SEPTA Awards $3,362 in Grants!

Thanks to SEPTA's fundraising efforts, which include membership dues, donations, the sale of the school district mini-calendars, and one-off fundraisers such as the Lord and Taylor benefit and the Book Fair run at Murray Ave. School's Science Fair, SEPTA was able to fund several grants that will benefit and enrich the school life of special ed students and many general ed students, too. To acknowledge the dedication, hard work, and creativity of this year's grant recipients, SEPTA held a ceremony on April 16th at the Hommocks Library. These are the exciting projects:

Literacy:

Central: Jennifer Weisner and Alexis Longhitano will purchase high-interest, low readability texts so that lower-level readers in 4th and 5th grade can access interesting reading material. Some of the titles include: Incredible Space, Extinct Monsters!, and Behind the Moves!

MAS: Patricia Bevilacqua (Level 1)
MAS: Janice Lancia (Level 2)
The teachers in the 3/4/5 self-contained class serving students with severe cognitive delays will purchase Edmark, a reading program for developmentally delayed students. The program uses a sight-word approach, which is more appropriate for these students than the balanced literacy reading instructional program used in the district.

Speech and Language:

MAS: Susanna Franco, Michelle Pinkas, Donna Carella and Angela Fazzolari
Murray: Marge Gasthalter and Leslie Goldschmid
The speech and language therapists will purchase articulation and motor speech disorders materials for children with speech intelligibility issues in the elementary school. These materials will help improve intelligibility, communication skills and pragmatic use of language with students who exhibit speech impairments.

Technology/Art:

Chatsworth: Rachel Morse and Jodie Scozzafava will purchase a flip camera and a portable high-resolution audio recorder so they can capture co-teaching moments in their 4th grade classroom. Also, students can record their learning as an alternative to writing when appropriate, and directions and reminders can be recorded for students who benefit from multi-sensory learning experiences.

MHS: Lindsay Foster and Karen Gatto will enlarge and frame photos that the 12th grade self-contained English class has taken of students with disabilities interacting with non-classified students within the school district. The pictures will be displayed in the Student Support Services conference room.