

MARIA COVENEY, together with second grade teachers **MICHELE BISSONNETTE** and **JENNA SULLIVAN**, brought the Boston Museum of Science *Digging for Information* program to their second graders. Together with parent guests, they learned about dinosaurs and fossils through hands-on activities and an animated presentation. Students then wrote their own narrative describing what they learned.

Grade four teacher **KELSEY HOLBROOK** purchased TigTag elementary science video subscriptions for grade four teachers in each elementary school as a result of her grant *District-Wide Grade 4 Science Online Resources*. Complete with worksheets, images, quizzes, and diagrams, this program has over six hundred videos with footage from NASA, CBS, the BBC, and other sources. This was a collaborative effort to bring the science curriculum in line with the new Next Generation Science Standards.

KAREN MACKINNON, District Literacy Coach, purchased *Leveled text - A Must for Successful Guided Reading* to be used district-wide. The purchase of these instructional leveled texts allowed teachers to create groups based on individual needs and abilities. Reading these books in small groups allowed teachers to identify students with reading challenges and move them towards more independent reading.

KRISTINA ORTLOFF brought *Fourth Grade IXL* to her students at Memorial Park School. This math website was used both in school and at home, and allowed families to see what their children were learning in school. Teachers were also able to track student progress and identify areas of concern. This user-friendly site was a favorite of the students as evidenced by the following comments: "I like going on IXL because I can move at my own pace and challenge myself." Another wrote: "IXL is a great way to practice skills I know I need help with. I really like the explanations they give when I get a question wrong."

Last, but certainly not least, second grade teachers **JENNA SULLIVAN**, **MICHELE BISSONNETTE**, and **MARIA COVENEY** had *Rocking Readers with Raz-Kids* in their classrooms. Students had books read to them electronically and also had the opportunity to record themselves reading, which increased their fluency, comprehension and self-confidence. This on-line program was particularly helpful to their ELL (English Language Learner) students enabling them to practice their reading skills both in school and at home. Seventh and eighth grade students at John W. Rogers Middle School participated in an *Upper Middle School History Fair* thanks to teacher **JOAN COSTELLO**. Students worked for three weeks to create writing portfolios, models and tri folds for their peers, faculty and community to enjoy. Visitors were encouraged to cast their ballots for "viewers' choice" awards. To quote **MS. COSTELLO**: "With the

additions made possible by the grant from the Rockland Education Foundation, the future of the Upper Middle School History Fair looks as bright as the future of its young participants."

Fifth grade teachers **SUSAN LONERGAN** and **TERRI WALSH** were *Bridging the ESL Gap* by providing dictionaries and reading books to assist struggling English Language Learners.



BRAINPOP ESL was another of **MRS. LONERGAN'S** grants and it allowed ESL students the opportunity to participate in the BrainPop interactive computer site available to all students, but in the language native to the ESL students. Working collaboratively with the other students, they were able to follow along in the lessons and thus were able to accelerate their grasp of the English language.

MRS. LONERGAN also made *JogNog for All* available to all students in grades five-eight. This online, science-based site was used in all science classes weekly. It allowed students to visualize concepts in more than one situation, and it is credited with improving testing scores.

accompanying, they introduced the creative process of making Jazz music.

The event was filmed and played on local channels to reach a wide and varied audience.

At Rockland High School, **ANGELA ARMSTRONG**, science teacher and RHS Environmental Club Advisor, submitted a grant entitled *Rockland High School Garden and Compost Program*. This grant award enabled students to build a compost bin and start a garden to learn organic and sustainable gardening practices. They hope to grow herbs to be used for cooking in the school's Grille, and also to recycle the cafeteria's food waste in their compost pile. This project was part of a national award, and was written up in the *Boston Globe*.

In an effort to promote reading in our technological age, RHS English Department Chair **CAROL CAHILL** facilitated *Literature Circles and Classroom Libraries*. Multiple copies of various books were purchased that were of a genre interesting and relevant to the students. Student groups read the same book, and, upon completion, they would assume different roles in the ensuing discussion such as Summarizer, Travel Tracker, Illustrator, Discussion Director, etc. The list of library sign-outs recorded as a result of these discussions and book additions were a testament to the program's success.

RHS Social Work Department Head **FREEA LEAHY**, along with social workers **LAWRIE DONOVAN**, **LAUREN DONOVAN**,

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There is *Water All Around Us* and **MRS. LONERGAN**, working with the North/South River Water program, showed students the need for water bans, differences in water taste, and the impact of erosion and contamination. Students made a connection to their summer reading selection *A Long Walk to Water*, and visited the water plant in Pembroke for a tour of the facility.

PATRICIA NETTO, middle school SPED teacher, purchased *Two Adult Tricycles For Adaptive Physical Education* for her special needs students which made it possible for young adults with physical disabilities to enjoy this therapeutic activity. Balance, endurance, and self-esteem were just a few of the benefits this equipment afforded the students.

Music Teacher **JOHN PIAZZA JR.** brought a *Gary Smulyan Clinic* to the Rockland Public Schools. Six time Grammy award winner Gary Smulyan performed in the Rockland High School lecture hall with the Kenny Hadley Trio. With Mr. Piazza and Dr. Alan Cron

JEFFREY GORE and **DENI HOWLEY** were part of *The Stress Free Student Project*. Therapeutic tools were purchased to help reduce stress and improve students' coping skills. They have been successful in improving concentration and de-escalating crisis situations.

From Kindergarten to high school, from dinosaurs to iPads, Rockland Public School students are studying the past, with the tools of the future. The Rockland Education Foundation is proud to be a partner in this educational journey and applauds the administrators and teachers who have gone the extra mile to prepare, submit and execute these grants.