

February 2009

Supporting Creative Learning

Rhinebeck Science Foundation

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Dear Rhinebeck Central School District Faculty,

The Rhinebeck Science Foundation is working to make available resources that will enhance hands-on science and technology education within the District. Following upon the success of the Discovery Festival and an encouraging first year of endowment building, we are looking forward to continued conversations with you about achieving your goals for the educators and children of our community.

Grants Available

As a not-for-profit foundation, RSF has begun--and will continue--to offer grant support for individual projects. We look forward to announcing the recipient(s) of our first mini-grant this spring. Equally importantly, however, RSF can also help to obtain additional grants that would otherwise be unavailable directly to educators. If you would like to learn more about how you might benefit from the RSF grant writing process, please contact Diane Kantaros: dkantaros@aol.com or Catherine Pietrow: pietrow4@yahoo.com

We encourage teachers to seek our support in the brainstorming as well as the application process. All grants sought under the auspices of RSF, as a matter of course, must first receive approval from the relevant building principal.

Eco-initiative Underway

A core teacher team is taking the lead with Director of Curriculum and Instruction Marvin Kreps in designing an Eco-initiative for the Rhinebeck Central School District. RSF is committed to providing funding, grant-writing and intellectual capital to support development of eco-curricula to be implemented starting next year. Representatives from Northern Westchester/ Putnam BOCES, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and Carey Institute have been meeting with teachers from all three schools to help tailor the program to Rhinebeck's needs.

Classroom Resources

This month we invite you to take part in our February Focus on Engineering. Partnering with IBM, RSF supports this opportunity for community professionals to supplement and enhance the current curriculum, bringing a wide array of expertise at your request into the classroom throughout the school year.

Please contact:

Roger Quon quon@us.ibm.com or Catherine Pietrow pietrow4@yahoo.com for additional details.

Curriculum Resources

RSF invites you to get a jump-start on ecology education in your own classroom. Visit our website to access curriculum enhancing materials from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and Teaching the Hudson Valley.



The Cary Institute has experience working with the Millbrook School District in the elementary grades. The Institute can create a curriculum based on teacher interest and incorporate existing lesson plans. They conduct local research and are interested in incorporating Rhinebeck into larger studies.

Clearwater makes its personnel available for classroom friendly, hands-on demonstrations and can help create field trips to the Hudson River. Clearwater works in conjunction with Cary and vice versa.

Teaching the Hudson Valley has Free K-12 lesson plans involving significant Valley sites to teach math, science, history, and art. Teachers can search by New York county, standard, subject, or grade.

To learn more about these specific curriculum resources, contact Alison Vaccarino alison@jayvee.com and visit our “For Teachers” page at the RSF website: www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org

Spring Celebration

To mark a successful first full year of shared enterprise, RSF invites you to our Cinco de Mayo spring celebration at Grasmere on May 2, 2009. Show your support for science, technology and mathematics education in our schools—and join us in honoring Dr. Edward Sullivan, without whom RSF would never have come into being.

With Best Wishes,

Rhinebeck Science Foundation Board of Directors