



NEWSLETTER

THE NEWS

Congratulations to RPS 5th Grade Class of 2023! Good luck in 6th grade!

As students head into summer for a long and well deserved break, the Foundation would like to thank all faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to the students. Your commitment is much appreciated. While we will miss seeing Dr. Barry daily, she will continue on as our Superintendent, and will be supervising our new principal, Mrs. Gina Morrone. The Foundation looks forward to partnering with Mrs. Morrone next school year.

The Foundation looks forward to planning more fundraising events for the 2023-2024 academic year. Donations can be made any time by visiting our website www.rpsef.org. We remain committed to our mission in providing academic opportunities for RPS students in the 2023-2024 school year. Have a safe and restful summer break!



Above: During March's Visiting Artist Series, students created a mural representing RPS.

Below: A praying mantis statue welcomed grades K & 1 to their Insectropolis field trip in April.



HISTORY OF RPSEF

You may know what RPSEF does for our students, but you may not know how RPSEF began. Back in 2013-2014, there were big cuts in both state and federal aid to education. The RPS Board of Education was looking for ways to continue providing the students with trips, assemblies, and activities to enrich their learning, which could no longer be funded by the school budget. Natalie Warner and Assenka Oksiloff from the BOE called a meeting to ask if our community could create a non-profit Education Foundation. At that point, approximately 200 out of 590 N.J. districts had established such foundations to provide needed supplementary funds. In true Roosevelt fashion, parents, teachers, and residents went to work on winning a grant to cover expenses for training the fledgling group. We wrote our by-laws, application for non-profit status, and we were so happy when we were successful in winning the grant and got the foundation running.

Three of the founders, Anna Johnson, Debbie Visconti and Mary Tulloss, are still on the board of trustees. We now have four wonderful new members, Julie Christeas, Corin Schack, Stephanie Pinney, and Naomi Weinshenker. Judith Goetzmann is our esteemed BOE Representative. We continue striving to fulfill our mission in providing funding to support RPS, to inspire all students to do their best in becoming independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators, and lifelong learners.

Mary Tulloss, RPSEF President

Right: RPS Dragon Pals letter writing program is underway. The mailbox is located in the school lobby.



GRANT UPDATES

Through generous donations, the following grants were approved between 2/23-6/9:

- Insectropolis trip transportation & guided tour grades K & 1
- Popcorn Park Animal Refuge entrance fee grades K, 1, & 2
- Lee Turkey Farm transportation grades K, 1, & 2
- Leveled Classroom Reader Books grade 1
- Visiting Artist program grades Pre-K through 5th
 - March: Ani Roskam, Muralist (3 sessions)
 - May: Cheri Rose Katz, Opera Singer (2 sessions)

THANK YOU DONORS AND SUPPORTERS!

EVENT RECAP

May: TGI Friday's Dine to Donate: \$507.00
June: Four Boys Ice Cream Fundraiser: \$165.00
Stefan Martin Fundraiser: Prints are still available.
Email rpsefdn@gmail.com if interested.

STAY TUNED

Customized School Supply Boxes for the 2023-2024 school year will soon be available through a link provided on the RPS school website www.rps1.org. Stay tuned for Dr. Barry's note home!



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE FOUNDATION

Another exciting year of school is well underway at RPS. The students and staff have already begun to experience many grants thanks to generous RPSEF donors. We are excited for a year full of new opportunities for RPS students. Thank you for your continued support.



Above: Students enjoyed stamp painting with Visiting Artist Ellen Silverman



Above: RPSEF participated in Monmouth County's Clean Communities Fall Clean-Up.

VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM

What is the Visiting Artist Program (VAP) at RPS? It is a wonderful way for students to gain exposure to many different varieties of the arts (visual and performing) with all kinds of ranges. Thanks to a grant from RPSEF, last year RPS had a successful year of bringing local artists talents to our students. RPS has begun to embark on yet another year of VAP!

