



# SWSF 2014/15 Annual Update

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

## 2014/15 Classroom Grants

Last school year the Foundation funded 23 classroom projects totaling \$25,044:

### S.W. Elementary School:

- Kids in the Kitchen
- How Does Our Garden Grow?
- Salmon in the Classroom
- Buddy Bench and Friendship Garden
- Salmon Run: Art/Sewing/Writing
- Whale Watching Boat Adventure/ Langley Whale Museum
- Problem Solving/Positive Reinforcement Room
- School Farm Weather Station
- Matter and Its Interactions

### Langley Middle School:

- Robotics for 6th Graders
- LMS 7 Oceanography Program
- STEM – Inventions and Technology
- In-Residence Jazz Band and Concert Band Clinicians
- 7th Grade Outdoor Learning Expeditions
- 7th Grade Marine Environment Culminating Experience Boat Rental
- Global Cultures Enrichment Program

### South Whidbey Academy:

- SWA InvenTeam
- Underwater Robotics Program
- Sheep to Shawl – Goat Fiber
- Multicultural Art
- Recorder Karate
- Aquaponics Project

### South Whidbey High School:

- Redesigning Professionalism: Constructing Education

### All Schools:

- SW State Park – Bringing Learning to Life Project

## Enhancing education to meet the challenges of a complex world

The world is increasingly complex. Today's society requires an ever-better educated citizenry in both specialized and integrative fields, some of which had not even been defined 50 years ago.

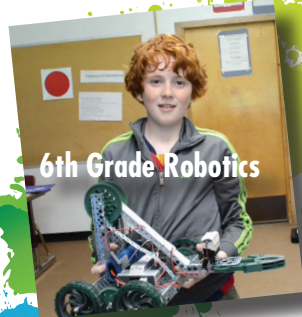
We also have an increased awareness and concern about ecosystems and the environment, especially our local Puget Sound habitat.

Today's students will soon become tomorrow's workforce, decision-makers, policy makers, engineers, caregivers, artists, inventors, technicians — all a driving force in our democracy.

South Whidbey Schools Foundation funds innovative, experiential education projects because we believe they enhance the immediate learning process — and beyond, well beyond.

The funding which the Foundation supplies *through your donations* will ripple as a force for good in today's students way past their graduation.

If you believe there is no better investment than our children's education, please join us with your support.



Tell me  
and I forget.  
Teach me  
and I remember.

Involve me  
and I learn.

—Benjamin Franklin



YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

## 6th Grade Robotics

Teacher: Sandy Gilbert  
LMS 6th grade science

“I know that robots are our future, and I thought we needed to do this. I had so many students who were advanced in their mathematical and engineering skills that we decided to write a proposal to the Foundation.

**Robotics draws upon math, science, English, planning, programming and engineering – all the elements needed to create tomorrow’s world. These are the kids that are discovering that they have a talent.**

I thank the donors and want them to know that this project has touched lives. Parents have been so thrilled that their kids have had this opportunity.

We just don’t have the money in the school district to buy these robotic kits, so again I say, “Thank you!”

– Sandy Gilbert



## STEM\* in the Classroom

Teacher: Don Zisette  
LMS 8th grade science

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

“Students explored current alternative energy sources and engineering principles as they designed and constructed solar boats and solar cars. They produced projects that demonstrated their understanding of the technology and its applications.

I used the solar equipment I purchased with the grant in my Inventions class, and this spring I am incorporating the material into the regular 8th grade curriculum.

**The grant dollars always enhance the opportunities my students have to experience more advanced and current technology. Most of the materials are reusable and will be a part of the curriculum for years to come.**

This opportunity provides me with the support and materials to teach new concepts that otherwise would be left to just theory and little direct application.

I had the support from a community member (Tim Economu) who has a strong background in solar engineering. Tim was a great partner in this venture, and brought to the class a lot of real world knowledge and true inquiry process to the engineering and design components.”

– Don Zisette

\* Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

## Aquaponics

Teacher: Michele Sakaguchi  
SWA – Science, all grades

“I did some online research and took a course on aquaponics. I got excited that it could be a great way to integrate science learning in the classroom and offer students hands-on learning and collaborative learning and extending it to global issues as well.

