



**Essex Fells
Foundation**
for Educational
Excellence

**A Personal
Commitment
to Public
Education**

Annual Report
Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

**Essex Fells School District
102 Hawthorne Road
Essex Fells, New Jersey 07021**

Dear Officers and Trustees of the Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence,

The Essex Fells Board of Education would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the support and partnership of the EFFEE. Your contributions to the school community have provided our students opportunities that would otherwise not be available in a public school setting.

The Foundation worked with the school staff to create differentiated enrichment programs. Despite various obstacles throughout the year, the EFFEE stayed steadfast in their commitment to provide our students with quality enrichment programs. The variety show was a great success, despite scheduling issues due to Covid-19. It was truly a memorable experience for the entire school community.

The Foundation has carefully selected programming and enrichment activities that reinforce the goals and mission of EFS. These programs were well-developed and implemented and lead to a deeper level of learning and engagement for all participants.

We look forward to another wonderful and successful school year at EFS.

Sincerely,

Amanda Haber
President, Essex Fells Board of Education



**Essex Fells
Foundation**
for Educational
Excellence

P.O. Box 174
Essex Fells, NJ 07021
www.efee.org
info@efee.org

June 2022

Dear Friends & Neighbors in the Essex Fells School Community,

Gemma Diaco
President

The Trustees of the Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence and I thank you for your continued generosity and support of Essex Fells School ("EFS").

Annemarie Hochkeppel
Vice President, Finance

Your support enabled our Trustees to work together with the dedicated teachers, hardworking staff, tireless Board of Education, wonderful PTA volunteers and our visionary Principal/Superintendent to fund and provide many programs that enriched our children's learning experiences this past school year.

Barbara Luca
Vice President, Grants

Ashley Moran
Secretary

Due to your overwhelming support, the Foundation was able to fund \$65,000 in grants during the school year. None of these programs would have been possible without your unwavering support and generous donations. A few highlights of Foundation funded grants are as follows:

Kelly Zarah
Treasurer

- Prior to the first week of school, a Social Emotional Well-Being grant enabled the students to visit the school and tour their classrooms, to help ease the transition back to school.
- The school's first Rigamajig Lab, an award-winning system for hands-on STEM exploration that launched this fall.
- The popular, annual Variety Show still took place this past fall in a virtual format and, as always, was a huge success.
- Assemblies by musicians and storytellers fed our children's creative appetites and we back live in school.
- Many historically popular grants, like Study Hall, the First Grade Book-nic, Art Club, and Book Club continued for our children.
- Throughout the school year, the student-led Bengal Broadcast provided viewers a glimpse of life at the school.
- The annual musical *Frozen, Jr.* was live on stage and enjoyed by all.

Carrie Bobroff
Paige Daniels
Erik Dykema
Robert Fink
Christine Lembo
Eliza Sine
Melissa Stomienski
Lauri Wactlar
Catherine Walsh
Stefanie Wozniak
Trustees

Ex-Officio
Michelle Gadaleta
Superintendent

In the wake of the tragic loss of EFS' beloved Mr. V, the Foundation was also able to make a significant donation to the educational fund set up for Mr. V's children and, looking ahead, the Foundation will be establishing a scholarship fund in his honor next year.

Amanda Haber
Board of Education

Cindy Mehta & Nicole Skopak
PTA Presidents

On a personal note, after four years as a Trustee of the Foundation (and having the honor to serve as President this past year), my time with the Foundation has come to an end. I cannot thank my fellow Trustees, the teachers, staff, and Dr. Gadaleta for all they do for our children. I am extremely grateful for the continued spirit of community that has enabled The Foundation to fund to many programs for our children. Thank you to everyone in the EFS community – it has been my honor to serve you.

