

MIDDLETOWN

Education Collaborative awards 25 grants

By Matt Sheley
Staff writer

The Middletown Education Collaborative recently awarded nearly \$16,000 in enrichment grants that will provide programs, activities and materials for local students from kindergarten to Grade 12.

Since the nonprofit group was founded in 2004, it has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to various educational efforts promoted by local educators. A team of MEC volunteers reviews the applications submitted by town teachers before awards are announced.

All told, 25 grants totaling \$15,916 were awarded in this round.

"Students are provided access to programs and materials that otherwise fall outside of the budget and are therefore unavailable," said Ann Johnson, MEC vice president, in a prepared statement. "Access to these educational enrichments helps our students maintain a greater level of academic excellence."

The following is a list of recent grant recipients:

- ◆ \$540 for Camille Guerin's field trip for Forest Avenue School kindergarten students and first-graders to the Biomes Marine Center to learn about local marine life.

- ◆ \$737 requested by Guerin for Forest Avenue first-grade and multi-age students to receive a year-long subscription to National Geographic Young Explorer magazine.

- ◆ \$150 requested by Doreen O'Neil for Forest Avenue kindergarteners to take a field trip to Middletown's Krupowicz Planetarium for an interactive presentation reinforcing the science curriculum.

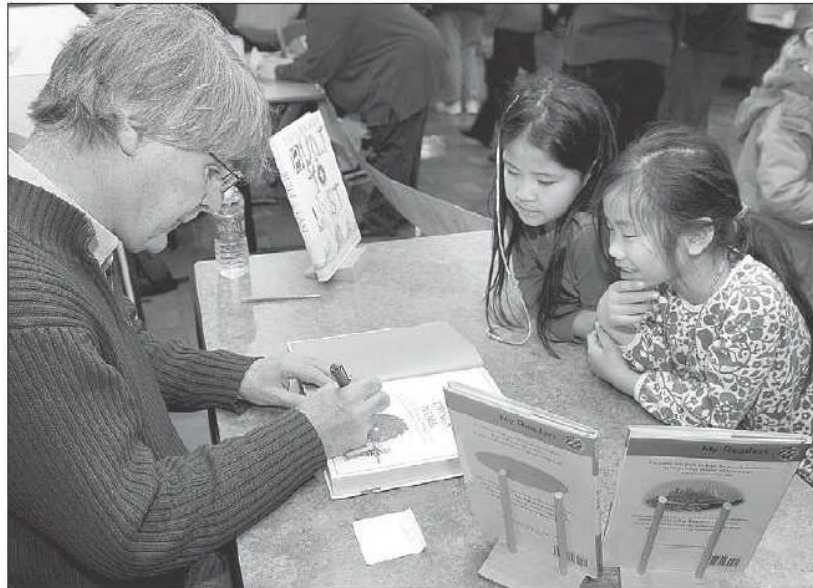
- ◆ \$350 requested by Lori Call for Aquidneck School kindergartners, and \$250 requested by O'Neil for Forest Avenue kindergarteners to learn about animal groups at the Norman Bird Sanctuary's "animal ambassadors" program.

- ◆ \$250 requested by Emma Hookway for Aquidneck School, and \$497 requested by Claire Johnson for Forest Avenue students to attend performances by the School House Orchestra to enhance the music curriculum and demonstrate the use of a variety of instruments.

- ◆ \$875 requested by Melissa Bolton for Aquidneck School students to use the educational Internet site BrainPop, Jr. to reinforce math, science, reading, writing and social studies curriculum.

- ◆ \$700 requested by Bolton, Kristen Hughes, Josie Brennan-Corey and Diane Lukowicz for Aquidneck School second-graders to attend a performance of "Charlotte's Web" by Theatre-Works USA.

- ◆ \$600 requested by Principal Michelle Fonseca for every student at Aquidneck School to attend The Johnny K Assembly, an interactive performance that encourages character development and positivity.



Daily News file photo

As part of a grant awarded by the Middletown Education Collaborative, Chyleene O'Connor received \$383 for the 'March into Reading Program,' through which she hopes to bring noted authors to Aquidneck Elementary and Gaudet Middle schools. Pictured above is author David Macaulay who was the keynote speaker at a 'March into Reading' event held earlier this month at Salve Regina University in Newport.

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ANN JOHNSON

Middletown Education Collaborative vice president on the importance of the grants awarded

- ◆ \$545 requested by Fonseca, Mary Jane Staples and Meredith Forster at Aquidneck School for "A Book in Every Home," a reading program for first-graders to encourage at-home reading.

- ◆ \$300 requested by Celeste Dugan for preschool students at Aquidneck School to participate in Martina Aldrich's "Yoga for Children" program.

- ◆ \$383 requested by Chyleene O'Connor for the "March Into Reading" program to bring noted authors to Aquidneck Elementary and Gaudet Middle schools.

- ◆ \$685 requested by Jenn Holubesko for students at the Gaudet Learning Academy to gain access to a new literacy closet stocked with age appropriate books.

- ◆ \$680 requested by Josh Beagan for the

purchase of Vernier Probeware and NXT Sensors with NXT robot to help the Gaudet Middle School STEM program provide hands-on learning with robots.

- ◆ \$900 requested by Heidi Gauch for a field trip for Gaudet Middle School sixth-graders to work with the saltmarsh nursery program offered through Save The Bay.

- ◆ \$1,095 requested by Donna Murphy for Gaudet Middle School students to gain access to the BrainPop Internet site.

- ◆ \$1,500 requested by George Shaffer to cover the admission cost to the Boston Museum of Science for eighth-graders at Gaudet Middle School.

- ◆ \$350 requested by Sue Suprock and Amy Kalif for Middletown High School students in the advanced studio art and Spanish programs to visit the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

- ◆ \$750 requested by Anita DeLima for Middletown High School students to study Latin dance, art, language and culture and to demonstrate their skills during the school's "International Festival."

- ◆ \$680 requested by Kalif for the Spanish 4 class at the high school to obtain four sets of

GRANTS A5

Grants

Continued from A3

Spanish classic novels, increasing students' cultural awareness and providing language immersion.

- ◆ \$1,450 requested by John Cunic for members of the high school's 2013 Model United Nations Club to attend an international conference.

- ◆ \$599 requested by Gus Steppen for the purchase of geometry, algebra and trigonometry workbooks that work with Geometer's "Sketchpad" software at the high school.

- ◆ \$300 requested by Jill Spohn to pay for "Fitness Is Your Future" classes

throughout the district to teach new ways to stay active and physically fit.

- ◆ \$550 requested by Phillip Statter to replace the electric piano at Middletown High School.

Superintendent Rosemarie K. Kraeger said the schools appreciate the support from MEC.

"MEC provides such great financial support enabling our teachers and students to extend their classroom experiences," she said. "MEC is an example of how the community comes together to support public education."

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