But doesn't RPS have a music and art program? Yes, of course, but VAP enhances these programs, and allows students to discover arts that may not be in standard curriculum. The community of Roosevelt has always had a rich history in art. VAP enables the community a chance to share their talents with our youngest artists and vice versa. In some instances, students may discover a medium they were previously unaware of, or may have a spark of interest that will shape their future. Last year's arts included photography, poetry, glass painting, mural making, opera singing, and a drum circle. This year hopes to include painting, printing, window dressing design, interactive musical storytelling, ukulele playing, woodworking, and acting.

Whether meeting a medium for the first time, or getting to work with an old favorite, VAP is a highlight each month for the students of RPS. The students look forward to practicing a new technique, along with meeting and learning about local professional artists. If you are interested in being a visiting artist, please contact Larisa Bondy at larisa@rps1.org. -Larisa Bondy, RPS Kindergarten Teacher

FUNDRAISERS

School Supply Boxes, \$39.83: The School Supply Boxes Fundraiser was a new fundraiser RPSEF hosted with support from Dr. Barry & RPS Teachers. Teachers supplied Dr. Barry with a list of school supplies for the 2023-2024 school year. RPSEF then submitted a list to the School Supply Boxes company. Families were able to follow a link found on the RPS website to the company, and order all their supplies for their students. It allowed for a "One Stop Shop" approach to Back To School supply shopping. The company kindly donated 5% of sales to RPSEF! We appreciate their partnership. Many thanks to Dr. Barry and RPS Teachers for assisting in this fundraiser. Thank you to all who purchased their supplies using this fundraiser.

Monmouth County's Clean Communities Borough Clean-Up: RPSEF will receive a stipend from Clean Communities for our participation in the clean-up on 10/22. Thank you to all who came out to clean-up & also to support RPSEF.

Stefan Martin Fundraiser: "World In Their Hands" wood engraving prints are still available for \$100 each. Please contact us at rpsefdn@gmail.com to purchase a print. 100% of sales have kindly been donated to RPSEF by the Martin Family.

Below: A print of Stefan Martin's "World In Their Hands".



Above: Students in grades K & 1st attended a field trip to Terhune Orchards, Princeton NJ



GRANT UPDATES

Through generous donations, the following grants were approved between 6/9/23-10/10/23:

- Flexible Seating Options: As needed for any student
- Terhune Orchards, Princeton: K & 1st
- Red Wagon Farm, Monroe: PreK
- Visiting Artists 2023-2024 School Year: PreK-5th
October: Ellen Silverman: painting with a cardboard stamp



NEWSLETTER

THE NEWS

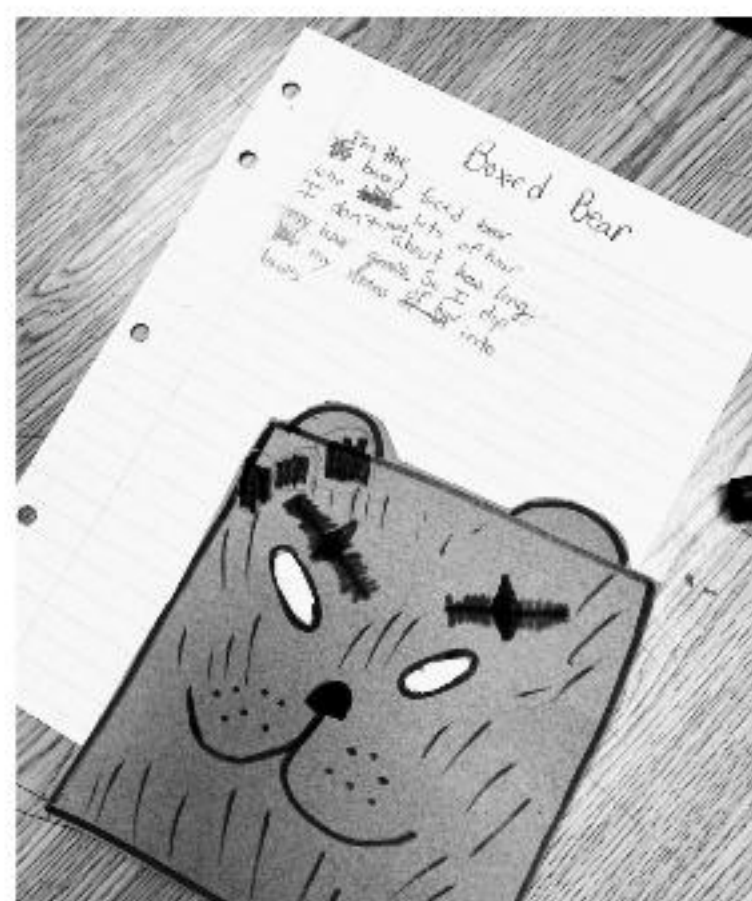
Welcome to the first edition of the RPSEF Newsletter! In an effort to connect the Foundation with the RPS community, we hope to share a newsletter in Fall, Winter, & Spring. It will serve as RPSEF'S update of previous, current, and future happenings. Our Website and Facebook page will maintain up to date information regarding the Foundation. We are delighted to continue our mission to provide educational opportunities for RPS students. Check us out on Facebook, and visit our Website!

