



From the Foundation

This winter the temperatures dropped but the learning certainly heated up at RPS! The teachers and staff have been working hard and creating unique lifelong educational experiences for students. We are so grateful for their creativity in envisioning positive programs for all students, and we are thankful for our supporters and donors who help to make these learning opportunities a reality. Experiential learning, or learning that takes place outside the classroom, develops critical thinking, creates enthusiasm for learning, and exposes students to a range of real world contexts and career possibilities. Thank you for your continued support!
-RPSEF Trustees



Left: K & 1st Grade students observing stingrays at Jenkinson's Aquarium. **Right:** Famous penguins like Captain Jack and Jonesy loved by young and old alike!

Winter Experiences and Excursions: Aquarium Adventures & Leaving the Planet without Leaving the School!

The popular grant funded field trip for K-1 graders was a success yet again as our young students journeyed to Point Pleasant and the aquarium at Jenkinson's to get an up close and personal experience with Wally (the two-toed sloth), marine life, birds, and of course those flightless feathered friends- penguins!

Students observed the animals and learned from keepers about the daily routines, sleeping habits, and favorite activities of the different species. Jenkinson's aquarium houses marine life, birds, and a collection of invertebrates.

Recently all RPS students experienced a truly out of this world experience when SkyDome Indoor planetarium visited the school. This grant-funded presentation brought the stars to the students and was an inspiring demonstration for all. The portable, inflatable planetarium was set up in the gymnasium

and students crawled through a small tunnel that led to the interior of the dome. The learning benefits of this experience are immense. The dome-shape allows for a visual immersion and creates a full-sensory experience. The students were in awe of the star-filled "sky" and the dramatic trips to other planets. In addition to learning about the solar system and constellations, programs like this stimulate curiosity and wonder in ways that transcend traditional learning. The feedback from students was fantastic- with some parents happily telling us that their kids couldn't stop talking about the presentation!

Grant Updates

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

- Visiting Artist Program (Grades PreK through 5th)
*February: Wire Art
*December: Clay work
- State Theatre of New Brunswick (Grades K-3): Under the Magic Moon a Retelling of the Peter Pan story
- Young Audience "Musiquita" performance (Grades Pre-K-5): a bilingual interactive educational experience
- Insectropolis: The Bugseum of New Jersey (Grades K-1)



Left: Inside the SkyDome students were identifying different constellation creatures in space. **Right:** Students are excited to enter the portable planetarium!

Fundraiser Updates/ Stay Tuned

- End of year appeal earned over \$5,000.00
THANK YOU for your donations!
- Stefan Martin Prints available for purchase through our website www.rpsef.org