

2014 Westgate Fellowships approved by Monomoy Regional School Committee

March 12, 2014

The Westgate Teacher Fellowship Committee received a record number of requests, nine this year, all of a high calibre. The Committee recommended the following awards to Westgate Fellows for the current year:

1. **Nancy Gifford**, 7th grade science teacher at Harwich Middle School and **Barbara Gula**, 3rd grade teacher at Chatham Elementary School, **\$900 each** towards their participation in the Geological Society of America's "Hawaiian Volcanoes Field Experience" in August. They will be studying plate tectonics and all aspects of vulcanism. What they learn will be passed on by the 7th graders who will actually teach the 3rd graders, as they have in the past.
2. **Rebecca Tobojka**, **Melissa Brady**, **Johanna McCulgan**, all kindergarten teachers, **Jamie Vient**, special needs teacher, and **Marcy Dugas**, assistant principal at Harwich Elementary School, **a total of \$1200**, towards their visit to the New City School in St. Louis, MO, next fall. This will be a culmination of a six-month study by twelve teachers of lesson activities, strategies and structures for using their students' multiple intelligences in their classrooms.
3. **Georgia Smith-Fay**, foreign language teacher at Harwich Middle School, **\$500** towards her two-week intensive study for teachers of French in the Alliance Francaise-sponsored CAVILAM program in Vichy, France, this August.
4. **Rachel Barnes**, Language Arts teacher at Chatham Middle School, moving to the High School next year, **\$1000** towards the "Shakespeare in Italy" program in July. It is conducted by the Royal Shakespeare Company in London at the University of Urbino. Her grade 8 students are required to study "Merchant in Venice" and her grade 9 students "Romeo and Juliet". Rachel will also be sharing her experience with Harwich Junior Theatre, which is a co-sponsor of her trip.

Teachers' requests totaled \$9600, but in working with the teachers and finding additional resources through the superintendent, the committee reduced their needs such that \$4500 in Westgate Fellowships will make possible all of the studies proposed.

The teachers are all investing a substantial amount of their own funds, donating all of their own time, and requiring their families to take on additional burdens.

They have all agreed to share their experiences not just in their own classrooms but with their peers in the schools, and to make public presentations about their experiences in ways that the entire communities of Harwich and Chatham benefit.

Members of the interview committee were Michael Westgate, Pam Groswald, co-chairs; Jeremy Gingras, Diane Nash, Noel Rebello, Nancy Simonitsch, and Marie Williams,

The Committee spent more this year than current income supports and must engage in a significant fundraising effort which, this year, will focus on “The Last Dance” at Harwich High School, scheduled for March 31, 8-11 pm, before the building is torn down. The goal is to raise \$10,000 through that event, with all proceeds going to the Westgate Fund. All Harwich graduates and their friends are invited. Tickets are \$25.

Contact for donations and for “The Last Dance” is Pam Groswald:
pam.arv@verizon.net or 508-241-0230.