

27 Massachusetts Avenue
Harvard, MA 01451

August 1, 2003

Harvard Schools Trust
P.O. Box 450
Harvard, MA 01451-0450

Dear Harvard Schools Trustees:

We would like to thank you for your generous grant to support our work in developing our second grade local studies curriculum. You have enabled us to begin the process of purchasing books and other resource materials to use in our classrooms as we teach about the Shakers and other aspects of Harvard history. We are taking advantage of the slower pace of summer to visit museums, research a number of different topics, talk with local people, and design the curriculum together. Ideas from teachers in other school systems have surfaced, as we inevitably talk with our friends and colleagues about this project.

It is clear that we are entering a study that is deep, rich, and very interesting. We know this will be an ongoing process of uncovering unexplored resources around every corner. What we hope to offer to the project is our ability to make the history accessible and relevant to the children, while developing their social studies skills, their understanding of key concepts, and their sense of belonging to their community.

We will keep you informed and share with you the fruits of our labors, when we have the first phase of material organized and ready for use in the classroom next spring. We welcome suggestions and leads on resources, stories, places, and people who might be helpful to us.

Thank you for your support and hard work!

Sincerely,

Lisa, Joan, Jan

Lisa Hopkins
Joan Marchant
Janet Woodward