

 **Gloucester Education Foundation**
Annual Report and Appeal May 2010



The People Behind The Programs

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Gloucester Education Foundation,

Each year the Gloucester Education Foundation pays staff salaries and stipends for nearly one hundred individuals, the People behind the Programs, working to enrich the learning experience of Gloucester students. Our support includes both full or partial funding for a variety of positions including a Science Coordinator and Curriculum writer, a Volunteer Coordinator, Advanced Placement Prep teachers, music teachers, art teachers and school bus drivers to bring students to Extended Day activities to name but a few.

Thanks to the GEF funded *Sea Initiative* our district has gone from being 60% aligned with Massachusetts State Science Standards and 20% aligned with Technology Standards to now 100% aligned in science and 70% aligned in technology. Plans to be 100% aligned in technology by Fall 2010 are already well underway.

Yes, caring and committed adults make a big difference in the lives of our community's young people. And that is why we are asking you today to give as generously as you can to help us support the important work of these individuals.

Looking back, this school year saw many accomplishments supported by the Foundation and I'd like to report on just a few:

New Birdseye-Hammond Science, Technology, and Engineering Center: This new learning lab was established at the O'Maley Middle School and is making great strides in science and technology learning for middle school and 5th grade students.

Sea Initiative: Arguably what sets the Gloucester Schools apart from other schools across the state is the *Sea Initiative*. This GEF funded \$1 million collaboration between MIT, Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center, and our public schools allows Gloucester teachers to work with MIT staff to explore innovative ways to engage the minds of Gloucester students.

High School, Physics through Robotics: Funded by GEF, this new course (one of few in the state) has become an exciting hands-on learning approach to physics at GHS.

Arts Are Alive and Well: GEF is pleased to play a lead role in helping to strengthen GPS's dynamic arts programs. This includes funding visiting artists to work with GPS students, the elementary and middle school band, money for art supplies throughout the district, and the district-wide Arts Festival.

Today, we ask you for your support. Your contribution makes a big difference in our schools and in the lives of our young people. Please give as generously as you can by sending a tax-deductible donation or pledge to GEF, 33 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930 and help us reach every school, touch every child.

Thank you.



Ed Shoucair, President
Gloucester Education Foundation

P.S. Our address has changed so please make sure to use the new one,
33 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930.



GLoucester Education Foundation Mission

The Gloucester Education Foundation (GEF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making Gloucester one of the five best school districts in Massachusetts in five years.

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YEAR 4 THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROGRAMS

“Nearly 100 Bring Technology & the Arts to GPS”

It took under a minute for the 2010 Haitian earthquake to reach Gloucester Harbor one Friday night in March. O’Maley Middle School’s seismograph (purchased with GEF funds) in the new GEF Birdseye-Hammond Center went wild, scribbling its recording in a frenzy of excited up and down lines. Monday morning, O’Maley students were among the first in the world, outside of experts and universities, to see the seismographic evidence of one of the earth’s major geological events.



“We’re all still amazed,” said John Madama, GPS Science Coordinator. **“It makes it real for the kids. The seismograph itself fits right into the study of magnets and motors. It rivals what you see coming from major universities.”** It runs 24/7 and so far has picked up five major earthquakes for O’Maley students to interpret, using science, math, engineering — and technology — in an integrated, fascinating way.

