

# 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 **400 Innovation Mini-Grants and Expanded Innovation Grants** at all levels and in all disciplines. Another 35 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.

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

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Card Number Exp Date V-Code

Student's Name	Teacher's Name	School	Donation
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*PO Box 8063 • Glen Ridge, NJ 07028*

# *Glen Ridge Educational Foundation*

## Innovation Mini-Grants

### Funded Spring 2019 for 2019-2020 School Year

#### **Engineering and Programming with Arduino Quadcopter**

**Andrew Shohan**

Using Arduino boards, Arduino programming, and quadcopter parts, students will learn skills to build and control drones. This project will give students a hands-on experience that will extend the capabilities of an Arduino board by adding programmable motors, propellers and sensors. Students will be able to program the Arduino boards to adjust the power to each motor autonomously. Additionally, they can add more self-controlling sensors such as barometers, GPS, sonar and a gyroscope. Arduino programming will give students the opportunity to use a free programming language to control technological systems that solve problems or accomplish tasks. Students will be engaged in creating these flying robotic systems that sense the environment.

#### **Soft Starts for School Success**

**Jessica Gill**

Third grade students will explore and participate in a collection of activities to ignite enthusiasm, creativity, and social and emotional learning skills. Soft Starts allow students to welcome the academic day by following their own curiosity, driven by personal choice. Through the use of imaginative and explorative tools like STEM challenges, logic puzzles, and brain teasers, students will sustain motivation and problem solve with peers. This movement from a traditional start to the day will allow students to develop a natural curiosity and engagement for the rest of the school day.

#### **Literacy Circles for the Curious Kindergartener**

**Erin Goldstein**

Literacy learning is a key focus for kindergarten students, and literacy circles are a good way to foster this learning in a small group setting. Having appropriate seating that is "just right" for young learners encourages shared thinking and responses, and creates a comfortable atmosphere where students can take chances and learn. The goal of this grant is to create an age-appropriate space for kindergarten literacy learning, and to build confidence and the love of reading!

### Funded Fall 2018 for 2018-2019 School Year

#### **March Book Madness**

**Paula Horton**

K-2 students at Linden Avenue School will participate in a shared reading experience. March Book Madness will begin with 16 picture books which will be read aloud to the students and each class will vote for their favorite in a bracket-style tournament to determine a school winner. March Book Madness will support diversity by offering books that showcase a diverse representation of characters. Through participation in this project, students will be exposed to diverse picture books with the goal of spreading the love and excitement of books and reading as well as an understanding of others..

#### **Hygge - The Cozy Nook**

**Paula Ely**

Research shows learning environments have a direct impact on student achievement. The motivation behind this project is "Hygge", (pronounced "hoo-guh") which is a popular Danish classroom design concept meaning comfort, togetherness, and well-being. The plan is to repurpose a small storage area by designing a cozy nook, where students can go relax for independent reading, writing and quiet study. Room design will place high priority on calming colors, mood lighting, and flexible seating options. These features are known to maximize student enthusiasm, commitment to learning, focus, and behavior.

#### **"Forest Flies" Around the World**

**Lisa Petruzzi, Jody Walsh**

Forest PK - 2 students will travel across the globe learning about countries and cultures to enhance their appreciation of the diversity of our great world. Each grade will participate in an in-depth, interdisciplinary study of Spain, Egypt, Japan, and France. During this week long project each grade level will have the opportunity to not only learn about their grade's country but they will take a virtual trip

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to these great lands where they will be engrossed in the culture of each. This adventure will culminate in a Forest family event where each country will be celebrated.

### **Reading Comes Alive with Daily Five**

**Diane Blazier, Michelle Klein, Alyssa Roqueni**

In support of a previous grant providing professional development in which teachers attended a week-long workshop in the Orton-Gillingham method of teaching reading and writing, this grant will provide greater access to hands-on learning materials utilized in the implementation of this technique and the Daily Five. Glen Ridge strives to meet the needs of all the students although their educational needs vary in cognitive, physical, and emotional ways. The Daily Five fosters a more student-driven learning environment in a flipped classroom requiring additional resources to enhance student learning. Engaging in multi-sensory mini-lessons will help improve attention, focus, and behavior during learning.

## **Expanded Innovation Grants**

### **UNICEF Kid Power**

**Katie Stapp, Trish Fagan, Danielle Chesney, Rob Stomber, Elaina Frissel, Pamela Barton, Theresa Messineo, Cindy Barrington, Joe Caravela**

UNICEF Kid Power is a program of UNICEF USA that gives kids the power to save lives by connecting their everyday activity to real-world impact. Linden Avenue second grade students will participate in this initiative and wear Kid Power bands which measure their steps and movement. The bands will give points to the students the more they move. By getting active with UNICEF Kid Power, students unlock therapeutic food packets that UNICEF delivers to severely malnourished kids around the world. Teachers will teach lessons connected to Kid Power and provide students with brain breaks in which students will get moving.

### **Technology in the Spanish Classroom**

**Monica Nieves, Christina Rodriguez**

A Promethean board will enable all Ridgewood Avenue School students to benefit from short educational videos, songs and interactive games learning and reviewing concepts. Virtual field trips and utilization of relevant websites will provide more engaging and cooperative ways for students to learn.

### **“We Need Diverse Books”: A Celebration of Our Differences**

**Jerry White**

Since the “We Need Diverse Books” national movement began in 2004, children’s literature has been reinvigorated by a welcome infusion of stories featuring a broad range of diverse characters. Addition of books of a diverse nature to the Ridgewood Avenue School library will enable students to identify with and learn about a broader range of experiences than is currently available. A carefully curated selection of novels that reflect a broad range of experiences will build empathy, reduce stereotypes and help more diverse students further their love of reading through access to voices that better reflect their own lives.

This project will help more diverse students further their love of reading through access to voices that better reflect their own lives. In addition, these diverse books will benefit the entire student population by introducing them to experiences that may be foreign to them. Living vicariously through these stories and characters will help students develop an empathetic understanding of the larger world around them and all the peoples that inhabit it.

### **Creation Station**

**Francoise Spano**

Ridgewood Avenue teachers will have their own makerspace in which to craft engaging materials to use in their classrooms. Teachers will be able to create kinesthetic learning games, visually appealing posters, multisensory tools, mnemonic devices, etc. and tap into resources available through Teachers Pay Teachers.

### **Many Cultures, One School**

**Theresa Messineo, Megan Connolly**

Linden Avenue School PK - 2 students will go on an educational cultural journey over the course of several months during which they will learn about and share each other’s family heritage. They will be engaged in classroom lessons and experiences which span across the curriculum including science, social studies, language arts, math, library, music, art, and PE. Age appropriate activities for each grade level will focus on a range of cultural backgrounds. Each classroom will conduct an in-depth study of a country (incorporating Google Expedition) and all students will visit each room with passports in a museum style gallery walk throughout the building. Linden parents will be asked to share their knowledge and talents to participate in educating students in classroom visits and at an International Festival evening event. Through sharing unique cultural differences, the strengths and similarities that make up One Linden Avenue School Community will be highlighted.