



President's Letter

The Red Sox have won the World Series and so the long, annual, beloved opera of summer is at an end. Every year, I love it. I love the drama and the tension and the way everybody watches. I find myself discussing injuries, slumps, and splitters with wait-staff and salespeople. The town feels small. Strangers have something in common to talk about.

It was really fun to watch Dustin Pedroia, Jacoby Ellsbury, and Jon Lester play with such determination and energy — as if, twenty-three year old men were, somehow, too young to play their best when it really counted. Of course they can be great. One should never doubt the potential of the young. We can be inspired by, and led by, young people. As any teacher in Hingham will tell you, it happens *everyday* in our schools. Our students not only learn with determination and energy, they rally teammates, and they lead groups of all ages in doing all sorts of activities. It happens *everyday in our schools*.

The Hingham Education Foundation recently completed our annual phonathon, which once again broke records. Hingham High students did the calling. More people were called, and more people gave, than ever before. This success is huge as the phonathon is one of our two major fundraisers. Since 1992, HEF has raised over a million dollars. Last year, over \$90,000 worth of grants were awarded. HEF awards grants every year, and every year it is possible because of the

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Featured Grant: Robotics in the Classroom

It's a good day when your high school son and daughter come home excited about a class. Even more thrilling is when they're looking forward to the class because of a new program purchased through a grant given by the Hingham Education Foundation called Robotics in the Classroom.

The NXT Robotics Engineering Pack is the second in the new series of LEGO Mindstorms Education curriculum. This more advanced CD-based curriculum provides 12 weeks of guided research and applied engineering robotics projects to be used after the Robotics Engineering I Curriculum. The program focuses on applied inquiry, motivated design, communications technology, scanning, mapping, and more. The CD curriculum can be loaded onto every computer in a single classroom and the students can get tutorials, building instructions, programming assistance, and much, much more!

Mr. Clune, a science teacher at Hingham High wants to provide his students with the intellectual skills and background to appreciate and continue learning in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. The LEGO Mindstorm Kits provide a project-based-learning or "learning by doing" environment designed to teach students how to build autonomous robots. Such a learning context is highly student-centered as opposed to teacher-centered. Designing a robot to do even a simple task can place extensive demands on students' creativity and problem-solving abilities. At the same time, the learning context allows students to work in a collaborative learning environment that promotes the sharing of ideas. This type of learning is well suited to learning in a real world environment because it requires the learner to produce a product, in this case a robot, which can be shared with a larger audience.

So, at the end of this school year, rather than the kids asking if they can burn their folders and papers in the outdoor fire-pit, I'm



Students in Mr. Clune's class building a robot.

hoping they'll come home with a robot that can empty the trash, pick up their clothes, cook dinners, and maybe even mow the lawn . . . do you think they could program something that they can't seem to master themselves?



HHS freshmen Sarah Middleton, Charlotte Sneath, Mary Glavin, Alex Melia and Katherine McDowell were among the students who volunteered to help with the Foundation's **Annual Phonathon** this fall. Thanks to the continued generosity of the community, the students solicited **\$32,350** in pledges. The Foundation would like to thank all of the students who participated as well as Coldwell Banker Real Estate and William Raveis Real Estate, Deanne Moore, Kara Roth, Paula Girouard McCann, Carol O'Neill, Monadnock Spring Water, The Hingham Journal, Ryan Mailing Services and Peacock Press.

Mini and Major Grants of 2007

We are thrilled to present the grants that have been awarded for 2007. Thirty-five grants were awarded, totaling over \$90,000. Your donations make it possible for us to fund these amazing programs. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Hingham Education Foundation.

High School

- Provide partial funding for Assistant Principal and Advisor to attend the 12th Annual Senior Project Institute.
- Pilot the PeaceKeepers program, a peer mediation course which addresses conflict resolution, anger management, low academic achievement, negative attitudes toward school and behavior problems.
- Purchase new series of Lego Mindstorm education curriculum for students to participate in applied engineering robotics projects.
- Purchase the Avelin digital signage and video messaging system to replace old system that posts school bulletin notices on cable channel 22.
- Develop a new African unit in the 10th grade English curriculum by partially funding a teacher's trip to Africa.
- Compile a primary and secondary library to provide students with individual work that enhances skills and supports the social studies curriculum.
- Help defray costs for Muslim student from Bosnia to attend the High School.
- Develop a handbook for use by teachers, students and parents that will outline a common language with which to teach writing across the curriculum.
- Purchase 2 Multi Region DVD players and transportation carts to show films and TV programs in foreign language classes.
- Partially fund a weeklong working seminar to explore teaching of Shakespeare.
- Purchase Tablet PC for math department use to help with assessment and feedback.
- Provide supplemental teaching materials for History Alive program, allowing students to do simulations and historical role plays.
- Assist in funding of Genocide Prevention Advanced Leadership Summit.

