

Teachers get Bell Grants for projects

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MUNCIE — The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County recently awarded Robert P. Bell Education Grants to local [teachers](#)

[for](#) creative classroom projects related to history, reading, science and superheroes.

Nine grants totaling \$2,440 were given to help teachers [fund](#)

[innovative](#) ideas, programs or classroom projects, according to a release from the foundation.

Bell Grant recipients for the fourth cycle of the 2013-14 program year and their projects are:

- Kris Berry, Yorktown Elementary School, \$390 to allow students to [learn](#)

[about](#) pioneer life in Indiana. The fourth-grade teachers have planned a two-week unit that will explore square dancing, tin punching, basket weaving, tops competition, butter making, soap carving and wagon packing for a trip to the West. Coupled with a trip to the Corinth schoolhouse in Cowan and a pioneer lunch in Morrow's Meadow, the activities will help students identify and compare early Indiana living to modern life.

- Anne Wuthrich, South View [Elementary School](#)

[, \\$362](#) for kindergarten students to experience a multi-sensory approach to learning the alphabet.

[Participating](#) in the "Edible Alphabet" program, students will meet a zoo phonics animal each day and learn the letter and its sound. They will then create the animal and practice saying its sound. Each day, teachers will tell stories that highlight the letter, and students will think up words that start with it. Finally, the students will eat a healthy snack each day that starts with the letter.

- Lisa Eckerty, Sutton Elementary School, \$101 to allow first-graders to create their own books. Students will study the works of creative author and illustrator David Shannon. The students will explore the author's characters, writing style and illustrations, and then make a personal connection between their own lives and the those of the author and his characters. Students will then plan, write, revise and publish their own stories in a hardcover book.

- Candace Smithson, Cowan Junior-Senior High School, \$153 to [help](#)

[seventh-grade](#) science students understand how plant and animal cells work. Students will draw each cell with detailed structure on specialized plastic sheets. They will compare and contrast the plant and animal cells, examining the functions of each structure. The plastic sheets will then be baked in an oven, shrinking them to one-third their original size, so that students may attach a key ring and hang onto their cellular sketches as a keepsake.

- Pamela Stults, East Washington Academy, \$68 for fourth-grade students to study symbolism in literature by reading and discussing "A Bouquet of Wild Flowers" by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The [classroom](#)

discussions will focus on what each species of flower symbolizes for the author and if any particular flowers mean something special for the students. The students will then create a wreath of flowers that is meaningful to them. They will share their wreaths and explain the symbolic meanings behind their choices.

- Bethany Clegg, Burris Laboratory School, \$450 for elementary school students (grades K-5) to experience a cross-curriculum unit that will help them understand how the body moves. Incorporating science, health and physical [education](#)

, the teachers will help students discover how different muscles and bones help the body perform different activities. Based on their grade level, students will learn about the jobs different muscles, bones and organs perform, healthy habits and how to properly exercise so that they can target specific muscles and avoid injury. This unit is designed to help children understand the connection between exercise and their body systems.

- Becky Juday, East Washington Academy, \$450 for fifth-graders to study the effects that microgravity has on astronauts by making connections to how microgravity affects people riding roller coasters. Students will use K'NEX blocks to build a pre-determined roller coaster, and then design their own rides with a partner. They will study motion, velocity, force and more to decide if their rides could feasibly be built. Students will then compare what people [experience](#)

on a roller coaster with what astronauts experience when journeying into space.

- Lisa Jackson, East Washington Academy, \$252 for fifth-grade ELP students to explore the theme of superheroes. Students will research heroes of the past, present and future. When focusing on heroes of the past, students will generate a list of facts and a bust drawing of the hero. To examine heroes of today, the students will work with Muncie Fire Department to help with Safe Station program, which allows any adult or child to go get help at their local fire station. Students will hold a fundraiser for MFD as a part of the unit. Finally, students will have the opportunity to create their own alter-ego superheroes and accompanying comic book.

- Ami Brown, Cowan Junior-Senior High, \$214 to allow eighth-grade students to investigate and react to the idea of responsibility. Using fiction and non-fiction readings, students will explore responsibility as it relates to oneself and to others. Students will then create either a book or a mural that reflects their thoughts on self-esteem and its importance in accepting one's identity or the identity of others.

The deadline for the next round of Robert P. Bell Education Grants is Oct. 1. Applications are available online and can be prepared and completed in minutes. Bell Grants in the range of \$50-\$450 are awarded to teachers with innovative ideas, programs or projects designed to stimulate [learning](#)

in their students.

Information: Suzanne Kadinger, vice president of the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, skadinger@cfmdin.org or www.cfmdin.org.