George Stanton
Stephen Gray
Carol LeCates
Gerry Nolan
Ellen Marie Peck
Ned Stern
Joanna Heaton
Carol D'Alessandro
Alexis Shaw
Debra Tedesco
Maggie O'Connor
Tricia MacEvoy
Laura Z. D'Avella
Past Presidents

With gratitude,

Gemma G. Diaco
President

Financial Summary

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Income:

Gifts Received	\$ 53,852.70
After School Enrichment	\$ 2,254.67
Fall Fundraiser	\$ 0.00
Total Income:	\$ 56,107.37

Expenses:

Grant Disbursements:

Arts and Culture Grants	\$25,220.08
Character Education Grants	\$ 600.00
Club Grants	\$ 8,981.47
Study Hall Grants	\$ 850.00

Total Grant Disbursements: \$35,651.55

Afterschool Enrichment	\$ 1,658.00
Administrative Expenses	\$ 6,079.77
Fall Fundraiser Expenses	\$ 0.00

Special Projects

COVID Expenses	\$4,134.22
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Total Expenses: \$47,523.54

Net Proceeds for the Year: \$ 8,583.83

Fund Balance June 30, 2021: \$65,793.46

Fund Balance June 30, 2022: \$82,078.81

Grants Approved

Annual School Musical

The Foundation approved a grant to fund the annual school musical for grades 4th-6th. The musical was a live production of *Frozen, Jr.*

Art Club

The Foundation approved a grant request to fund a project for sixth graders to create ceiling tiles to place on the ceiling of the library.

Book Club

The Foundation approved a grant request for a book club for a max of 15 students from grades 2nd & 3rd to foster their love & engagement of reading with literary experiences.

Broadcasting Club

The Foundation approved a grant request for the Broadcasting Club. The students write, direct, and produce weekly segments, which air on bimonthly mornings during announcements.

Buehler Challenger & Science Center Field Trip

The Foundation funded a grant for this 5th grade field trip which provided 2 Moon Missions and 2 Design Challenges. The students work in teams to problem-solve and make decisions beneficial to the entire group. This experience increased student interest in science, mathematics and technology. It also helps them to develop realistic processes of cooperation, communication, and critical thinking.

Entrepreneur Pathways, Inc.

The Foundation funded a grant to provide this STEAM curriculum supplies and teacher support for all grades K-6. There are 5 activities per grade with each activity 60-90 mins in length. Includes onsite orientation for all staff.

Fine Motor Skills

The Foundation funded a grant to purchase buckets that will be filled with various activities for use by PS & K students to work on their

fine motor skills.

Generation Genius

The Foundation funded a grant to purchase this online software that provides K-6th grades with STEAM related videos, quizzes, tutorials.

Gross Motor Initiative

This grant funded the purchase of bicycles, toy cars, helmets, balance beams, and tunnels for the Pre-Schoolers to use during outdoor play. These supplies will help enhance the children's gross motor opportunities.

Keyboarding Club

This club provides the students with lessons to build proper typing skills to improve their speed and accuracy.

Kicks for a Cause

The intention of Kicks for a Cause is to support young adolescents in finding a way to make change in the world and put forth a daily effort which echoes practices of stewardship and leadership. The 6th grade students worked collaboratively to craft and design Vans sneakers in honor of a long-standing charitable foundation. Students worked in pairs to learn styles of sneaker design and artistic approaches through support from live Zoom sessions with Sam Halseth, a young entrepreneur who is a veteran sneaker designer and digital marketing specialist, who led students towards incorporating meaningful techniques and practices using acrylic paints and our school-housed Cricut printer. Students also visited The Kubert Design School in Dover where they took drawing classes and observed live classroom sessions in comic and graphic design. Thematically, they worked to align a superhero and their legacy into the final sneaker designs. Thus, lending the idea of finding “the power to do good. At its first event, Kicks for a Cause showcased 19 magnificent pairs of sneakers, each unique in their selection of charitable organization, and each reflecting a new aesthetic for creating wearable art out of an unconventional object.

Sixth Grade Late Night

The Foundation funded a grant for a 6pm-midnight team building event to support the 6th graders kick off their last year at EFS. Students participated in team building activities and collaborative games throughout their night at the school.

Social Emotional Well-Being Group

This grant provided an art directive, question and answer time, and a social time for PS-6th students who might need additional support prior to the school year. This was designed to support the social emotional well-being of students to help with the transition back to school.

Stock Market Club

The Foundation approved a grant request to fund the Stock Market Club. This club teaches the students aspects of economics, investing, and personal finance with the goal of preparing them for a financially independent future. The students are given a virtual dollar amount and set up stock portfolios to purchase and monitor throughout the length of the club.