**Aquaponics combines both plants and fish in a recirculating environment – growing them together. It offers a direct tie-in to science concepts such as water, nitrogen cycles, plant biology, fish anatomy, chemistry, ecosystems, engineering, and math as well.**

Having this model system in the classroom is great because when I teach a concept, students are able to go and look at it and make the connections themselves.

They really enjoy hands-on learning and working together to learn through this system.”

– Michele Sakaguchi

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



## Kids in the Kitchen

Teacher: Suzanne Haugen  
SWES Kindergarten

**“Kids in the Kitchen” gives kindergarten students a collaborative hands-on experience of cooking while using math measurements and reading skills to follow a recipe.**

It’s been a lot of fun, and the students love cooking! One of their favorites was reading the book *Stone Soup* and then bringing an ingredient from home, cooking the soup and then trying it. It’s been

a good way to communicate with families and tying the home and school learning experience together. It’s been a big success.

We couldn’t have done it without the Schools Foundation. They provided us with the money for supplies, materials, the refrigerator and oven.

We ended the project by inviting families to bring in a recipe that they’ve made at home to share with other families.”

– Suzanne Haugen

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



Dear Foundation Supporters:

Last year was exceptionally good for innovative learning in the South Whidbey School District. Thanks to supporters like you, the Foundation provided more than \$25,000 to fund 22 innovative teaching projects – a \$3,000 increase over the previous school year. Thank you!

Newly funded projects in the 2014-15 school year included robotics for 6th graders, aquaponics, establishing a teacher's professional development group at the high school, and a 7th grade oceanography program. Projects receiving continuing support included underwater robotics, professional music clinician tutors, and school garden-related projects.

This fall the Foundation received 31 grant applications seeking over \$40,000 for the 2015-16 school year – the most ever requested. With \$25,000 to distribute, we had to get creative.

In hopes of funding all worthy projects, we deferred decisions on several in order to raise enough additional funds between now and the time they are needed. For example, two separate but coordinated projects involve use of an oceanographic research vessel for several days next spring. The applicants have raised some money through other means, but still need \$3,000 from the Foundation.

**That's why your response to this end-of-year appeal is especially important!**

Our all-volunteer Board works hard to provide you with a variety of ways to fund classroom grants, including:

- responding to **this year-end appeal** via the attached remit envelope;
- using the **Amazon SMILES SWSF portal** for online purchases;
- purchasing gift cards through our **SCRIP gift card purchase program**;
- attending the Foundation's upcoming **"Celebration of Talent"** variety show; and student project demonstrations at WICA on March 13;
- participating in our **"Dine Out Wednesdays for SW Schools"** program;
- attending our **annual Spring Gala Dinner and Auction** at Useless Bay Golf & Country Club – this is our largest fundraiser;
- becoming a sponsor in our new **"Adopt-a-Grant"** program which allows you to follow your educational passions by funding a specific project or area.

I hope you find this annual report informative. I hope it inspires you to renew your support in providing funding for teacher-requested classroom projects to enhance the education our children deserve.

Sincerely,



Chris Gibson, President  
South Whidbey Schools Foundation

P.S. Donations may also be made on PayPal via our website (SWSFoundation.org).



*2015/16  
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South Whidbey Schools Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your gifts are tax-deductible.

PO Box 24  
Freeland, WA 98249

Visit our website:  
SWSFoundation.org

# SWSF funded 23 classroom projects with \$25,044 in school year 2014/2015

The Foundation awarded 23 grants totaling \$25,044 for classroom projects, materials, equipment and off-site trip fees in school year 2014/15.

Funded projects integrated several subject areas and included a garden learning project, a kindergarten cooking project, and salmon-in-the-classroom science and art projects in the elementary school; robotics and oceanography programs at the middle school; music, art and STEM programs at South Whidbey Academy; and a professional development program at the high school.

Several projects received continuing Foundation support, such as a program to bring in professional musicians to work with the middle school orchestra and jazz band, sponsoring field trips to South Whidbey State Park, and helping to fund the School District's Garden Program.

*Note:* Teachers submit best case estimates of project costs. The total grant amount awarded for 2014/15 was \$26,100. Actual costs were less in several cases last year, resulting in a \$1,056 return of funds by the District to be used for future grants.

