

# The Education Foundation of Martin County giving out school grants

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STUART - The prize patrol is on the way.

This one is not from Publishers Clearing House but rather from The Education Foundation of Martin County.

The Foundation crew is stopping at 21 schools across the county and carrying red balloons, pompons and outsize checks totaling \$35,000.

Barbara Anderson, who teaches architectural drafting at South Fork High School, was pleasantly surprised (and got a round of applause from her students) when she was presented a check for \$500. The money will be used to purchase research materials.

"This year we had 155 applications, more than ever. We received a total of \$136,032 in requests.

"We budgeted to fund \$55,000, the same amount as in 2008," said foundation Executive Director Lisa Rhodes,

Rebecca McFee, whose South Fork class is called, "Martin 101: It's Different Here," was very appreciative of her \$500 grant. A portion of the money will go toward the students' ecology project, building oyster farms in the St. Lucie River.

Some of the imaginative projects that were funded last year include a hydroponic garden. The students not only cultivated the plants but also "sold" them in a make-believe market where they learned the essentials of capitalism.

Other money went to fund trips for blind students to learned to navigate sales at the Dollar Store and read a Braille menu to order lunch.

One teacher used her grant to turn a portion of the school playground into an archaeological dig. She buried artifacts and then instructed the students in the proper manner of unearthing them, using specialized tools provided for the project.

One lecture, paid for by a Foundation grant, brought a traffic engineer into the classroom to discuss "Why we need algebra." In the one-hour presentation, students learned how to use what is often a boring subject to design traffic patterns using a screen shot of an actual highway intersection where traffic signals were to be installed.

The funds are granted for projects that schools couldn't afford. The Foundation receives money from other foundations, corporate donors, individuals and matching grants from the state of Florida.

"This is truly a community effort. If it weren't for the ingenuity of our teachers, and the commitment of our board members, volunteers, donors, and supporters, this program would not be possible," Rhodes said.

Classroom Enrichment Grants awarded Friday:

Citrus Grove Elementary: Suzanne Oleson, Connie Webb, Shelley Giallanzo, "All Hands on Science"

Citrus Grove Elementary: Sharon Windsor, Trish Elliott, "Expressive Literacy: Using 21st Century Technology to Increase Student Achievement"

Bessey Creek Elementary: Mary Taber, "Essential Skills for Math Progress"

Crystal Lake Elementary: Flavia Masino, Heather Padgett, "Become a Hands-on Scientist"

Crystal Lake Elementary: Milagros Mendola, "Math + Art = Learning Fun!"

Hidden Oaks Middle School: Natalie Walters, "Listen to Your Heart"

Hidden Oaks Middle School: Amy Robertson, "Classroom Career Exploration"

Indiantown Middle School: Christy Duane, "Hydro is Not Just a Prefix!"

Indiantown Middle School: Jollyn Nolan, Stacey Walkowitz, "Water, Water Everywhere but Not a Drop in Here!"

Indiantown Middle School: Jollyn Nolan, "Tools to Build a Foundation"

Indiantown Middle School: Jennifer Love Gironda, "Hanga: The Art of Japanese Prints"

Palm City Elementary: Raenelle Robinson, Deb Sharrow, Annelies Madden, Nancy Carr, Phyllis Green and Brett Hawkins, " 'Power Up!' Science 5"

Palm City Elementary: Sharon Nealy, "Big Ideas in Mathematics"

Palm City Elementary: Cheryl Miranda, "ViVa!"

Palm City Elementary: Rebecca Curchy, Karen Gangi, Tara Conley, Clare Zelenski, Dara Pirson, Candice Keating, Cheryl Miranda, Bernadette Kronk, Amanda Moore, "Interact and Learn!"

Palm City Elementary: Ilene Goldstein, "Kids Can Read Well"

South Fork High School: Barbara Anderson, "Architectural Graphic Standards as a Valuable Resource"

South Fork High School: Stella Boland, Paula M. Hall, Rebecca McFee, "Martin 101: It's Different Here"

South Fork High School: John Gehret, "Science Is for Everyone"

South Fork High School: Stella Boland, "Location, Location, Location"

Warfield Elementary: Deborah Banks, Robin Newman, Alexis Rooney, Deborah Hutchens, Corinne Rodrigues, Jennifer Deyarmond, Carol Rey, "My Family, My Heritage"

