



Rockland Education Foundation

THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE PROGRAMS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH GRANTS OFFERED BY THE ROCKLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION OVER THE PAST YEAR. OUR THANKS TO THE TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR PROPOSALS.

THE NEW ROGERS MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE REMODELED ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL WERE NOT THE ONLY EXCITING THINGS THAT WERE IN THE WORKS THIS PAST YEAR. WITHIN ALL THE SCHOOLS, NEW AND EXCITING PROGRAMS WERE BEING OFFERED TO THE STUDENTS OF THE ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH GRANTS PROVIDED BY THE ROCKLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION.

At the high school and middle school levels, **Freea Leaby and Lawrie Donovan** supported the newly implemented Peer Advisory Program by supplying books, therapeutic toys, ice breakers, games and art supplies to be used as stress relievers and as a means to improve coping skills.

Matthew Harden, Music Director, jazzed things up at the Rogers Middle School with his creation of "Junior High Jazzers." Students learned the cultural, historical and musical value of jazz and experimented with several different styles including swing, bebop and Latin.

Also at Rogers Middle School, **Ann Marie Dunn** involved staff, parents and students in her "Student Recognition Program." By sending home postcards to reinforce positive behavior and achievements in all areas, she not only built the students' self-esteem, but also opened up the lines of communication between school and home.

Dawn Freeland taught her middle school students about "The World Around Us" and "America's Special Days." As an example, students studied all aspects of the Tropical Rain Forest through reading comprehension exercises, geographical materials, science videos and texts about environmental factors. In conjunction with this project, students learned about America's Arbor Day and how valuable natural resources are both at home and abroad.

Mara Carey's sixth grade students at the middle school and **Tricia Fallon's** fifth grade students at Memorial Park School received a "summons" to "Science Court." Teams of students worked together as "jurors" to make decisions regarding science laws. The students participated in hands-on activities to predict trial decisions and choose the final verdict.

"Board Maker Studio" was purchased for **Jennifer Roback's** EPALS classroom at Memorial Park School and was

used to format academic work for children of all levels participating in the MCAS Alternative Assessments. These children were able to access the information both on paper and on the computer to reinforce skills.

Also at Memorial Park School, **Michele Bissonnette, Jan Marie Killinger, and Jean Mark's** second grade students studied "Earth and Animals Through Time" by way of a visit from representatives from the Boston Museum of Science who had them "Digging for Dinosaurs." They also "Explored Animal Habitats" with their students when the South Shore Science Center provided an "in-house field trip" and allowed second grade students to take part in small group exploration of animals that live in a woodland habitat.

Books, books and more books were purchased in a variety of disciplines at Memorial Park School with the awarding of the next four grants.

Lisa Whelan purchased books to use as part of a social skills

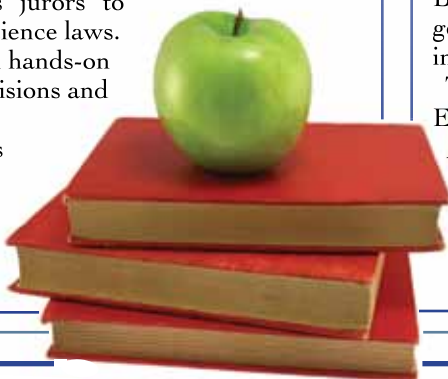
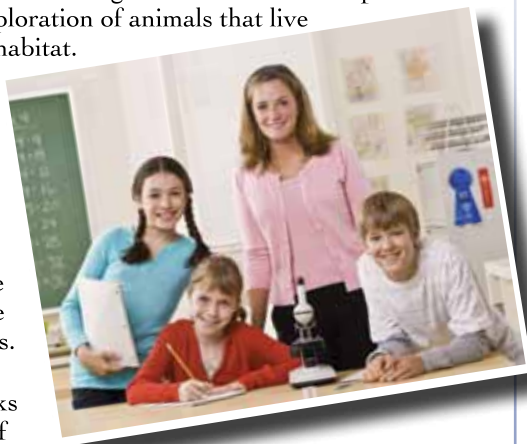
program for first grade students. The stories were engaging and focused on specific topics listed in *Easy Activities for Building Social Skills*, a book she used to put together a successful, comprehensive twelve-step program.

Rachel Mack purchased "Engaging Books to Excite the Reluctant Reader" for grades two through four. Books and corresponding literacy activities will be available for school-wide use in the Memorial Park School Lending Library.

