



The Dream Flag Project

"Bring me all your dreams you dreamers." –Langston Hughes

Expanding the Dream: A Dream Flag Project Teacher Workshop

- *School Connections*
- *District Connections*
- *Community Connections*
- *Technology*

Dream Flag Project

Timeline

End of March

- A cart of art supplies that can be used for the flags will be available. During art classes, Victoria will also be sharing possible suggestions for the students as they begin to think about designing their flags.
- Cathy Kaufman will have library resources available for poetry, dreams, and Langston Hughes.
- HSA will begin distributing fabric for flags to all classrooms.
 - Each grade level will have HSA representatives to assist teachers/students in putting completed flags together on rope.

April

April is National Poetry Month

*We return back from Spring Break on Monday, April 9th.

- _____ will be organizing morning announcements for poetry during the whole month. Please contact her if your class or an individual from your class wants to share their poetry or a favorite poet's work.
- Make the dream flags- we want this to be an enjoyable experience for you and your students. Have fun! All flags should be completed by Wednesday, April 18th.
- Send any photos of your class working on the project to Jason Jordan.
- Children's Garden-Friday, April 20th, 2007- children will share/read poems.
- Some flags will be sent to the Kimmel Center on Friday, April 20th (after the Children's Garden).
- Some flags will be sent to CHOP and to the Township Building. Any other suggestions of where to send them?

Dream Flag Connection

Friday, April 20th

Each class lines up in the hallway holding their flag line. Students at the ends tie their flag to the next line

10:00	Kindergarten connects to First Grade	First Grade Hallway
10:30	Fourth Grade connects to Fifth Grade	Fourth and Fifth Grade Hallway
11:30	Second Grade connects to Third Grade	Third Grade Hallway

Student Council (I would guess about 6 student council members at each session)

- collect connected flags at above times,
- take to next connection, then
- bring to office to be displayed outside

2:15 Children's Garden - *Poet-trees Display, Dream Flag song*

April 10, 2007

Dear Parents,

In recent weeks, your children have been participating in The Dream Flag Project, a multi-school project that allows our students to describe their hopes and dreams in a poem and turn that poem into a Dream Flag, which is connected to all the Dream Flags we create. There are more than 11,000 students across the country doing this with us, so our students get to be part of a very wide community of dreamers.

Coming up soon is our **2007 Dream Flag Celebration at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center**, the culminating event for this year's Dream Flag Project. More than 30 Delaware Valley schools participating will send representative poets to read their poems and will display all of the flags they have created. It is an event you don't want to miss. We will literally wrap the entire atrium of the Kimmel Center in thousands of Dream Flags and fill it with poetry, music, and hope. After that day, many of the flags will be exhibited at area hospitals and public places.

We hope many of our school families can join this celebration and cheer on our readers. We need as many students as possible to proudly display our beautiful flags! **The celebration at the Kimmel Center is open to the public and free, so you can invite friends and family to come as well.**

Important Details:
2007 Dream Flag Celebration

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Broad and Spruce Streets
<http://www.dreamflags.org/>

Saturday, April 21, 2007. Arrive by 11:30 am. Program Time: 12:00-1:30 pm.

Every student may attend if she/he is accompanied by a responsible adult. *This is not a school-chaperoned event.* Adults are responsible for chaperoning all students they bring for the duration of the event. All members of the school community are invited.

Yours Dreaming,

Ms. Vietri

Ms. Oelkers

Ms. Kaufman

Ms. McFarland

Interschool Council Mini-Grant Program Applications for School Year 2006-2007

January 2006

Dear Teacher:

Thank you for your interest in the Interschool Council Mini-Grant Program!

Interschool Council is the largest parent organization in the Lower Merion School District, representing the interests of parents in every school, at every educational level, throughout Lower Merion. One of our most important activities is our Mini-Grant program, funded by contributions from each Home and School Association in the district. Each year grants are awarded to teachers at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. This year, the generosity of the HSAs enables us to offer a significant amount of grant money to teachers. Grant applications are reviewed each year by an independent panel of parent volunteers, under the direction of the Interschool Council.

