



*Making a  
difference in  
Burlington  
Public Schools ...  
one grant  
at a time.*

Welcome to the spring edition of *In the Know*. You may be familiar with our mission statement by now and also some of our large grants. Even so, you may still have a few questions. There's always the semi-annual question: What grants were awarded in the most recent grant cycle? We have the latest announcement here!

Why do today's BEF volunteers support the foundation? They are committed to supporting teachers. They want to change the lives of children. They also like the feeling that comes from volunteering. What kind of support does the Foundation still need? Inside you'll find further answers to these questions, including our need for financial support through our Annual Appeal.

Coming May 6th is the BEF's 3rd Annual Exercise for Education 5K Walk or Run. If you haven't attended in the past, it's a morning event that is fun for all. Included is a half-mile Family Fun Run which is popular with children of all ages. If you don't run or walk, you can cheer on the runners as they enter the final stretch to the finish line! This event is one of our major fundraisers. Sponsors' donations provide the BEF with the means to fund future grants. Details of the event and more are included inside. I hope you can help us support our schools by joining in the fun!

Sincerely,

*Lauren M. Seeley*  
**Lauren M. Seeley**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Exercise-Inspired Education

**On Sunday, May 6th, BEF will host its 3rd Annual 5K road race, Exercise for Education.**

This event attracts runners, walkers and supporters from the local community and surrounding area. Last year 300+ runners helped BEF to raise over \$15,000 in grant money.

"The past couple of years have been very successful with a steady increase of participants," said BEF board member and race coordinator, Paula Boermeester.

What separates Exercise for Education from other road races is its family inspired atmosphere.

"Our goal is to have entire families participate. We look forward to hosting both runners and walkers of any age or ability with the 5K and a 1/2 mile Family Fun Run. This is an event where the entire family can

enjoy fresh air, a community atmosphere and each other," said Boermeester.

This year's festivities will include food prizes, raffles, a DJ, a moon bounce and much more. For those who don't wish to run or walk but would like to participate, Exercise for Education always welcomes volunteers. "We need lots of volunteers to make this event happen," said Boermeester.

**5k & 1/2 mile  
Family Fun Run**  
**This is an event where  
runners, walkers  
of any age or ability,  
and the entire  
family can  
enjoy!**

If you have any questions about the race, visit our website at: [www.burlingtonedfoundation.org](http://www.burlingtonedfoundation.org) or call Paula Boermeester at 781-272-4284. To volunteer contact Kathy Olney at 781-229-0062. Volunteers receive a free t-shirt, and a sense of being part of something great! High school volunteers are eligible for volunteer credits. ★

### Dates to Remember

- ★ **May 6**  
3rd annual Road Race
- ★ **June 6** - Deadline for STAR Awards

## What is the Burlington Education Foundation?

The Burlington Education Foundation was founded in 2004 to further enhance the opportunities for innovation in the already excellent public school system. Funds are primarily raised by two annual events, the Spelling Bee in the fall and the 5K Exercise for Education road race in the spring. These events, coupled with donations from the community, provide money to offer grants to any educator of the Burlington Public Schools. The Grants awarded by the BEF are not intended to replace or relieve the existing responsibility for public funding of school programs, but to enhance and broaden the knowledge of students, to develop and refine teaching techniques, and to provide employees of the Burlington Public Schools with opportunities to support and enrich the curriculum. ★

## Last Year's Fall Grant Recipients - Exercise for Education

Fall grant recipients from the Robotics Club and the Burlington High School art department will be at the BEF's 3rd Annual Exercise for Education 5k road race on May 6th.

Ramsey Abouzahara, a senior, discussed the importance of being able to have a Robotics Club at the high school. "The Robotics Club gives students a chance to explore technology using equipment that we couldn't otherwise afford. It allows students with common interests in mechanics and software to get together, have fun, and experiment with different robotic projects," said Abouzahara. This grant awarded funds to help purchase hardware needed to build robots for the Burlington High School Robotics Club to participate in (and win) in the FIRST Vex Challenge 2006!

Most of us are interested in computers and mechanics and wanted to do something that integrated those two fields," said senior, Billy Frederick. This project got students out into the real world of design and computer programming by visiting Burlington based business, iRobot.

Orders for the next edition of High School artist's note cards will be taken at the event as well. This project, a result of a spring 2006 grant has become a self-funding, and very popular means of sharing students works.