GRANT UPDATES

Through generous donations, the following grants were approved between 9/22-2/23:

- Von Thun's Farm Trip grades K & 1
- Transportation for Jenkinson's Aquarium Trip grades K & 1
- RPS Dragon Pals Letter Writing Program grades Pre-K through 5th
- Visiting Artist program, running monthly October through May for students grades Pre-K through 5th:

November: David Ticktin, Photography
December: Amy Dreyling, Glass Painting
January: David Herrstrom, Poetry
February: Ange Chianese, Drum Circle



During January's Visiting Artist series students created animal themed masks and poetry.

EVENTS: STAY TUNED

Spring: RPSEF Dine Out Fundraiser T.B.D.
June: Four Boys Ice Cream Fundraiser T.B.D.

STEFAN MARTIN'S MARK ON RPSEF

In 2022, the Foundation was gifted 70 prints of Stefan Martin's "World In Their Hands" wood engraving by his family. Many thanks to the Martin family for their kindness. The prints were originally sold as a fundraiser for the Cooperative Nursery School that was held in the Roosevelt Synagogue. The Pre-K in Roosevelt School is a successor to that program. There are 27 prints remaining for \$100 each. Please contact us at rpsefdn@gmail.com to purchase a print.



A print of Stefan Martin's "World In Their Hands".

INSIDE RPS

The Little Free Library at RPS is located in the RPS lobby. Students may pick a book to enjoy at home, bring a book to trade and share with others, or return completed books. The library is open to all students grades Pre-K through 5th. Come explore its collection!



The Little Free Library is open to all students.



From the Foundation

Congratulations to the RPS 5th Grade Class of 2024! We wish you the best as you continue your education in a new environment. We hope the foundation you received at RPS guides you towards your successful futures!

Spring blossomed with exciting experiences for RPS students and staff. Class trips, a growing garden, a new recycling program, and more classroom supplies all will benefit RPS students immensely thanks to donor generosity and support. Foundation Trustees, RPS students and staff deeply appreciate your investment in the education of Roosevelt students! We wish all RPS students, staff, and families a safe and relaxing summer break.

-RPSEF Trustees



*Left: 1st & 2nd Grade students visited Insectropolis in Toms River
Right: RPS's Library received 54 new books for its collection.*

Flexible Seating Grant

"This past school year I have had the privilege to incorporate flexible seating with support from the Roosevelt Public School Education Foundation. As the new special education teacher for the building, I was eager to share my positive experience with this approach. Flexible seating supports different learning styles in the classroom and fosters student choice, comfort, and engagement. For example, I offer students the choice of working on a yoga ball, wobble stool, standing desk, stool, or stationary bike. Providing students with several seating options during the day gives them the autonomy to choose the best spot to help them learn. All options allow for movement, flexibility, and ownership of their learning space. It is important for students to feel that the classroom is more than just the teacher's space but theirs as well. I am extremely grateful to the RPSEF for this grant and look forward to utilizing these resources to benefit all students' needs in the classroom." -Megan McMichael, Special Education Teacher



Above: Flexible seating allows for various learning setting options.

