

**Rhinebeck
Science
Foundation**

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Dear RCSD Teachers—

After a restful and productive summer, we are excited to embark on year three in our shared enterprise of enhancing K-12 student learning in the sciences, mathematics and technology.

RSF has secured a number of major grants over the past year, most recently receiving \$10,000 from the Thompson Trust. Those funds have gone directly toward equipping classrooms and enriching curriculum: this year a fourth grade archeology dig and the district-wide Eco-Initiative are underway with the help of such generous benefactors. We are committed to continuing our search for external donors to support innovative public education. At every stage, your input has been crucial to the wise allocation of resources. We ask that you continue to work with us to identify significant opportunities for the foundation to make a meaningful difference. Our aim is to find the best source of funding for your project. Start the conversation by contacting RSF district liaison Catherine Pietrow (pietrow4@yahoo.com).

Now is a great time to think about applying for a foundation mini-grant. Our first mini-grant to a group of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers at Chancellor Livingston resulted in an expanded Math Fair that attracted over three hundred participants in June. Either alone or with a group of colleagues, consider talking soon with Catherine Pietrow to explore ideas for a proposal. The next mini-grant deadline is November 1st.

The 2008-2009 school year closed on a note of anticipation as district faculty and administrators joined with RSF to launch a three-year Eco-Initiative. “Sustainable Rhinebeck Schools” stresses environmental stewardship, sustainability education and real-world ecosystem science, bringing faculty from all three campuses together with educators from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies to study the ecological footprint of our schools. As we begin to plan in earnest, there is plenty of time for your input and room for your energies. Be watching for specific details about the Eco-Initiative coming soon from your building principals and the curriculum development office.

Finally, let us remind you that the second RSF Discovery Festival is nearly upon us. Save the date: Saturday, November 7 from 11AM-2PM at the Rhinebeck High School. Having already received wonderful feedback on how some of you plan to connect activities in the classroom to this year’s theme, “Inventors and Inventions,” we invite you to take part in what promises to be a richly rewarding day. Participation could range from encouraging your students to submit an essay or artwork for a competition to organizing a team to report on a class activity or experiment. You may want to present something yourself or have a great contact you are willing to share with festival organizers Roger Quon and Laura Schulkind. Look for a detailed invitation from Catherine Pietrow in the next week or so. Discovery Festival showcases what is inventive and best in our schools and community.

With best wishes for the start of the fall term,

The Rhinebeck Science Foundation Board of Directors

