



## 2015/16 Classroom Grants

Last school year the Foundation funded 28 classroom projects totaling \$33,221:

### S.W. Elementary School:

- Can You See the Leader in Me?
- Matter and Its Interactions
- Salmon in the Classroom
- Salmon Run: Art/Sewing/Writing
- Evidence-Based Intervention & Emotional/Behavior Management
- Sit for Success
- Class Hand-Made Afghan Project
- A Splash of Red: Book-It Repertory Field Trip Workshops (+SWA)
- MakerSpace STEM Kits
- Learning with Legos: Engineering, Programming & Robotics
- Whale Watching Boat Adventure/ Langley Whale Museum

### Langley Middle School:

- STEM Field Studies and Science Fair
- Exploring Watershed Science
- Understanding Carbon (also SWHS)
- In-Residence Jazz Band and Concert Band Clinicians
- 7th Grade Outdoor Learning Expeditions
- Global Cultures Enrichment Program

### South Whidbey Academy:

- Rites of Passage Group
- Underwater Robotics Program (+SWHS)
- STEM Class Physical Science Set
- Expressionism & Principles of Design -Action Art

### South Whidbey High School:

- Redesigning Professionalism: Constructing Education
- Kindle Fires Purchase
- Marimba Project Completion
- Atomic Modeling
- Sound Recording Studio (+LMS)
- Aquaponics & Aeroponic Chamber

### All Schools:

- SW State Park – Bringing Learning to Life Project

# SWSF 2015/16 Annual Update

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



## What was your 'aha!' moment?

Think back. Perhaps way back, to a time in school when a light came on in your mind and you thought, “*Oh, I get it now.*” Or “*Wow, this (math, science, English, history) is FUN!*” Or “*I like this so much that I may want to do this for a living.*”

Perhaps you even witnessed that moment in your children or grandchildren.

South Whidbey Schools Foundation funds innovative, experiential education projects because we believe they create those *aha!* ‘magical moments’ which open students’ minds to a lifetime of learning.

Foundation Board volunteers meet on a Saturday morning each month to plan activities such as an annual dinner gala and auction, Dine-Out-Wednesdays for SW Schools, our new Adopt-A-Grant program, and this annual fundraising appeal.

Why? We believe the extra good that the Foundation provides *matters* – especially as the School District grapples

with a shrinking student population.

It’s not easy to raise funds to meet all requests. Board members attending regional Foundation workshops, report that South Whidbey is looked upon with sympathy because our Foundation funds are only a fraction of those of larger, wealthier mainland school districts.

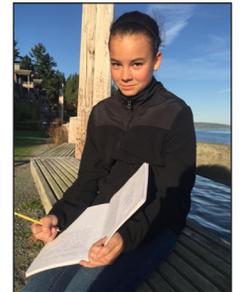
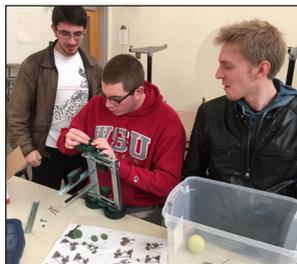
No matter. We are committed to the belief that fostering excellence in education is important regardless of size.

We believe that strong schools create strong communities – and *community* is something which South Whidbey shines at.

If you believe the same, then please make a tax-deductible donation in the enclosed remit envelope.

And if you are interested in adopting a classroom grant, contact SWSF Board President Chris Gibson at (360) 221-8099 or Bob Wiley at (360) 321-2326 to discuss a project close to your heart.

Thank you for caring about our South Whidbey community’s kids!



## Exploring Watershed Science

"The materials provided through the grant enrich studies in Earth Science/Geology which are often difficult to approach with a 'hands on' methodology.

The simulation kits and stream table were new lab material for my units that deal with wet-land ecology and groundwater.

All the materials enhanced the units by providing

more accurate simulations and data collection.

Fun simulations with a stream table and demos on ground water that provided a better understanding of geological process that are at work all around us. Assessments were implemented through standard approaches such as discussions, lab reports, and quizzes."

— Don Zisette, 8th grade science



YOUR  
DONATIONS  
AT WORK

## Evidenced Based Intervention Emotional/Behavioral Management

"The Heart Math program and materials provide additional skills, strategies and tools to support students in identifying their efficacy and develop self-advocacy skills, while integrating self-regulating behaviors that support them in being more resourceful, intentional, and successful.

...We teach so many skills, yet anxiety can interfere with students being able to really show what they know and access new learning.

The Test Edge program gives us more tools to share, practice, and use with students who tend to have additional challenges and hurdles. Thank you!"

