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**ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDS MINI-GRANTS**  
**Four teachers get \$500 grants to further learning opportunities**

FORD CITY – For the first time in its four-year history, the Armstrong School District Foundation has awarded mini-grants to teachers to encourage innovative learning.

Four teachers won \$500 mini-grants, with one winner from each of the four attendance areas of the school district. The following classroom projects will hit full swing sometime in October:

Elderton attendance area: **Lucinda Morgan**, Kittanning Township Elementary School. She is planning an American history magnet puzzle project to benefit at least 60 fifth- and sixth-grade students in her social studies classes. Large photos of famous events in history, such as Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, will be transferred onto sturdy magnetic paper, then carved into puzzle pieces. When students answer questions correctly, they get one magnetic piece of the puzzle to place on a metal board. With each correct answer, history will take shape before their eyes.

Ford City attendance area: **Joan Moore**, Lenape Elementary School. Nearly 60 extended-day kindergarten students will see how math and literature concepts are used in everyday life. The grant will buy books with math concepts for every letter of the alphabet. Math activities will coordinate with the Letter People, a program that introduces students to 26 inflatable characters (one for each letter of the alphabet). There will also be fun, hands-on activities to do at home.

Kittanning attendance area: **Nancy Jack**, East Franklin Elementary School. Her project will challenge her 20 first-grade students to master basic math facts. The grant will buy 22 hand-held electronic games called the Educational Insights Math Whiz which will drill students on their mental adding and subtracting abilities. The game provides instant feedback with happy and sad faces, repeats incorrectly answered problems for extra practice and can be programmed for individual ability. It can also be taken home to challenge other family members.

West Shamokin attendance area: **Karen Simcik**, West Shamokin Jr-Sr High School. Between 40 and 50 learning support students in grades 7-12 will embark on a disposable camera writing project. Throughout the year, students will use disposable cameras to take photographs tied into writing assignments. These photos will help students find more of a personal reason to express themselves through writing. In turn, they will practice mechanics and master the four-step writing process. Student work will be compiled into a binder of photos and stories to take home.

The district plans to chronicle the classroom innovations that these grants are enabling on an upcoming TV episode of "Education Today." This episode is tentatively set to air during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1, 2006) on Channel 20 Adelphia, WIUP-TV.

Some 17 teachers applied for mini-grants. The foundation's trustees chose the four winners using a five-point scale that matched criteria listed in grant applications. In future years, the foundation hopes to either increase the number or size of the grants.

The non-profit Armstrong School District Foundation exists to expand opportunities for Armstrong School District students. It was incorporated in December, 2001 as a 501c(3) non-profit organization. For more information, click on the ASD Foundation graphic on the Armstrong School District Web site ([www.asd.k12.pa.us](http://www.asd.k12.pa.us)).

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