



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



**South Whidbey Schools Foundation**  
Supporting Innovation and Excellence in Education

## SWSF 2010/11 Annual Update

# Sustainability Curriculum Goes Solar With Foundation Grant

Kathy Stanley's 2nd/3rd grade class at South Whidbey Elementary is learning science, art and literacy skills through the study of "Sustainability."

From the benefits of reducing waste and recycling to using alternative energy sources, the students are putting these concepts into practice and learning about responsible environmental stewardship.

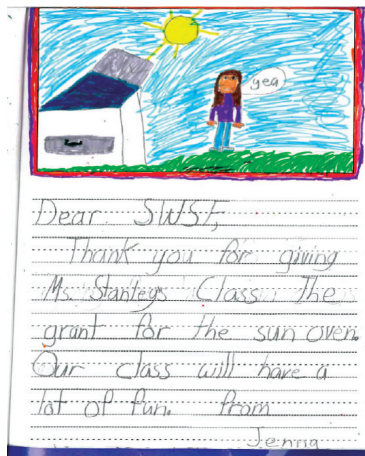
According to Ms. Stanley, "Sustainability is now a required part of K-12 curriculum with it's own learning outcomes."

One highlight of the integrated studies program was made possible by a \$450 grant from the South Whidbey Schools Foundation, which provides needed financial support for teacher-requested projects and innovative learning activities to benefit South Whidbey students. Some of the funds managed by the Foundation, including those awarded to Ms. Stanley, were provided by Puget Sound Energy.

Ms. Stanley's class used the Foundation grant to purchase a solar oven. The apparatus uses reflective aluminum panels to concentrate the sun's rays to heat a compartment for cooking without the

need for electricity or gas.

As Ms. Stanley's class learned, similar ovens are often used in disaster relief efforts and in impoverished areas of the world where fuel for heating is either scarce or dangerous to use.



Despite the less than ideal conditions, the students deployed their energy-saving device on an overcast day in February to cook a batch of gluten-free brownies. The mid-winter sun provided just enough

energy to heat the oven to 300 degrees F, 50 degrees short of that recommended by the recipe. Undaunted, the students merely adjusted the cooking time - from one to four hours - and before the end of the day the brownies were cooked and ready to enjoy. According to at least one student, "They were sooooo good!"

The students maintained journals, in which they wrote about other aspects of the program, including documenting the process of garbage rotting over time to learn what waste items are good candidates for garden composting.

The class also wrote letters thanking the Foundation for the grant and invited board members to share in treats from the solar oven.

### Our Foundation for the Future

## **A Call To Action from the SWSF President**

The one thing I hear from people on Whidbey Island over and over is how blessed we are to live in such a beautiful environment with such a vibrant and supportive community.

Our children and youth are a key part of keeping the fabric of our community strong and making this a place we all want to live and work and grow old.

If we don't continue to have excellent public schools, with innovative and challenging programs that address the full range of the needs and talents of our children and youth, we will lose the most important foundation of a sustainable culture and community.

The South Whidbey Schools Foundation was founded in 1994 by a dedicated group of community members who had

the vision and conviction to support innovation and excellence in our public school system.

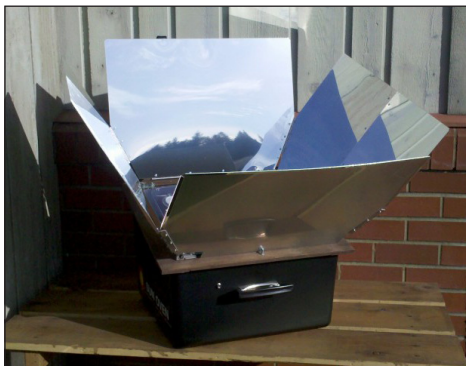


*SWSF Board President John Knox*

The Foundation has had an important impact over the years, making grants to teachers, helping fund significant projects, and providing a way for our teachers to implement their most creative ideas for our students. We have done a lot, but we can and must do more.

I have challenged our Board and we will challenge the community to redouble our efforts this year, through outreach and visibility in the community, partnering with large and small businesses (including those in the greater Western Washington area)

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# Hands-On Rain Garden Project Ends Flooding at LMS

With the help of a grant from the South Whidbey Schools Foundation, Langley Middle School science teacher Jay Freundlich and his sixth grade science students solved a very wet problem for their school by constructing a new rain garden between the Library building and the Science building.

