Grant Year 2025-2025
NRMS Exhibits

Project 1 Title: Gifts of Land: Cooking Projects from the Local Environment
Leader(s): Susannah Remillard
Students: 112 students in Earthkeepers classes
Cost: $3,200
Timeline: September 2025—June 2026
Description: Kitty Hendricks and Eslpeth Hay will each make two visits during each of the four terms to lead students in cooking classes using locally-sourced natural foods such as acorns, corn, and strawberries. These eight classroom demonstrations will enhance the weekly cooking lessons that are an ongoing focus of the Earthkeepers course. Each weekly Earthkeepers lesson focuses on fresh ingredients that reflect the local landscape, such as colonial fish cakes after a visit to the herring run. The rationale is to get students into the kitchen and cooking from scratch, making connections between the abundant natural resources that are all around us, including the history of plant and animal use in this region and threats due to climate and ecosystem degradation.

Project 2 Title: Shellabration, The Story of an Oyster Reef
Leader(s): Heidi Filmer
Students: all 7th and 8th grade art students (approximately 160)
Cost: $2151
Timeline: September 2025—June 2026
Description: The purpose is for students to raise awareness and educate the public on the importance of safe-guarding our coastlines and oyster reefs through creative expression. This project will create a permanent display within the school of an interactive ceramic oyster reef that provides information about oysters. Students will engage in various activities to learn about oysters and their purpose in nutrient cycling or filtering and cleaning our waters, as well as nutrient pollution. Jake Puffer from Wellfleet Oyster and Clam Company and Jennifer Mullin from Scorton Creek Oyster Company have volunteered to teach students about oyster conservation. ELA teachers Kristi Mack, Jaqueline Puffer, and Patricia Warren will collaborate on the written aspects of the display, and students will create press molds from plaster to create the ceramic display. To accommodate the school schedule having four quarters with a change in student body each term, the project will be completed in phases throughout the year.

Project 3 Title: Healing Plants from Nauset Land
Leader(s): Rand Burkert
Students: 6th and 8th grade Greenhouse students (approximately 160)
Cost: $4000
Timeline: April 2025—June 2026
Description: This project is to complement and expand the scope of last year's approved application to create a dedicated garden space to learn about Wampanoag agricultural traditions on the Middle School Campus, in the area dedicated to Wetu construction in spring 2024.

Carol Wynne, Mashpee Wampanoag Culture Keeper and Otter Clan Mother will make six classroom visits during the two spring terms this year and the fall term next school year. She will teach how specific plants are viewed and used within Wampanoag traditions and beliefs and leave students a list of plants that they will research and use to create a slideshow before Carol's second visit each term. Carol will respond to questions in the slideshow; her answers will help students plan and design a new garden adjacent to the soon-to-be-built wetu on school grounds. Carol will provide guidance on planting and continuing care of the garden spaces, consistent with Wampanoag knowledge and worldview.

Project 4 Title: Predators in Peril: Rodenticide's Ripple Effect
Leader(s): Leslie Pirtle
Students: 6th grade students (approximately 100)
Cost: $2,400
Timeline: January 2026—June 2026
Description: WildCare will visit at the beginning of both terms to present to the students about the effects of rodenticide. Students then will conduct research on rodenticides by surveying and interviewing wildlife rescuers/advocates, pesticide companies, veterinarians, homeowners, landlords, apartment and homeowner associations, and businesses that sell rodenticides over the counter. They will gather data to determine how widely the rat poison Cholecalciferol is available on the Cape and the public's understanding of its impact. Using their research, students will create PSAs with the help of Lower Cape TV and WOMR.