— Tere Baker, 3rd grade



## Sit for Success

"I wrote a grant for a class set of yoga balls to be used in my classroom as student chairs. The kids took to the balls almost immediately and I have seen a dramatic change in their focus from the beginning... I hope to never go back to traditional chairs! Students who struggled the most with focus needed few if any further classroom accommodations..."

— Michele Zisette, 4th grade



## 7th Grade Outdoor Learning Expeditions

"Outdoor Students experienced hands on marine biology onboard the ship, touring Puget Sound waters, in and around Whidbey Island. ...Being able to learn and experience science in real time was a huge benefit. Students were engaged and enthusiastic about their learning."

— Mary Bakeman, 7th grade



YOUR  
DONATIONS  
AT WORK

## STEM Field Studies & Science Fair

"Every month our seventh grade science class goes out to our local marina to collect data and then compare it and look at it when we get back.

This helps our seventh grade students learn better in science because we are in the field like real scientists rather than reading about it in a textbook all the time. Not only does going to the marina help our students learn better, it also makes science even more fun than it already is. When kids have fun while learning they tend to pay attention better, and then they realize they are learning new things."

—Kailey Ziss, 7th grade student

YOUR  
DONATIONS  
AT WORK

## Kindle Fires

"My students have learning disabilities or autism or attention-deficit-disorder. Having access to on-line text is definitely helpful to their success. They are expected to read novels in all their English and Social Studies classes. While reading online they can hear the story and read-along as it is highlighted which improves their comprehension. We also allow students to check them out.

Students are actually finishing novels for the first time."

— Rachele Bennett, Special Education, SWHS

*It is the supreme art of the teacher  
to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.*

—Albert Einstein

Dear Foundation Supporters,

Despite a shrinking enrollment, South Whidbey School District educators continue to teach our children with passion, enthusiasm, creativity, and thanks to your donations to the South Whidbey Schools Foundation – with sufficient resources for innovative classroom projects and field trips!

Last year we introduced a new giving opportunity: our “**Adopt-a-Grant**” program which links donors directly with innovative teaching projects. A few of the projects adopted last year included:



■ **Can You See the Leader in Me?** (adopted by **Whidbey Telecom**) provided vests to the elementary school’s student mediator program, which helps develop student leadership skills.

■ **A Splash of Red: Book-It Repertory Field Trip Workshops** (adopted by **Phillip & Karla Boshaw**) expanded the reach of Whidbey Children’s Theater’s “Book-It Repertory Theater” program, which involved reading “*A Splash of Red*” by Jen Bryant. Students saw it performed as a play, and then engaged in an analysis of themes and issues.

■ **Redesigning Professionalism: Constructing Education from the Inside Out** (adopted by **Jim & Vicki Theel**) funded a professional development seminar for high school teachers to read about and discuss such topics as pedagogy, education technology, and instructional techniques.

■ **MakerSpace STEM kits** (adopted by **Dan & Ellen Sargent**) purchased kits designed to help students of all ages explore the fundamentals of engineering and design.

■ **Learning with LEGOs: An introduction to Engineering, Programming & Robotics** (adopted by **Kathleen & Jeff Landel on behalf of the Lagerstrom Family**) provided kits that help 2nd graders explore basic engineering, programming and robotics principles.

Those who adopt a grant have a closer relationship with the project, which may include classroom visits, periodic updates, and knowing their contribution is having a direct effect in our local classrooms. The program helped the Foundation fund more than \$33,200 for 28 innovative teaching projects last year – a \$7,000 increase over the 2014-15 school year. Thank you!

Your continued support is needed, and there are several ways to participate:

- make a year-end charitable donation via the enclosed remit envelope;
- participate in our “Adopt-a-Grant” program;
- dine at participating restaurants during “Dine Out Wednesdays for SW Schools” in October & March;
- participate in Amazon SMILE and SCRIPT gift card purchase programs; and
- attend the Foundation’s Annual Spring Gala (at Comforts on Whidbey Winery on May 20, 2017).

I agree with what Benjamin Franklin said about education: “*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.*” Are you willing to invest in the future leaders of our community, our society, and perhaps the wider world? **What you give can make a difference!**

Sincerely,

Chris Gibson, President  
South Whidbey Schools Foundation

# SWSF funded 28 classroom projects with \$33,221 in school year 2015/2016

The South Whidbey Schools Foundation set a new record last school year by awarding 28 grants totaling \$33,221 for classroom projects, materials, equipment and off-site trip fees in school year 2015/16.