The rain garden includes a series of berms, a catch basin, natural mulch material and appropriate plantings to both absorb and redirect the water so that it no longer threatens the lower classroom.

The project allowed the students to get real world experience in solving a civil engineering problem using sustainable environmental principles. They helped design the rain garden and did much of the work themselves.

“Before this project, when it rained hard, sheets of water would wash over this area down to an inadequate drain, and then eventually flood our classroom,” said Freundlich.

“The students not only got to put their classroom learning about the environment to work, but they also helped make their school environment better and safer. This is Project Based Learning at its best,” he added.

The area where the rain garden was constructed originally had grass with



about an inch of topsoil, which, over time became hardpan and prevented the underlying sandy soils from absorbing rainwater.

“We removed the hard pan layer, introduced new plantings, lots of mulch, and re-graded the area to carry excess water to a basin where it can be slowly absorbed.” said Freundlich.

The rain garden project had been planned by the School District for a couple of years, but due to budget constraints it was not moving forward until a \$1,000 grant from the Foundation, and additional funding from Learn and Serve America,

“This project exemplifies the kind of innovative, high impact educational

enhancement that the Foundation facilitates with the money we raise,” said John Knox, Foundation Board President.

## 2010/11 Classroom Grants

Twenty classroom projects were awarded grants in 2010/11 for a total amount of \$14,111 in grants.

### S.W. Elementary School:

- Second Grade Speaks
- Hand Models for Art Classes
- How Toys Work
- Solar Energy for Cooking
- Music with Drums
- Sustainable Gardening
- Writing and Performance for the Theater

### Langley Middle School:

- LMS Rain Garden
- Reading 2.0

### Whidbey Island Academy:

- Spanish Conversation K-5

### South Whidbey High School:

- Enhanced Listening Comprehension in Spanish
- SADD Club and Traffic Safety Enhancement
- Dance Instruction for Gym Class
- Spectral Analysis
- DNA Fingerprint Identification
- Kindles for Special Education Reading Support
- Student Composer Project
- Pre-Algebra Class Enhancements

### Bayview High School:

- Sustainable Gardening
- Rites of Passage

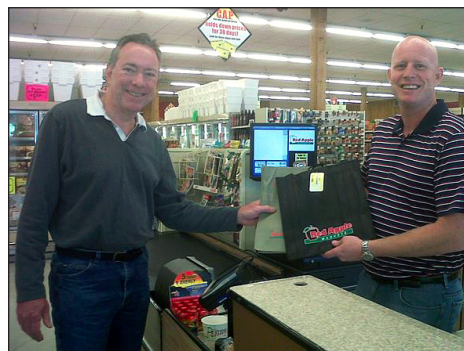
## Red Apple's 'Cash Back for Kids' Program Helps Students and the Environment

Ken's Korner Red Apple Market is helping to raise “extra cash” for South Whidbey Public Schools through its “5 cent / 10 cent Cash Back for Kids” program.

When shoppers bring reusable bags to Ken's Korner Red Apple (any kind, size, design, from any store) Red Apple gives them 5 cents for “being green” and then matches that amount with a donation to the South Whidbey Schools Foundation.

Shoppers can choose to donate their 5 cents to the Foundation as well — for a total donation of 10 cents *per bag!*

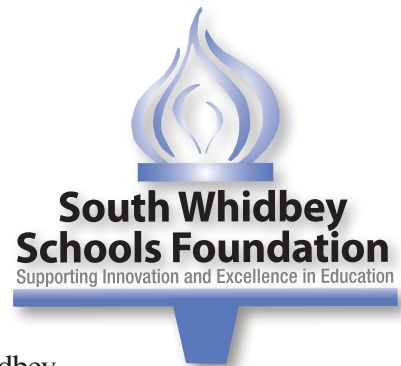
If enough individuals take part in this program, it can lead to a significant contribution for our public schools.



*SWSF Treasurer John Riley met with Red Apple manager Steve Springer to set up the bag recycling program.*

So far, nearly \$300 has been raised, an amount we hope will grow to at least \$1,000 with increased involvement.

