

Canton Education Foundation at work in the Canton Public Schools Spring 2006

COLLINSVILLE SAVINGS SOCIETY GRANT: “A Dramatic Tribute to Four Sisters: A Multicultural Human Rights Project”

**English and Spanish classes in Grades 9 – 10 and 6, Carol
Schultz, with Jenna Alysworth and Linda Cavanaugh**

Students involved in this project wrote and produced a bi-lingual theatrical tribute to the Dominican Republic’s Mirabel sisters, political reformists opposed to dictator Rafael Trujillo. The script for the play, which was written completely by Canton’s freshmen, was based on the historical events portrayed in the novel *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. The performance included Canton High School student actors as well as sixth graders from the Canton Intermediate School. The project served not only as a writing exercise, but also encouraged students to be concerned about human rights and to take an interest in other cultures and current events.

Grant \$1000

“I absolutely believe this type of authentic, interdisciplinary learning is immensely valuable for students. Students were affected and are working on a contribution to the building of a medical clinic in the Dominican Republic.”
(Carol Schulz, English Department Chair)

THE SHOPPES AT FARMINGTON VALLEY GRANT and TIME MACHINE EXPRESS GRANT: “Window to the Night Sky”

**Science, Technology, and Language Arts classes in Grade 2,
Dennis Nogiec, Linda Caraher, Lynn McMullin**

Utilizing SkyQuest XT6 Intelliscope and computerized Object Locator students will study the night sky and universe. The aim of the program, which is designed for second graders, is to expand children’s understanding of the universe and to engage the whole family in this highly appealing area of study. Students will observe, collect data, and make predictions based on their use of technology. They will make connections between their scientific study and selected fiction and non-fiction literary texts. They will then write about their astronomical experiences.



Above, students from CHS are shown performing “In the Time of Butterflies” in May 2006. About 80 students from the Canton High School and Intermediate School participated in this project.

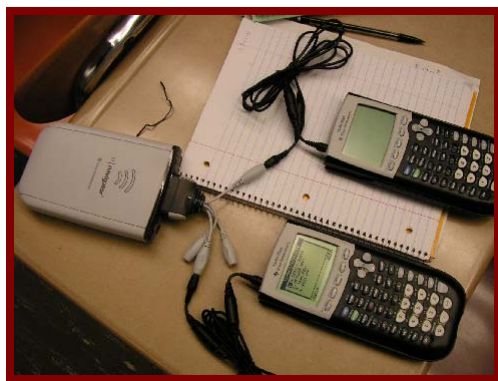




Their explorations will culminate in two Family Nights, planned to include parents and other interested community experts who will observe the night sky together. Viewings are slated for December 2006/January 2007 and April/May 2007.

Grant \$2000

At left, 2nd grade teacher Linda Caraher talks to her students about the telescopes that the grant purchased for Cherry Brook's nighttime family program.



SIMSBURY BANK GRANT and WEBB FAMILY GRANT: "Active Learners in TI Navigator Classroom"

Math classes in grades 7 and 8, Gabrielle Laux and Lynn McMullin

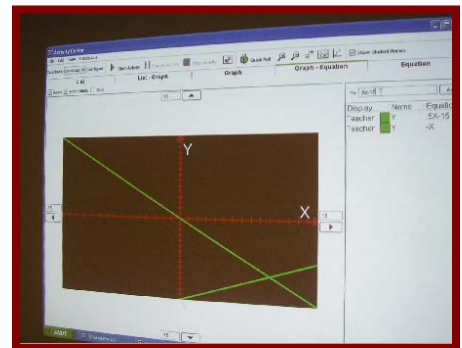
TI Navigator is a multidimensional tool that connects students' graphing calculators to four-station hubs. The tool enables teachers to significantly impact math instruction in an innovative and challenging way. The equipment was introduced on November 7, 2006, when math teachers received a full day of training.

Teachers and students are learning to analyze data, study functions, and sharpen math skills, confident that the handheld devices and the immediate feedback they provide will give

Students' graphing calculators (shown above at the CHS professional development training), are connected to a hub which allows them to transmit data to the teachers' computer. The results are displayed on the whiteboard for class analysis, as shown in the picture at the right, taken in teacher Cecile Beloin's classroom.

students a deeper understanding of key concepts.

Grant \$2000



"After seeing various demonstrations of the TI Navigator in use, I believe the dynamic aspects of the student-teacher interaction can help students experience real understanding of the concepts; and because of the TI's Navigator's ability to exchange information, informal assessments are extremely easy."

