



*Groton
Dunstable
Education
Foundation*

2020-21 Annual Report

*...helping our students
“Reach for the Stars!”*

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GDEF MISSION

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation is a volunteer non-profit organization committed to enhancing the success of our public schools by providing private funding for innovative, inspiring programs and opportunities. This community driven foundation believes that each child deserves an excellent educational experience and that supported and successful schools are fundamental elements of our special communities.



GDEF Year in Review



June 2021

Dear Community,

It has been a busy year for the Groton Dunstable Education Foundation due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our education system. We have been working hard to support our teachers and students in successfully navigating the challenges of teaching and learning in a virtual and/or hybrid environment. We funded 8 major grants and 14 mini-grants, which provided \$46,000 to teachers and students of the GDRSD.

We granted new and different types of requests such as durable goods like standing desks, paint for the hardscapes, scoop seats, and yoga mats which enabled children to utilize outdoor learning environments. We also supported professional development about promoting the resilience of children in a pandemic, teaching critical thinking skills, and considering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in literacy.

During our Annual Giving Campaign, with the generous support of our community, we were able to raise nearly \$20,000. We held our Annual Trivia Night virtually again. We raised money for grants and had a blast! Congratulations to The Flying Toupees for their grand win!

The Board of the Groton Dunstable Education Foundations wants to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the people in our community who helped us help the teachers and students of the GDRSD this year. We are also endlessly grateful to all the teachers and staff of the GDRSD who have worked tirelessly on behalf of all our children.

Wishing you all the best,

GDEF Board

Anu, Beth, Betsy, Caitlin, Colette, Emily, Kim, Kristin, and Laura

Trivia Night 2021

Hosted by the Trivia Brothers ~ online ~ Saturday, March 20!

The Flying Toupees were the winners!

Trivia Night 2021 raised over \$1600 for our students!



Over 16 Teaching Stars were sent to individuals and teams!



Florence Roche
Lucas Smith
Sarah West

Middle School
Kathryn Shedd
Cheryl Keough
Nicole Stone
Frances Osterholtz
Kristen Kieda
Mark Coronis

