



Rockland Education Foundation

Winter 2008

Dear Friend,

Each October, teachers and administrators submit grant proposals to the Rockland Education Foundation for consideration, and those chosen for funding are awarded in November. As of this writing, over \$200,000.00 has been distributed to the staff of the Rockland Public Schools since the Rockland Education Foundation began their grant program more than ten years ago. We invite you to take a peek inside. The Rockland Education Foundation is proud to be able to show you a sampling of what has been happening in our schools. We guarantee you will be as impressed as we are with the wonderful programs that were offered to our students.

The Rockland Education Foundation depends on people like you to make these grant awards possible. If you would like to contribute and support the children of the Rockland Public Schools, there are a variety of ways to do so:

- **COMMUNITY DONATIONS** are received by filling out and mailing in the back page of this brochure.
- **CENTURY CLUB MEMBERS** pledge \$100 annually. The Century Club accepts donations throughout the year, and a considerable number of participants are Rockland High School alumni who have chosen to give back to their community.
- **A GOLF TOURNAMENT** is held annually in which over 125 people may participate. This past July it was held at the Ridder Country Club in East Bridgewater, MA. The tournament this year is also scheduled at Ridder's on June 30, 2008. Visit our website for more details.

C.S.I. Rockland?



These Rockland High School Students unravel the mysteries of DNA through "Biotechnology in the Classroom".

www.rocklandeducationfoundation.org

Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Nature and the Arts – all of these disciplines were enhanced in the classroom through new and exciting programs and technologies. Take a moment and look inside and see what the Rockland Education Foundation has been able to provide to students of the Rockland Public Schools.

All of your contributions are tax-deductible.

Thanks from **THE ROCKLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION COMMITTEE:**

Jim Bailey, Paul Cusick, DeDe Donegan, Robert George, Janet LaCombe, Scott MacKinlay, Bill McDonnell, Jack McGrath, Kim Nelson, Andy Owen, Richard Phelps and Regina Quirk.

CHARTER FOUNDATION SUBSCRIBERS

The following group of people, committed to the education of the students of the Rockland Public Schools, contributed \$1,000 each towards the establishment of an endowment fund to form the Rockland Education Foundation. Their donations, in conjunction with monies raised each year, will enable the Foundation to award grants to deserving teachers and administrators for years to come.

Dr. Paul Chew
Robert Ellis, Jr.
Fairmount Printing, Inc.
The Home Depot
Sally & Scott MacKinlay
Magoun-Biggins Funeral Home
Carol & Jack McGrath
Dr. Thomas Najarian
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GOLF CORPORATE SPONSORS

A. W. Perry, Inc.
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BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Rockland Education Foundation would like to thank the following business sponsors for their generous contributions this past year:

PLATINUM CONTRIBUTORS - \$2,000+

Bob Sullivan Memorial Foundation - Sullivan Tire Company
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GOLD CONTRIBUTORS - \$1,000

A. W. Perry, Inc.
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COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Our thanks to all of you who contributed throughout the community upon receipt of last year's brochure. Your generous donations were greatly appreciated.

CENTURY CLUB MEMBERS

The Century Club consists of people who have generously pledged \$100 annually to help fund grants to teachers and administrators of the Rockland Public Schools. The list is comprised of former Rockland High School students, past and present teachers, administrators, past and present Rockland residents, and friends of the Rockland Public Schools.

Class of 1933 - Frederick & Bertha Carey
Dominic R. & Marie Tedeschi
Class of 1935 - Eta Fitzgibbons
Class of 1938 - William Roberts
Class of 1941 - Elizabeth (Fitzgerald) Roberts
Class of 1946 - Fred & Jane Clark
Class of 1949 - Mary (Chenevert) Ellis
Class of 1955 - Leo Wright
Class of 1958 - Richard Evans
Richard Phelps
Mona Wright

Class of 1959 - Ann (Delorey) Phelps
Class of 1962 - Charles Rubino
Maureen (Frazier) Lewis
Class of 1963 - Tony Gallagher
Ken Hennebury
Steve Hoss
Dean Tilden