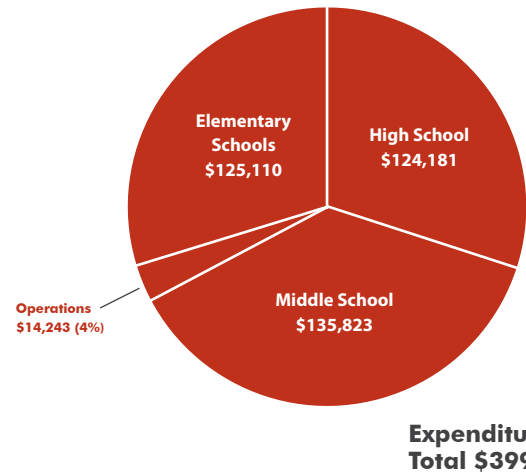
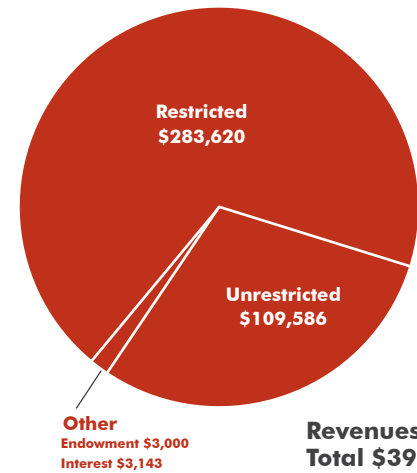
From Field Studies at the elementary level to the in-school GHS Robotics curriculum, GEF programs and the \$1 million GEF/MIT Sea Initiative, have brought new and exciting projects, equipment, and partnerships to Gloucester. **The programs and the people have been instrumental in bringing Gloucester up to 100% alignment with MA State Standards in Science (up from 60% before Sea Initiative) and 70% (up from 20%) in Technology.** Madama expects full technology alignment by September.

Robotics, Computer Aided Design, and the Flight Simulator classes offered through the Extended Day Program at O’Maley are among the most popular and fill quickly, according to Coordinator Sara Hoomis, as does film editing and production — including, now, digital filming and editing, thanks to new equipment purchased with GEF funds. Ten-week World Language classes are also offered to students who have not had the opportunity to learn a new language in school since budget cuts eliminated them.

The Arts have grown with the Elementary Theater Program piloted at Beeman, Plum Cove and West Parish, bringing professionals like Heidi Dallin from the Gloucester Stage Company (a Beeman alumna herself) into the schools. **“We did it all — sets, props, costumes, lines, staying in character. The kids jumped right in,”** said Dallin. **“It’s so good for their sense of confidence, public speaking skills and learning how to listen. It gives kids a chance to excel.”** West Parish and Plum Cove were also involved in the Theater Program and GEF hopes to extend it further.

Music is also flourishing with Dave Benjamin and Dave Adams. The two have been working interactively for years to train and raise excellent musicians, from fourth graders just starting out to the world-traveling GHS Docksiders band. Both Benjamin’s and Adams’s positions are funded through the GEF which has also been able to provide equipment, as well as transportation for elementary students to lessons offered at O’Maley. **“Dave Benjamin is the unsung hero of the music story in our schools,”** Adams declares. **“By the time they get to me, they’re trained musicians.”** He is unequivocal in his enthusiasm for GEF. **“I could not be doing what I’m doing without them,”** he says, **“and neither could the kids.”**

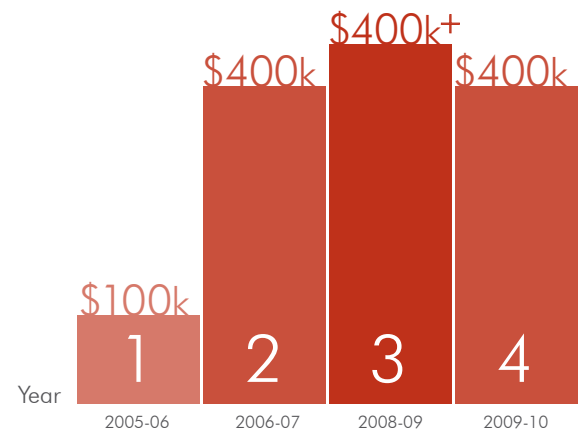
FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR 4 (school year 2009-2010)



In total, GEF raised \$625,815 in support of GPS in 2009-2010, of which \$226,466 went directly to MIT.

OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS

Last year, 96% of funds went directly to the programs GEF sponsors.



GLOUCESTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION: THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROGRAMS

Striving for Excellence and Innovation in Gloucester Public Schools



Birdseye-Hammond Science, Technology and Engineering Center

The Birdseye-Hammond Science, Technology and Engineering Center at O'Maley Middle School promises to be the **"crown jewel of the Sea Initiative,"** says John Madama, the GPS district science, technology and engineering specialist and curriculum writer, because it allows teachers to bring hands-on innovative programs and state of the art equipment to middle school students both during and after school.

The *Sea Initiative* (a GEF-funded collaboration between GEF, MIT's Edgerton Center, and the GPS) is a three-year, one million dollar grant bringing cutting edge science, technology, engineering and math to GPS throughout the district.

The Birdseye-Hammond Center, named after Gloucester's prominent inventors Clarence Birdseye and John Hammond, is a 1800 sq.ft. lab that boasts digital microscopes, a seismograph, a wind tunnel, digital publishing center, mapping systems, lasers, a biosphere, telescope, robots and much more.

All O'Maley students from 6th to 8th grade are now using advanced technology to study life science, physical science, technology and engineering. Digital microscopy and publishing, along with the science of racing mechanics and rocketry, are some of the innovative ways that students are being engaged. Elementary schools also benefit, as district-wide all 5th graders get to come to the center to study energy.

"My 8th grade son liked science in elementary school, but it wasn't until O'Maley that his interest in science really caught fire. He loves it and now he's heading into Honors Science classes at the High School...it's the only thing he does talk to me about!" –Pam Lally, Parent



Arts Are Alive in the GPS

Building and expanding upon the successes of the past two years, the GEF-sponsored 2010 Arts Festival again showcased the talents of all GPS students via the downtown art gallery (thanks



to the Cape Ann Savings Bank) and exhibits in the Sawyer Free Library, the Cape Ann Museum and downtown businesses.

Bus Drivers for After School

GEF funds bus drivers Lisa Amero and Cindy Carrancho to bring students to and from extended day activities so all elementary and middle school students who wish to attend are able to participate.



"We got to have our classroom on the beach! It's great to be able to learn about the ocean and a bunch of different sea creatures. I got to see orange snails that I've never seen before! It was cool!" –Genevieve H., 5th Grade Student, Field Studies

Gloucester Field Studies: The Beach as a Classroom

Gloucester provides a living laboratory and turns local glaciers and beaches into class-rooms for elementary students from Beeman, East Gloucester, Plum Cove, Veterans' and West Parish. Students observe, sample and collect data, and classify the wildlife and plants that are all around us.



Eastern Bluebird Nest Boxes



"Rarely have I seen 8th Graders so engaged in a project — and so proud of their work," said Jessica Garrett of MIT Edgerton Center, who helped students and teachers build Eastern Bluebird nest boxes at O'Maley's new Birdseye-Hammond Science Center.

The Bluebird Nest Project is a wonderful combination of ecology, math, engineering, manufacturing and construction. All 250 8th graders were able to measure, cut, saw and build their own bird boxes. ***"MIT is delighted to help support such projects and the excellent GPS teachers that lead them,"*** said Garrett.

Volunteering in our Schools



Peter Gaston has been volunteering in the GPS Robotics Program for more than three years and loves “working with hands-on technology again and seeing the kids ‘get-it’.” GEF is thankful to all the volunteers, like Gaston, who are enriching our students and schools every day.

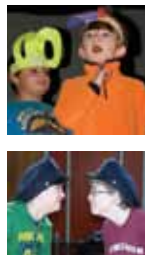
High school physics and robotics teacher Kurt Lichtenwald says Gaston has been pivotal in allowing the students to learn at their own pace. **“He’s great at catapulting kids to the next level,”** says Lichtenwald. Having volunteers like Gaston embedded in the classroom allows him to offer differentiated instruction so that students from all abilities can take his classes.

If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Jane Cunningham, GEF Coordinator of Volunteers, 978-283-5523; stewingham@hotmail.com



Elementary Theater Program

Theater is a vital part of the cultural and artistic fabric of this community. When 40 nine and ten-year-olds in costumes are singing, dancing and delving deeply into their parts while a whole school sits in rapt attention, you know something special is happening. That is why GEF is proud to support the collaboration between Gloucester Stage Company professionals and GPS.



