

REFinsight

A PUBLICATION OF READINGTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

FALL 2009

Readington Educational Foundation Wins \$3,500 Grant From Johnson & Johnson Companies of Somerset County

Anonymous Donor to Match Portion of Award

The Readington Educational Foundation (REF) has received a \$3,500 grant from a Johnson & Johnson fund to help fund a pioneering physical education program that will benefit the entire student population at Readington Middle School. In addition, an area business that wishes to remain anonymous has agreed to match a portion of the award amount, bringing the total funds designated to support this program to \$5,000 of the \$10,000 needed.

The fund, called the Johnson & Johnson Somerset County Companies Healthcare and Basic Needs Fund, is administered by the Community Foundation of New Jersey. It receives contributions from seven J&J companies in Somerset County.

The health program, titled "We're in the Zone", will utilize a heart-rate training system that engages each student in monitored and measurable workout activities oriented to develop the student's heart to its optimal fitness level.

"This program empowers students to make responsible lifestyle decisions," said health and physical education teacher Tripp Becker, who will lead the implementation of this program at RMS. He noted that the school's goal is to educate students about heart health and the appropriate level of physical activity needed to maintain fitness.

Jorden Schiff, superintendent of Readington schools, said the district is deeply appreciative of the generous donation. "In an age when more and more children are overweight or obese, it is essential that school districts play an active role in developing healthy eating habits and fitness. Johnson & Johnson's

commitment to this project is another step forward in providing our students with the tools to enjoy a healthy and fit lifestyle." He noted that schools are increasingly looking for ways to inspire learning by capturing the imaginations of students who may not enjoy traditional sports activities.

The program combines telemetry belts with easy-to-use computer technology. Sophisticated software tools provide feedback, so teachers can differentiate physical activities to keep every student in his or her optimal heart-rate zone, regardless of personal physical condition.

The REF is a nonprofit group dedicated to raising private resources to promote innovative school programs that might not receive district funding. The Johnson & Johnson grant was one of a number of applications that Trustees have submitted to corporations and foundations in search of outside funding.

Wells Fargo Program Helps Foundation

With mortgage rates still in the low 5% range, now may be the time to act to lower your monthly costs while helping the Readington Educational Foundation, too.

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage's Sharing Advantage program enables you to support the REF at no cost to you while lowering your home mortgage costs. When you close a new loan or refinance an existing loan, the company will make a \$300 contribution to the faith-based or non-profit organization of your choice. Simply designate the REF as the charity to whom you would like to donate.

The program applies to any home loan in any town, not just those in Readington, so relatives who live elsewhere can help our schools as well.

To explore your options, contact Bob Palazzi, branch manager of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in Somerville, at 575-4400. The program is also available at the Clinton (735-0133) and Flemington (788-9550) offices.



48 Readington Road,
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
908.534.1515
info@readingtonedu.org

Keep Your Contributions Local by Donating to the REF Through United Way's Donor Choice Program

If you intend to make a charitable contribution through your company's United Way drive this year and are allowed to select the organization that receives your money, why not keep your donation local?

The REF kicked off its annual donor campaign by noting that many corporations and local chapters offer the United Way Donor Choice program, which allows you to designate the REF as your donor recipient. By targeting your contribution to the REF, your money will be used to fund inventive, hands-on programs that inspire students right here at home.

Here's how it works:

- On the Web, enter "EIN #20-8670437" in the Donor's Choice Tax ID box.

- It will display:

Readington Educational Foundation Incorporated
48 Readington Road
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
Attn: Development Director
908-534-1515

- If the information doesn't populate automatically, enter the data by hand or call your corporate United Way coordinator.
- Every quarter in 2010 the Foundation will receive a check in your name!

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Since Trustee contributions cover the group's operating expenses, 100% of your gift will go directly toward school programming.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Audience Response System A Big Success At Three Bridges School

Teachers at Three Bridges School recently enjoyed learning about a new, fun way to assess their students. Thanks to a generous grant from the REF, teachers were able to purchase a Turning Point Audience Response System, known at TBS as



"clickers". The clickers look like a remote control and allow students to answer teacher-created multiple-choice quizzes with a simple click of a button.

"Students love the new clickers," said Dr. Joyce McGibbon, enrichment teacher at TBS. "The clickers have been used to give several assessments in my

class and met with rave reviews. To the students, it makes taking a test feel more like taking part in a game show, so it relieves a lot of test anxiety. To the teachers, they are a great tool for quickly and easily evaluating what students have learned, which allows us to tailor our instruction to better meet the needs of the children."

After a successful pilot program, McGibbon introduced the TBS staff to the clicker system. Minutes after the training session ended, staff members were lining up to sign out the clickers to use with their students.

"We are very fortunate to have a school district that is very forward thinking in terms of technology and preparing our students for the future, and also to have the Readington Education Foundation which supports the staff by providing grants," McGibbon said.

Fourth-grade teachers at HBS who received a grant to purchase iPods were so impressed by the power of the technology in reading instruction that they produced a video to show how it has helped their students improve fluency. The iMovie is available at the Foundation's website. To view video, go to www.readington.k12.nj.us and select "Educational Foundation" under the "Organizations" tab.

{the power of the technology in reading instruction}

The music-composition laboratory fundraiser
"Books Everywhere & Music in the Air!"
 at Barnes & Noble last May was a huge success,
 drawing hundreds of people.
 Look for another B&N event this spring.



Scampi's Restaurant Benefits Foundation

The Readington Educational Foundation is partnering with Scampi's Seafood Restaurant in Somerville to raise funds for special projects in our schools. When you present the voucher that appears below, from Tuesday through Sunday this month at Scampi's, the restaurant will donate 15% of your check to the REF. Share these vouchers with family and friends!

Scampi's is located at 198 West Main Street in Somerville. To make reservations, please call 685-1323. Your support of our schools is greatly appreciated!

<p>Come and Support Readington Educational Foundation Wine & Dine any night* at</p>  <p>198 West Main Street Somerville NJ 908.685.1323 www.ScampisSeafood.com</p>	<p>Come and Support Readington Educational Foundation Wine & Dine any night* at</p>  <p>198 West Main Street Somerville NJ 908.685.1323 www.ScampisSeafood.com</p>	<p>Come and Support Readington Educational Foundation Wine & Dine any night* at</p>  <p>198 West Main Street Somerville NJ 908.685.1323 www.ScampisSeafood.com</p>
<p>Scampi's will donate 15% of your total check for Food and beverage to Readington Educational Foundation</p> <p>Bring this voucher to qualify. Dine in only</p> <p>Must order from Regular Dinner Menu Cannot be combined with any other offer *Closed Mondays.</p> <p>Offer valid November 1 thru 30 2009 Please give voucher to server before paying</p>	<p>Scampi's will donate 15% of your total check for Food and beverage to Readington Educational Foundation</p> <p>Bring this voucher to qualify. Dine in only</p> <p>Must order from Regular Dinner Menu Cannot be combined with any other offer *Closed Mondays.</p> <p>Offer valid November 1 thru 30 2009 Please give voucher to server before paying</p>	<p>Scampi's will donate 15% of your total check for Food and beverage to Readington Educational Foundation</p> <p>Bring this voucher to qualify. Dine in only</p> <p>Must order from Regular Dinner Menu Cannot be combined with any other offer *Closed Mondays.</p> <p>Offer valid November 1 thru 30 2009 Please give voucher to server before paying</p>