Class of 1964 - Kenneth & Barbara Buchanan
Jeff Reale
Richard Lewis
John & Kay Spurr
Class of 1965 - Linda (Komando) Reale
Barbara (Kersey) Tilden
Stephen Osborne
Class of 1966 - Ron & Janet (Shea) LaCombe
Class of 1967 - Jack & Carol (Mencke) McGrath
James & Donna Bailey
Class of 1968 - Jim & Naomi Fitzgibbons
John Battista
Elizabeth (Tucker) Osborne

Class of 1971 - Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Botelho
Class of 1973 - Andrew & Sandra Owen
Class of 1975 - James & Kimberly (Butman) Partridge
Class of 1977 - Lisa (MacKinlay) Byrne
Class of 1981 - Janice (Kelliber) Austin
Walter Byrne
Class of 1982 - Richard & Patricia Penney

Class of 1983 - Eric Damon
Class of 1985 - Regina (Lewis) & Michael Quirk
Kimberly (Phelps) Nelson
Class of 1988 - Debra Hussey
Class of 1989 - Mark Burns
Class of 1992 - Holly Khachadorian-Elia
Class of 1995 - Jeffrey Roberts

Also:
Donald & Janet Cann
C. Patrick Cannon
John Cheney, Jr.
Christopher & Michelle Collins
Paul & Dominique Curtin
Dominic & Brenda DelPrete
Laurie Dupont
Steve & Claire Garvey
Diane Gresham
Kenneth & Cheryl Jasper
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kolaitis
Charles Lyons
Scott & Sally MacKinlay
Mr. & Mrs. Don R. Mann
William McDonnell
John & Linda Morgan
Douglas & Mary Philipsen
John & Judith Songdahl

Donations were also made in memory of:
Charles Brunke
Grace Carey
Lynn Cedrone
Alexander Clarke
Trueman W. Cook
David Hallisey
Kathi McDonnell
Margaret Shannon
Anne T. Shea
Albert Sprague

FROM DINOSAURS TO DIGITAL IMAGERY, ROCKLAND STUDENTS

With the help of many generous contributors, the Rockland Education Foundation continues to provide grant awards to teachers and administrators whose grants are chosen for funding. We are proud to share with you a glimpse into the classrooms of the Rockland Public Schools:

ADVENTURE AND EXPLORATION WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S EXPLORER MAGAZINE FOR KIDS

Diane Hayes, Melinda Learning, Patrick Runci, Edward Skarbek – Esten School

This grant award gave fourth grade students a view of the world with an individual subscription to National Geographic Explorer Magazine for Kids. This magazine combines developmental reading and writing instruction with engaging science, social studies and geography content. Articles cover an array of topics – wildlife, different cultures, the planets, space exploration, and the ocean, to name just a few. As always, articles are accompanied by breathtaking photography to compliment and enhance the learning experience. These magazines have provided the students with non-fiction literature at its best!

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Lawrence White – Rogers Middle School

Sixteen individual animals housed in a dozen environmentally-controlled, critter-friendly habitats reside in the seventh grade Life Science classroom. These animals represent ten different species from countries all over the world – eight of which are classified as "exotic" and are quite unique. This grant allowed for partial funding of supplies and equipment necessary to maintain this live animal science experience. It should be noted that use of animals in the classroom is consistent with the guidelines of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The National Science Foundation, and the National Association of Biology Teachers. According to Mr. White, "Observations of living organisms gives students a unique perspective of the life processes that are not provided by other modes of instruction. Interaction with live animals is a wonderful stimulus for all students and is a natural source of amazement and curiosity."



The past comes to life for this Esten School student through exposure to these fossilized dinosaur prints.

DINOSAURS AND FOSSILS SCIENCE UNIT

Kathleen Ferry – Esten School

This project consisted of two components. The first was an in-school presentation titled "Why We Study Rocks: A Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Presentation". Students learned about rock classification, formation of the continents, how fossils were formed, and what fossils are able to tell us. Museum replicas of a fossilized bird and a Velociraptor claw, a four inch prehistoric shark's tooth, and a 3 ft. X 4 ft. track plate containing eighteen dinosaur footprints were a sampling of materials that delighted the students. The second component of this project was the purchase of various student and teacher materials for small group science learning centers. Students made a dinosaur class book, wrote a five paragraph story about dinosaurs, reported about a dinosaur book, and created a diorama. All of these materials may be used by future second grade classes for years to come.

BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM, PARTS I, II AND III

Joy Higgins – Rockland High School

Students in Biology, Advanced Placement Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, and Chemistry (approximately 300 students), were introduced to biotechnology techniques. Students obtained experience in spooling DNA, running the electrophoresis, and mapping the DNA by the use of restriction enzymes. Students were able to use information presented in laboratory settings to gain a better understanding of the Human Genome Project and other related genetic issues. Classroom instruction was enhanced by the use of the labs, along with previous grant awarded videos, as reinforcement for hard to understand topics.

BRAIN BUILDERS

Michele Bissonnette, Terre Dondero, Mary Wells – Memorial Park School

Rather than having a brain break, the third graders at Memorial Park School prefer to have a Brain Pop. Brainpop.com is an interactive, educational website that covers such topics as Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Art, Music and Technology. This grant allowed for the subscription to this site and also enabled the third grade teachers to subscribe to Enchanted Learning, another computer-based program. These activities are used as extensions of lessons, homework, and as a way to connect to related subject matter. Whether used as an introduction to new material, or reinforcement of material already covered, the students love and learn from these interactive and informative sites.

CAN WE DRAMATIZE THAT?

Hope Fernandes – Rockland High School

The object of this grant was to provide students with writing and dramatization opportunities for the experimentation, discovery and celebration of the written word. Students read various Shakespearean plays, interpreted key scenes, and demonstrated their interpretations by creating modern scripts. They edited and rehearsed scenes for the purpose of a performance, which was video taped and reviewed. Video tapes were then revised and edited electronically on iDVDs, a video software program that already exists on all Mac computers in the high school. This video portfolio for the students themselves was also copied and saved for future classroom instruction.

DEAR PLYMOUTH, FROM ROCKLAND

Michelle Scheufele – Esten School

This project provided real world writing experiences for a third grade class at Esten School. They paired up with a class of third graders from Plymouth, MA and wrote to them throughout the year using stationery provided by the grant. In addition, they created a pamphlet about Rockland that covered the grade three social studies Frameworks for our town. The class from Plymouth also created a pamphlet for the Rockland students detailing important facts about their town. The pamphlets were exchanged when the two classes met at Nathaniel Morton Elementary School on June 4, 2007. The children practiced essential writing skills and did not perceive it as hard work. It was a great experience for all concerned!

EXPAND YOUR MIND WITH MATH

Marcia Adams, Shannon Looney – Jefferson School

A collection of chapter books containing grade level mathematical concepts was purchased through this grant for the students in the third grade. Students benefitted from using these chapter books to reinforce math and literature concepts taught in third grade and to prepare them for the MCAS tests. Students read independently, and also with peers where they were required to summarize the story including characters, settings, problems and solutions. These books related to the Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks in number sense and operations; patterns, relations, and algebra; geometry; measurement; and probability and statistics.

4-H NATURE AND GARDEN CLUB

Marcia Adams, Joanne Pierce – Jefferson School

The grounds of the Jefferson School have been enhanced due to the efforts of students in grades 3-5. Two-hundred bulbs were planted around the school flagpole and will bloom for years to come. Also, a variety of red, white and blue flowers were added and not only add to the beautification efforts, but provide a patriotic touch as well. Raised garden beds were constructed and prepared for planting. In one was planted yellow and orange tomatoes, basil radishes, and marigold flowers. The other contained cucumbers, squash and cantaloupes. The 4-H Club constructed bird houses and bird feeders so that students in all grades were able to observe nature and gain a better understanding of living things, their habitat, and their needs for survival. We are confident that these activities have allowed the students to gain respect for nature and its surroundings.



These members of the 4-H Nature and Garden Club contributed to the "greening" of Jefferson School.

GRADE 2 NON-FICTION READERS

Deborah Hogan, Esten School

Two sets of age-appropriate text were purchased entitled Biographies and Animals. Both sets contained brilliant photography and nonfiction content designed for grade 2 students. Also included was a teacher's guide, extension activities and reproducible skill pages. Students read about the life cycles of animals, were able to identify the characteristics of living things, and explored the character and influences of historical figures. The Biographies series was used to instruct major advances, discoveries, inventions and to explain the effects and influences of the past and present on human life.