O’Maley Summer Science Program with MIT & GMHC

Expanding on last year’s success, the Summer Science Program doubled from 20 to 40 students with each earning fully funded GEF scholarships to attend a week at MIT and a week at the Gloucester Marine Heritage Center. Students used stroboscopes, studied DNA, built under water robotic vehicles, visited the Haystack Radio Observatory, and even studied the science behind ice cream!



Photo: Gloucester Daily Times

*“Summer Science Camp was an eye-opener for me. I enjoyed building the ROV. When I operated it at home before my parents and siblings, they were all impressed!
—Carren J., O’Maley Student*

Summer Literacy through Art Program (Pilot)



“Art is a powerful path into literacy,” says Veterans’ Elementary School reading teacher Annmarie Rad when talking about the GEF sponsored three-week

pilot literacy program that occurred at Veterans’ during the summer. Using teacher-selected books as well as small group and large group instruction, students read and prepared dances that connected with the text and then performed weekly for parents. This successful program gives students the opportunity to hone their literacy skills in a fun way and helps students make alternative connections to literacy. The GEF is currently working on ways to expand this program district wide.

GPS’ Music Men: The Two Daves

Dave Adams and Dave Benjamin represent the musical journey that all GPS students have the opportunity to take thanks to the GEF-funded elementary and middle school bands and GHS’s Docksiders.



David Benjamin patiently and enthusiastically encourages children to take up an instrument in 4th grade by taking his Musical Petting Zoo on the road to each elementary school. It takes a unique individual to embrace beginning musicians but he is able to set the foundation so all children are given a chance to learn. Students can learn saxophone, flute, drums, clarinet, trumpet, violin and more. Benjamin has recently added the O’Maley Jazz Band.



At the High School, the Docksiders have flourished under the direction of Dave Adams into a nationally recognized elite band that is invited to perform across the country. Adams also leads the chorus and summer band programs that are also funded by GEF. Adams’ success is not only based upon his deep understanding of music but also knowing what makes adolescents tick. He expects great things of them and they respond with their best.



Ballroom Dance Program

All GPS 5th graders learn ballroom dance in school under the direction of their GPS music teachers and dance instructors Miss Tina, Mr. Ron LaFlam and Ms. Joanne Frontiero of Miss Tina’s Dance Studio. After ten weeks of twice weekly lessons, students can perform the tango, swing, merengue, fox trot and mambo, learn social skills, and get to strut their stuff at the district’s Mad Hot Ball.



YEAR 4 PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE GEF

Gloucester High School

- Physics of Robotics curriculum
- MIT workshop for teachers*
- Technical scientific equipment for Chemistry, Physics and Ecology Dept.* (e.g. spectrophotometer, digital multimeter, many lenses, GPS with computer interface, pH sensors, colorimeters, gas pressure sensors, barometers, spectrum tube power supply plus various gas tubes)
- Equipment for Art Program (10 more easels, pottery wheels, clay, computer, scanner, graphic software, Music amplifier)
- Drama Festival
- Stipends for Extended-Day advisors:
 - Band director/Docksiders
 - Summer Band Director
 - Chorus Director
 - Festival Director
 - School Literary/Arts Magazine “Elicitor”
 - Drama Director
 - Drama Musical Director
 - Drama Stage Crew Supervisor
 - Drama Technical Director
 - National Honor Society Advisor
 - Community Service
 - Student Council Advisor
- Marketing/DECA Program
- Chess
- College Visits for Guidance Counselors
- AP Prep Summer Programs
 - Chemistry
 - Economics
 - English
 - History
 - Physics
- ACTION Compass Science Program
- Teen Mentoring for Middle School students entering GHS



O’Maley Middle School

- Library
- Birdseye-Hammond Science, Technology & Engineering Resource Center for all grades.*
- Lead Science Teacher Stipends for all grades*
- Grade 6 Mapping Unit with GPS Devices and Software*
- Grade 6 Fossils and Geologic Time Scales- includes a set of high quality fossils.