# Financial Recap for 2014/2015

In fiscal year 2014/15, the South Whidbey Schools Foundation received donations totaling \$25,021, and coupled with fund-raising efforts (\$21,593) and interest (\$15) our revenues totaled \$46,629.

The Foundation awarded \$25,044 in grants in 2014/15 for 23 classroom projects.

## 2014/15 Grants Awarded in Academic Areas

Science, Math & Technology .....	\$ 15,275
History, Humanities & World Cultures .....	\$ 5,250
Arts, Music, Drama .....	\$ 2,930
Writing, Reading & Literature .....	\$ 1,070
General Support.....	\$ 1,575
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 26,100*</b>

\* \$1,056 that was not used was refunded to the Foundation for future grant use

# Many ways to help SW students

■ Adopt a classroom grant by funding a portion of a grant or the whole project. Receive project updates and a special invitation to see the project in action. Contact Bob Wiley at 321-2326 or Chris Gibson at 221-8099 to discuss current funding needs and how you can help.



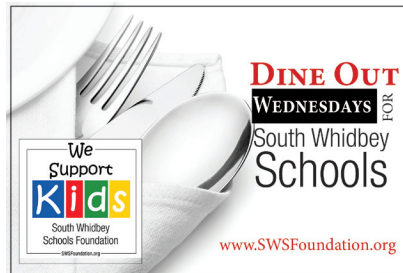
■ When you shop on Amazon, please use the Foundation's AmazonSmile shopping portal at SWSFoundation.org



■ Attend the 2016 Spring Gala Dinner & Auction May 21 at Useless Bay Golf & Country Club...

■ ...and the March 13 SWSF Celebration of Talent show and Classroom Project Showcase at WICA

■ Eat out at restaurants participating in our Dine Out Wednesdays for SW Schools program during special months.



■ Purchase pre-paid gift cards through our SCRIP program (order form at www.SWSFoundation.org)



## SWSF Balances (All Funds)

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Beginning Fund Balance:	\$61,620
Ending Fund Balance:	\$59,669

General & Endowment Accounts:	\$26,729
Extra Mile/Mentorship Awards Fund:	\$ 7,027
Fiscal Agency (pass-through) Funds:	\$25,913

## Disbursements

The South Whidbey Schools Foundation served as the fiscal agency for more than \$16,000 in grants funds for the following:

- Ed Kelly Athletic Scholarship
- SWES Library
- Destination Imagination
- Youth in Arts
- LMS Bands
- LMS SW Community Engagement Center
- Puget Sound Energy
- Natanya Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund
- SWA – Underwater Robotics
- SWA – World Cultures Music Choir
- SWA – Aquaponics Project
- SWA – Youth in Philanthropy

# Thank you to our 2014/2015 donors...

Your contributions enhance the educational experience of South Whidbey students!

## Individual Contributors:

Doug & Shelly Ackerman  
 Reva & Tom Albright  
 Stephanie & Michael Alexander/  
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 Margaret & Bob Andersen/Wolters  
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 Emmy & Brian Atwood  
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Rebecca & Jim Sundberg  
 Laura Taylor  
 Tom & Claudia Walker  
 Sharon Warwick  
 Nancy Welles  
 Bob & Kay Wiley  
 Kim Williams  
 Katherine Wright

"...Thank you for providing us the opportunity to grow on a professional and personal level.

One thing that makes our group unique is that while we teach different content, we all came together for a united purpose: to understand our changing student clientele and foster a collaborative professional environment.

We care about current issues in education and see an opportunity to make our classes, our students, and our teaching stronger.

This has been a fabulous experiment."  
 —Jennifer Gandarias,  
 SWHS Redesigning Professionalism Group

## Business Contributors:

Ace Hardware  
 Altan, Inc.  
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 Casey's Crafts  
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 Joe's Wood-Fired Pizza  
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## Business Sponsors of the 2015 SWSF Annual Gala



**Whidbey**  
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Whale Watching Trip



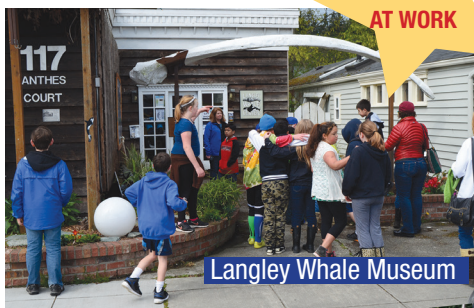
Salmon Run: Art/Sewing/Writing

Not all learning takes place in the classroom. SWSF also funds projects which involve field trips to local resources.



