



Rockland Education Foundation

Winter 2006

Dear Friend,

When the Rockland Education Foundation was founded ten years ago, the Charter Foundation Subscribers hoped to be able to raise enough money to provide several grants a year to those Rockland Public School teachers willing to go the extra mile and submit a grant proposal for funding. The results have exceeded their wildest expectations! To date, over \$166,000 has been awarded to Rockland Public School teachers. Last year alone, over \$20,000 was awarded in November, with another \$5,000 given to the Superintendent of Schools in the spring to support math initiative programs.

The Rockland Education Foundation is honored to be part of a community that values the educational goals of its teachers and students, and is grateful to those whose contributions have made it all possible.

Grant proposals are submitted by teachers in October and awarded in November. Please take a moment to read this brochure and see what is going on in the Rockland Public Schools. We hope you will be as impressed as we were by the programs offered with the help of these grant awards.

The Rockland Education Foundation was originally formed with the help of CHARTER FOUNDATION SUBSCRIBERS. These individuals, organizations, and businesses donated \$1,000 each to get the Foundation off the ground. The money was used to set up an endowment fund for future grant awards.

If you would like to contribute and support the children of the Rockland Public Schools, there are a variety of ways to do so:

- **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 wish to give something back to the school system that gave them their start in life.
- **COMMUNITY DONATIONS** are received by filling out and mailing in the back page of this brochure.
- **A GOLF TOURNAMENT** is held annually in which over 125 people may participate. This past June it was held at the South Shore Country Club in Hingham. We are grateful to all those who joined us last year and enabled us to raise over \$14,000. More information about this fun event will be distributed in the spring.

All of your donations are tax-deductible.



Cultural differences were explored by these students at Esten School.

KIDS' CORNER

Each year, the Rockland Education Foundation likes to share with you some of the comments from students involved in the grant programs offered. The following letters were received from students:

RETURN TO THE MOON – WHAT'S EATING THE MOON?

Brianna Royal, Grade 5, Rogers Middle School

"Thank you so much for giving us the grant to go on our mission to the moon. It was awesome and fun! The bus ride was cool and relaxing. We watched a movie on the way, and it was good. If I made a time machine, I would go straight back to the field trip."

LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION: LATIN AMERICA & SPAIN

Andrea Benduzek, Grade 12, Rockland High School

"I think the movie *The Official Story* was very informative. When learning about Spanish it isn't only a language we learn about; we also learn about Latin American countries and societies. Learning about what happened in Argentina helps you learn about the past and present. It also makes you realize that there is a whole different world outside our own country. Watching *The Official Story* makes you be thankful you don't have to deal with people like that and helps you to learn about what is going on in other countries."

PROSCOPES IN THE CLASSROOM

Ashley Merzon, Grade 4, Memorial Park School

"I want to thank the Rockland Education Foundation for purchasing ProScopes for our school. A ProScope is a device that allows you to see up close, like a magnifying glass. It turns out way bigger than it is. I magnified a nickel, my shirt, my jeans, my hair, (I saw dandruff – eech!), a pencil, my fingernail, and more. If I write them all my hand will hurt. You guys (and girls) are awesome! Thank you!"

THE ROCKLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Jim Bailey, Paul Cusick, DeDe Donigan, Robert George,
Janet LaCombe, Scott MacKinlay, Bill McDonnell,
Jack McGrath, Michael McSharry, Kim Nelson,
Richard Phelps, Regina Quirk

CHARTER FOUNDATION SUBSCRIBERS

The original Charter Foundation Subscribers donated \$1,000 towards the establishment of an endowment fund, which, in conjunction with monies raised each year, will enable the Rockland Education Foundation to award grant proposals for years to come:

Dr. Paul Chew
Robert Ellis, Jr.
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The Home Depot
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WearGuard Corporation

Below you will find a brief description of the programs that were presented by Rockland Public Schools grateful for the continued support of the many wonderful people that make these grant activities possible.

During the 2004-2005 school year, the Rockland Education Foundation was able to offer to the students of the Rockland Public Schools a variety of programs in the following disciplines: Alternative Academic Programs, Art, History, Music, Reading, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Theater and Writing. Our thanks to the teachers for their innovative ideas, and to all those who contributed to make these programs possible.

BOOK ARTS

Cheryl Thompson, Rockland High School

Students participating in this program created books based on a theme of their choice that included drawings, prints, illustrations or writings. The project enabled them to bind their books using a variety of bookbinding techniques including pamphlet, accordion style folds, sewn cloth and leather binding. Some students also used wire, metal, wood and other found objects. "Book Arts" was a great opportunity for them to display and package their writings and illustrations in a more professional book form.

BOOK BUDDIES

Marie Dondero, Mary Shea, Memorial Park School

Early readers teamed up with older students once a week for approximately thirty minutes to become "Book Buddies." This program not only reinforced the skills being learned in first grade, but also allowed the older students to use this program to work on their reading fluency. Teachers observed an increase in the students' overall self-confidence and their desire to read, and noted the development of personal bonds between the two groups of students, which helped them to feel as though they really belonged to a school community.



Rockland High School students used their "Digital Microscopes."