November 17, 2011



Dear Community Member:

I am pleased to enclose the 2010-11 Annual Report of the South Whidbey Schools Foundation. As you will see, we have had a busy and productive year helping to enhance educational opportunities for students in the South Whidbey Schools, and supporting the tremendous creativity and energy of the teaching staff across all grade levels.

Our schools form a crucial foundation for our community. When we have vibrant and effective schools, we continually nurture and enhance the community at large. Keeping our schools great is among the most important duties we have as citizens and members of our community.

Unfortunately, due to economic and demographic shifts, the enrollment in our schools is declining. This coupled with continual cuts of state support makes it challenging for our schools to keep up.

Now more than ever, we as a community need to step up for education, and help provide an additional boost to our schools. I am very proud of the effort the community put forth last year, resulting in a record number of teacher grants being funded and some really exciting results for our students. We can do it again!

At this time of Thanksgiving and holiday celebration, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the South Whidbey Schools Foundation, so we can continue to provide this important support for our youth. An envelope is enclosed for that purpose, or you can make a secure online donation at [www.southwhidbayschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.southwhidbayschoolsfoundation.org).

The students, their teachers and the community thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Happy Holidays!

John Knox  
President of the Board of Directors

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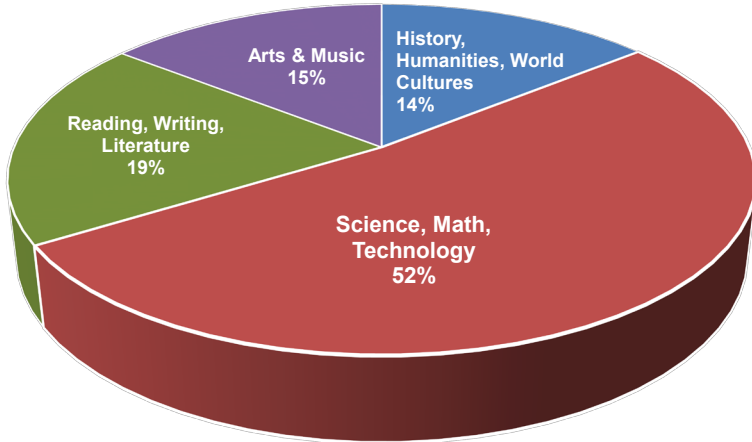
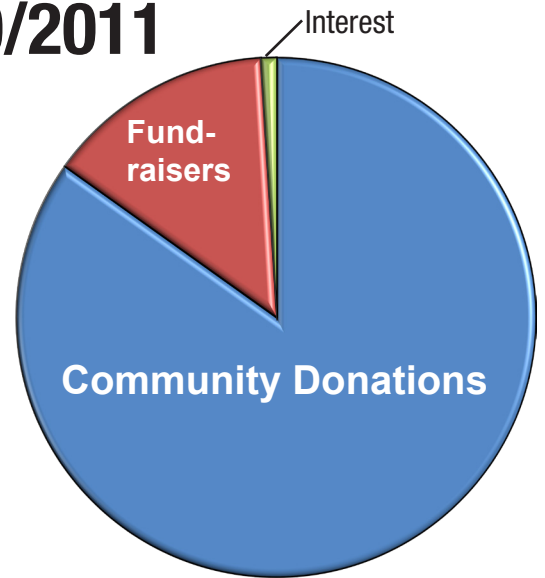
South Whidbey Schools Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your gifts are tax-deductible.

PO Box 24  
Freeland, WA  
98249

# SWSF Financial Recap for 2010/2011

In fiscal year 2010/11, South Whidbey Schools Foundation received donations totaling \$24,306, and coupled with fundraising efforts and interest, our revenues totaled \$28,638.

The Foundation made \$14,111 in classroom grants in 2010/11 for 20 classroom projects.



