

## WEF DOLLARS AT WORK

Congratulations to Shauna Galante, Enrichment Coordinator at the Dolbeare School. Wakefield Educational Foundation (WEF) recently awarded her funding to host the Traveling Museum of Science for students.

First graders participated in the Engineering Bridges Workshop, a 50 minute workshop that combines literature and engineering activities. The dilemma presented is two friends have an engineering problem and need to build a bridge over a river that separates them. The children are then challenged to prototype simple bridges over a model river using wood blocks. Students test their bridges using character models then continue to improve on their design. The children learn how arch bridges work, build a full size one of their own and ultimately test it by walking over it themselves.

Fourth graders participated in the Geology – Rock Detectives Workshop, a 60 minute workshop that gives students context-rich practice with identifying small rock samples and interpreting the larger geologic picture. Following a review of rock formation processes, students are challenged to identify how a rock wall was formed. Each group receives samples from a different portion of the rock wall and takes their mystery rocks around six field stations. Each station is used to evaluate a specific characteristic such as hardness, grain size, reactivity with acid and others. Major goals are for the students to use scientific tools like microscopes, hand lenses and safety glasses. They also practice important science process skills like observation, data collection/analysis and sharing results. The program culminates with students analyzing data and predicting their rocks identity.



Pictured are some first and fourth grade Dolbeare students who participated in this program last fall.