

**TRAVERSING "ROCK WALL" SYSTEM:** An exciting, new way to build upper-arm strength, this rock-climbing wall allows horizontal climbing, using five traversing mats with suspension bars, brackets and an "EZ lifter". The equipment allows for more simultaneous participation during limited class time and a variety of layouts. It can be easily collapsed and reassembled for use in other Readington schools.

**FIRST-GRADE EDUCATIONAL BOOKS AND MOVIES:** First-graders are creating books on the Macintosh computers, and through this grant they will gain the ability to purchase the books in hardcover from Apple. In addition, class-made iMovies will be turned into DVDs for permanent use. This will encourage creativity and literacy.

## *Our Success Depends On You*

In today's tight economic climate, our schools are finding it harder than ever to offer the most advanced, hands-on learning opportunities available. That's where the **Readington Educational Foundation** comes in, by helping to further enhance the learning opportunities for every student. If you have questions or would like to become involved in the REF's mission, you can email us at [info@readingtonedu.org](mailto:info@readingtonedu.org) or call 908.534.1515. You can also find the Foundation online at [www.readington.k12.nj.us](http://www.readington.k12.nj.us) under the "Organizations" tab.



Gen Van Doren  
President, Readington Educational Foundation

## **PLEASE SUPPORT THE REF**

Your tax-deductible gift to the REF will help to sponsor a variety of inspiring learning initiatives in all four schools.

A portion of the REF's printing costs are offset by PSI Inc., Flemington, NJ.



*Encouraging Innovation and Achievement*



## *Another Year of Accomplishments*

You may have heard through the grapevine of some of the great things the Readington Educational Foundation has been doing. We are excited to report that since 2007 we've directed **\$32,000** in contributions to more than two dozen innovative programs that directly benefit children in all four Readington Township schools.

The REF, a nonprofit organization, raises private money to help bring inspiring programs that aren't likely to be funded by the district into your child's classroom. Our contributors include many caring individuals and businesses in our community who believe in the importance of providing the most unique, hands-on learning forums possible for our children. Educational foundations have existed for years in many of the state's best school districts, including Princeton, Tewksbury, Westfield and Clinton Township.

## *Programs the REF Has Sponsored*

**STATE-OF-THE-ART AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM:** Motivating and engaging, this system allows interaction between the teacher and the class using individual student "clickers". This portable technology has proven especially valuable in math classes at Three Bridges School, because it discreetly shows who is struggling and who has grasped concepts. These systems are increasingly being adopted by schools to change passive classrooms into lively areas of study. Do students like it? The survey "says...100% yes!"

**THE STORIES WE TELL:** Good communication skills are at the heart of everything we do, and this grant seeks to hone students' skills. "The Stories We Tell" takes the ancient art form of storytelling and adds technology to bring in a broader audience. Young children love to tell stories. This program will harness that excitement in children while teaching valuable writing and speaking skills. The completed stories will then be recorded to share with friends and family.

**Using Pico Boards to Enhance Computer Programming:** Scratch is a computer programming language developed by MIT that can be used to create high-level programs with minimal programming knowledge. The use of these special sensor boards and Scratch will allow students to experiment with groundbreaking technology in a variety of areas, especially science.



### **DIGITAL PROGRAM FOR LITERACY:**

Holland Brook students are enjoying the use of iPods, docking stations, voice recorders and audio books. Although it's being used in a number of classrooms, the technology is proving especially helpful in the

special education reading program, because it encourages students to stretch their abilities by selecting more challenging reading books.

**EBONY AND IVORY:** This grant will purchase six piano keyboards compatible with Macintosh computers. The program will provide instruction and practice time for 400 students from kindergarten through third grade. There are many studies that link learning to play instruments to increased academic performance. As they advance, students will be able to compose original music.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LIVE:** By funding sophisticated, high-quality environmental-testing equipment, students will engage in data collection and analysis of the environment as an adjunct to RMS curriculum requirements. The apparatus included the purchase of deluxe water-quality education tools, a water backpack lab, an air-pollution test kit and an air-pollution sampling pump. By providing students with an inquiry-based learning opportunity, they will be able to demonstrate – not just read about – the local environmental changes.

**MICE FOR MACS:** The Macintosh computers have been an incredible asset to the enhancement of student learning in Readington. External mice will make it easier for the youngest of users – those with the tiniest fingers – to explore the possible applications of the technology.