



Rockland Education Foundation

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

BRAINS "POPPED" AND SCIENCE "SIZZLED" IN MANY ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOMS THIS PAST YEAR WITH THE HELP OF GRANTS FUNDED BY THE ROCKLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION.

Tim Wells, Technology Coordinator, submitted a grant that brought the innovative and interactive computer programs *Brain Pop* and *Enchanted Learning* to elementary and middle school students.

Kathleen Ferry at the Esten School, in conjunction with the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, brought two science programs, *Amphibians* and *Birds of Prey* to all of the second grade classrooms.

Also at Esten School, **Rob Leary** was *Cooking With Kids*, which consisted of two parts. The first was the *Esten Café*, where students created a menu, prepared, cooked and delivered one breakfast and one lunch to participating staff each week. *Leary Live* was an interactive component of the Grade 5 health curriculum and was presented as a cooking show. Students learned kitchen safety, food safety, nutrition, and how to prepare and cook healthy meals and snacks.

School Psychologists **Emily Kidd** at Esten School, and **Lisa Whelan** at Memorial Park School, collaborated on a program to create a cohesive anti-bullying curriculum. They plan to introduce the program across all elementary schools in whole class presentations, small group settings, and individual counseling sessions. The goal is to foster a school environment that encourages positive relationships.

Susan Lonergan, fifth grade teacher at Esten School, was the recipient of two grants. The first was presented by the *Science Sizzlers* and was entitled *Rocks of Ages*. The second program was *Caroline Goode's Spaceworks*. **Kathy**

Schaefer at Memorial Park School was also granted an award for this program. This was a full-day program that involved all fifth grade students in hands-on activities to study the solar system, lunar changes, science principles, and to conduct scientific mathematical investigations.

At the Jefferson School, Kindergarten teachers **Janice Frates** and **Denise Creedon** created *Kindergarten Welcome Packets* which were presented to new students upon registration to provide them with materials necessary to begin their school experience.

Wendy Savage-Caprio, also at Jefferson School, encouraged her first grade students to become *Literacy Rich* with the purchase of a book collection organized to match books with the right level reader.

Thanks to **Lauren Parker** at Jefferson School, all Kindergarten students were able to participate in auditory training activities through a program entitled *Hear and Go Seek*. Listening for sounds is a key skill that lays the path for literacy and enhances pre-reading skills.

Science continued to "sizzle" at the Jefferson School when presenters Ricki Carfagno and Laurie DeCastro brought *Bones, Bones and More*

Bones compliments of **Pamela Sheridan** to all first grade classrooms.

Co-principal **Gerald Kohn**, and **Beverly Jones** at Jefferson School made possible the purchase of US Geography, Life Science, and Earth Science DVDs for students and teachers to access, thus enhancing the science and social studies curricula.

At Memorial Park School, students were able to *Touch Math* thanks to a grant written by principal **Jan**

Sheehan. This grant allowed for the purchase of materials which were made available to staff and students that presented higher-level thinking activities and math concepts.

Lee Scott, R.T.I. Coordinator, was able to purchase training videos for all staff in the areas of vocabulary,





comprehension, and the differentiated classroom. These videos were presented to Grade K-5 teachers on in-service days and they contributed to the *Reading Through Intervention* initiative.

Marie Dondero was able to bring a *Listening Library* to Memorial Park School with the purchase of thirty high-interest book/CD sets appropriate for students in Grades 1-5.

Also added to the Memorial Park Library by **Monica Babcock** were Grade 4 social studies thematic book sets that covered such topics as our country's national parks, historic sites, historic symbols, and also explored the various regions of our country.

Charesab Hawkes and **Mary Wells** at Memorial Park School piloted the *Times Tables the Fun Way* program to a third grade general education classroom and in a fifth grade small group special education setting. Using stories, characters, and pictures to expand upon each fact, the students met with great success. This multi-sensory approach proved more successful than the traditional drills/flashcard approach. As a result, training in this method will be available to the faculty in the future.

Theresa Walsh, **Trish Fallon**, and **Kathy Schaefer** were able to purchase eighty new books for their fifth grade students to use during their *Reading Through Intervention* instruction. These new books explored the themes of courage, friendship, family and perseverance.

Trish Fallon was the recipient of two more grants. The first provided Grade 5 students with an opportunity to use *Digiblocks*, a tool that provides a concrete way for students to visualize whole numbers and decimal values. With the second grant, Grade 5 students developed a *Global Interest* in the world around them with the purchase of up-to-date globes. These new globes gave students a hands-on view of our changing world and the countries and geographical differences that inhabit it.

Jennifer Roback's first grant award, *Reading Milestones*, at Memorial Park School, increased the students with disabilities' access to appropriate reading materials. In addition, the purchase of the *Counting Money* math program enabled these students to visually identify coins



with consistency. With her second grant, students in the EPALS classroom were introduced to the *Signing Times* program. Teaching sign language gave students that are non-verbal an opportunity to communicate with their teachers and peers within the classroom. This program was made available to all staff.

Students in **Jan Marie Killinger's**, **Michelle Bissonnette's**, and **Jean Mark's** classrooms at Memorial Park School were able to say *We Learn About the Weather* with a new series of books that added to the science curriculum by providing information in the area of meteorology. These three teachers also brought the Boston Museum of Science into their classrooms to present a *We Dig Dinosaurs* program. This captivating program provided a hands-on look at the world of paleontology.

At the Rogers Middle School, **Russell Berwin** created a *Starry Night* for his students. They were seeing stars as they viewed our solar system through the use of this astrology program.

Patricia Netto's middle school students who participated in the *Community Awareness* grant were able to experience meaningful activities within the community. Students learned to make independent purchases (some for the first time), and participated in transportation training such as using escalators, turnstiles, and purchasing Charlie Cards for the subway.

Julie Feeney, Spanish teacher at Rockland High School, purchased DVDs and materials that enabled students to increase their overall comprehension of the Spanish language. *Comprehensive Spanish* gave students the opportunity to excel in their oral, written and listening skills.

Congratulations to all of these grant recipients for their participation in this grant award program made possible through the Rockland Education Foundation.

**THE ROCKLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION
IS PROUD TO HAVE SPONSORED THESE
WONDERFUL PROGRAMS AND IS LOOKING
FORWARD TO ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR FOR THE
ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

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