

GEF Awarded \$17,000 last year

From robotics programs and a drumming class, to field trips and environmental research, grants from the Groton Education Foundation supported a variety of innovative programs during the 2016-17 school year.

The foundation made 11 grants with a total value of just under \$17,000. GEF helped:

- Send a group of Fitch High School students on a five-day trip aboard the Oliver Hazard Perry with teens from Ledyard and New London high schools.
- Launch a “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program at the Mystic & Noank Library, with the goal of empowering new readers.
- Bring a vibrant drumming program to S.B. Butler Elementary School to encourage creativity and movement, and to enhance learning.
- Engage Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School 5th graders in tree research, culminating in the creation of labels for trees on the school campus.
- Stage a “Battle of the Books” at Pleasant Valley Elementary School to encourage reading. Students came together in teams to read, discuss books and test their knowledge through a trivia game.
- Bring a therapy dog to West Side Middle School to help struggling readers. The dog reduces stress and listens without judgment as kids read to him.
- Provide hands-on kits with building materials, toys and games that fostered critical thinking skills for students at Sacred Heart School.

Any nonprofit that offers educational programming in Groton can apply for funds. For information and application forms, go to www.groton.k12.ct.us. You'll find us under Community/Partnerships. We're also on Facebook.

Teachers Support the GEF

Groton teachers donate about \$1,000 to the GEF each year by buying lunches through a program called GEF Delivers: Tips for Education.



Teachers participate by ordering lunches made by The Spot, Bridge Market, The Village Bakehouse, Mystic Market and other local restaurants.

Members of the GEF Board of Directors deliver the lunches to the schools. Typically, 175 teachers take part each time. All tips go to the foundation.

The next GEF Delivers will be in May.



Groton, New London and Ledyard students learned sailing and leadership skills aboard the tall ship Oliver Hazard Perry in September 2016, thanks in part to a grant from the Groton Education Foundation.



Children's author Trish Rabe kicked off the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program at the Mystic & Noank Library.



“Drums Alive” engaged students at S.B. Butler Elementary School in physical and musical activities that involved a variety of learning styles. The focus was on creative expression, reducing stress and, in turn, enhancing classroom learning.