



GRANT UPDATE

JANUARY 28, 2013

iHoot News Spreads Its Wings

Alicia and Sophia fourth-grade students in the Sol Feinstone Elementary **iHoot News Club**, could not wait for this school year to begin. "Other kids told me all about it last year, and I was so excited to join this year," Sophia said. "It is so much fun to interview people, and figure out what to ask." Adds Alicia, "We got to interview Eric Kimmel when he visited our school; I would never have had the chance to meet this author if I were not in iHoot."

The excitement and "cool" factor of participating in iHoot news is palpable in one of the group's meetings, which take place weekly in Mrs. Nancy Durkin's 4th grade classroom. While one group of students is busy working up a story lead, another is rehearsing the actual newscast. Cole, cameraman for the day who diligently worked with the "anchors" in rehearsing their stories, enjoys the autonomy of operating the camera on his own. "The camera is easy to operate, and later everyone in the school gets to see [the video] - this is fun!"

Mrs. Durkin said the goal is for students to produce one program per marking period, and the broadcasts are linked to the school's webpage. CREF funding allowed for the purchase of video cameras and equipment, and the MovieMaker program for editing.

Because social interaction, reading and writing skills are strengthened, iHoot News Club supports academic standards and curricular goals for a broad range of students.



Strategies such as videotaping, editing, interview and planning are learned, and students extend their reading, writing, and communication skills in creating newscasts. Content includes information on classroom, school-wide, district and PTO events, and interviews of interesting teachers and visitors.

Mrs. Durkin is thrilled to be able to provide the iHoot experience for students because it offers an opportunity to practice technology skills while creating something informative and relevant for the Sol Feinstone community. "iHoot allows students to express themselves through media, technology, and best of all, have fun doing it."