(Gabrielle Laux, Math Department Chair)

SCALA FAMILY GRANT: "Integration of Technology and Language Arts"

Language Arts Instruction in Grades 4, 5 and 6,
Rebecca Mikus

Language Arts tutors at Canton Intermediate School are using the SmartBoard to improve their students' revision and editing skills. Through this technology tool, which makes the typical whiteboard an interactive device, children receive motivating small group instruction in editing and enhancing their writing. The SmartBoard can also be used to instruct other areas of language arts, such as spelling, word choice, vocabulary and handwriting, and actively engages students in higher-level thinking. The SmartBoard was put into use immediately, and one of the school's ongoing Professional Development goals includes the advancement of this technology in many of CIS's classrooms.

Grant \$1000



CIS Language Arts Coordinator, Becky Mikus, helps a student as he revises his writing at the interactive SmartBoard.

"I love when I can do it myself. I learn so much better when I can move words and things around myself." (Jessica L. student)

"The mimio allows the children to be actively involved in their learning. Editing and revising are skills *all* children must develop. The technology enhances the teaching of these skills because children learn more when the activity is interactive." (Becky Mikus)

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LITCHFIELD GRANT: "The Arts Come Alive with Picasso People"

Visual Art in Grades 4, 5 and 6, Deborah Lang-Beaudoin

In support of the Visual Arts Curriculum, students at the Canton Intermediate School enjoyed a multi-faceted theatrical performance of Picasso People. This very original arts program focused on key concepts, terminology, art history, mime, and puppetry. Picasso's paintings came alive with novel costuming, choreography, compelling music and narration. Eighteen of the artist's works were included in the performance which took place May 24, 2006. This is interdisciplinary event tied together aspects of art, music, theater, history and social studies.



Canton Education Foundation member Ali Whyte and Kathleen Woods of the First National Bank present the award for the "Picasso People" Project to CIS Art teacher Deb Beaudoin. At left, one of the "Picasso People" entertains students in the CIS gymnasium.



Grant \$1000

"It was a colorful way of describing Picasso's life and paintings. I think I learned more about Picasso from "Picasso People" because it was hands-on and involved the audience. I liked learning about what inspired his periods of art - things that happened in his life."

(Scott C., Grade 6 student)

SUBURBAN SANITATION SERVICE // JZ REPAIR GRANT: "Fitness for Life"

Health/Physical Education in Grade 10, Ralph Syverson



The project would implement digital heart monitors to instruct students about the importance of cardiovascular fitness. Students will be assessed and will learn about training in their individual target zones. The objectives of the project will include the components of fitness/health, identification of health related problems and safety procedures. The goal is to increase students' fitness levels by the end of the unit.

Grant \$1000

Canton Education Foundation member Jill Cromwell and Mrs. Zacchera of Surburban Sanitation present the award for heart monitors to Ralph Syverson, a physical education the High School.

"It's a fun way to see how much work we really do. Some people think the little things in gym are a joke, like jumping rope, for example. But the heart monitors show that even something as simple as that gets your heart rate up." (Rheannen S., student)

TREADWELL FAMILY GRANT: "SmartBoard for Chemistry"

Chemistry in Grades 10 And 11, Gary Gula

The SmartBoard technology will provide instruction to Chemistry students by providing the teacher with interactive, instructional web access, access to SmartBoard templates (such as the periodic

Jill Cromwell, president of the Canton Education Foundation, presents a check for the SmartBoard technology to Gary Gula, Canton High School Principal.



table), resources for creating more engaging lessons, and the ability to write, capture, and then download class notes and diagrams. The Internet has become an important force in the classroom and students will benefit from increased accessibility to the web. The teacher will be able to work with the entire class in websites that pertain to a particular Chemistry topic or concept being studied. **Grant \$1000**

REALTY WORKS GRANT and TOLAND FAMILY GRANT: “Read and Click with InterWrite PRS-Social Studies”

Language Arts and Social Studies in Grades 7 & 8, Joseph Scheideler and Lynn McMullin



InterWrite PRS is a handheld device that transmits answers to multiple choice questions or even more advanced problems to either the teacher’s computer screen or to a whiteboard for the whole class to analyze. It is a highly visual and accessible technology tool with a wide variety of uses. Teachers and students can immediately analyze reading comprehension, for example, make corrections, and evaluate individual and class performance. The technology

makes practicing reading skills or reviewing for tests and quizzes both personally motivating and collectively competitive in a non-threatening manner.

Grant \$1500



A Canton Middle School teacher keys in her response during training. Students use these handheld devices to answer questions and view the responses of their classmates. At left, Robin Nardini, Cherry Brook Primary’s Technology Coordinator, trains CMS teachers to use this new technology tool.

“This piece of technology is quite interesting and seems to have real potential to engage students in analyzing reading and writing. If we find our staff demands *more sets of these handhelds, we’ll be thrilled.*”

(Joe Scheideler, Middle School Principal)
