

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southington Education Foundation

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The Southington Education Foundation will award South End Elementary School teacher Paula Gorham a grant at its upcoming Grant Reception for her kindergarten program titled: *An Interactive Storytelling Experience*.

South End's youngest learners will have the opportunity to use multimedia, materials and props as they retell or relive the stories in their favorite books based on their own real-life experiences. Students will utilize a digital storytelling program, Pixie, and storytelling props as they develop their use language as it relates to storytelling.

"My students enter the classroom at the beginning of the school year with many different experiences with literature," explained Gorham. "As their teacher, it is my responsibility to identify what they know and help them grow as readers. Instilling a love of books and the stories that they hold is the first step in raising readers."

Gorham further noted that she intends to have her students perform and retell some of the stories for other South End classes. "They will act out scenes, draw pictures and create digital stories. We will meet with the intermediate students during our book buddies program and at that time the students will retell their stories using our new materials."

The Southington Education Foundation will award nearly \$6,000 in grant funding to five different teachers at its June 12 Grant Reception at Kennedy Middle School

at 4 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the six programs being funded during this round of grants. Other schools receiving grants are Plantsville, Kelley and Derynoski Elementary Schools and Kennedy and DePaolo Middle Schools.

This is Gorham's second grant. During the SEF's last round of grant funding during the start of the 2012-2013 school year, Gorham received funding for a pilot program at South End and Kelley Elementary Schools titled *Countdown to Kindergarten*. That initiative aids families of incoming kindergartners in preparing them for the rigorous kindergarten curriculum by providing a "bag of tools" for families to use in the months between kindergarten registration and the first days of school.

To date, the Southington Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$100,000 to Southington Public Schools, which have all benefited from the SEF's mission to instill a love of learning in students. To support the SEF, please like our Facebook page, visit [www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org](http://www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org) or consider joining the organization's Board At Large.