

The Redding Education Foundation

...fostering the fulfillment of learning at every age...



“Kids Give Back”

The perfect end-of-year teacher/administrator gift! (Read on to [learn more.](#))

<http://www.reddingeducationfoundation.org/newsletters.asp>, hosted on Youtube.

Dear Neighbor,

The school year is almost at a close, encouraging reflection and review. So I take the opportunity to highlight Redding Education Foundation’s (REF’s) benchmarks and achievements this past year.

- We launched the first **“Fare for Education”** on August 30th, 2009 at the Concert on the Green, where we enjoyed music together, mingled, shared ideas and discussed the upcoming school year.
- For the event, we luckily enlisted **Tom McMorran, principal of Joel Barlow High School (JBHS), interviewing him** for the Foundation’s website. He elaborated very important concepts and challenges we face now and in the future in education. *“We don’t know much about 2020 other than that we are certain that what we THINK it is going to be like AND what it’s ACTUALLY going to be like, we know is different. We are a working institution organized more than 100 years ago. It’s greatest strength, as so often the case, is its greatest flaw... The graduate today will need to have the skills, the knowledge and the ability to compete with people all over the world.”* (For complete interview and transcript, visit our website:

- We **welcomed our new superintendent** Dr. Michael Cicchetti (who now is our seasoned Easton, Redding & Region 9 superintendent!) to our Redding community with a special celebration, inviting all our past donors and special guests to “meet and greet”.
- In October, REF hosted a table at the **“350.org”** event at the town green, where we compiled and shared information about how to keep our planet healthy, green and livable!
- We funded **several grants** this year, many of which supported professional development and enhanced the Redesign of the American High School at JBHS. REF was committed to supporting these grants especially in lieu of the budget cuts. All JBHS grants are split and shared with the Easton Learning Foundation.
- **Professional Development Grant JBHS: “Smart Ed Tech: Strategies for Tough Times”**, attended by John D. Crowley, Director, Learning Resources and Information Technology at JBHS. Noted technology experts elaborated the conversation as to why we need to prepare ourselves for a “technology tsunami”. An article for Edutopia.org best

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Partner to Promote Educational Excellence

REF will partner with community members, organizations and schools to achieve a shared vision of educational excellence and innovation. REF will invest in community educational and cultural arts initiatives and in programs for our schools that fall beyond the scope of the town and school budgets.

expresses this paradigm called *Disrupting Class: Student-Centric Education Is the Future; How radical innovation will change the way we teach and kids learn* by Clayton Christensen. Visit: <http://www.edutopia.org/student-centric-education-technology>.

• **Professional Development Grant JBHS:**

Each fall, the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) holds one of the most significant teaching conferences in the United States, bringing together thousands of English language arts educators committed to developing English education to best meet the needs of the learners in our changing world. This year's Conference, "**Teachers and Students Together: Living Literate Lives,**" focuses on learning environments and literacy experiences that inspire and empower students and teachers, parents / guardians, and those in the wider community. *How can English teachers foster more open and democratic teaching practices that engage students in critical investigations with purpose and joy?*



Though the English program at JBHS has many strengths in this high-per-

forming district, it is "our obligation to continue seeking excellence, to continue finding ways to develop our students' proficiencies, to continue sharing ideas with others, and learning from others, in the ongoing quest to use literacy to enable students to develop a deeper understanding of themselves and society."

Jonathan Budd, Janice Garvey and Thomas Kilbourn have been selected by NCTE to conduct a 75-minute workshop at this Conference, engaging participants from across the nation in a variety of practices or methods found useful in Joel Barlow's expanded approach to poetry education, including, but not limited to, the core skills of synthesis and oral conversation.

This particular conference is both a learning experience and an honor!

• **Professional Development Grant JBHS:**

Participation at the AP Institute at St. Johnsbury Academy in the Summer 2010 (recipient: Lori Estes) Participation will help JBHS to continue to expand

and enrich the AP Statistics course.

• **One Book, One Community: Grant for the Mark Twain Library**

The Director and the Board of the Mark Twain Library, the Hartford Public Library, the Center for the Book and other libraries across CT, joined together in a venture to encourage the reading and understanding of America's foremost novelist and humorist, Mark Twain beginning April, 2010. Through this project, the library planned to work with residents in towns across CT, especially those with a Mark Twain connection, to share the joy of reading Mark Twain, to discover the relevance of the book today and to appreciate a tale from a master story-teller. Through the grant by REF, paperback editions of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (considered the perfect story for young and old) were purchased to ensure that everyone had access to a copy making the book made easily available and free of charge. Throughout the program numerous discussions, lectures and events were held in honor of Twain and his legacy.



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• Software for Announcement Delivery at John Read Middle School (JRMS)

The software was purchased in collaboration with the JRMS PTA, providing an improved delivery method of morning announcements and all other school wide announcements. It also enables a live broadcast to be recorded and saved to the JRMS server, allowing teachers to access the broadcast at any time during the day.

Accessing the announcements eliminates the transition time in the morning and affords the students a quieter setting in which to view and hear the announcements. Additionally, the added video component transmitted via smartboards in each classroom increases student ability to attend by offering another learning modality (visual) in addition to auditory stimulus of announcements.

This technology also enables administration, staff, students and outside agencies/presentations when appropriate, to make school wide announcements throughout each grade without requiring an assembly.

• “Kids Give Back”

While this program is not new, REF is hoping that “philanthropy” is something taught early on; one is never too young to learn about and engage in giving! The program allows your child to make a donation to REF in the name and honor of a teacher or administrator---the “gift” is a certificate of recognition (see side of page). So in light of the end-of-the-year...and as a wonderful thank you to those who inspire, please visit our website at http://www.reddingeducation-foundation.org/programs_kids.asp and follow the instructions.

Over the summer, REF’s goal is to establish a new donor software program that will certainly take us beyond where we are today, so we can communicate with you more efficiently and effectively.

We hope you have a pleasant and rejuvenating summer, wishing you all the best in the coming year!

With many thanks,
Alice Smith

President, Redding Education Foundation



“KIDS GIVE BACK!”

A Donation Was Made to The Redding Education Foundation

In Honor of
YOUR TEACHER'S NAME

Example...You may write your own version...
For being an inspiration to me...
helping me do my best...
and always cheering me on!

Given by
YOUR NAME HERE
Year Given



We want to hear from you!

*Whether you have an hour or a
desire to embrace a project,
we can put your talents to
great use!*

Please contact us at:

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or 203-938-1411