

LUNENBURG PTO REQUEST FOR FUNDING

APPLICATION MUST BE TYPED

?? Please type your responses below and email it to: administrator@lunenburgpto.org
 ?? Applications will be accepted between 12/23/09 and 1/22/2010

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: Grade 5 Team

Position: Classroom Teachers

School: T. C. Passios

Contact Phone Number: 978-582-4105

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Project Loosetrife

Amount Requested \$ 500

Project Start/End Dates: September 2010 – June 2011

1. Project Description: Summarize the proposed project in the space provided. Describe who is the target audience; what will happen; when and where it will occur; and how the project will be executed. NOTE: You may provide additional narrative on a separate sheet of paper, but you *must* summarize the project here. Your answer in the space below may not exceed 750 characters.

Grade 5 students will document the amount of purple loosetrife (Massachusetts DEP identified invasive species) present in a target area at beginning of the school year by physically counting stems in designated plots (Horse Meadow and/ or school yard). After recording the numbers of loosetrife present, students perform a task to control the loosetrife (pulling, cutting, or release of beetles). A control group where no intervention is performed is also included. Students also study and identify at the sites other invasive plant species including autumn olive, oriental bittersweet and multiflora rose. Results are tabulated and graphed and other areas of concern are located on a local map. Students research other invasive plants found elsewhere in Massachusetts, ways communities combat the species and then return in the spring to record results of their own interventions on the local loosetrife.

2. Describe the planning process for this project. What individuals and organizations have been involved as partners and/or advisors? How would partial funding impact this project? Your answer in the space below may not exceed 500 characters.

This year we have been fortunate enough to have benefitted from a grant given by the US EPA to the Nashua River Watershed to teach our fifth graders about invasive plant species and grass (no pun intended) root action to control such species. Funding is for one year and we would like to continue to offer this wonderful learning experience to next year's fifth graders. While we would still be able to implement some of this project without funding (we can work in our own school yard), it would be nice to purchase some software to help us organize, sort and graph our data more quickly. We would also like to hire our Nashua River Watershed consultant to show the students the impact of loosetrife on the watershed as well as other watershed issues. Depending on funding, bussing is a safer route than walking to Horse Meadow and partial funding might impact transportation choices, but would not impact us proceeding with some of the activities.

3. Explain how this project will reach and benefit the students of your school. How will you know the project is successful? Your answer in the space below may not exceed 500 characters.

This project provides an authentic learning experience for the students in grade 5. The students are the environmentalists and their actions have reactions in the environment. Although we haven't finished this year's project, we already consider it a success because of the enthusiasm and interest it has generated in the children for the local environmental conditions. If we see successful reduction in the numbers of loosetrife, I think the students will feel empowered to take action in other ways in their lives.

Lynn N. Major

Grade 5 Teacher

January 22, 2010

Signature-Type Name Here

Title

Date

FOR PTO USE

SUBMITTED BY DEADLINE ___ yes ___ no

\$ _____
Amount Approved

Signature of PTO Representative

Title

Date