The projects include robotic kits for second-graders to learn engineering and programming using Legos, an aquaponics and an aeroponics chamber, growing salmon in the classroom, a sound recording studio, exploring watershed science,



and atomic modeling at the high school. Of the \$29,780 awarded, \$17,800 was for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) projects.

# Financial Recap for 2015/2016

In fiscal year 2015/16, South Whidbey Schools Foundation received donations totaling \$34,577, and coupled with fund-raising efforts of \$10,803 and interest of \$17, revenues totaled \$45,397. Grant disbursements and expenses totaled \$45,349.

## 2015/16 Grants Awarded in Academic Areas

Science, Math & Technology .....	\$ 19,118
History, Humanities & World Cultures .....	\$ 3,865
Arts, Music, Drama .....	\$ 4,959
Writing, Reading & Literature .....	\$ 1,300
General Support.....	\$ 2,665
Special Education .....	\$ 1,314
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 33,221*</b>

\* \$1,081 that was not used was refunded to the Foundation for future grant use

## South Whidbey Schools Foundation

There are many ways to be a superhero and help fund classroom grants

■ 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.

■ Purchase pre-paid gift cards through the Foundation's SCRIP program (order form at [www.SWSFoundation.org](http://www.SWSFoundation.org))



■ Eat at South Whidbey restaurants participating in our Dine Out Wednesdays for SW Schools program during October and March.



■ When you shop on Amazon, please use the Foundation's AmazonSmile shopping portal at [SWSFoundation.org](http://SWSFoundation.org)



■ Attend the 2017 Spring Gala Dinner & Auction on May 20 at Comforts on Whidbey Winery in Langley.

## SWSF Balances (All Funds)

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016:

Beginning Fund Balance:	\$59,669
Ending Fund Balance:	<b>\$57,725</b>
(See below for sub-totals)	
General & Endowment Accounts:	\$26,777
Extra Mile/Mentorship Awards Fund:	\$6,027
Fiscal Agency Funds Total:	\$24,921

## Disbursements

The South Whidbey Schools Foundation served as the fiscal agency for more than \$22,294 in grants funds for the following:

- Ed Kelly Athletic Scholarship
- SWES Library
- Destination Imagination
- Global Cultures
- LMS Bands
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE)
- Lagerstrom Family Donation
- Natanya Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund
- SWHS Drama Club
- SWA – Underwater Robotics
- SWA – Aquaponics Project
- SWA – Youth in Philanthropy
- Whidbey Youth Support (WYSE)

# Thank you to our 2015/2016 donors...

Your contributions enhance the educational experience of South Whidbey students!

## Individual Contributors:

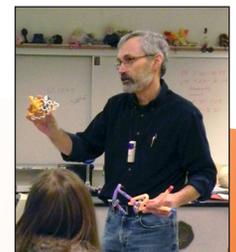
Doug & Shelly Ackerman  
 Emmy & Brian Atwood  
 Melinda Base  
 Barb & Dave Bennett  
 Barry & Lisa Bjork  
 Patty & Scott Blouin  
 Sarah & Patrick Boin  
 Nick & Kathy Borson  
 Phillip & Karla Boshaw  
 Jane Bothel  
 Carla & Mitch Bradshaw/Marder  
 Irene Bullock  
 Tom & Sally Cahill  
 Laura Canby  
 Gwen & Steve Clemens  
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 Carol Kerley  
 Kelsey Kimmel  
 Ervin Knezek  
 John & Aracely Knox  
 Bill & Gloria Koll  
 Paul & Sue Kukuk  
 Richard & Barbara Lagerstrom  
 Jeff & Kathleen Landel  
 Joel & Lisa Liefke  
 Victoria Locke-Carty  
 Bella & Geoffrey Madrona/Beasley  
 Ryan Mason  
 Steve McCoy  
 Debbie & Warren McMenamy  
 Kate & Patrick McVay  
 Franny & Casey Mead

Jo Moccia  
 Clyde & Marcia Monma  
 Sarah Moulton  
 Jenanne Murphy  
 Mynda Myres  
 Vincent & Tyla Nattress  
 Rene & Miles Neff  
 Pamela & Curtis Newsom  
 Roger Parker  
 Janet & Blair Paul  
 David & Katharine Pfeiffer  
 Charlton Price  
 Helen Price-Johnson  
 Joanne Primavera  
 Heather & Aaron Racicot  
 Linda & Mark Racicot  
 Robert & Janet Reinecke  
 Hope Richards  
 Susie & Chris Richards  
 Linda & Gregg Ridder  
 Donna & John Riley  
 Paul Saelens  
 Chris Salomone  
 Ellen & Dan Sargent  
 Craig & Sherry Savage  
 Nancy Scoles  
 Jean Shaw  
 Cynthia & John Shelton  
 Jean & Dyanne Singer/Sheldon  
 Sean & Laura Spear  
 Laura Taylor  
 Vicki & Jim Theel  
 Bob Wagner