In addition to the excitement of the race and walk, Exercise for Education will include food, prizes, raffles, a DJ, and much more! If you have any questions about the race, visit our website at [www.burlingtonedfoundation.org](http://www.burlingtonedfoundation.org) or call Paula Boormeester at 781-272-4284. ★

### Mission Statement

The Burlington Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes community support for educational excellence in the Burlington Public Schools. The BEF's mission is to channel donations from businesses and individuals to provide Burlington educators with an additional source of funding for creative and innovative curriculum enrichment programs.

## Know Any ★'s?

- ★ **Super Students!**
- ★ **Terrific Teacher!**
- ★ **And**
- ★ **Really great Residents!**

Consider giving a STAR Award to show appreciation and recognition to some of the great teachers, students and community members in Burlington, and at the same time support our schools.

For a \$20 donation to the BEF, award recipients are honored with a personalized 8 x 10 certificate and recognition of the honor in the local press. For teachers acknowledgment of their distinction is given to their school principal. Those nominating students receive a car sticker: "I ♥ My Star Student."

Requests made before June 6 are guaranteed to be processed before the summer vacation. All other requests are processed on a rolling basis.

For more information, download a form from the Foundation's website; [www.BurlingtonEdFoundation.org](http://www.BurlingtonEdFoundation.org), or contact Program Coordinators: Marie Murray or Joan Abban.

## Congratulations to recent STAR Award recipients!

### Burlington Star Teachers

Erin Mahoney, FH  
George Norman, FH  
Karen Noonan, FH  
Judy Walsh, FH  
Kerri Foley, FW  
Leah Dooley, FW  
Trish Cotter, MSMS

### Star Community Members

Gordon Gottsche  
Rhonda Lufkin



# 2007 Spring Grants Awarded (\$3,766)

## Using Hands-On LEGO Sets to Teach Alternative Sources of Energy

### **Burlington High School**

This Science Department grant will allow students in Foundation of Science, Technology/Engineering, and Environmental Science classes to use "Hands-on Science, Engineering, and Math LEGO sets to experiment with the science of alternative energy. With the stress on the supply and demand for fossil fuels in today's society, students need to see the need for alternative sources of energy and understand how they are developed technologically and utilized to provide work and energy. This grant will fund the equipment needed for students to build working models of solar cars, solar heated houses, and other environmentally friendly models, while learning the science and technology of that process. This innovative grant not only engages students in dialogue about the topic of alternative sources of energy and the need for them, but also allows them a hands-on opportunity to learn the science of improving this situation for the future.

## Fifth Grade American Revolution Grant

### **Memorial School**

Fifth Grade students at Memorial School will have the opportunity to participate in the Sons and Daughters of Liberty field-trip. This unique and interactive field trip will include a historical tour of Boston and sites of the American Revolution, as well as hands-on activities through use of props, costumes, and creative storytelling. This grant's impact will go beyond the students at Memorial school. The 5th grade teachers will design lesson plans and a Web Quest that can be utilized by all 5th grade teachers in the school system to enhance their study of the American Revolution as part of their 5th grade curriculum.

## Tufts University Beezelbubs Performance

### **Marshall Simonds Middle School**

The Marshall Simonds Middle School Music Department has invited the well-known, all-male a cappella group, The Beezelbubs, to come perform for the middle school students as well as some of the choral groups from the high school. The Beezelbubs have recorded 25 studio and 3 live albums and have won numerous awards for performing and recording. They tour the U.S. and Europe and have appeared on *Late Night with David Letterman*. In addition to the performance, this grant will fund a workshop for a group of music students at the middle school. This exciting talented group of singers could inspire students to use some of their techniques in their own choral groups, as well as energized the participation of boys in the middle school and high school music departments.

## Job Board

Check out the new Job Board on the BEF website. See job descriptions for many of the positions we need to fill. Volunteer time commitments vary dramatically from a few hours one time to a standing position that requires an hour a week, as well as committee chair positions. Do you have a special talent you can share with the BEF? Let us know.