Middle School

- Purchase one SMART Board for the 7th grade geography teachers to enhance lessons and make geography come alive for students.
- Purchase LCD projector that will allow teachers to stimulate student interest and enhance student understanding of specific mathematic topics.
- Purchase 2 software programs that will

help facilitate decoding skills and increase reading fluency for dyslexic students and any other students who need focused instruction.

- Purchase two SMART Boards for 6th grade teams to enrich and enhance classroom.
- Sort and catalog all questions from previous MCAS exams for grades 6, 7, 8, 10 for practice testing.
- Host a school-wide celebration of "Pi-Day" for 7th and 8th graders.
- Purchase 9 Palm Pilots to provide technological enhancement to nine classrooms and allow each 6th grade teacher to be part of a revolutionary grading program.
- Purchase The Ultimate Water Rocket to be used by all 6th grade science teachers to stimulate interest in the science curriculum.

Foster School

- Assist in defraying costs for Mobile Learning Lab that will integrate mathematics, music and technology to enhance the Everyday Mathematics program.
- Provide initial funding for an early literacy 1000 Book Club Program for Foster School.
- Enhance social studies curriculum by partial funding of teacher's trip to Ghana.
- Purchase and coordinate phonological awareness curriculum and materials to use as an intervention program for at risk students.
- Purchase a classroom sound field amplification system to filter excess sound so that each child in classroom hears speaker's voice at an equal level.

Plymouth River School

- Provide additional resources to be used for phonemic awareness and phonic instruction for all kindergartners.
- Enhance 4th grade social studies curriculum by partial funding of two teachers'

trips to China. Pilot an art enrichment unit on Traditional Chinese Landscape.

- Fund new program with Jon Belber of Holly Hill Farms in Cohasset to develop indoor/outdoor classroom activities that focus on botany, organic gardening and deeper respect for nature and environment.
- Partial funding to purchase 3 Alpha Smart desktop keyboards for use by special education students in 5th grade.
- Fund "Healthy Bodies" grant which includes presentation to 4th and 5th grade students to combat negative body image, an evening presentation for all parents, curriculum materials for the Adjustment Counselor and a small library to be accessed by students, families and staff.

South School

- Train 5 paraprofessionals in Applied Behavior Analysis to work with autistic and special needs children in the integrated preschool at South School as well as the other elementary schools in Hingham.
- Enhance 4th grade social studies curriculum by partial funding of teachers/administrator trip to China.
- Purchase new memory chips for lab computers to improve their speed and efficiency.
- Purchase license for Study Island for 3rd and 4th graders for home-practice and self-assessment for MCAS testing.

All Schools

- Fund one LCD projector to be used at Hingham Public Schools' Central Office to provide more effective communication and presentations for parents and teachers.

President's Letter *continued from p. 1*

work and leadership of people of all ages.

We are a small town. We care about and celebrate the victories of young people who play hard, dream big, and learn and lead with determination and energy. Your contributions help make their work and their dreams possible. Your contributions to HEF make a difference.

Thank you for your confidence in and support of Hingham's schools.

Elaine Hoey Gomez

HEF Calendar

Early February – Grant Applications available on HEF website (www.hinghameducation.org)

Early March – Grant Application Deadline

March 28 & 29 – Entertaining for Education

Featured Grant: Classroom Amplification

With space in the Hingham schools at a premium, every classroom is in use. The increased use of multi-media technology and hands-on learning bring on a new challenge — background noise. Gail Marshalka, a teacher at Foster school, knew that this essential noise may impact the flow of the teacher's voice to some students. She looked to the Hingham Education Foundation for help.