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 Kim Williams  
 Janet & Don Wodjenski  
 Heather Wright  
 Jan Wright  
 Katherine Wright  
 Mami & Robbie Zimmerman/Cribbs



*“The reason I teach...  
 is to save the world.”*  
 – Greg Ballog,  
 SWHS science teacher

## Business Contributors:

Anduin Foundation c/o Zebenbergen  
 Capital Investments LLC  
 Bayview Farmers Market LLC  
 Boatyard Inn  
 Clinton Foodmart  
 Clyde Theatre LLC  
 Comfort Farms  
 Guitar Maniacs  
 Harmony Hills Farm  
 Heritage Bank NW/Whidbey Island Bank

Island Style Salon  
 Maxwellton Community Club  
 Pine Cottage B & B  
 Portico Latin Bistro  
 Sebos Do-It Center  
 The Star Store  
 Useless Bay Golf & Country Club  
 Wayward Son LLC  
 Whidbey Island Bagel Factory  
 Whidbey Sun & Wind

## Business Sponsors of the 2016 SWSF Annual Gala



**Whidbey**  
 ISLAND BANK  
 A Division of Heritage Bank

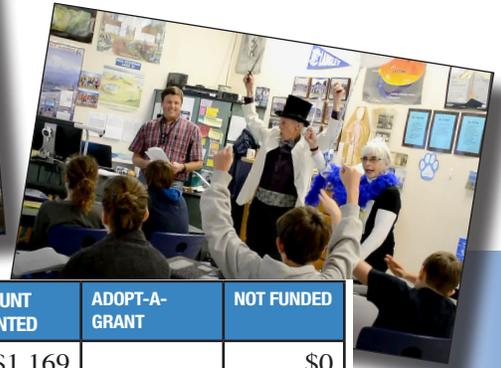


## October 2015 & March 2016 Dine Out Restaurants

Charmers Bistro  
 El Corral Mexican Restaurant  
 Freeland Café  
 Gordon's on Blueberry Hill  
 Hong Kong Garden Restaurant  
 Mukilteo Coffee Roasters  
 Neil's Clover Patch Café

Patron Mexican Restaurant  
 Portico Latin Bistro  
 Prima Bistro  
 Useless Bay Ventures, Inc. (Coffee Company)  
 Whidbey Island Bagel Factory

Nearly \$20,000 in grants were distributed in this current school year... but some had to be deferred.



### 2016/17 Classroom Grants

NAME	SCHOOL	CLASSROOM PROJECTS	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT GRANTED	ADOPT-A-GRANT	NOT FUNDED
Sharla Matthews	SWES	Sound & Light	\$1,169	\$1,169		\$0
Bruce Callahan	SWES	Whale Watching Boat Adventure	\$1,500	\$1,500		\$0
Monique Mangin	SWHS	Sensory Light Board	\$500	\$500		\$0
John LaVassar	SWES	Mr. Good, Mad, Fun Science	\$1,400		\$1,400*	\$0
John LaVassar	SWES	School-Wide Salmon Project	\$1,200		\$1,200*	\$0
Chris Harshman	LMS	Band Clinicians	\$2,500	\$500	\$2,000*	\$0
Mandy Jones	SWHS	Sensory Water Table	\$1,500	\$1,500		\$0
Jeff Greene	SWHS	Musical/Drama	\$1,500	\$1,500		\$0
Jeff Greene	SWHS	Yearbook/Photo Journalism	\$1,050	\$1,050		\$0
Kathryn O'Brien	All	Climate Arts Project	\$2,800	\$2,500		\$300
Michele Zisette	SWES	Focused Space for All	\$439	\$439		\$0
Jean Cravy	SWA	Bringing Learning to Life	\$2,000	\$2,000		\$0
Nels Bergquist	LMS	8th Grade Adventure Education	\$10,000	\$3,000		\$7,000
Don Zisette	LMS	8th Grade Inventions	\$790	\$790		\$0
Chris Harshman	All Schools	Link-up - Orchestra Rocks	\$3,000	\$3,000		\$0
Valerie Brown	SWES	MakerSpace STEM Kits 2016	\$750		\$750	\$0
			\$32,098	\$19,448	\$5,350	\$7,300

