

MIDDLESEX SCHOOL

Course on nonprofits comes to end with check presentation

During a morning assembly at Middlesex School on May 7, the student participants in this spring's Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) program presented four checks to local nonprofit organizations as the culmination of their semester-long experience in learning about the structure, function, and funding of nonprofits.

The YIP program is conducted through the Foundation for MetroWest, which annually grants \$10,000 apiece to Middlesex and four other local schools; this money, augmented by funds earned by the students, is then donated to local nonprofit organizations that serve young people in Boston's MetroWest area. The 22 Middlesex juniors in the program met on Tuesday evenings throughout the semester to learn about effective philanthropy and how to read and analyze grant proposals. After selecting four finalists from a pool of grant applications, they made site visits to each nonprofit organization and then spent several meetings deciding how to allocate the available funds.

In addition to the original \$10,000 from the Foundation, Middlesex participants raised \$1,100 by sell-

ing "study break baskets" for an exam week and running a concession stand during a campus event. In the end, the group's \$11,100 total was divided among four organizations, including Land's Sake, which combines ecologically sound land management practices with hands-on environmental education to model how public open space can be used and enjoyed by the community; Minuteman Arc, which offers programs and services to children and adults with disabilities; the John Andrew Mazie Memorial Foundation, a mentoring program for at-risk high school students; and the Boys and Girls Club of

Assabet Valley, which provides after-school programs for young students. Over the years, the Foundation for MetroWest has made it possible for dozens of Middlesex students to benefit from the YIP program, fulfilling its mission of connecting philanthropic opportunity with demonstrated need in the MetroWest region. The Foundation promotes philanthropy in the region, helps donors maximize the impact of their local giving, serves as a resource for local nonprofit organizations, and enhances the quality of life for all of our citizens. For more information, visit www.FoundationforMetroWest.org.



Student participants in the Youth in Philanthropy program at Middlesex School present donation checks to several local nonprofits. COURTESY PHOTO

