

For Immediate Release

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Ridgewood Education Foundation Awards Fall 2008 Grants

At the October 20th Ridgewood Board of Education meeting, the Ridgewood Education Foundation (REF) presented a variety of classroom mini-grants totaling **\$7939.73**. For the Fall 2008 cycle, the Foundation made awards to seven grant applicants from five different Ridgewood schools covering a wide range of study. The Fall 2008 grants are as follows: *Will Shakespeare Engage and Enlighten RHS Students?* (RHS); *Investigating Newton's Law of Motion: the Physics Behind Construction, Launch, and Flight of Air- and Water Rockets* (RHS); *Stop Cyberbullying! Be a Part of the Solution, Not Part of the Problem* (GWMS); *Literacy and Language Development through Storytelling* (Ridge Elementary School); *Take One Picture* (Ridge Elementary School); *Wiggling Our Way to a Greener Earth* (Willard Elementary School); and *Snakes, Scales and Turtle Tales* (Glen/RED).

Will Shakespeare Engage and Enlighten RHS Students? will bring two Shakespearean actors from the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to visit three RHS classes to first perform a scene from Shakespeare's "*The Tempest*" and then engage students in readings and improvisations of several student-created scenes using Shakespeare's language and blueprints from a few of his greatest plays. Students will watch and then become the writers and actors themselves, helped along the way with the finest Shakespearean-trained performers in the business. This grant was written by Wende Greenberg, and was awarded in the amount of 650.00.

Investigating Newton's Law of Motion: the Physics Behind Construction, Launch, and Flight of Air- and Water Rockets will investigate each of Newton's three Laws of Motion - Inertia, Acceleration and Action-Reaction - through the use of air- and water-rockets undergoing projectile motions in flight. Throughout the academic year, students will be given a basic understanding of the selected areas in physics through lectures, classroom demonstrations, lab activities and exercises, video clips and web sites that provide both launch/projectile motion simulations as well as experimental design suggestions for rocket construction. This grant was written by the Harold Nelson, and was awarded in the amount of \$1087.00.

Stop Cyberbullying! Be a Part of the Solution, Not Part of the Problem will have 40 GWMS 8th grade members of Teenangels extending their STOP CYBERBULLYING outreach to every elementary school in Ridgewood and to the current GW 6th grade students. This topic will inform the student body about what cyberbullying is and specific steps to follow if they find themselves victims of cyberbullying. The students believe that it is important to stop cyberbullying by educating kids and asking them to take a pledge not to succumb to peer pressure and not to cyber bully others. Kids listen to other kids! This grant was written by Mary Lou Handy and was awarded in the amount of \$1500.00.

With **Literacy and Language Development through Storytelling**, students of Ridge Elementary School will increase story vocabulary, as well as understand and model sequential thinking needed for reading comprehension and writing throughout the grades. Through the use of professional storytellers, teachers will reinforce the literacy skills used in each performance. Students will then model story language through puppet play, use of stories with audio, and retell stories accurately using flannel boards. This grant was written by Lynne Peabody and Jessica Ardito, and was awarded in the amount of \$1433.97.

Take One Picture will use prints of the painting *Madame Charpentier and her Children* by Auguste Renoir (on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan) as a stimulus to explore a broad range of subjects across the curriculum at Ridge Elementary School. This one image will be displayed in each classroom to encourage community learning and culminate in a school wide exhibit of student work in literacy, math, science, history and music, as well as art. Fifth graders from will view the original painting at the MET as part of their annual art field trip to the museum. This grant was written by Debbie Tworek and was awarded in the amount of \$817.91.

Wiggling Our Way to a Greener Earth will reduce food waste while creating soil. This simple act of nature, to be facilitated by composting bins and worms, will offer students at the Willard Elementary School a first hand experience in observing and understanding the components of healthy human influence on an ecosystem. This composting project offers an opportunity to bring the student body together in reducing waste while nurturing all living members of our community. This grant was written by Willard teachers John Altieri with Chris Kearns, Elizabeth Holley, Paul Wyka, Jason Porod, Leigh Porod, Don Friel, and parent Dorothy Duffy, and was awarded in the amount of \$2150.85

Snakes, Scales and Turtle Tales will spark the RED Program at Glen School students' interest in the topic of reptiles and amphibians through a hands-on interactive learning experience. Students are exposed to a variety of snakes, amphibians, and invertebrates that they can see and touch. Students will learn about the animals, their natural habitat, what they like to eat and how they are important to the environment. This grant was written by RED Program Coordinator Karen Price and parent Kathleen Carroll, and was awarded in the amount of \$300.00.

The mission of the Ridgewood Education Foundation is to enhance the quality of education in the Ridgewood Public Schools. Since 1989 the Foundation has awarded more than \$400,000 in grants for special projects created by forward thinking teachers, parents, students and alumni. We are able to do this thanks to the generous support of our members and other friends.

Whether it is through these Classroom Grants, the Arts Fund, or Alumni Teacher Development Fund Grants, the Foundation's objective is to support the quality of education in the Village's schools in whatever way we can.

The Foundation receives no government funding and is solely supported by its members. The Ridgewood Education Foundation is an IRC § 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information about Foundation membership and programs, visit our website at www.ridgewoodeducationfoundation.org, or call 201.652.2903.