RPS Garden/Cooking Club Grant

"Teaching is a gift of the heart. There aren't many professions that can plant a seed, cultivate it, and watch it grow to produce wonderful things. This is what happens at RPS, in and out of the classroom. We are fortunate that our school garden provides our students the ability to support academic achievement, develop a healthy lifestyle, sustain their environment, and help them develop a sense of community. Just like teaching, gardening requires patience, problem-solving, and perseverance. However, there is a bonus to what our students are experiencing, it is the joy of cooking what we harvest. When the third through fifth grade students sign up for the garden/cooking club they get to experience all the pleasure that comes with tending to our garden. This year, the students have made and created their own salad dressing, enjoyed butternut squash in a variety of ways, baked cookies and experimented with seeds. This club has an outstanding community member who volunteers his time to help our children develop a lifelong hobby, Mr. Stephen Taylor. With the generous funding from RPSEF, we have raised herb beds that add flavor and spice to the program. I extend my heartfelt thanks to RPSEF for their invaluable support and belief in the vision of this project. Together, we provided the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and contribute towards building a healthier, more sustainable future." -Donna Gazzani, 3rd Grade Teacher



*Left: An extended Pollinator Garden with new plantings.
Right: New cooking supplies to make delicious smoothies.*

Grant Updates

- Visiting Artist Program (Grades PreK through 5th)
 - *March: Marcelo Melamed, Woodworking
 - *April: Doreen Kirchner, Drawing & Tracing
- RPS Library welcomed 54 new books
- 4th grade classroom installed a world map
- 2nd grade 11 blank books for autobiography projects
- 2nd grade 11 bound books for class yearbook
- Garden/Cooking Club planted new pollinator garden plants & purchased new kitchen supplies
- School Recycling & Composting program managed by the 5th grade safety patrol welcomes new containers
- 4th grade trip to NJ State House & Old Barracks Museum, Trenton, NJ
- K & 1st grade annual trip to Insectropolis, Toms River
- 2nd & 3rd grade buddy trip to bowling alley

Fundraiser Updates

- T.G.I. Friday's RPSEF Fundraiser: \$221.38
- Roosevelt Litter Pick Up Day: \$200.00
- Stefan Martin Prints available for purchase by email



From the Foundation

The school year is well underway and the students at RPS are busy learning, exploring, and growing as young learners. The opportunities provided by the foundation enhance our students' learning experiences and encourage learning beyond the classroom walls!

The school year started with exciting experiences for RPS students and staff. Class trips, a growing garden with a new water system, a recycling program in the works and more classroom supplies all will benefit RPS students immensely thanks to donor generosity and support. Foundation Trustees, RPS students and staff deeply appreciate your investment in the education of Roosevelt students!

-RPSEF Trustees



Left: K & 1st Grade students visited Von Thun's Country Farm Right: Students get close to the animals in a safe environment

Fall trips- an outdoor learning experience

This fall students have had the opportunity to attend field trips that enhance their knowledge of how farms operate. Where and how food grows, how animals interact, and the importance of bees are just a few of the experiences. The Pre-K class ventured off to the Red Wagon Farm- the class loved the petting zoo, hayride, and corn maze. They learned about birds, piglets, and llamas. Students were very excited that they had time to play in a corn pit- this type of sensory activity is a fun tactile experience for children of all ages!

The Kindergarten and 1st grade class enjoyed a trip to Von Thun's Country Farm where students met farmers, got up close with the barnyard animals and learned all about the importance of bees and how they help our food grow. Students were buzzing with excitement about the experience. Visiting a farm and seeing where our fruits, vegetables, and meat come from help students develop a deeper appreciation of nature and animals.

Grant Updates

Through generous donations and teacher inspiration the following grants were approved:

- Visiting Artist Program (Grades PreK through 5th)
 - *October: Tai Chi
 - *November: Drawing techniques
 - *December: Clay work
- Skydome Planetarium Mobile School Assembly (PreK-5)
- Jenkinson's Aquarium (K-1)
- School gardening water system
- Novel sets for reading resource

Our Mission

The mission of the Roosevelt Public School Education Foundation (RPSEF) is to support the students and staff of the Roosevelt Public School (RPS) by providing programs, equipment, training, and other resources that will support the mission of the school in educating our children to be independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators, and lifelong learners. We cannot do this without the generous support of our donors- we thank you for your continued dedication!