LMS Outdoor Learning Expeditions

**YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK**



Langley Whale Museum



Whale Watching & Boat Adventure



7th Grade Oceanography



Salmon-in-the-Classroom



How Does Our Garden Grow?

SW State Park- Bringing Learning to Life

**More than \$30,000 in grants were distributed in this current school year... but some had to be deferred. Will you help meet our goal?**

NAME	SCHOOL	CLASSROOM PROJECTS	GRANTS MADE	TO BE FUNDED IN 2016	ORIGINAL GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED
Caitlin Jones	SWA/SWHS	Rites of Passage Group	\$400	\$0	\$1,000 (\$600)
Rachelle Bennett	SWHS	Access to Sno-Isle Library/Kindle Fires Purchase	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,500 (\$300)
Caryn Ploof	SWES	Can You See the Leader in Me?	\$0	\$564	\$564
Susan Milan	LMS	STEM Field Studies and Fair	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
Mary Bakeman	LMS	7th Grade Outdoor Learning Expedition	\$0	\$1,500	\$2,060 (\$560)
Teresa Baker	SWES	Evidence-Based Intervention & Emotional/Behavior Management	\$961	\$0	\$961
Michele Zisette	SWES	Sit for Success	\$353	\$0	\$353
Chris Harshman	SWHS	Marimba Project Completion	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,500 (\$500)
Jonathan Watkins	SWA/SWHS	South Whidbey Underwater Robotics Class	\$1,500	\$0	\$3,000 (\$1,500)
Pam Muncey	SWES	Class Hand-Made Afghan Project	\$149	\$0	\$149
Greg Ballog	SWHS	Atomic Modeling	\$265	\$0	\$265
Jeff Greene	LMS/SWHS	Sound Recording Studio	\$1,550	\$1,850	\$3,400
Don Zisette	LMS	Exploring Watershed Science	\$600	\$0	\$600
Betsy Gmerek	SWA	Expressionism & Principals of Design-Action Art	\$0	\$260	\$2,000 (\$1,740)
Jean Cravy	SWA	STEM Class Physical Science Set	\$523	\$0	\$523
David Pfeiffer	SWA/SWES	A Splash of Red: Book-It Repertory Field Trip Workshops	\$1,065	\$0	\$1,065
Jennifer Gandarias	SWHS	Redesigning Professionalism: Constructing Education	\$901	\$0	\$901
Bruce Callahan	SWES	Whale Watching Boat Adventure/ Langley Whale Museum	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
John LaVassar	SWES	Explore: Matter and Its Interactions	\$1,320	\$0	\$1,320
John LaVassar	SWES	Salmon in the Classroom	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
John LaVassar	SWES	Salmon Run: Art/Sewing/Writing Project	\$100	\$0	\$750 (\$650)
Greg Ballog	LMS/SWHS	Understanding Carbon Middle School & High School	\$2,628	\$0	\$2,628
Kathryn O'Brien	SWHS	Aquaponics Classroom Prototype & Aeroponic Chamber	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200
Valerie Brown	SWA/SWES	MakerSpace STEM Kits	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200
Pam Muncey	All	Bringing Learning to Life - Serving at SW State Park	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Valerie Twomey	SWES	Learning with Legos: Engineering, Programming & Robotics	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,082 (\$82)

**\$25,315**   **\$5,674**   **\$36,921**  
**(\$5,932)**

Note: There are five additional teacher-requested grants not listed that we were unable to fund at all. If you have an interest in adopting one of these grants, please visit: [www.SWSFoundation.org/adopt-a-grant](http://www.SWSFoundation.org/adopt-a-grant)

# SWSF Gala raised \$12,858 toward this year's grants

The Foundation's 2015 Gala Dinner and Auction held May 16 at Useless Bay Golf & Country Club raised nearly \$13,000 to help fund this school year's classroom projects.