Swallow Union
Elizabeth Ackerman
Margie Lattini

High School
Adam Snodgrass
Mark Hennelly
Mary Cain

Boutwell Team
Elizabeth O'Neill/Courtney
Shattuck

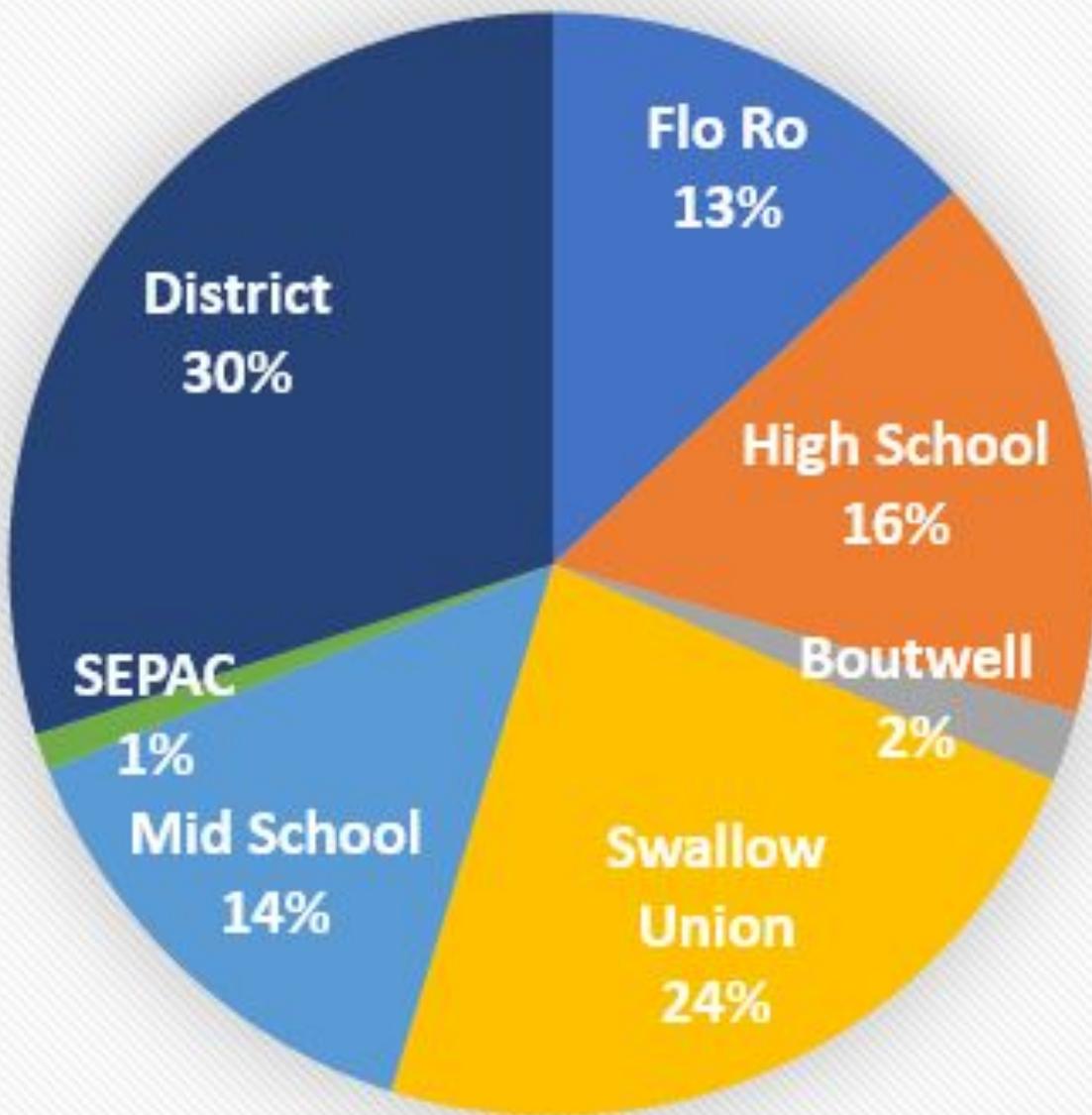
Middle School Teams

Mark Richardson/Nichole Masse/Margaret Perreault/Karyn Copland
Alison Pflanz/Jennifer Maio/Lisa LaPierre/Emma Blydenburgh
Emily Stone/Audra Kaplan/Clare O'Neill/Linda Jones

Through the teaching stars program we raised \$635--- for our students and teachers! THANK YOU!

Grant Disbursement by School

2020/2021



Awarded Major Grants

Grant Cycle 1 July 31

Sentence Analytics	<p>HS Kelly Cook</p> <p>This grant provides funding for a year for an online sentence diagramming program to help students learn sentence syntax patterns appropriate to their grade level. This contributes to their ability to edit their work and the work of their peers, defend their editorial decisions with absolute logic and improve success rates on multiple-choice tests with questions about usage, mechanics, and rhetorical skills..</p>
Enhanced Engagement in Remote Learning	<p>FR, SU Grace Volpe, Holly Shreve, & Sharon Lemont</p> <p>This grant allows for the purchasing 50 sets of Foundations letter tiles and magnet boards to support students who are striving towards mastering foundational reading skills. Kits will be loaned to families to use in hybrid and remote learning and then be returned to GD when instruction returns to typical practice.</p>
Outdoor Sensory Breaks	<p>B, FR, SU, GDRMS Clare Gribi, AnneMarie Lanctot, Alison Sancinito, Laura Taylor, Ann Russo, & Chrissy Conway</p> <p>This grant is for the purchase of equipment, paint and reusable stencils to make creative hardscape designs to create spaces for students to “remain together while apart” as well as spaces to connect with peers in positive ways.</p>
Standing Desks/ Flexible Workstations	<p>GDRMS Tracy Weeks & Brenda Hoag</p> <p>GDEF will purchase as a pilot, 5 standing desks with swinging foot bars, and tall stools that allow students to reduce sitting times and provide them the opportunity to change positions when required to stay in a limited physical area.</p>