Common sounds contributing to classroom noise may come from a variety of sources such as fans, ventilation systems, student activity and the playground. Combined, these factors add to the overall noise level of a classroom and may affect learning.

So when *Time* ran an article "Now Hear This, Research suggests that kids absorb lessons better when their classroom is wired for sound," Mrs. Marshalka looked into it. What she found was an audio enhancement system that allows the teacher to wear a wireless microphone that transmits his or her voice to speakers located in the classroom. In effect, it puts every child in the "front row" during group instruction. Regardless of factors such as seating arrangement or distracting background noise, every child has an



Mrs. Marshalka using the Classroom Amplification to teach her class.

equal opportunity to hear the speaker's voice with clarity. There is also a second transmitter available that students can use for individual speaking or presentations. In addition it has ports to which a TV, SMART Board, CD player, etc. can be attached to allow audio enhancement of classroom media.

Studies done through Brigham Young University and the University of Akron have shown significant improvement in standardized test scores of children whose classrooms were

equipped with this type of amplification system. The state of Ohio, as a result of the research, has insisted, since 2003, that all new schools built with state funds have sound amplification in their construction plans. Ohio is ahead of the sound curve but Nevada and Florida have recently begun placing the systems in their classrooms as well. The Hingham Education Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of public education and instruction in Hingham. Mrs. Marshalka's research and subsequent grant request demonstrated exactly the kind of creative solution the Foundation is thrilled to fund.

Hingham Education Foundation provided funding for a portable system designed for the space and sound needs of the classroom. It was installed over the summer and has been in use since the school year began. Mrs. Marshalka has been pleased with the results. It's been easy to use and incorporate into her teaching. It was in use Curriculum Night and a parent commented on how it made the speaker's voice clearer not louder, the way a microphone would. A student in Mrs. Marshalka's class said he notices the difference when he goes to a class with out audio enhancement. "It sounds better in Mrs. Marshalka's Class."

Consider Donating to the Hingham Education Foundation

For those of you who have donated to the Hingham Education Foundation in the past, we thank you for your generosity. With your support, our schools are able to give our children a truly enriched education that goes beyond the general curriculum.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Hingham Education Foundation. Simply fill out the form at right and return it with your donation to the address at the top. You will receive an acknowledgement from the Foundation for your tax purposes. If you'd like to help in another way, you may indicate that also. We thank you for your consideration.

Return form to: Hingham Education Foundation, P.O. Box 284, Hingham, MA 02043

I would like to help by:

volunteering my time for the Foundation or a Foundation-sponsored event

making a tax deductible contribution in the amount of:

\$1,000+

\$251-499

\$25-99

\$500-999

\$100-250

Other \$ _____

I have enclosed a matching grant form from my employer.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Thank you very much!

www.hinghameducation.org

Who We Are

The Hingham Education Foundation is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to enriching the quality of public education in Hingham. Since its incorporation in 1992, the HEF has awarded grants to enhance educational quality throughout the system.

Funds for the HEF's programs are generated through community contributions, and all monies raised are used to extend public funding for the schools. All donations, in-kind contributions, and volunteer hours are gratefully accepted. For further information, please call 781-740-8217 or visit our website at www.hinghameducation.org.

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*Please welcome our new board members.

Goodbye and thank you to the following departing board members:

Barbara Cook, *School Committee Representative*

Joe Craven

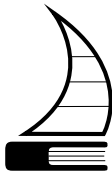
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Thank you to Joe Costello for helping with our taxes, Margaret Hebert for maintaining our website and Carol O'Neill for designing our newsletter.



**Hingham Education
Foundation**
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Entertaining for Education

Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 28** and **Saturday, March 29, 2008** for the annual **ENTERTAINING FOR EDUCATION** parties!

Parties are held at many homes throughout Hingham each spring, entertaining over 1,000 guests.

We are looking for party hosts. Get in on the fun! Together with your friends, host a luncheon, coffee, cocktail party, dinner or a neighborhood progressive.

Any type of get-together is great!

HEF will help you!

- We will supply invitations
- We will provide a discount on beverages
- We will thank guests for their tax-deductible contributions

Support our schools and have fun at the same time!

All proceeds raised go directly to fund HEF school grants.

If you are interested in hosting, RSVP to the "Entertaining for Education" chairs. We look forward to hearing from you.

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