



massculturalcouncil.org

Acton Public Schools

For Immediate Release

May, 2009

The Acton Public Schools is proud to announce that it is the recipient of a Creative Schools Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. This grant is supporting a two-year teacher-training program for sixth grade teachers in Acton and in Boxborough. Teachers will work with Kimberly Connors-Hughes, Acton resident and archaeologist/educator, for a total of six classes over a two-year period. The goal of the program is two-fold: to introduce teachers to the science and art of archaeology by working with a practicing artist/scientist; and to enhance the teachers' understanding of the latest research in the archaeology of ancient civilizations.

On January 14, Sixth grade teachers from all the elementary schools in Acton and Boxborough gathered at the Blanchard School to participate in the second of this series of Archaeology classes. Classes include both lecture and exploratory activities. This program focused their attention on cultural comparisons between the Neolithic (early agrarian societies in the Middle East) Egyptian, Roman, and Mayan civilizations.

Ms. Connors-Hughes has also worked with several sixth grade classes in Acton; setting up simulated archaeological digs and helping students understand the process or archaeology. The third workshop of the series will take place in May and focused on Greece and Rome.

We are looking forward to the continuation of this program during the 2009-2010 school year.