



Rockland Education Foundation

The Rockland Education Foundation is proud to share with you the opportunities, materials, and instruction it provided to the students of the Rockland Public Schools last year. In 1996, A. Scott MacKinlay's passion for providing Rockland students with enriched educational opportunities led to the formation of the Foundation. Since that time the Foundation has provided over \$665,000 to Rockland teachers and administrators in the form of grant awards. Last year alone, grant awards totaled over \$36,000. Grants are judged competitively by a Grant Award Committee in October and are implemented throughout the school year. Please take a moment to read this brochure and see how the Rockland Education Foundation has again impacted the students of the Rockland Public Schools at all grade levels.

The following is a brief summary of those grants and the impact they've had on the students of the Rockland Public Schools.

In addition to the funds distributed during the regular grant cycle, an additional \$40,000 was awarded to **LISA RYAN**, Instructional Technology Specialist, STEAM Coach **RACHEL MACK**, and all grade 3 and 4 teachers in each of the three elementary schools. To complement the Phase I STEM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) funded the previous year, this money brought hands-on FOSS (Full Option Science System) science kits to grades 3 & 4 and robotics to grades 2, 3, and 4. This coming year the program will expand to a STEAM program in grades K-4. The "A" in STEAM is for art, which will allow for more creativity and innovative thinking. Included in this additional money was the \$10,000 annual A. Scott MacKinlay Impact Award, created one year ago in his honor.

At the preschool level, teachers **JENNIFER ROBACK**, **MAUREEN BARRETT**, **HEATHER MACDONALD** and **ELISA REINBOLD** provided their students with an opportunity for **Learning Through Music and Movement**. Bi-weekly classes led by a board-certified therapist allowed students to explore social interactions, enhance communication skills, reinforce self-esteem, and make new friends, all in a fun and musical environment!

At the Esten School, **MARYELLEN CONCANNON**, School Nurse, brought the nationwide **Stop the Bleed Campaign** to the faculty and staff, which was presented by Colonel Richard Brady of the U.S. Army Reserve 104th Medical Brigade. Members of the Rockland Police and Fire Departments were also invited to the hands-on training on how to properly apply pressure, dress a wound, and how to apply a tourniquet to control bleeding in the event of a life threatening emergency. Supplies needed were purchased and will be stored in a kit mounted in the hallway next to the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) as part of the school's Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Science was the theme of **KATHLEEN FERRY'S** grant when all fourth grade classrooms enjoyed two ninety-minute presentations by **High Touch High Tech**. **"DIG IT"** taught students about rock formation, minerals and crystals. Working individually and collaboratively, students "panned" for rocks and learned how they are classified. During **"FUN'OMENA"**, students learned about the forces of nature including earthquakes, tornadoes, volcanoes and more.

Students in kindergarten through grade three benefited from second grade teacher **KAITLYN JUFFRE'S** **Guided Reading Non-Fiction Short Reads**. These texts enabled students to read at their individual levels, and thus enhanced their ability to learn content and vocabulary and also improved their comprehension skills.

At the Memorial Park School, **CHRISTINE DELEO**, **ERIN MICHAEL**, **EMILY MURPHY**, **HANNAH NASH**, and **KELSEY HOLBROOK** provided an

Independent Reading Classroom Book Collection for their first grade students. Texts with a focus on science and social studies complemented the reading program Making Meaning Grade 1, which was purchased by the district. **Google Expeditions** enabled students to "virtually visit" the places they read about, thus helping concepts come alive for them.

Grade 2 teachers **MARIA COVENEY**, **JENNA MULLEN**, and **JOANNE MCKENNA** brought a portable STEAM Museum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) to their school for all students in grades K-4. The gymnasium was transformed into a state-of-the-art, hands-on children's museum featuring bike generators, programmable robots, 3D printers, and humanoid robots. The goal was that students would learn to communicate, work collaboratively, be creative, and think critically as a result of these activities.

Lots was happening at the Jefferson School as well. Speech and Language Pathologist **LAUREN PARKER** and Special Education Teacher **KRISTINE ROCCI** purchased **C-Pen Readers** for their students who were reading below grade level. These devices scan texts in books and worksheets and read the text out loud, enabling students to access lessons and documents without teacher support. This led to a significant increase in student confidence and class participation.