Note: These projects we hope will be funded through the Adopt-A-Grant program

**Will you consider adopting a classroom grant for our local schoolchildren?**

**These three classroom grants are in priority need of a patron.**

**Mr. Leonard Good: Mad Fun Scientist: Physical Science/ Chemistry, Matter and Reactions**

Leonard Good uses many methods to explore and help students experience the how's and why's of science. Amount requested: \$1,400

**LMS Band Tutorials from Professional Musicians**

Langley Middle School Band students will have first-hand experience practicing, performing and learning classical or jazz music techniques from a professional musician who plays the same instrument. Amount requested: \$2,000



**Salmon in the Classroom Project**

The goal of this school-wide project is to increase student awareness of how salmon are an indicator species of watershed health and how students can positively impact their local ecosystem by becoming stewards of their environment. Amount requested: \$1,200

# SWSF Gala raised \$15,014 toward this year's grants

The Foundation's 2016 Gala Dinner and Auction held May 21 at Useless Bay Golf & Country Club raised more than \$15,000 to help fund classroom projects.

According to Foundation Treasurer John Riley, it was one of the most profitable fundraisers in the nonprofit's 20-year history, over which time it has provided more than \$250,000 to fund teacher-requested classroom grants.

Attendees were escorted into the event by "Leader in Me" vested students from Caryn Ploof's fourth and fifth-grade class, where they enjoyed performances by the Langley Middle School Jazz Band, poolside demonstrations by the South Whidbey Academy Underwater Robotics Club, and inspiring talks by teachers Bruce Callahan (5th grade) and Greg Ballog (high school science) and parting remarks by graduating senior Sophia Stoughton, who has been the student representative to the Foundation for the past two years.

Island County Commissioner Helen Price-Johnson (Dem), commented how grateful she is for the work the Foundation does to support teachers and build a strong community.

George Henny, Co-CEO of Whidbey Telecom, spoke about what an honor it was for Whidbey Telecom to adopt the "Leader in Me" project under the Foundation's "Adopt-a-Grant" program, and praised the Foundation for helping to build meaningful collaborative relationships between community and schools.

Jim Freeman, South Whidbey's 'Conductor of Fun' kept the crowd in stitches while deftly extracting bids exceeding face value for just about every one of the 18 live auction items.

District Superintendent Jo Moccia hosted a new game which gave participants a chance to win one of seven prizes, including a \$1,000 cash prize. Following SWHS PTSA President Shelly Ackerman's lead from the previous two years, this year's winner, Kay Wiley, donated the \$1,000 back to the Foundation.

Foundation President Chris Gibson thanked Gala sponsors Heritage/Whidbey Island Bank and Lead4ward; wine donors Comforts Winery and Clinton Foodmart; and all who donated auction items.



**NEW LOCATION IN 2017:**  
The gala dinner will be held May 20 at Comforts of Whidbey Winery in Langley.

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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
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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!

## Breeze and Davis receive teacher recognition awards

Speech language pathologist Becky Breeze, a member of the special education departments at both the elementary and middle schools, and South Whidbey High School math teacher Andy Davis were the recipients of the South Whidbey Schools Foundation's Extra Mile and Mentorship awards, respectively.

The Extra Mile Award acknowledges

and honors District teachers for "having gone the furthest in the service of the South Whidbey education community." Breeze received the award from



School Board Director Linda Racicot at a faculty luncheon June 17.

"Becky is committed to providing quality services to each student she serves, teams well with all staff, values every student and recognizes their achievements, is a lifelong learner and shares what she learns," said Robin Roberts, a colleague of Breeze.

The Mentorship Award acknowledges members of the district faculty "who have had a lasting positive impact on members of this year's graduating seniors."

Andy Davis was presented with the award by graduating senior Grace Houck at the school's farewell assembly at the high school June 9.

"I've had Mr. Davis as a teacher the past three semesters and although I am not the best calculus student, I still love that class," Houck wrote in her nomination.



"He makes the classroom fun, and he is so funny and nice. He's really an amazing teacher."

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

## Nine teachers provided classroom stipends



*Pictured left to right are: Kayla Phillips, Leah Tormey, Michele Sakaguchi, Michele Zisette, Heidi Marshall, Charlie Davies, Jillian Cain, Laura Spear, and Michael Washington.*

Nine South Whidbey School District teachers were presented with \$200 classroom stipends at the September 1 teacher and staff assembly in preparation for the new school year. The recipients are either new to the district, or have been given a new classroom assignment.

"We wanted to welcome and support

new teachers, as well as those in new classroom positions this year," said South Whidbey Schools Foundation President Chris Gibson. "Many teachers use their own money to help outfit their classrooms, and this was our way of showing them that the Foundation cares."