Awarded Major Grants

Grant Cycle 2 January 15

<p>Developing a Positive Sense of Self and Others through Literacy</p>	<p>District Sancinito</p> <p>This grant would provide DEI professional development for all educators in the district through a literacy lens. The district will partner with Dr. Kimberly Parker, who will lead PD for all staff on identity and implicit bias while making recommendations for a curricular library audit.</p>
<p>Critical Thinking, Civil Discussion, and Evidence-Based Arguments</p>	<p>Highschool Cook, Reynolds</p> <p>This grant gives GDRHS students in all grades access to an online course, developed by Thinker Analytix, an educational nonprofit working in partnership with classroom teachers and Harvard’s Department of Philosophy, to help students build logic and reasoning skills using a research-backed method called argument mapping.</p>
<p>Magnetic Letters</p>	<p>Florence Roche Gribi, Lanctot</p> <p>This grant allows for the purchasing 75 sets of Foundations letter tiles and magnet boards to support students who are striving towards mastering foundational reading skills. Kits will be loaned to families to use in hybrid and remote learning and then be returned to GD when instruction returns to typical practice.</p>
<p>Snow Shoes</p>	<p>Swallow Union Pelletier</p> <p>This grant provided funding for 22 pairs of snowshoes to be used at Swallow Union during PE classes.</p>

Awarded Mini Grants

<p>Windmills</p>	<p>FR Clare Gribi, AnneMarie Lanctot, Darlene Wilkins, Marcia Cragg, Catherine Hohmann With the boundless creativity of our First Grade teachers, our first graders at Florence Roche built a community pinwheel garden. Students all brought a pinwheel home to represent families as an extension of the school community.</p>
<p>3D Printer</p>	<p>HS Rocheleau This grant is for a Prusa 3D printer with features such as auto bed leveling, filament runout detection, skipped step detection, and power resume which nearly eliminate the most time-consuming and frustrating points of failure in 3d printing. This printer provides students with the opportunity to experiment with design and prototyping and will create excitement about the engineering design process as it give students an opportunity to quickly make their designs a reality.</p>
<p>Boutwell Canopy</p>	<p>Boutwell Andrea Barrett Tents were purchased for Boutwell to assist in outdoor learning spaces for the preschoolers. The tents are meant provide shade/shelter and a designated area to do small group play, learning, and therapy activities.</p>
<p>Net Games</p>	<p>HS Lynch This grant is for 4 adjustable nets that can be used for various games including badminton, pickleball, and volleyball. These nets will used the entire year inside and outside by all students in the HS program. These games foster lifelong activities!</p>
<p>Fourth Grade Reading</p>	<p>SU Genevre Jankowski, Sue Wynn, Peggy Fournier This grant includes yoga mats and scoop chairs to allow for flexible seating. Chairs and mats can easily be moved outside for learning. These also allow for alternate seating in the classroom within each child's 6 foot area. The seats and chairs will continue to be utilized in a post Covid environment.</p>
<p>Jon Mattleman - Minding Your Mind</p>	<p>SEPAC Katie Leonard Jon Mattleman, a mental health counselor for over 35 years will give a dynamic presentation Oct 8, 2020 on returning to school and resilience. He will address the mental health warning signs in our children, how to establish routine but stay flexible, and the importance of kindness during COVID-19.</p>