I READ IT – BUT I DON'T GET IT – PLEASE EXPLAIN!

Diane Hayes – Esten School

We all know that Reading is Fundamental, but if a child reads and does not comprehend what he/she is reading – all is lost. This grant enabled the purchase of direct reading comprehension materials for teachers to use in the classroom. Third and fourth grade students benefited from the professional books and kits containing important, researched direction for the teaching of comprehension strategies. In the world we live in, being able to accurately process fiction and non-fiction print is essential to success.

INVESTIGATING EARTH SCIENCE

Russell Burwen, Joy Higgins, Scott Lords – Rockland High School & Rogers Middle School

Throughout the school year, students in Earth Science and the Disciplines of Science classes were able to view DVDs that addressed such topics as Elements of the Earth, Rocks and Minerals, Weathering, Ocean Ecosystems, Meteorology, and Astronomy. The students were able to take interactive quizzes based on the material, which helped them prepare for tests and finals. Subject matter that is usually hard to grasp, based on its chemical and physical aspects, was much easier to understand due to the informational videos.

WE ARE EXPLORING THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

INVESTIGATING PHYSICAL GEOLOGY

Joy Higgins - Rockland High School

This project was designed to introduce students to an in-depth study of geology. Students were able to view computer generated and real-time processes such as mountain formation, weathering erosion, and ecosystems and apply this knowledge in the classroom. The objective of the project was to introduce students to the variety of fields within geology, and to encourage them to pursue a career in the field of science.

INVESTIGATING PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Joy Higgins, Mary Knobel, Robert Murphy, Cheryl Schipper - Rockland High School

Students in Physical Science and Physics were able to use information provided by this grant to study electromagnetism, motion/forces, energy, light & sound. They were able to apply their knowledge in the classroom and in the formation of the Goldberg Machine Project. On-going, interactive testing with these materials prepared the students for midterm and final exams.

N.F.L. CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO READ

Emelia Caliri - Esten School

This project challenged fifth grade students to learn through reading a variety of non-fiction literature (N.F.L.) selections. Twenty new trade books were added to the fifth grade reading resource library and provided all four classes with new and exciting novels to read. Students learned about other cultures, historical events, and people who have made a significant contribution to the world. Students not only developed their reading skills, but more often than not gained a history or science lesson in the process. These books will be used again and again with each new class entering fifth grade for many enjoyable and informative hours of reading.

REAL WORLD LEARNING

Michelle Scheufele - Esten School

This grant allowed for the purchase of a number of magazine subscriptions for third grade students of all reading levels. In third grade, students need to learn how to extract information from real world texts, such as the information found in magazine articles. They must learn how to read in column format, use pictures and captions to improve their comprehension, analyze charts and diagrams, identify the main idea of an article, and actually enjoy reading while trying to accomplish all these tasks. Through direct classroom instruction, students were encouraged to write their own articles. These articles were typed and formatted into their own classroom magazine and sent home to parents. It is the hope that through this grant students will adapt their reading skills from that of learning to read to that of reading to learn!

LIVING THINGS, SIMPLE MACHINES, AND SOLID, LIQUID AND GAS SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Deborah Hogan - Esten School

Second grade students were able to learn a variety of science concepts through the purchase of new videos and "Take It To Your Seats" Science Centers. This program consisted of fourteen different science centers that could be done in group settings or individual practice. These kits allowed for continued skills practice to maintain science content and knowledge after a unit is completed. This is essential to maintain fundamental concepts of each domain of science. Some of the topics included living or not living, animal life cycles, parts of a plant, energy and weather, simple machines and solids, liquids and gas.



These second grade students from the Esten School explored the mechanics of "Simple Machines".

SAY CHEESE!

Diane Hayes, Michelle Scheufele - Esten School

These teachers participate in a looping program - which means they rotate teaching third and fourth grade each year. This enables them to have the same students two years in a row. As looping classroom teachers, they have the privilege of watching their students grow both academically and physically for two years. This grant provided them with a digital camera and accessories for the opportunity to photographically track changes both in their classrooms and in their students over the course of the two year period. In conjunction with the pictures, students were asked to write captions and chronicle their two-year journey. In addition to Rockland Education Foundation funding, Grade 3 parents contributed towards the purchase of scrapbooks for the children to use to assemble their memories. At the end of fourth grade, students will be given their memory books to take home and cherish.