DIGITAL MICROSCOPES

Joy Higgins, Rockland High School

Students enrolled in Biology, Anatomy, and Physiology classes were able to use the digital microscopes to create their own slides, obtain visuals from their slides using the scope, and manipulate their results in the software that accompanied the scope. This technology was used for reports and projects throughout the year, and classroom instruction was reinforced through the use of this equipment.

EXPERIENTIAL ACADEMIC LEARNING PROGRAM

Toby Edwards, Rogers Middle School

Students enrolled in the Alternative Learning Center at the Rogers Middle School were able to earn participation in class field trips by meeting behavioral and academic standards set by their teacher. Traditional and progressive educational ideas were combined to meet the individual needs of each student.

HOMETOWN JEOPARDY

Michelle Scheufele, Esten School

The computerized Classroom Jeopardy games purchased through this grant enabled students to obtain cartridges on Math, Science, Language Arts, Health and Social Studies. Students looked forward to the bi-weekly Jeopardy challenges, and it allowed students who were not particularly strong in paper/pencil tasks to excel in this game format. Grade three students were able to review materials across the curriculum and create MCAS review games and questions on trade books.



With the help of these visual aids, Rockland High School students learned about "Human Anatomy and How it Works."

HUMAN ANATOMY AND HOW IT WORKS

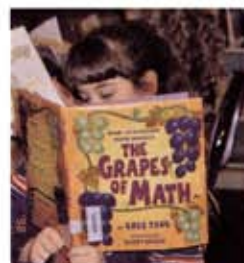
Joy Higgins, Rockland High School

Throughout the year, RHS students in College Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and AP Biology were able to use the models and charts purchased through this grant to investigate the inner workings of the human body. They were also able to study the effects of disease on arteries and teeth, the phases of mitosis, eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells, and the difference in blood types. Laboratory, quiz and test grades were positively affected by the use of these materials as reinforcement in the classroom.

I HAVE THE WHOLE WORLD IN MY HANDS

Deborah Foresta, Rogers Middle School

The new history curriculum for the middle school students was enhanced by the purchase of five updated globes and one updated world map. Students were better able to understand concepts taught and view the changing world around us with these visual aids.



This Esten School student read a "Library Book You Can Count On."



Rogers Middle School children were "Investigating Trees" at the Rockland Town Forest

INVESTIGATING TREES

Tricia Fallon, Rogers Middle School

This grant allowed for the purchase of backpacks and field guides, which were used during a visit to the town forest to learn about trees firsthand. Through use of these guides, students were able to successfully identify local trees. These guides will be used for many years by hundreds of students and will come in handy for field investigations of any type.

JUST WRITE

Lisa McNamara, Elissa Meisterman, Rogers Middle School

Using E-Writers (portable word processors), students wrote multi-paragraph papers, answered open response questions, and prepared notes from their textbook readings. The use of the Writers significantly enhanced the writing of the students in that it allowed them to concentrate on the content of their compositions, fostered independent proofreading skills, and helped them to organize their work.

LA COSTUMBRE HISPANA DE PUERTO RICO

Edward Skarbek, Esten School

Students participating in this grant were given various workbooks, bilingual storybooks, piñatas, and viewed ten different videos in order to help them understand the culture and language of the Spanish speaking peoples and countries. Journals were used to write new words and phrases to be studied. The children celebrated Cinco de Mayo on the fifth of May with simple costumes and piñatas. Some of the Latino students in the class helped with word pronunciation, and were excited and proud to share their heritage with the class.

LIBRARY BOOKS YOU CAN COUNT ON TO TEACH MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS

Carol McGrath, Esten School

The seventy-four books purchased through this grant revolved around mathematical concepts such as fractions, money, geometry, tangrams, probability and graphing. These concepts were interwoven into high-interest fictional stories, which the teachers were able to read aloud to the students in order for them to gain a better understanding of these skills. The students were able to make real-life connections through discussions of these books, the illustrations within the books, and the follow-up activities.

**ic School teachers during the 2004-2005 school year. The Rockland Education Foundation is
ards possible, and proud to be a part of what is happening in the Rockland Public Schools.**

**LINGUISTIC & CULTURAL
EXPLORATION: LATIN AMERICA
AND SPAIN**

Stephanie Wood, Rockland High School

Music, artwork, educational videos, and literature related to Latin American cultures were purchased with monies from this grant award. By viewing the movie "The Official Story", students were able to enhance their listening comprehension as the movie was completely in Spanish. Listening to music by Celia Cruz also gave students the exposure to musical rhythms and accents associated with the people of Cuba. In addition, items purchased for artifact boxes aided the students at all levels to prepare for final reviews.

MUSIC TO READ

*Robin Kelley, Esten, Jefferson,
and Memorial Park Schools*

Through this grant, a wide variety of books, some with compact discs, were purchased to supplement the elementary music curriculum. The children were able to look at illustrations as they sang, which added a great visual art element. This enhanced many songs and listening lessons at all levels of elementary music.