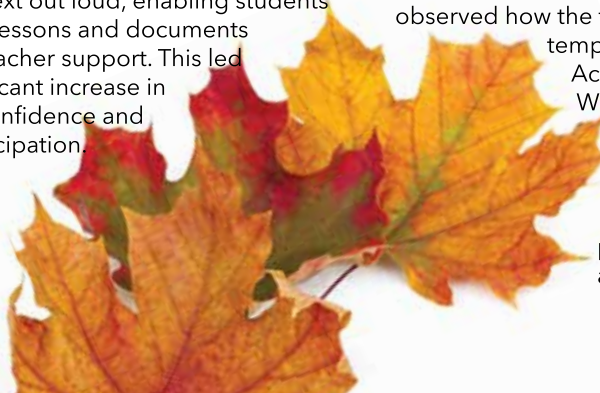
MICHELLE BOOTH, Music Teacher, was able to purchase musical instruments for students in grades 2, 3, and 4 as a result of her **Jefferson Ukulele Grant** and **Jefferson Digital Piano Grant**. Ukuleles were purchased and used to teach fourth graders how to tune an instrument, name the strings, play simple chords, and, ultimately, to strum a simple three chord progression while they sang simple folk tunes. Students in grades 2 and 3 who were studying the instrument families in their orchestra unit learned first-hand the feel, tone, and vibration of a string instrument while strumming a simple C chord. A Yamaha digital piano was purchased and used for chorus rehearsals, kindergarten musicals, and to enhance the music curriculum in grades K-4. Its portability and the fact that it does not need yearly tuning to be in perfect pitch made it a win-win for the music department.

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination"... ALBERT EINSTEIN

School Psychologist **ALLISON SGAMBATO** was granted the funds to purchase **Integration Seating and Sounds Equipment** for her students. The sound and sleep machine from Adaptive Sound Technologies, along with a Yogibo, created a safe and calming environment where students felt comfortable sharing their concerns and thus were able to refocus and return to class in a more timely manner.

Teacher **SUSAN WELLS** brought **Weather: Wind, Water and Temperature** to all fourth grade students district-wide. The Museum of Science Traveling Program came to Jefferson School, and students were bused from the other two elementary schools for a collaborative learning experience. This hands-on science program demonstrated various atmospheric conditions we observe on a daily basis. Students made clouds, fired a cannon demonstrating air pressure, and observed how the tilt of the earth affects temperature variations.

According to Mrs. Wells, "These outside educators were able to bring the materials, technology, and expertise to make the program engaging and worthwhile."

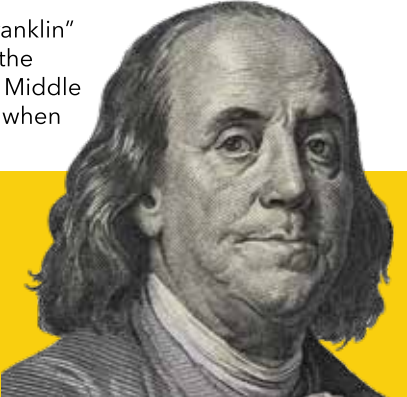


It was music to our ears when we heard that Rogers Middle School Teacher **LINDSAY CROOK** wanted to purchase a number of *School Instruments* in an effort to expand the school's inventory and reach those students who had expressed an interest in playing, but whose families could not afford to buy or rent an instrument. Through her grant she was able to purchase a number of reconditioned smaller instruments such as flutes, clarinets and trumpets.

SHANNON LOONEY submitted a grant on behalf of all grade five teachers for the purchase of *Apps for Individual Academic Development Skills (iPads)*. Programs such as News-O-Matic, Kahoot, Jog Nog, Moby Max and Duolingo enriched students' learning and encouraged creative critical thinking skills.

ELL Teacher **MOLLY ROSS'S** grant award allowed her to purchase *Brain Pop ESL: Language Learning* for the English language learners in grades 5-8. This interactive online program allowed students to practice learning English and improve their vocabulary, reading and writing at their own pace.

"Ben Franklin" visited the Rogers Middle School when



SUSAN LONERGAN and the grade five teachers brought *Historical Perspectives* to their students. An actor captivated the students as he recounted the life and achievements of Ben Franklin and explained how many of his ideas and inventions shape our lives today.

