

Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant Recipients Update for March 3, 2022 CWZ Meeting

The 2021 Hudson-Kramer grant was awarded to science teachers Mary Coolbaugh and Jonathan Pragle from Marcus Whitman High School. Their grant money will be used to purchase an electric steam finisher and bottler that will allow maple syrup to be brought to the appropriate temperature before bottling immediately. This is one piece of the overall goal of the science department is to have a maple syrup facility at the school.

Presently, Mary and Jonathan have been working with the Head of Buildings and Grounds to get the sugar house blueprint approved. The blueprint is waiting approval by State Ed. They are hoping to begin building in the spring. The students will be tapping trees on and off the school campus. For this season, they will still be using the hobby style evaporator and canner.

The 2019 Hudson-Kramer recipient was Cal-Mum elementary school librarian Mary Burns. The grant was for Dash Robots to be used in the library with all elementary students. Mary did begin to use the Dash robots during the 2019-2020 school year prior to schools being closed due to COVID. Last school year, 2020-2021, Mary was a "push cart" librarian, and she was not able to use the robots. This school year, 2021-2022, there have still been some COVID limitations, however she has been able to design and present lessons and units in the library. Beginning in November, Dash has been an important part of the integration of Computer Science and coding activities in the library. Students in grades 3-5 have been learning block coding which enables Dash to perform tasks they design. Now, Mary is working with grades K-2. The robots have taught students to break large problems down, troubleshoot issues with their peers, and solve challenging problems.

The first Hudson-Kramer grant recipient in 2017, was Kyle Inda from Naples Elementary School. The grant provided a shade sail to be installed in the inner courtyard at the school to provide shade or protection from inclement weather for whole class instruction. The courtyard was under utilized, but it was being transformed into an outdoor classroom with multiple uses for a variety of campus gardens, the study of habitats, plants and trees. The courtyard project was both a school and community project. The courtyard continues to be used be all at the elementary school.

The **next Hudson-Kramer grant will be available in 2023**. Applications will be mailed by the end of January with the due date in either April or May. The grant is for \$1,000, provided by RENY and will be for the 2023-2024 school year.

It has been a pleasure to read many innovative grant proposals from educators. Thank you to the grant readers Jane Behnk, Betty Pilato, Sharon Croucher, and Joan Irwin who have read and ranked the grant applications before agreeing on the winning application. Thank you, also, to anyone who has helped to publicize and promote this grant opportunity.

Sandy Kushner