10. Pfeiffer, David	SWA	Sheep to Shawl	\$1084.50
11. Stelling, Craig	SWES	Square Dancing Instruction (Fall 2014)	\$925.00
12. Sakaguchi, Michelle	All Schools	SW State Parks - Bring Learning to Life from "SEA" instructors at State Park	\$2,000.00
13. LaVassar, John	SWES	Salmon in the Classroom	\$1,000.00
14. Monett, Jess	LMS	In-Residence Jazz Band & 6th Grade Band Clinicians	\$1,500.00
15. LaVassar, John	SWES	Exploring Energy and Science Photography	\$600.00
16. LaVassar, John	SWES	Leadership through Art	\$920.00
17. Felgar, Jeffrey (Chad)	SWHS	Project Veg - Supplying SW Schools Cafeterias	\$1,500.00
18. Kizer, Rachel	SWES	Fun and Games - Readin', Writin', & 'Rithmetic	\$1,000.00
19. Sharla Matthews	SWES	Amazing Artists	\$1,200.00
20. Jokinen, Erik	LMS	Fit Step: Uploadable Data Pedometer Project	\$878.95

\$21,446.00

## Financial Recap for 2012/2013

In fiscal year 2012/13, South Whidbey Schools Foundation received donations totaling \$11,215, and coupled with fund-raising efforts (\$16,014) and interest (\$16), our revenues totaled \$27,245.

Grant disbursements and expenses totaled \$36,999.

The SWS Foundation awarded a record \$26,309 in classroom grants in 2012/13 for 19 classroom projects.

### Grants Awarded in Academic Areas

Science, Math & Technology .....	\$ 8,784
History, Humanities & World Cultures .....	\$ 2,830
Arts, Music, Drama .....	\$ 3,942
Writing, Reading & Literature .....	\$ 4,753
General Support.....	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$26,309</b>

### SWSF Balances (All Funds)

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Beginning Fund Balance: \$51,082

Ending Fund Balance: \$48,395

## Disbursements

*The South Whidbey Schools Foundation serves as the fiscal agency for grants to the following programs:*

Ed Kelly Athletic Scholarship

SWES Library Fund

LMS Library Fund

Destination Imagination

Youth in Arts

LMS Bands

LMS SW Comm. Engagement Center

South Whidbey Academy

Natanya Johnson Memorial

Citizens Corps Council of Island County

# Thank you to our 2012/2013 donors...

Your contributions enhance the educational experience in our schools!

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Roaming Radish

"I am so thrilled to have received the funding for my grant! I plan to announce it to the class tomorrow!"

We will enjoy writing with our new center and listening to reading with our new cassette players! Your foundation is the BEST!"

— Danni Curgus  
and 2nd Graders!!

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\* Business Sponsors of the 2013 SWSF Gala

## **LMS Band clinicians grant...**

*Continued from page 1*

"I enjoyed watching the students become friends in music with professional musicians and even watched as two students were having a debate over whose turn it was to hang out with the woodwind instructor. They both wanted to go in and work with him but knew that only one got to that particular day!"

"I am very happy that my students had this opportunity to work with living musicians instead of work with a computer program and get stuck in the world of technology."

"I believe one of the best things about music is that people have to work with other people in real time instead of just with machines.

"In my observations

as a middle school teacher, I have seen a decline in interpersonal skills in students in the past few years and helping them build on strong interpersonal skills will be a strength students can use to their advantage in whatever profession they choose in the future and throughout the rest of their life!"

"All the students were positively affected by the presence of these clinicians and I am happy to say they will have the opportunity to do this again with the new grant we were just funded! Thank you!" Monett added.



