

Glen Ridge Educational Foundation

Dear Parents,

Are you looking for a way to say "Thank you!" to teachers and staff for contributing to your child's education? The Glen Ridge Board of Education and the district's staff do not solicit gifts at any time of year but we know parents are eager to express their gratitude, and we want to make sure you understand how highly teachers regard donations to the Foundation. If you wish to acknowledge the special roles personnel play in your child's life, please consider that a donation to the Educational Foundation in that person's name would provide a meaningful and lasting acknowledgment.

Gifts can be given either from individual families or from a group. Either gesture is wonderful. It not only recognizes a teacher's impact; it also provides money for special programs teachers want to enact in the classroom.

Nearly every child in the Glen Ridge school system has been touched by the Glen Ridge Educational Foundation since its inception in 1994. The Foundation's has also awarded more than 335 Innovation Mini-Grants at all levels. Another 28 major and mid-level projects including the Sixth Grade Science Lab, the Synergistics Labs, the Glen Ridge Virtual High School, a foreign language laboratory, a Computer Aided Design (CAD) Lab, the Pathways Lab, and Leveled Reading Literacy Libraries at Linden and Forest Avenue Schools—have all been funded. Teachers at Linden, Forest and Ridgewood have learned new ways to use assessment to enhance student learning. At Ridgewood, the Lucy Calkins Writing Program enhances students writing skills and is a companion to the Junior Great Books reading program, all funded by the Foundation. The Robotics and Engineering programs at the high school are providing important learning opportunities and are major funding focus areas. Our town's students would have gone without these programs if not for the support provided by donors to the Foundation.

Although the Foundation does not indicate the amount of your gift, each honoree you designate will receive an individual acknowledgment of your donation. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and your gift is deductible to the extent of the law.

If you choose to participate in this program please send your contribution to the address below. Checks should be made payable to the Glen Ridge Educational Foundation. If you have questions about the Foundation or the Staff Recognition Program, please call me at (973)748-1081 or Fran Wong at (973)743-7763. Alternatively you can email us at thegref@comcast.net. Please also visit our website at www.theGREF.org.

Cordially,
Tom Wright, Chairperson
Staff Recognition Committee

.....
Your Name _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Total Donation \$ _____

Check _ Visa _ M/C _ Amex_ _____
Card Number Exp Date V-Code

Student's Name	Teacher's Name	School	Donation
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

PO Box 8063 • Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

STIMULATE • INNOVATE • FACILITATE

SOME CURRENT & FORMER INNOVATION MINI-GRANTS

100 Book Initiative

Designed to spark a love of reading through quality literature, in this project third grade teachers will read the first chapter of 100 selected chapter books to their classes through the year. Students will be encouraged to read the rest of those books that interest them and complete a bookmark that displays their understanding of the plot. The number of books read will be tracked for both evaluation as well as in conjunction with Rhino Reading.

STEM First

STEM First is designed to provide high school freshmen students the opportunity to participate in the First Tech Challenge (FTC) competition. Students will engineer an innovative design for this year's Robotics competition "Cascade Effect," using Tetrix® Robotics system. Students will work as a team to develop their robot through use of 3D CAD software, hands-on building and wiring, programming, and designing original parts utilizing the 3D printer. This project will provide freshmen at GRHS a rookie season to develop their skills and knowledge of robotics and STEM. Robotics is a blend of Engineering and Computer Science in action. Through this project, students will learn 21st century skills by exploring engineering concepts and technology. They will strengthen their understanding of the engineering design process and record their progress through the engineering notebook.

Teaching Literacy through History

To meet the demands of 21st century learning, a co-curricular approach which emphasizes critical thinking is required. A cohort of Language Arts and History teachers from grades 7 – 12 will attend an on-site, full-day workshop presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. In the first half there will be a presentation and discussion concerning critical background on a selection of historical documents and the time in which the documents were written. This will be followed by a pedagogical session led by a Gilder Lehrman master teacher to assist in integration of lessons for GRHS students. Teachers will receive lesson plans, primary source documents, worksheets, and access to Gilder Lehrman's *Teaching with Documents* video series.

From Classroom to Courtyard - Science Comes Alive!

The science and character education curriculum for grades 3, 4 and 5 will be supplemented as students plant, care for, and transplant marigolds in the school's courtyard. Throughout the process, teachers will make connections to science as students explore hypothesizing and observation, plant cells, environmental issues and sustainability. Students will be encouraged to take pride in the garden they plant and develop a sense of responsibility for the appearance of their school.

One School, One Book *

The families of Forest Avenue School will participate in a shared school-wide reading experience. This project will enhance the home-school connection as families read aloud at home from a common chapter book during a month long celebration. Events in the book chosen relate to the theme "Learning from Failure and Understanding Success". Through participation in this event, families will enjoy the benefits of reading together as a family and be encouraged to continue reading as a family.

Challenging Student Conceptualization

Fifth grade classes will have the opportunity to experience Science in new and exciting ways. Discrepant events are situations that defy our students' normal conceptualization and make them say, "Wait, how did that happen?" It sparks conversation and inquiry that can sometimes be rare in our digital world. Materials will be purchased to demonstrate various types of discrepant events. Each discrepant event can be extended into an inquiry based lesson which largely revolves around learning from trying and failing.

Writing Workshop Library

A comprehensive library of children's literature will help fourth grade students to become better writers through exposure to skills and techniques used by published authors. The books in the Writing Workshop Library will supplement the Lucy Caulkin's Writing Workshop program which is a primary part of the writing initiative at Ridgewood Avenue School.

GRHS Means Business

This project will build on the learning students have gained in the 7th and 8th grade cycle courses "Money Matters" parts I and II. It will be a step in providing Glen Ridge High School students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of business, finance, and marketing. A chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, a national organization, will be established to provide students with a means by which to learn about and explore various aspects of business and personal finance.

Senior Citizens, Second Graders & Success

The value of success is learned through experience. With that in mind, senior citizens are a natural resource for our children to learn from. The goal of "Seniors, Second Graders, and Success" is to bring senior citizens and second graders together on a regular basis to read stories with themes about trials and tribulations—and even failures—that can lead to success. Interactions that follow will provide time for questioning and reflection, as well as an opportunity for senior citizens to share their own experiences

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Linden Avenue students will become engaged in hands-on science and environmental activities through additions to the Linden Learning Garden. Seeds and vegetable plants will be planted and monitored throughout the spring and fall. The construction of two new planter boxes will provide new space for these activities. Four benches for seating in the reading circle will be constructed for reading activities and Earth/Arbor Day events. This project supplements previous Foundation grants for the garden ("Enhancing the Curriculum with the Outdoor Classroom/Garden" 2005 and "Garden Art" 2007).