



# Rockland Education Foundation

Winter 2009

Dear Friend,

This brochure is published in an effort to showcase the many wonderful projects made possible to the students of the Rockland Public Schools through the Rockland Education Foundation. All facets of the curriculum have been enhanced, and all grade levels have benefited from funds distributed to the teachers of the Rockland Public Schools. To date, over \$284,000 has been awarded over the years in the form of grant awards each November. In addition, a computer lab at the Jefferson School was updated in 2008 with Rockland Education Foundation funds along with money raised by the Jefferson School PAC.

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. The tournament this year is scheduled at Ridder Country Club in East Bridgewater on **June 29, 2009**. Visit our website at: [www.rocklandeducationfoundation.org](http://www.rocklandeducationfoundation.org) to confirm date and times. Last year, money raised from this golf tournament totaled \$12,200.



*Esten School teacher, Christine Harris, shows students that "Engineering is Elementary."*

**All of your contributions are tax-deductible.**

**Coming Events: Rockland Education Foundation Golf Tournament  
Ridder Country Club, scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2009.**

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [www.rocklandeducationfoundation.org](http://www.rocklandeducationfoundation.org)**

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

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

*Our deepest thanks and appreciation to Printing Unlimited of Holbrook for their generous assistance with the layout, design and printing of this brochure.*

**CHARTER FOUNDATION  
SUBSCRIBERS**

The individuals and businesses listed below contributed \$1,000 each towards the establishment of an endowment fund to form the Rockland Education Foundation. Their commitment to the education of the students of the Rockland Public Schools, along with money 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.
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- The Home Depot
- Sally & Scott MacKinlay
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- Carol & Jack McGrath
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- Dr. John W. Rogers
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- South Coastal Bank
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"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." — Lao-tzu

- GOLF CORPORATE SPONSORS**
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The Rockland Education Foundation would like to thank the following business sponsors for their generous contributions in 2008:

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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 given \$100 in 2008 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** - Dominic R. & Marie Tedeschi
- Class of 1935** - Etta 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 & Catherine 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  
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- Class of 1988** - Debra Hussey
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**Friends of Rockland Public Schools:**

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**Donations were also made in memory of:**

- Ann Bois
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- Anne T. Shea
- Doris Temporado
- John Wallace III



# “WE CAN’T HELP EVERYONE, BUT EVI

The members of the Rockland Education Foundation are committed to helping the teachers of the Rockland Public Schools bring their ideas and programs into the classroom to enhance the educational experiences of the students of the Rockland Public Schools. Please take a look at what many students enjoyed last year as a result of the education grant proposals that were funded by the Rockland Education Foundation.

## AROUND THE WORLD WITH CINDERELLA – Carol McGrath, Esten School

With the purchase of new books, first, second and third grade students enjoyed listening to stories about Cinderella set in countries all over the world. Students were able to compare and contrast the stories that were similar in many ways to the traditional story they knew from their childhood in that there was always a wicked step-mother and wicked step-sisters; however, the cultural differences intrigued the students and led to many lively discussions. The grant money made it possible to add fifteen new books to the Esten School library to be enjoyed by students for years to come.



Esten School students read with the aid of “Whisper Phones”.

## BRAIN BOOSTERS – Michele Bissonnette, Terre Dondero, Mary Wells Memorial Park School

The students at Memorial Park School have enjoyed a “Brainpop” over the past year through the use of this interactive educational website. Teachers have used this site as an introduction to new materials and also as a reinforcement of materials covered in class. We encourage all of you reading this article to visit [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com) for a journey into this informative site. In addition, this grant was an “enchanted” experience for the students at Memorial Park School by way of [www.Enchantedlearning.com](http://www.Enchantedlearning.com), another enrichment tool funded through this grant by the Rockland Education Foundation.

## COLLABORATIVE LITERACY LIBRARY – Jan Sheehan, Memorial Park School

The resource materials purchased for the Memorial Park students in Grades 1-5 are located in the school library. Teachers were able to seek out these resources to review, reinforce, and expose students to high level thinking skills. Picture books that were purchased allowed teachers to demonstrate effective writing strategies for all levels of writers. By using the Rosen books to teach math concepts, students could apply math skills and, at the same time, enrich their knowledge in the fields of science and social studies.