As you consider a project that might be funded with an ISC mini grant, please observe the following guidelines for your proposal:

- Our goal is to support creative and innovative approaches to teaching.
- Because we try to support a number of proposals, each proposal may be fully or partially funded. (We encourage the HSAs to offer financial support, especially if your proposal is for an all school event.)
- Projects or events potentially funded by school district curriculum funds or grants will not be considered.
- Electronic or other equipment that should be provided for by the school district will not be considered.
- High school senior projects are not eligible for mini grant funds.
- Projects funded in the previous school year can re-apply for funding up to three years in a row.
- Grant funds must be used during the year awarded by June 30, 2007.

Included in this packet is the 2006-2007 ISC Mini-Grant application. We have also enclosed sample applications that have been awarded full or partial grants in previous years. Should you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Lynne Breslau at 610-896-2435 or straus@comcast.net.

We appreciate your interest, and we look forward to your application! **All applications are due to Interschool Council on or before March 28, 2006.**

Sincerely,

Abby Phillipson and Bunny Levyn
ISC Co-Presidents

Lynne Breslau
ISC Vice President for Mini-Grants

INTERSCHOOL COUNCIL MINI-GRANT APPLICATION SCHOOL YEAR 2006-2007

This completed application is due to the Interschool Council mail box in the Central Administration mail room on or before March 28, 2006.

The application can also be emailed to Lynne Breslau at straus@comcast.net.

I. General Information

Name of teacher(s) applying:

Mary Pat McFarland, Erin Oelkers, Cathy Kaufman, Tara Hoffmayer, Lauren Friel, Meghan Brolly, Margie Caplan, Edie Lewis, Marie Martin

Email address(es):

mcfarlm@lmsd.org, oelker@lmsd.org, kaufmac@lmsd.org,
hoffmat@lmsd.org, friell@lmsd.org, brollym@lmsd.org,
caplanm@lmsd.org, lewise@lmsd.org, martinm@lmsd.org

Name of school(s):

Belmont Hills Elementary, Penn Valley Elementary, Cynwyd Elementary, Merion Elementary, Penn Wynne Elementary, Gladwyne Elementary

Name of project:

Dream Flags Project

Subject area(s):

Language Arts, Social Studies, Science

Grade level(s):
K-5

Number of students to be served:
Approximately 3000

II. Proposal

(Use additional pages, if necessary, up to a maximum of three. Please use 12 point type.)

Describe the fundamental idea that forms the basis for your proposal, or the need your proposal addresses.

Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood - T.S. Eliot

*The Dream Keeper
Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers,
Bring me all of your heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world*

--Langston Hughes

This idea, that poetry is a way that students may communicate their ideas, feelings, and dreams, is the underlying premise of this mini-grant. By becoming members of the **Dream Flag Project**, Belmont Hills students can share their dreams with students from the Philadelphia region, other states, and even worldwide.

In addition, the tenets of the Dream Flag Project: Dream-Create-Connect-Share reflects our mission statement for Lower Merion School District students. Each flag and each dream is

equal and significant. The **Dream Flag Project** will offer both students and teachers guidance and motivation during National Poetry Month. Information can be found on the **Dream Flag Project website, www.dreamflags.org**.

Describe the objectives and the anticipated benefits for the students targeted by this proposal.

The objectives are

- For students to listen to and read Langston Hughes and other poets and for these poets to become "mentors" for students' own poetry writing
- For students to recognize different poetic forms
- For students to listen to, read, and write figurative language
- For students to create Dream Flags with original poetry
- For students to share their poetry with students in other schools, both urban and suburban

In what way does this project employ innovative teaching approaches, techniques or methodologies?

This project would provide an opportunity to offer differentiated instruction in language arts. In addition, it is a collaborative venture across grade levels in all elementary schools and among diverse school communities. This project would allow Lower Merion School District Elementary students to share their ideas and work in a forum like the Kimmel Center where poets from many schools will recite their dream poems. Even the flags themselves are a unique, multi-sensory way to write and share ideas.

What additional resources or support services will be required for your project (maintenance assistance, computer time)?

none

What is the anticipated timetable for this project?

The **Dream Flag Project** will begin in March 2008, and continue through April 2008.

(National Poetry Month).

What mechanisms or evaluations will you use to demonstrate that the proposed objectives have been met?

Students' dream flags will be evaluated by a rubric. Students who view the dream flags will be asked to reflect in a journal. We will create a photo journal at the Kimmel center and record students' poetry in a podcast that can be shared among all elementary schools.

III. Funding

Funds requested: \$ 600

Please provide a detailed budget for your project:

Fabric - \$400

Fabric Markers - \$ 150

Clothesline - \$ 50