### Grants Awarded in Academic Areas

Science, Math & Technology ..... \$7,340  
 Writing, Reading & Literature ..... \$2,733  
 History, Humanities & World Cultures ..... \$2,003  
 Arts & Music ..... \$2,035

SWSF Balances July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011  
 Beginning Fund Balance: \$49,416  
 Ending Fund Balance: \$48,783

## 2010/2011 Classroom Grants

NAME	SCHOOL	TITLE	AMOUNT
1. Danielle Curgis	SWES	Second Grade Speaks	\$119
2. Jay Freundlich	LMS	LMS Rain Garden	\$1,000
3. Doug Fulton	SWHS	Spectral Analysis	\$1,000
4. Dayle Gray	SWES	Writing and Performance for the Theater	\$500
5. Jenny Gouchanour	SWHS	Enhanced Listening Comprehension in Spanish	\$719
6. Rachel Kizer	LMS	Reading 2.0	\$1,000
7. Mary McLeod	SWES	Art: Hand Models	\$445
8. Susan Milan	SWES	Sustainable Gardening	\$1,000
9. Kimmer Morris	SWES	Music with Drums	\$240
10. Charlene Ray	BVHS	Rites of Passage – Part 2	\$1,000
11. Sue Wolfe Rottkay	WIA	Spanish Conversation K-5	\$395
12. Sakaguchi/Pfeiffer	BVHS	Bayview Sustainable Garden	\$1,000
13. Craig Stelling	SWHS	Dance Instruction	\$450
14. Val Twomey	SWES	How Toys Work	\$373
15. Don Zisette	LMS/SWHS	SADD Club and Traffic Safety Enhancement	\$630
16. Kathy Stanley	SWES	Exploring Solar Energy for Cooking	\$450
17. Greg Ballog	SWHS	DNA Fingerprint Identification	\$920
18. Charlie Davies	SWHS	Kindles for Special Education	\$970
19. Andy Davis	SWHS	Pre-Algebra Resources	\$1,000
20. Chris Harshman	SWHS	Student Composer Project	\$900
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$14,111</b>

## Disbursements

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

- Ed Kelly Athletic Scholarship
- Destination Imagination
- LMS Band
- LMS SWCEC
- Marine Trades Luncheon
- SWES Library Fund
- SWHS Submersible Team
- Youth in Arts



# Thank you to our donors...

*Your contributions enhance the educational experience in our schools!*

In fiscal year 2010/11 the SWSF awarded 20 grants totaling \$14,111.

Though this report covers the 2010/2011 school year, we are happy to report that this November the SWSF Board, in response to receiving a record number of teacher requests, funded 27 classroom projects and increased the level of funding to nearly \$19,000.

Your donations make a difference in our schools!



## We are very grateful to our 2010/2011 donors...

Doug & Shelly Ackerman

Charlene & Robin Arnold

Betty Azar

Tina & Tom Beard

Barb & Dave Bennett

Barry & Lisa Bjork

Jamie Boyd

Tom & Sally Cahill

Anthony Calio & Jenanne Murphy

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Ann & Henry Gallagher

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Chris & Kelly Gibson

Sandy Gilbert

Dana & Ken Gilroy

Penelope Harger

Dave & Sue Haworth

Tonya & George Henny

Leslie Hoelting

Dean Holmes & Lisa Irwin

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Beth Johnson

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Candace Jordan

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Franny & Casey Mead

Rod Merrell

Martha Murphy

Marti & Pat Murphy

Kent Myers

Sooja & Wayne Nehrlich

Eric & Margaret Nerison

Fred & Harriet O'Neal

Christina Peterson

David & Katharine Pfeiffer

Charlton Price

Helen Price-Johnson

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Nancy Waddell

Bob Wagner

Don Wodjenski

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Whidbey Island Bank



# Growing Local: A Sustainable Garden

## Photos from Ms. Milan's K/1 Learning Community



**“I like the garden because there’s healthy food!” - Student comment**



## Rachel Kizer's 'Celebrate Words' Classroom Project

It was party time at Rachel Kizer's seventh grade Family Night event April 26 to celebrate her receiving an SWSF Reading Grant for a classroom project.



# Visit our website for the latest news about SWSF

[www.SouthWhidbeySchoolsFoundation.org](http://www.SouthWhidbeySchoolsFoundation.org)

**Make an Online Donation**



**Safe, secure donations and recurring monthly donations can be made on our website.**

**Be sure to click on our Facebook link and our RSS feed icon.**

# \$13,000 Raised for Classroom Grants at May Gala Dinner Fundraiser

During the 2010/11 school year the South Whidbey Schools Foundation provided 20 classroom grants covering projects ranging from reading proficiency to spectral analysis to learning about sustainable gardening.

Reports on the impact of several of these grants were made at the May fundraising Gala, which in turn raised over \$13,000 to help fund 2011/12 grants.