Call the BEF at 781-221-3530 to find out about immediate needs and other opportunities. Sample job board descriptions include, but are not limited to:

- ★ Clothing Line Coordinator
- ★ School Liaisons
- ★ In a Jam, Lend a Hand
- ★ Day of Event Workers
- ★ Fundraising Committee Members
- ★ Various Committee members



## Awarded Grants

2006 Fall (\$10,588)

- ★ Robotics-FIRST Vex Competition  
**Burlington High School**
- ★ PunOETRY Assembly with Jeff Nathan  
**Pine Glen**
- ★ The World on Demand: UnitedStreaming.com  
**Marshall Simonds**
- ★ Connecting Strands of Cultures Through Art  
**Pine Glen**
- ★ Fox Hill Spring Celebration  
**Fox Hill**
- ★ Knights and Castles: Europe in the Middle Ages  
**Marshall Simonds**

2006 Spring (\$6,465)

- ★ Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare Now  
**Burlington High School**
- ★ High School Artist Note Cards  
**Burlington High School**
- ★ Inca Son - Music and Dance of the Andes  
**Burlington High School**
- ★ Webcam and laptop for Celestron Telescope  
**Burlington High School**
- ★ Portable Art Gallery  
**Francis Wyman**

2005 Fall (\$12,755)

- ★ STARLAB Portable Planetarium  
**Burlington Science Center**
- ★ 50 Years at Memorial School: Looking Back, Moving Forward  
**Memorial**
- ★ Lunch Bunch Book Club  
**Fox Hill**
- ★ Social Studies Comes Alive Through Art  
**Pine Glen**

2005 Spring (\$6,000)

- ★ Symposium To Go  
**Memorial**
- ★ Chinese Scholars' Garden Library  
**Pine Glen**

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for the Burlington Education Foundation is responsible for the general management of, the policy setting for and the volunteer recruitment for the organization. At the annual members meeting held in February 2 new members (Julie Conley and Dee Lane) were elected to fill the seats of outgoing Board members (Lori Johnson and Lianne Raso). Both Lori and Lianne have served on the Board since BEF's incorporation in Jan. 2004. Their efforts to build and solidify the BEF are what have made the distribution of \$48,779 over 25 grants in 3 short years possible. An enormous THANK YOU to them both.

Contact Board members to find out how you can get involved.

### **Lauren Seeley**

PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Tom Conley**

TREASURER

### **Dee Lane**

FUNDRAISING CHAIR

### **Lori Johnson**

GRANTS CHAIR (term ends 6/30/07)

### **Julie Conley**

GRANTS CHAIR ELECT (term starts 6/30/07)

### **Karen Hoyt**

PARENT OUTREACH COORDINATOR

### **Lianne Raso**

ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR (term ends 6/30/07)

### **Paula Boormeester**

ROAD RACE EVENT CHAIR

### **Dan Grattan**

SPELLING BEE EVENT CHAIR

## Burlington Apparel

Have you got a Burlington T-Shirt, sweat-shirt or hat? The BEF is sponsoring a new BURLINGTON clothing line as part of our fundraising efforts. Items are fun to wear and show your town spirit. They also make great gifts.

Plans are still underway, but watch for samples on display at the 3rd Annual Exercise for Education 5 K Road Race. Flyers will be sent home with students and purchases may be made on-line through the BEF website.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the logistics of this project. Please call 781-221-3530 if you are interested.

## Annual Appeal

Burlington Education Foundation's grant programs are made possible thanks to the generosity of the many members of our community with an interest in fostering excellence in our schools. Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the BEF's Annual Appeal.

Donations received now will help fund the BEF for the 2007-2008 school year. Every dollar makes a difference. All donors will receive a BEF car window cling as a token of appreciation.



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## Sweet Success!

The Sweets, Smarts and Surprises raffle was a success! Businesses donated and residents responded! With 35 daily prizes valued at \$100 or more, over \$6600 was raised. Congratulations to Allison Theirrien, grand prize winner of a family season membership at the Burlington Swim & Tennis Club. A complete list of daily winners is posted on the BEF website.

## Website

Don't forget to visit us at our website - [www.BurlingtonEdFoundation.org](http://www.BurlingtonEdFoundation.org)

email us at:

[info@BurlingtonEdFoundation.org](mailto:info@BurlingtonEdFoundation.org)

Burlington  
Education  
Foundation

P.O. Box 756  
Burlington, MA  
01803

**781-221-3530**

Help your child's education  
by making a tax deductible donation to the BEF.  
Enclose this coupon and donation (checks payable to BEF) and return  
to your child's school or mail to: **BEF, P.O. Box 756, Burlington, MA 01803**

I want to be an anonymous donor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School(s) your children are in \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

All donors will receive a BEF car window cling!

- Up to \$25 - Donor
- \$25 - \$49 - Friend
- \$50 - \$99 - Supporter
- \$100 and above - Partner
- My company/employer will match my gift to the Foundation.

Further information can be found on our website: [www.BurlingtonEdFoundation.org](http://www.BurlingtonEdFoundation.org).