Monica Babcock, Kerri Blake and Caitlyn Oakley were also "Reaching the Reluctant Reader Through Trade Books." Grade four students were exposed to various genres of high-interest books that captured the students' interests.

Third and fourth grade students were "Discovering and Exploring Science" thanks to **Monica Babcock, Kerri Blake, Caitlyn Oakley, Karen Nee, Rachel Mack and Mary Wells**. Science literature books were purchased and leveled so that all students could access the science content while also enhancing their reading strategies.

Jennifer Roback, also at Memorial Park School,



brought "Current Events/Social Science" to her differently-abled students. The "News 2 You" program provided non-readers with the opportunity to learn about current events using a picture symbol newsletter.

Principal **Jan Sheehan** introduced "Action Research: Vocabulary Instruction to Improve Reading Comprehension" to her Memorial Park staff. They attended seminars and are developing a guide and professional development strategies to share with their elementary teaching colleagues in an effort to develop student vocabulary and consequently their reading comprehension.

Kathy Schaefer at Memorial Park School and **Sue Lonergan** at Esten School invited the "Science Sizzlers" to provide hands-on science activities for their students.

Theresa Walsh, Trish Fallon and Kathy Schaefer at Memorial Park School, and **Sue Lonergan and Glen Enos** at Esten School brought "The JASON Project" to their students. The JASON curriculum incorporated an inquiry approach to instruction through the use of hands-on science experiments.

The Blue Hills Trailside Museum brought **Kathleen Ferry's** second graders at Esten School "The Birds of Prey" and "Reptiles and Amphibians", two "in-house field trips" that showcased creatures native to our area. With the award of a second grant, **Mrs. Ferry** was able to purchase "Science DVDs" to enhance the curriculum.

Also at Esten School, **Diane Hayes, Melinda Learning and Karen Duffey** bought "Tools for the Toolkit" which were materials that made it possible to enhance vocabulary instruction during English Language Arts and Math classes.

Linda McFarland brought "Reading Eggs by Study Island" to first grade students at Esten School. The program provided differentiated learning for each student to reinforce their reading skills, and it could be accessed both from school and home.

Emily Kidd, Esten School Psychologist, was "Bringing Guidance to Early Childhood Education" through the use of the social skills series Learning to Get Along. She exposed our youngest learners in preschool through Kindergarten to appropriate social skills in the hopes that they will be better prepared for the emotional and social challenges that they will face.

At the Jefferson School, **Shannon Looney and Kathleen Sullivan's** grade three students were "Learning With Literature." They purchased chapter books and study guide materials for use during English Language Arts instruction.

Pamela Sheridan's first graders at Jefferson School were using "Lively Letters Telian: Reading With TLC." She used game play to reinforce learning and introduce reading concepts.

Principal Christine Pruitt and Beverly Jones literally gave their second and third grade students the world with the purchase of a hardcover collection of books that focused on twenty different countries. These "Social Studies Jefferson School Reference Materials" will be available for years to come.



System-wide at the elementary level, **Colleen Forlizzi**, District Math Coordinator, purchased materials used for professional development for all teachers in grades K-8. The focus was on student-centered mathematics and, based on a collection of grade-level data, this approach resulted in an increase in student involvement, critical thinking and communication within the classroom.

Also at the elementary level, **Emily Kidd, Lisa Whelan, and Steven Hughes**, School Psychologists, brought a "Bullying Prevention" program to their students. This multi-faceted endeavor allowed them to initiate district-wide approaches to social skills building and anti-bullying situations, thus working towards a nurturing and safe environment for all students.

Susan Kelliber, Tina Miklos and Elisa Reinhold promoted "Handwriting Without Tears" at the elementary level for grades Preschool through Grade 1. The goal of this program was to improve handwriting and related written expression skills for all students.

Jennifer Scarpelli, Jefferson School Physical Education Teacher, was able to purchase hockey equipment that was used by all three physical education teachers at the elementary level. This grant provided much-needed updated equipment and introduced students to a new sport, thus utilizing new skills.

The Foundation also presented **Mr. John Retchless**, Superintendent of Schools, with a grant that will be used in the coming year to purchase additional anti-bullying curriculum materials for the schools to comply with the new state law.

**THE ROCKLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION
EXTENDS SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OF THESE EDUCATORS FOR THEIR GRANT
AWARDS AND APPLAUDS THEIR EFFORTS TO
ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION FOR
THE STUDENTS OF THE ROCKLAND PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.**