Heartfelt presentations were made by principals at South Whidbey Academy (David Pfeiffer), South Whidbey Elementary (Jeff Cravy) and Langley Middle School (Eric Nerison) on the impact that Foundation-funded projects had on their schools. SWHS English teacher Jennifer Gandarias spoke about the benefits of a Foundation-funded professional development program which she spearheaded.

A SWHS jazz combo and the Music in Motion SWHS Choir under the direction of Paula Ludtke, provided entertainment at the Dinner Gala.

Various demonstrations and displays of Foundation-funded projects were held by the SWA Underwater Robotics Team, SWSD Farm and Garden coordinator Cary Peterson, and SWES teacher Bruce Callahan, and we thank them for their involvement.

Emcee Jim Freeman auctioned off donated items with his usual witty repartee and charm, and helped Schools Superintendent Jo Moccia conduct the "Medallion Game," which involves eliminating medallion holders until the last one standing wins half the proceeds from the medallion sales.

Special thanks to Shelly Ackerman, who won the Medallion Game for the second year in a row and promptly donated her entire \$1,000 winnings back to the Foundation (again)!



**SAVE THE DATE: May 21 for the 2016 Dinner Gala.**



South Whidbey School District  
5520 Maxwellton Road  
Langley, WA 98260  
South Whidbey Schools Foundation  
www.SWSFoundation.org

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South Whidbey Schools Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Gifts are tax-deductible. SWSF / PO Box 24 / Freeland, WA 98249 Thank you!

## Davies and Felgar receive the Foundation's teacher recognition awards for 2014/15

Charlie Davies was honored with the Foundation's **Extra-Mile Award** which goes to a District teacher for going the proverbial "extra-mile" in terms of service to students and faculty.

Davies, a District alum, is the special education and work-based learning teacher at South Whidbey High School. Davies' nomination was endorsed by more than 25 district faculty and staff.

As one of Davies' colleagues explained: "I have seen Charlie be a teacher first, but also a mentor, adviser, coach, trainer, disciplinarian, and someone whom the students look up to and strive to be like. He can take a bad situation and turn it into a great positive learning lesson for the students. He amazes us every day... He gives everyone around him the feeling of wanting to do their best."

"He goes above and beyond to make sure he has given our students every opportunity to succeed," wrote another.

The Foundation's annual **Mentorship Award** recognizes teachers, principals and other school-based staff who exemplify the kind of commitment to students

that creates exceptional results. Graduating seniors nominate a teacher who has had a lasting positive impact on their lives.

This year's recipient was Chad Felgar, also a South Whidbey alum, and former high school shop and agriculture teacher.

In nominating Felgar, graduating seniors wrote: "He always keeps students busy with new,

fun projects," wrote one senior.

"Mr. Felgar has influenced me to be the best I could possibly be. He has given me the confidence to be who I am," wrote another student.

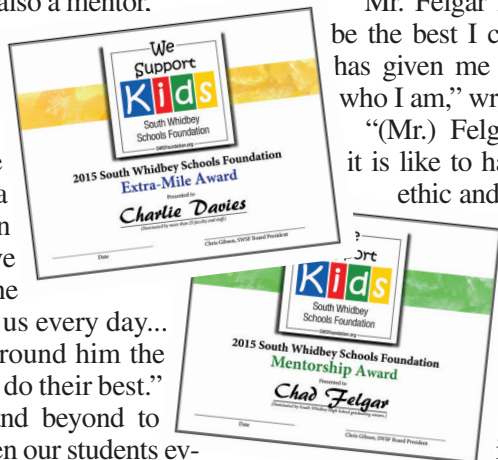
"(Mr.) Felgar showed me what it is like to have a job, good work ethic and to be a leader," commented another student.

This award was established by Steve Shapiro, MD, and his wife, Debora Valis, for students in the community to

acknowledge and honor the leadership, mentorship and inspiration of specific teachers who have unlocked the doors to the future for their children.



Chad Felgar and Charlie Davies



**Look Inside...** to see how the South Whidbey Schools Foundation puts your donations to work by funding innovative classroom projects which enhance student education.



Be sure to 'like' SWSF's Facebook page and visit our website for frequent event updates and alumni videos