PLAY, STOP & REWIND

Dolores Willock, Jefferson School

A listening center was established at Jefferson School, which allowed students to use tapes and CDs along with their books to enhance their reading experiences. As a result, students learned the concept of print skills, phonemic skills, and increased their knowledge of various reading genres.

PROSCOPES IN THE CLASSROOM

*Joanne O'Connell, Lorna Phillips,
Memorial Park School*

Students had the opportunity to successfully use five hand held ProScopes, which are powerful microscopes when attached to USB ports on computers. Working in groups of 3 or 4 to reinforce rules for cooperative learning, students took turns viewing insects, hair, skin, ears, fingers, clothing, coins, bills, feathers, and numerous prepared slides which were magnified fifty times their normal size and viewed on computer screens.

**PUT ON YOUR SHOES –
I'VE GOT NEWS**

*Elizabeth Osborne, Joanne O'Connell, Mary Rice,
Memorial Park School*

Last April, all of the second grade classes at Memorial Park School went to Boston to see a performance by the Paper Bag Players entitled *PUT ON YOUR SHOES – I'VE GOT NEWS!* This field trip was terrific in that the children had read about the players and the writer and director in their Scholastic reading book. They were amazed to see how creative a play could be using only paper props. It was the first time many of the children had ever been to Boston to see a live theater presentation.

Thanks to WearGuard Corporation for their generous donation of supplies for this brochure.

A special thanks to Printing Unlimited for their help with the set-up, design, and printing of this brochure.

RETELL IT AGAIN, SAM!

Michelle Scheufele, Esten School

Grade three students enhanced their reading comprehension by creating scripts based on books read in class. They made puppets and/or costumes for the characters, and performed their skits for their class and younger students. Students were actively involved in retelling stories, reading scripts for fluency, and presenting their scripts with feeling and expression. In order to complete this project, students had to identify the main characters, the setting, the problem, and retell the story in sequential order. These are all essential third grade reading skills.

**RETURN TO THE MOON –
WHAT'S EATING THE MOON?**

Susan Lonergan, Rogers Middle School

Grade five students participated in two programs at the Christa McAuliffe Center in Framingham. One was a planetarium presentation where the scientist actually showed the students what the night sky would look like in Southeastern Massachusetts that evening. The other was a simulated shuttle mission, where one group worked as mission control specialists and the other as astronauts aboard a shuttle. They all collected data and reported their findings in an effort to find a safe landing spot for the shuttle on the moon. This hands-on approach to learning about space exploration enabled the students to see many of the scientific concepts they had studied put to use.

THE PERFECT AGE

Susan Patton, Rockland High School

This grant provided a forum for emotionally needy girls at Rockland High School by having an instructor advise them on fashion, hair and make-up, personal issues, dining-out etiquette and interviewing strategies. Classes were held weekly from December through June and addressed a real need for many adolescent girls in grades nine through eleven.

BUSINESS SPONSORS

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

GOLD CONTRIBUTORS - \$1,000

A. W. Perry, Inc.
Cape Cod Express, Inc.

National Coating Corporation
Tedeschi Realty Corporation

SILVER CONTRIBUTORS - \$500

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BUSINESS FRIENDS

Rockland Chamber of Commerce
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Sullivan Tire Company

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.

**"Do not follow where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path
and leave a trail."**

- Muriel Strode



*Students from each elementary school enjoyed
"Music to Read."*

**WILDFLOWERS, TREES AND
FUNGI...OH MY!**

*Melinda Learning, Michelle Scheufele,
Esten School*

Teams of third and fourth grade students were given a particular plant species to investigate. Using a variety of resources, students collected data on each species. In the spring, they were able to identify these species along the Esten Community Nature Trail. Using laptop computers, photographic printers, I-Photo, Microsoft Word, and digital photographs, they compiled a book entitled *Wildflowers, Trees and Fungi ... Oh My!* Fifteen books are housed at the Esten School library, one was donated to the Rockland Public Library, and one each to the Jefferson and Memorial Park Schools. These books will be available to teachers, students, and the community-at-large for use along the Esten Community Nature Trail.

CENTURY CLUB MEMBERS

The list below includes all those who have contributed to the Century Club this past year. The Century Club is comprised of Rockland High School alumni, teachers, administrators, past and present Rockland residents, and friends of the Rockland Public Schools, all of whom donated \$100 in an effort to provide grant money to the teachers of the Rockland Public Schools.

Class of 1933

Frederick & Bertha Corey
Dominic R. & Marie Tedeschi
Etta (Tedeschi) 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 1962

Charles Rubino

Class of 1963

Tony Gallagher
Ken Hennebury
Steve Hoss
Dean Tilden

Class of 1964

Ken (Nick) & Barbara Buchanan

Class of 1965

Linda (Komando) Reale
Barbara (Kersey) Tilden

Class of 1966

William Tedeschi

Class of 1967

Ron & Janet (Shea) LaCombe
Jack & Carol (Mencke) McGrath

Class of 1968

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Jim & Naomi Fitzgibbons

Class of 1973

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Class of 1974

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Class of 1981

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Class of 1995

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Donations were made in honor of: Stephen Hoss

Donations were also made in memory of:
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Stephanie Donovan
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Katherine McDonnell
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