## DESIGN IT! ENGINEERING IS ELEMENTARY – Christine Harris Esten School

Engineering is Elementary (EiE) is an exciting, innovative curriculum project under development at the Museum of Science in Boston. This program supported the children’s learning of science, technology and engineering in the elementary grades through multi-cultural storybooks and hands-on problem solving activities. Students deepened their understanding of important physical science concepts about energy, motion and forces, magnetism, and electricity. The lessons also addressed environmental issues such as source reduction and over-packaging. The students initiated a school-wide plastics recycling project, which was met with tremendous enthusiasm and participation. Mrs. Harris was especially pleased to see how the program captured the imagination of the girls in her class and hopes that the experiences will inspire many future female scientists and engineers. As the EiE catch phrase goes... “Everyone can Engineer!”

## ENHANCING THE CLASSROOM THROUGH TECHNOLOGY – Diane Corr, Jamie George, Mary Scopelleti-Howes, Pamela Worden, Rogers Middle School

The acquisition of an LCD projector allowed these teachers to use interactive programs as learning tools, and also to make use of current technology to accommodate students of all learning styles and abilities. Math, history, science and language arts concepts were enhanced by the use of this technology. Teachers have taken advantage of school-run computer classes to become knowledgeable in PowerPoint presentations and other applications. One of the state’s goals is for both students and teachers to become more technologically advanced and these teachers felt this equipment helped move them towards the future!

## SPACEWORKS BY CAROLINE GOODE - Susan Lonergan, Esten School SPACEWORKS: LIVING AND WORKING IN SPACE – Kathy Schaefer Memorial Park School

During the Spaceworks programs, students in both schools were engaged in a full-day, hands-on science experience. Caroline Goode, former Rockland Public School teacher and NASA representative, used a slide presentation and models to begin her program. The students then participated in activities that simulated astronaut training. These activities incorporated mathematics and science applications and encouraged teamwork and cooperation.



These Memorial Park School students are finding “History In Jeopardy”.

## HEARING IS BELIEVING – Elizabeth Russo, Esten School

Through the purchase of “Whisper Phones”, first grade students at Esten School wore adjustable headsets that allowed their hands to be free to hold books when reading. The “Whisper Phone” projects even the softest of whispers into clear and distinct sounds. Students were able to practice oral reading, sound-it-out spelling, and vocabulary and speech training. As a result, students were better able to focus on what they read and were more aware of their oral expression and fluency. These skills were assessed throughout the year using DIBELS and Reading Street testing. The “Whisper Phones” were valuable tools in helping the first grade students master the basics of reading.

## HISTORY IN JEOPARDY – Tricia Fallon, Memorial Park School

Students at the Memorial Park School reviewed for MCAS and for chapter tests by using the “Jeopardy” format. Working in teams with wireless player remotes, students were able to “answer” questions provided by the teacher in the actual Jeopardy format on a television screen in the classroom. Categories such as State Capitals, Early Explorers, the Colonies and Congress were introduced. Excitement mounted as they competed in the Double Jeopardy round, answering questions from their current and former grade levels. This format proved to be a fun-filled and successful way for the students to prepare for testing.



# “EVERYONE CAN HELP SOMEONE” ...Dr. Loretta Scott

## FIELD TRIP POSSIBILITIES FOR FOURTH GRADE – Lorna Phillips

*Memorial Park School*

The objective of this grant was to get students outside to study, measure, observe, learn, appreciate, take notes, and cooperate while they observed changes that occur in the environment seasonally. Memorial Park fourth graders were bused periodically to the Esten School Community Nature Trail where they used field guides to identify trees, wild flowers, insects, and birds. Every trip included a project describing, illustrating, and communicating what was learned and enjoyed. Scientific methods were used to record what was observed, heard, smelled or touched.

## STUDY ISLAND INCENTIVE

### PROGRAM – Julie Minahan and Mary Scopelleti-Howes, Rogers Middle School

The Study Island computer-aided instruction program is a valuable tool for students to access in order to provide additional services to them to prepare for MCAS testing. Results have shown that overall scores and MCAS scores have increased in direct correlation with the use of programs such as this. Through this grant, teachers provided incentives in the form of gift cards to various stores to students in an effort to increase their involvement and therefore boost their scores in all areas of the curriculum.

## MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

– Carol McGrath, Esten School

The funding that was provided by the Rockland Education Foundation allowed the fourth and fifth grade students at the Esten School to participate in the Massachusetts Children's Book Award program for the first time. This program is coordinated by Salem State College and was established in 1975 to encourage students in the intermediate grades to read a variety of genres representing diverse cultural groups and offer their literary input regarding the quality of each selection. Each year, twenty-five new books are selected that have been published within the past five years. Students are encouraged to read and discuss as many of the twenty-five books as possible between September and February. Students who read at least five of the selected books were allowed to vote for their favorite selection in March. These votes are tallied statewide and, as a result, the students actually choose the winner of the Book Award. Over one hundred books were purchased as permanent additions to the Esten School library and the students avidly read a total of 356 titles before casting their votes. Their book choice did not win; however, they are eagerly looking forward to participating in the program again.

## 6+1 TRAIT WRITING USING PICTURE BOOKS

– Jan Sheehan, Memorial Park School

These picture books enabled teachers to teach writing elements to students in Grades 1-5. A brief description of the 6 Traits of Writing consists of: 1) Idea – or the main theme of the story; 2) Organization – presenting events logically; 3) Voice – the writer coming through the words to create the effect that a real person is speaking to us; 4) Word Choice – the use of rich, colorful and precise language that moves the reader; 5) Sentence Fluency – the rhythm and flow of the language; and 6) Conventions – the mechanical correctness of the piece (punctuation, spelling, the use of capitals, etc.). The students will benefit from the use of these pictures as models, and develop a common language to refer to the characteristics of writing as well as create a common vision of what good writing looks like. With the use of picture books as a teaching tool, teachers and students will share, create and enjoy rich models of each element of writing.

## SHAKESPEARE DINNER/THEATER

### FESTIVAL – Hope Fernandes, Samantha Hoyu, Amy Woodward

*Rockland High School*

The students involved in this production experienced the works of William Shakespeare both dramatically and poetically. Over five hundred residents and students of Rockland were exposed to the Elizabethan era and classical works in a community-based performance. The evening was a coming together of students from all grade levels and genres including musicians, poetry club members, chorus members, Home Economics students, and Radio and TV students in an effort to bring Shakespeare's works to life. In addition, a medieval style dinner was prepared and served by students to those in attendance at the performance. This event was aired over the local cable station to enable many more students and community members to reap the benefits of this exciting performance.



*Caroline Goode gives an overview of how "Spacesworks" to grade five students at Esten School*

## INSTRUMENT METHOD BOOK IMPLEMENTATION – Matthew

**Harden, Robin Kelley, Michael Sutnick**  
*Esten School, Jefferson School, Memorial Park School, and Rogers Middle School*

According to Music Director Matthew Harden, "The Instrumental Book Project was a resounding success, and it allowed the music department to completely update and modernize the instructional delivery at the elementary and middle school levels." The books purchased through this grant provided students with a more comprehensive approach to music including cross-curricular connections to English language arts, math, and history. "Encouraging home practice," said Mr. Harden, "was one of the primary goals of this project, and the use of the CDs and creative assignments really resonated with the children." These books will be used as the fundamental beginning band curriculum for years to come.



*Teacher, Pamela Worden at Rogers Middle School "Enhances the Classroom Through Technology".*

## WELCOME TO READING STREET – Glen Enos, Paula Paylor, Brian Shea

*Esten School*

Grade three students at Esten School enjoyed the many books purchased through this grant. This was the first year teachers were presenting the new Reading Street series by Scott Foresman. Staff and students alike were able to experience the full list of different genres available for third grade readers. The books were age appropriate and geared to individual reading levels. The books will be used in third grade classrooms for years to come. Julia, a third grade student, stated: "I loved the book, *If You Changed Your Name*, because my Papa came to America from Italy. He came to Ellis Island. I got to see where he went before he came to Boston." The books included both fiction and non-fiction titles.

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