SCRIPTS FOR ALL READERS

Glen Enos, Paula Paylor, Michelle Scheufele, Brian Shea - Esten School

Developing reading fluency is an essential task of third grade. This grant allowed for the purchase of Reader's Theater, which creates scripts in a book format with a variety of roles. Each role is color-based on readability so that the teacher can provide an appropriate role for each student based on ability. Students must read with expression and proper phrasing, attend to punctuation, and apply phonetic skills quickly and easily. The scripts cover a wide variety of topics that are part of the Massachusetts State Frameworks for grade 3 such as folk tales, fairy tales, tall tales, poetry, science and mathematics. Students practice the script repeatedly in order for it to be read fluently for a performance in front of their peers. Students enjoyed being able to practice their reading skills in a creative way, and as a result, their reading became less choppy and showed growth in putting words into phrases as they read.

SIMPLE MACHINES SCIENCE UNIT

Kathleen Ferry - Esten School

Second grade students were exposed to books that explained the principles of simple machines. They learned they use "inclined planes" at recess (slides), they use their "levers" to kick soccer balls (knees), and also use a "lever" in the classroom (the mop)! They discussed the weight (their body), the force (the movement of the mop head), the fulcrum (their hands), all were needed to use the lever - (the mop) to clean the floor. A video showed them a wealth of simple machines that surround them every day, and at the end of the unit the classrooms made a book about simple machines.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE MATH CLASSROOM

Steven Casagrande - Rockland High School

The teaching of mathematics in the high school classroom has changed dramatically over the past few years. This grant allowed for the purchase of twenty graphing calculators to be used in the teaching of Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and Statistics. The purpose was to encourage a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and to prepare students for the SAT and AP exams.

UPDATING TO QUARK 7

Madeline Lannin-Cotton - Rockland High School

As a result of QuarkXPress 7 software purchased through this grant, students gained valuable career-enhancing, marketable skills in the fields of graphic design and newspaper publishing. The Journalism classes participated in the graphic design and lay-out of the high school newspaper *The Veritas*, using the latest Intel-based version of the Mac (lap-top computer). Students also cropped and sized photos to conform to a predetermined lay-out created by the latest version of QuarkXPress (7.0) publishing software. These journalism students gained an awareness of post secondary options and careers in the fields of photography, graphic design and photojournalism. This system will be available for use with fifty or more Journalism students on a yearly basis.

WILDFLOWERS, TREES AND FUNGI...OH MY! PART II: PATTERNS IN NATURE

Ellen Harris, Diane Hayes, Melinda Learning, Michelle Scheufele - Esten School

Third and fourth grade students were challenged to write and illustrate a book that displayed and described the geometric lines, patterns and symmetry found in nature. Using a digital camera, and through the art of thumb-nail sketching, they recorded their observations of botanical life. These naturalists and artists found their inspiration along the Nature Trail located at Esten School. Technology such as laptop computers, photographic printers, and programs such as 1-Photo and Microsoft Word allowed students to design and create the pages of Wildflowers, Trees & Fungi...Oh My! Part II, Patterns in Nature. This full-color hardcover book has been added to the reference section of the school's and town's library thus making copies accessible to all students, parents, teachers and members of the community.



These red, white and blue perennials were planted around the flagpole at Jefferson School by the 4-H Nature and Garden Club for an added patriotic flair.

WRITE ON!

Glen Enos, Paula Paylor, Michelle Scheufele - Esten School

This project was a wonderful writing experience for the third graders at Esten School. Using materials from the Six Traits Writing Program, they created a hardcover book on an assigned animal and illustrated it. Students were encouraged to use the six traits of writing - idea development, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Upon completion of their books, students read them to first grade students and then were able to take them home to be enjoyed for years to come. Students were proud of their creations and learned a great deal about the set up of a book, as well as, the six traits of writing.

*"Imagination plus innovation equals realization"
...Denis Waitley*