**"We are working on building solar car models to enhance our unit on Energy/Washington State. Tim Economu is coming into class for about an hour a week to work with us. Kids are loving this!"**

**...This has been so engaging, and ALL of my kids are sure to show up on these days!...**

**This has also been a fantastic tie-in to Common Core literacy standards, which emphasizes literacy across disciplines.**

**In particular, Tim is working with me as a model for how a "real" engineer would go about reading a technical manual/instructions in building and designing."**

**—Susan Milan, Teacher  
S.W. Elementary 4th grade  
Exploring Renewable Energy grant**

## **Meet the 2013/14 SWSF Board Members**

Pictured at right are most of the core SWSF Board members, including (left to right back row), Linda Racicot, Bob Wiley, John Riley, David Pfeiffer, (front row left to right) Kay Wiley, Jean Shaw, Susie Richards, Chris Gibson, and via laptop, Jo Moccia.

More information about the Board, including advisory members, is available on our website.

The Board meets about once a month on a Saturday morning to discuss and evaluate classroom grant applications and summaries, fundraising ideas, event planning, and special projects.



*For nearly 20 years the grassroots South Whidbey Schools Foundation has sought to enrich the learning experience for South Whidbey School District students. It does so by seeking to fulfill teacher requested classroom grants for innovative educational projects. We invite you to support the Foundation with a generous tax-deductible gift.*



# Gala Dinner fundraiser: fun night for a great cause

Laughter was plentiful at last spring's SWSF's annual Gala Dinner which raised more than \$14,000 for classroom grants.

The evening began with members of the South Whidbey High School and Langley Middle School jazz bands providing music during the social hour.

A silent auction of 30 donated items (ranging from a Georgia Gerber bronze otter to weekend getaways) was followed by dinner and a speech by local businessman Fred Lundahl, about education on the other side of the globe.

We thanked outgoing SWSF President John Knox, and listened as students and teachers spoke about their SWSF funded projects. South Whidbey's 'Conductor of Fun' Jim Freeman then led a fast-paced after-dinner auction.

Thank you to the many donors, supporters, and volunteers who made the evening so enjoyable.

Save the date for next year's Dinner Gala to be held April 26 at Useless Bay Golf & Country Club.



South Whidbey School District  
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[www.SWSFoundation.org](http://www.SWSFoundation.org)

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Thank you!

*South Whidbey Schools Foundation recognizes outstanding teachers with two types of awards each year. We are pleased to present the 2012/13 recipients.*

## Mentorship Award

Jennifer Gandarias,  
SWHS English Literature Teacher

On June 13 at South Whidbey High School's Senior Class Farewell Assembly, English Literature teacher Jennifer Gandarias, received the Foundation's Mentorship Award along with a \$500 check.

This annual award was established by Steve Shapiro, MD and his wife, Debora Valis, for the purpose of allowing students to acknowledge and honor the leadership, mentorship and inspiration of specific teachers who have



contributed the most to their success throughout their education at South Whidbey schools. Seniors Lennox Bishop and Tyler Helyve, who nominated Ms. Gandarias for the award, joined retired educator and South Whidbey Schools Foundation Secretary Jean Shaw in presenting the award.

Lennox Bishop wrote in her nomination that, "Mrs. G. is an exceptional teacher. She goes above and beyond by not only challenging her students, but by truly investing in each one personally. She has a passion for teaching and it is evident. She has supported me through some of my greatest struggles. She inspires me every day."

## Extra-Mile Awards

Becky Ward, Michele Zisette, and Nels Bergquist

For the first time in its 18-year history, the South Whidbey Schools Foundation awarded three teachers its "Extra Mile" award at the June 18 end-of-school-year Elementary and Middle School Assemblies. The award, along with a \$250 check, was presented

to Becky Ward and Michele Zisette, both South Whidbey Elementary Special Services teachers, and to Nels Bergquist, a Langley Middle School English and Social Studies teacher who was a 2010/11 recipient of the Mentorship Award.



The "Extra Mile" award goes to a South Whidbey educator nominated by his or her peers and selected by the Foundation Board for extraordinary service provided to South Whidbey students and schools.

To read the nominations for these three teachers, please visit our website at [www.SWSFoundation.org](http://www.SWSFoundation.org) and click the 'Teacher Awards' button.



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