Grade 5 students also learned *There is Water All Around Us* when **MRS. LONERGAN** and the grade five staff invited the North/South River Watershed staff to visit the school. Together with parent volunteers, they set up "water table" displays teaching about erosion, watersheds, water tables and pollution. Students also visited Sandy Bottom Pond, Rockland's water supply, and the Pembroke Water Plant, to see first-hand how the water comes in from the pond and is then treated for consumption.

The Rockland High School Guidance Department, represented by Guidance Counselor **MARGIE BLACK**, offered a *Credit for Life Fair* to students and exposed them to different career paths, salaries, and also introduced them to expenditures they may encounter in life. They learned about credit scores, gross income vs. take-home pay, taxes, and how to manage a monthly budget. Supplies purchased will be used for future fairs in an effort to continue to teach fiscal responsibility and sound money management.

CHAD BIGSBY and **CHRISTOPHER NEAL**, English Teachers, subscribed to the *Images Website*, a year's worth of an ad-free literary magazine website in which students' writing and artwork was highlighted. Log on to www.imagesrockland.com to view their works in a variety of mediums.

CAROL CAHILL, English Department Head, and **AMANDA MCDONOUGH**, English Teacher, allowed for all students in grade 9 to see *Shakespeare in Action: Romeo and Juliet* which was performed in the Rockland High School auditorium by the Bay Colony Shakespeare Company. Students also had the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of the cast after the performance, thus expanding their knowledge of Shakespeare and the world of theater.

JOANNE WHITE, Special Education Teacher, was able to provide materials and access to websites that focused on *Social Skills, Self-Esteem, and Self-Awareness* to students who need a differentiated approach to learning. Age appropriate and meaningful topics included communication and friendship skills, exposure to current events, access to the general curriculum, and physical and emotional health guidelines.

RICHARD MACALLISTER, Social Studies Teacher, made it possible for students to attend the *Harvard Model Congress* in Boston. Students were able to choose a Senatorial or Representative Committee, after which they attempted to pass legislation before presenting to the full House and Senate, which was made up of over 15,000 students from schools around the globe. Students learned debate and public speaking skills, and were exposed to ideas and varying viewpoints. As a result, they learned to work collaboratively with their peers and form lasting relationships.

RUTH ANN LOSCIUTO, Speech & Language Pathologist, **HOLLY GAGE**, School Adjustment Counselor, and **JOANNE WHITE**, Special Education Teacher, wrote a grant addressing *Everyday Speech: Improving Social Skills Through Video Modeling*. This program allowed students in all grades to learn social skills through videos that focused on everyday situations. Topics such as conversational skills, problem-solving, hygiene and stress management were met with positive results and positive feedback from the students.

Science Teachers **ROBERT MURPHY** and **JONATHAN ROBIN** purchased equipment to allow for *Star Gazing/Astronomy Program and Observatory Development*. Equipment mounted on the roof of Rockland High School provided an opportunity for students across the district to better understand the universe we live in. They purchased a telescope and mount, instrumentation, eyepieces, a camera, and a computer with the software and hardware necessary to create an observatory. They also received training on how to run the program and support its development.

RACHEL ZALOGHA, **MICHELLE BOWER**, **SONIA VAZ**, **MOLLY ROSS**, and **TERESA MCDERMITT**, ELL Teachers, were the recipients of *Mini iPads for English Language Learners*. These iPads allowed for access to a number of websites that provide authentic language experiences at differentiated levels for all students in grades K-12.



It is our hope that these grant awards have fostered the imagination of all the students of the Rockland Public Schools, and presented them with limitless possibilities. We hope you agree that the programs highlighted within are a testament to the commitment and dedication of the staff of the Rockland Public Schools to provide their students with countless opportunities for success. "We as a Foundation feel that the funds we have raised over the past two years are going towards initiatives that will impact the entire district," said Rockland Education Foundation President Regina Quirk. Our thanks to business and individual donors, Century Club members, memorial donation remembrances, and to all who participate in our annual Ralph "Gus" Lordi Golf Tournament. For more information about our organization and how you can help, visit www.rocklandeducationfoundation.org. Rockland Education Foundation, PO Box 764, Rockland, MA 02370