*The SWSF Board worked hard to organize the annual May Gala Dinner at Useless Bay Golf and Country Club. Last May's dinner raised over \$13,000 to be used for grants in the 2011-2012 school year through an after-dinner auction.*



*LMS science teacher Jay Freundlich and students shared how they designed and planted a rain garden to help prevent flooding at their school.*



*Bayview School teacher Charlene Ray and student Natalie Frasier gave a moving account of the SWSF-funded 'Rites of Passage' program which helps students clarify and move toward their life goals by tapping into their own inner strength in an often life-changing way.*

## President's Message... Continued from page 1

and reaching more members of our school and local communities to encourage support for the schools.

We will continue to host our Gala Celebration in the Spring, and do significant outreach in the community through our website, Facebook page, articles in the local press and partnering with other local organizations such as the Whidbey Island Arts Council.

The fiscal landscape for public school districts in Washington, and throughout the country, remains extremely challenged.

We know we have great teachers, a dedicated administration, and talented and deserving students. Our mission is to rally the community to support and empower our schools so that we can all be proud of the world-class education that can be obtained in the South Whidbey public schools.

Join the many members of our community in supporting our youth and our schools by making a contribution and

encouraging others to do the same. It is the best investment in your community that you can make!

To learn more about how to contribute, matching funds, and business membership, visit our website at [southwhidbeyschoolsfoundation.org](http://southwhidbeyschoolsfoundation.org).

President, South Whidbey Schools Foundation



*School District Superintendent Dr. Jo Moccia was a guest at our October meeting.*



*The South Whidbey Schools Foundation Board meets monthly and is comprised of parents, retired educators and school administrators, and local business leaders whose goal is to support quality education by funding innovative classroom projects.*

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!

*South Whidbey Schools Foundation recognizes outstanding teachers with two awards each year. We are pleased to present the 2010/11 recipients.*

## Mentorship Award

### Nels Bergquist English Teacher at SWHS in 2010/11; now at LMS

Nels Bergquist, selected as 2010-2011 Mentor Teacher by South Whidbey High School seniors, is a fourth generation Whidbey Islander, who became a teacher to "...give back to the community that is my home."

For the past eight years, Bergquist has taught in many disciplines and levels ranging from fourth and fifth grade mathematics to LMS social studies, English, PE and Health, to SWHS Creative Writing and Public Speaking.

"I have, in particular, enjoyed working with the staff and students of Langley Middle School. The high level of creativity



of the middle level teachers spurred my desire to innovate. Greg Willis, the long-time principal at LMS, was a leader that I looked up to during my early years with the district.

"My fondest memories involve the five years I taught Adventure Education at LMS, which included over fifteen backpacking trips to California and the Washington Coast," he said.

One of the student nominations stated that Mr. Bergquist had "changed my life," and "helped me find my inner voice." Others mentioned that he is generally, "awesome."

## Extra-Mile Award

### Valerie Brown, Teacher at SWES

Val Brown, SWSF's 2010/11 Extra-Mile Award recipient, has taught kindergarten and served as a library media specialist for the past 18 years. Fellow staff members describe Brown's work in the library as exceptional because she "...makes the Elementary Library a welcoming place for all students, going far beyond her contractual hours to make sure the library is opened during rainy day and lunch time recesses."

Brown has enjoyed working with a very supportive staff. She reports that any time she says, "I have this idea...", people are always willing to jump in and help me make it work. They make me look good."

Some highlights mentioned by others include *I-Did-A-Read*, during which each class worked collaboratively to create a dog that moved along an *Iditarod*



map showing how many hours that class read. "It was wonderful to be in the hallway when students arrived in the morning and see them get excited about books and have meaningful conversations about them," she said.

Brown also seeks ways to include world events in the students' reading. For example, after the devastating Japanese earthquake, she shared the book, *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes* with students, and spearheaded the entire school to make 1000 cranes, now hanging in the library. With the awareness of childhood hunger, she used a book called *What The World Eats* as a springboard to awareness of families suffering from hunger in other countries.

Brown continues to celebrate literacy by supporting and encouraging the broad SWES community of children, parents, and staff. Due to budget cuts, however, she is now the Title Reading teacher at SWES where she continues to promote literacy with students, staff, and parents.