

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 school 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 by 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 1993. The Foundation's has awarded more than **335 Innovation Mini-Grants** at all levels and in all disciplines. Another 29 major and mid-level projects including the **One-to-One ChromeBooks**, the **Sixth Grade Science Lab**, the **Synergistics Lab**, the Glen Ridge **Virtual High School**, a foreign language laboratory, a **Computer Aided Design (CAD) 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 a major funding focus area.

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.

Whether you proceed online by clicking by printing the form and mailing it in or go online to thegref.org and select “Teacher Recognition” at the top right of the home page,, know that your gift will provide encouragement to the staff and enhance the learning opportunities of our town's students.

Cordially,
Tom Wright, Chairperson
Staff Recognition Committee

.....
Your Name _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Total Donation \$ _____

Check ___ Visa ___ M/C ___

_____ 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

Plickers- A New Assessment Tool

Students in first grade will have the opportunity to provide academic feedback to their teacher in a fun, unique, and anonymous way using a new type of formative assessment tool known as Plickers. Plickers is an easy and quick student response system that uses unique code cards assigned to students to assess understanding. Students no longer need to use the traditional "paper and pencil" method to write a response or raise their hand for a class poll; they can now display their individual Plicker card to be scanned by the teacher's device that will then provide instant feedback for teacher review and determination of the need for further instruction. The data can be displayed in real time and visually shared with the students. Plickers enables students to take an active role in analyzing class data as well as assess their individual level of understanding anonymously while requiring a response from all students.

Glen Ridge on the Same Page

Implemented by the AP Language and Composition students, this project is designed to broaden and deepen an appreciation of reading and encourage friends, families and neighbors to share the experience of reading the same book. It is further intended to engage the community in dialogue and seeks to bring the community together by promoting tolerance and understanding about learning from failure and understanding success which will be the theme of the book. Students will chose, read and analyze the book enabling them to become group leaders for the community discussions. The public library and school media specialist will assist the students who will devise activities, discussion questions, and a promotional campaign gaining real world experience in organizing events.

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.

A Puzzle a Day Provides Practice That Pays

Middle School students will expand their engagement with mathematics by developing strategies to persevere through challenging problems. This project will allow student access to a variety of puzzles that encompass many of the Standards of Mathematical Practices that are presented daily in a mathematics classroom. The use of puzzle carts facilitates problem solving, attention to detail, and perseverance and will allow the classroom teacher to translate these skills to the current mathematical content being presented. Students will develop mathematical skills while working through more challenging tasks, with immediate Mathematical aspect removed.

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.

Brain Buddies - We all think differently

Forest and Linden Avenue 2nd grade students will participate in a multidisciplinary, cross-curricular project including Health/Life Science, the Visual Arts, and Character Education. Students will explore the brain's anatomy, physiology and how the brain thinks dreams, learns and remembers. Students will each create a 3-dimensional "Brain Buddy" clay character portrait to express their personality and style.

Exploring Robotics

High School and Middle School students will explore Robotics using Lego(R) Mindstorms(R) NXT Robot kits and software. Using curriculum materials provided by Carnegie Mellon, students will engage in the process of designing and building a robot utilizing mathematics, engineering, technology, programming and problem solving skills. Eventually a Robotics team will participate in Robotics competitions held by leading universities.

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).

Ridger Readers: A Middle School Book Club

The Middle School Book Club will encourage recreational reading among 7th and 8th graders. By providing a regular time and place for students to discuss books and engage in related activities, middle schoolers will develop a positive attitude towards reading, create habits of reading for pleasure, and be motivated to read. The focus of discussions and activities will be to extend critical thinking, improve communication skills and foster a lifelong interest in reading.