Fundraiser Updates/ Stay Tuned

- Litter pickup earned \$200
- Stefan Martin Prints available for purchase by email or through our website www.rpsef.org
- Please consider donating to RPSEF. We are a 501(C)(3) charity- see our website for more information
- December 2024 Look for information concerning our End of Year Appeal



Students learn Tai Chi, the ancient art of deliberate flowing motions in the first VAP of the school year.



RPSEF NEWSLETTER

FROM THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation wishes to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible generosity of our amazing community members during our End-Of-Year Fundraiser. Thanks to your unwavering support, we have received donations totaling \$6,100! Your kindness and dedication to our cause means the World to us. With your donations, we will continue our mission of supporting RPS teachers and providing exciting learning opportunities for our RPS students. Your contribution will have a lasting impact on the lives of RPS students, inspiring them to reach for the stars, and to achieve their dreams. We invite you to stay connected with us on social media and our website, and to keep an eye out for our newsletters, which follow the wonderful journey that your generous donations have set in motion. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of RPS students.

-RPSEF Trustees



*Left: Creating window displays with VAP, Marissa Petrillo.
Right: Storytelling and music with VAP, David Brahinsky.*

GRANT UPDATES

Through generous donations, the following grants were approved between 10/10/23-2/13/24

- **Visiting Artist Program (VAP):** Grades PreK through 5th
November: Ellen Silverman, Artist (2nd session)
January: Marissa Petrillo, Window Decorator
February: David Brahinsky, Musician, Singer, Storyteller
- **Jenkinson's Aquarium, Point Pleasant:** K & 1st
- **"The Boy Who Cried Wolf"** play at State Theater
New Jersey, New Brunswick: K, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd



*Left: Fish Tank at Jenkinson's Aquarium, Point Pleasant.
Right: "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" at State Theater NJ,
New Brunswick.*

IN SCHOOL GRANTS IN ACTION

How lucky are the RPS Dragons to have received grants for both the Little Free Library and The RPS Dragon Pals writing program?! Our LFL is located in the lobby of our school, and provides students of all grades the opportunity to peruse and choose various book titles. The motto is "Take a book. Share a book." Students can visit the LFL during indoor recess, with their class, or when they have the opportunity to during the day. There are a variety of titles to choose from. LFL encourages and instills a joy for reading at an early age that will continue as the students get older.

RPS Dragon Pals letter writing program is available for students grades PreK-5th, and it includes staff as well. This program assists in teaching students the importance of writing a letter and addressing an envelope. Students practice these skills by writing friendly letters to other students or teachers in the school. It helps students gain confidence and motivates them to pick up a pencil and write. This program has been met with such enthusiasm! Students become excited when it is time to write a letter.

Both programs are different ways in which we promote engagement and growth in the student. They also cultivate a sense of community and camaraderie amongst the students that will hopefully carry into the future. We appreciate the Foundation for their hard work and for facilitating these initiatives.

-Stacey Fusella, RPS 1st Grade Teacher



Above: Little Free Library Above: RPS Dragon Pals Mail

EVENT RECAP

- **December 2023 End Of Year Appeal Donations:** \$6,100
- **Stefan Martin Fundraiser:** 48/70 prints sold raised \$4,800 thus far! 22 prints are still available for \$100.00 per print. Email rpsefdn@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing a print.

STAY TUNED

- **Thursday, March 21st, 2024 12:00pm - 10:00pm:**
T.G.I.Friday's, 319 Route 130 North, East Windsor
20% of all sales will be donated to RPSEF
A flyer will be sent home with students, posted on our website, and posted on our Facebook. Join us on this half day of school for a great cause, our students!
- **Saturday, April 20th, 2024 10:00am - 12:00pm:**
2024 Roosevelt Borough Clean-Communities Clean-Up Meet at Borough Hall and mention RPSEF.