

**The Maranacook Education Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2017-18 school and community grants. We are excited about all of these learning opportunities and the impact that will have our district's students.**

**Bille Cleveland**, teacher at Maranacook Middle School, has been awarded **\$631.80** to pilot an alternative seating project. This pilot project offers students an opportunity to spend all or a portion of the period standing at a desk rather than sitting at one. By placing three, two-person desks in the classroom for a year, staff will be able to assess the impact this has on students who are active and have trouble staying at a seated desk. Middle school kids are active, and seating choices are expanding from the traditional desk and chair to Hokki stools, floor desks, standing desks and medicine balls. This grant helps to provide a diversified set of choices for my students.

**Jenny Bean**, Food Service staff at Fayette Central School, has been awarded **\$800.00** to implement a healthy snack program. Her project will provide a new experience centered around nutrition for the 73, Pre-K through 5th grade students at Fayette Central School. Students will taste fruits and vegetables that they may have never seen. This much needed activity will occur once a week in the classroom at snack time. This peer interaction will support the excitement of trying new foods. This grant will also enable staff to educate students on the nutritional value of these items as well as awaken their tastes buds to trying different things.

**Steve Vose**, Adult Education Director for RSU #38, has been awarded **\$400.00** to enhance the current Senior Cafe program at Maranacook. He will use grant funds to pay for 1-2 presenters per year as a means of enriching programming and attracting more members. Middle school and high school students will also be invited to attend these sessions with the Senior Cafe members to foster multi-age conversation and engagement.

**Shannon Cole**, Speech Pathologist at the elementary level, has been awarded **\$870.00** to purchase technology to enhance the communication skills of her students. As adults, we know how important communication is in our daily lives and how powerless we feel when communication breakdown occurs and interrupts our goals. Shannon has worked with students across this district for nearly 20 years and has seen the communication struggles of students as they try to share their message. This in effect limits their world, creates frustration and sometimes behavioral challenges. This project will enable students to engage in communication with peers, teachers and community members consequently opening doors for students who are generally underserved due to various communication disorders and barriers.

**Denise Churchill**, K-8 Technology Integration specialist for the district, has been awarded **\$450.00** to purchase a 3-D printer for district student use. 3D printing is technology for today and the future; it opens the door to solving real world problems. Access to 3D printing allows learners to creatively problem solve and become innovative thinkers and designers of authentic artifacts. It enhances existing curricula, and develops critical 21st century skills in our students.

**Drew Albert**, Music Teacher at Maranacook High School, has been awarded **\$1000.00** to help defray costs for an exciting opportunity for MSC Chamber Singers. Maranacook Chamber Singers will be traveling to NYC to perform at the Riverside Church in a national music festival. They will participate in on-stage clinics with acclaimed adjudicators. This experience will certainly enhance their understanding and appreciation of what it takes to produce an elite musical performance. While in NYC, students will also have an opportunity to see a Broadway show, tour the 9/11 Memorial, visit the Empire State Building, Metropolitan Museum, & eat at Ellen's Stardust Diner.

**Elizabeth Guillemette**, English Teacher at the High School, has been awarded **\$850.00** for a project to promote community literacy. Reading in school is often confined to assigned texts and classroom discussions. This project aims to give students a view of reading beyond what they are asked to do in school. Students will be paired with a community member who has recommended a favorite book, whether it is one that challenged a belief, offered a new perspective, or provided comfort and understanding. Students will read the book and email their partners to share insights and responses to the text, providing an authentic audience for their writing and to show how books and reading continue to impact people beyond school.

**Michael Griswold**, from the Kennebec Valley YMCA, has been awarded **\$1000.00** to help fund Camp KV's Environmental Science Program. Camp KV, the Kennebec Valley YMCA's day camp located in Readfield, serves many of our district's children. They are developing a new Environmental Science program with aims of educating and engaging campers in a collection of environmental studies within a natural outdoor setting. This program, which will have the capacity to reach nearly 1,000 youth from around the Kennebec County each summer, is designed to engage campers in a collection of activities including, but not limited to, sustainability and conservation management, botanical identification, lake ecology, soil management, and scouting skills.