Study Hall

The Foundation approved a grant request to continue funding Study Hall for the 2021-22 school year. Study Hall provides a time for students in Grades 4th – 6th to work ahead on homework, make up schoolwork they are unable to complete during class time, and/or study for upcoming tests and quizzes.

Variety Show

The Foundation approved a grant request to fund the annual Variety Show with participants from grades 4-6th. The students recorded their performances outside of school and submitted them to Mr. Trogani, who compiled them into a video shared with the EFS community. Students showed off their best talents either in a solo act or with a group: singing, dancing, comedy, gymnastics, and more! This event helps build student confidence through

performing.

Yearbook Club

The Foundation approved a grant request to continue the Yearbook Club for the 6th Grade students as they work together to produce the yearbook.

The Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence thanks the following patrons* for their generosity and continued support during the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022):

Arianne Adams
Roselyn Adams
The Alexander/Darville Family
Guillermo Artiles
The Avini Family
Debbie Banks
The Bawa Family
Harry and Jennifer Beatty
The Bobroff Family
The Bronstein-Egusquiza Family
Robert & Jacquelyn Burke
John Calamari
The Camilleri Family
Joyce and A. Michael Candido
Carella, Byrne, Cecchi, Olstein, Brody & Agnello P.C.
The Chakhtoura Family
The Cobos Family
The Constantino Family
The Criqui Family
Nicole Criscione
The Critchley Family
The Cronin Family
The Cusack Family
Steven & Paula Diaco
Bernard and Elaine D'Avella
The D'Avella Family
The Daniels Family
Avram Davidson
The Davis Family
The Diaco Family
The Downes Family
The Dumornay Family
William du Pont Staab Jr
The Dykema Family
The Gerard Eckert Fund
Essex Fells Teacher Association
The Farkas Family
The Ferguson Family

The Ferrer/Fleming/Plata Family

Rob Fini

Lauren Fiss & The Schmidts

The Forte Family

The Fortunato Family

Mark Franciotti

The Freda Family

The Freudenberger-Nelson Family

The Frey Family

Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta

The Gaffney Family

The Gardner Family

Francis and Marie Giantomasi

The Glassman Family

The Goldman Family

The Gough Family

The Haber Family

The Haghighi Family

The Haydu Family

Howard Hansen

The Hochkeppel Family

The Holland Family

The Huegel Family

The Hughes Family

Mr and Mrs James Kearney

The Kessler Family

The Kim Family

The Kovacs Family

Dennis and Patricia Lacognata

Alan Landy

The Lauber Family

The Lavezzo Family

The Lavoie Family

The Legaspi Family

Francine Lembo

The Lembo Family

The Luca Family

The Mac Evoy Family

The Maffucci Family

The Makovsky Family

The Mastria Family

The Maurillo Family

The Mazzei Family

The Mehta Family

The Melendez Family
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The Monnier Family
The Moran Family
The Negrin Family
The Neto Family
Angela Newman
The Norton Family
The O'Connell Family
The O'Donnell Family
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The Paleski Family
The Panagiotakis Family
Nancy Parisi
The Paulin Family
Rosalind Pio Costa Foundation
The Pinto Family
The Rakhimova/Bhatti Family
The Ramos Family
The Roglieri Family
The Rowan Family
The Schlosser Family
The Scolnick Family
Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Seabra
The Shojae Family
Shelley and Rick Simon
The Sine Family
The Singh Family
The Skopak Family
The Slomieski Family
The Spellman Family
Janet Stanton
The Stefanczyk Family
The Steiner Family
The Storz Family
The Tarrach Family
The Terzo Family
The Torjussen Family
The Toth Family
The Trapasso Family
The Vega Family
The Voliva Family
Rosalyn Wactlar

The Wactlar Family
Kevin & Suzy Walsh
The Walsh Family
The Wilson Family
The Zarah Family

***This list has been prepared with great care. However, despite our sincere efforts to avoid omissions we know they can occur. If any omissions are noted, we hope you will accept our apology and advise us of the error by emailing info@effee.org.**