- Grade 6 Seismology Unit and Seismograph*
- Grade 6 Forest Connections Field Study
- Grade 6 Grungy Ground Water Studies Unit*
- Grade 6 Low Power Binocular Microscopes and Balances*
- Grade 6 Magnets and Motors Unit
- Grade 7 Digital Microscope Unit with three Digital Microscopes
- Grade 7 Environmental Sensors and Probes*
- Grade 7 Force and Motion with Photogates and Timers*
- Grade 7 Compression and Tension Machines for Tower Building/Engineering*
- Grade 8 DNA and chromosome Unit
- Grade 8 Wind Mill Blade Design Unit*
- Grade 8 Renewable Energy – Unit Solar and Wind
- Grade 8 Bluebird Nest Boxes Construction*
- Grade 8 Electronic Balances*
- Grade 8 Bridge Building*
- All Grades Digital Photography and Publishing Center
- Extended Day programs:
 - Digital Film and Video Program
 - World Languages offered: Spanish, German, Italian and Latin
 - Robotics
 - CAD Boat Hull Design
 - Flight Simulation
 - Extended-Day Coordinator & Secretary

Elementary Schools

- Ballroom Dance Program
- Elementary Theatre Program
- Grade 2 Ocean Explorers Unit
- Grade 3 Mount Avalon (Glacial Landscapes) Unit
- Grade 4 Vernal Ponds Unit
- Grade 4 Geographic Mapping Unit
- Grade 5 Red Rock Unit
- Grade 5 Robotics Unit
- Grade 5 Tide Pools and Lava
- Grade 5 MIT visit Electricity & Circuits Unit*
- Science Lead Teacher stipends*
- Extended Day Music Program (band and strings), director and all musical instrument instructors (Clarinet, Flute, Percussion, Brass, Saxophone, Strings) and transportation for all students
- School Mini-grants: \$1000 grant given to each elementary school’s Site Base Council for after-school homework help; books; music equipment and curriculum enrichment.



Endowment Fund

Despite the economic downturn, GEF’s Endowment Fund has grown due to excellent management of the fund, and continued generous gifts from the Cape Ann Savings Bank and members of the community. This year, at the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, the Board approved the policy of an annual transfer of funds from the Endowment Fund into the General Fund to support current programs.

GEF would also like to encourage donors to consider the GEF when doing their estate planning, either by directing any bequest to the GEF for current programs or the Endowment Fund.



District-Wide Initiatives

- *Sea Initiative*: District-wide Science Technology and Engineering Specialist/Curriculum writer;
- Math Investigations upgrades K through 5th grade (Books and Internet access); Professional Development; Transportation for faculty and students
- GEF Student Summer Science Camp GEF/ MIT/ Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center.
- District-wide GPS/GEF Arts Festival in May.
- Volunteer Coordinator



* denotes program funded with Sea Initiative funds

GEF CONTRIBUTORS 2009-2010

(*) indicates our "star" donors who have supported GEF for three or more years – thank you!

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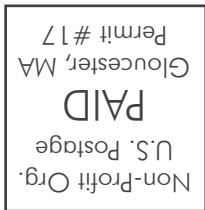
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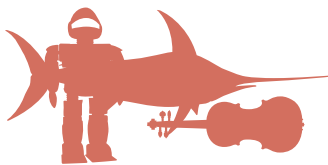
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GLOUCESTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT AND APPEAL YEAR FOUR *Striving for Excellence and Innovation in Gloucester Public Schools*



"Thank you so much for the Mini Grant. It will be used to buy new furniture for our computer lab, sound equipment for our music teacher, and resources for our Responsive Classroom Program that help create a peaceful and respectful school community. Without this grant these needs would truly go unmet for the next school year." –Jean Perry, West Parish Principal