Awarded Mini Grants

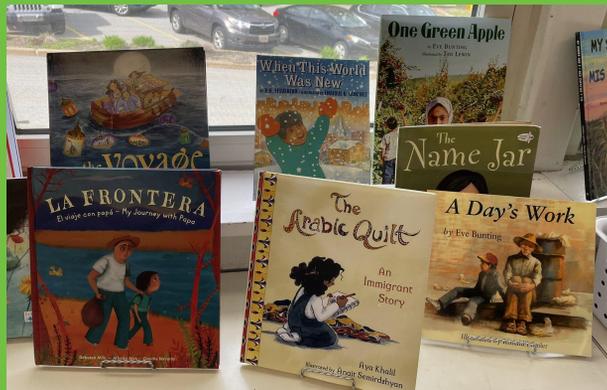
<p>Robotomies Sponsorship</p>	<p>HS Mark Rocheleau GDEF is sponsoring the Robotomies Club once again to support in STEM learning. The sponsorship will help to cover the entry fees and supplies needed to create a competitive robot. We wish them luck!</p>
<p>SU 2nd Grade Seating</p>	<p>Swallow Union Hamel, Bushnell, Rozzi This grant provided individual scoop chairs and yoga mats for the hybrid second graders at SU. These seats can be brought outside and rearranged in the classroom while adhering to social distance regulations, allowing for flexibility and more comfortable seating options.</p>
<p>Fidget Tools</p>	<p>Florence Roche Bent This grant provided “sensory kits” for special education students. Because of social distance regulations, students are required to stay in their seats, which creates a need for stationary movement breaks. This project supports each student’s individual needs by allowing them access to student specific and individualized tools that promote engagement and decrease stress.</p>
<p>Reynolds PD</p>	<p>HS Reynolds Thinker Analytix, whose mission is to empower educators to teach critical thinking skills so that students achieve academically and discuss social issues with precision and care, provided on-site training for teachers at the high school.</p>
<p>MORE Scoop seats</p>	<p>Swallow Union Ackerman, Caulfield, Schott This grant provided individual scoop chairs and yoga mats for the hybrid first graders at SU. These seats can be brought outside and rearranged in the classroom while adhering to social distance regulations, allowing for flexibility and more comfortable seating options.</p>
<p>Boutwell Obstacle Course</p>	<p>Boutwell Cummings, Barrett, Stengrevics This grant supports the children of Boutwell in the work of language comprehension and use (understanding linguistic concepts, on, next to, under, between, through, first, second, then, etc., categorization, description), development of gross motor, and fine motor abilities in a safe and fun environment.</p>
<p>Gardening</p>	<p>Middle School Letson This grant supported a gardening program for special education students at the middle school.</p>

Awarded Mini Grants

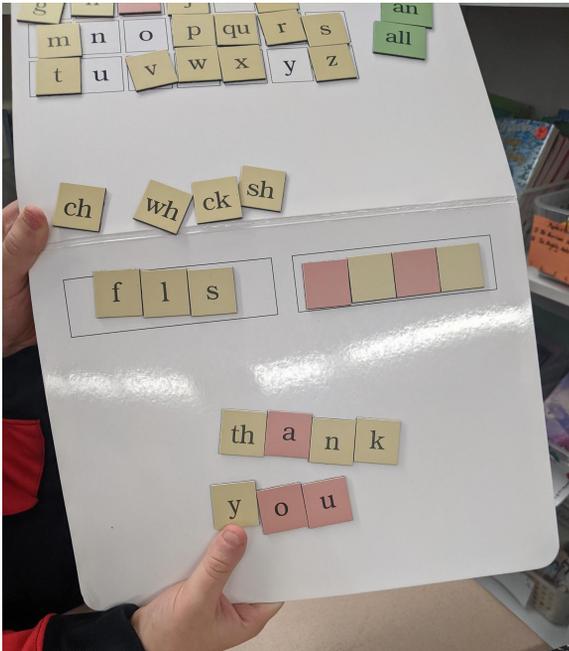
Immigraton Picture Books

Swallow Union | Wynn, Jankowski, Fournier

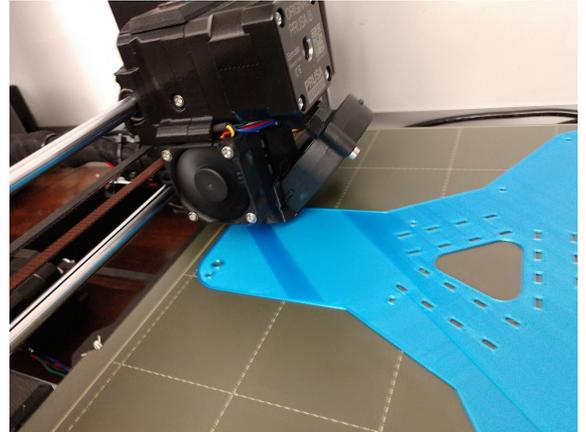
This grant is to purchase picture books that represent a range of different immigration experiences from a child's perspective. It supports the Social Studies curriculum goal to teach students to understand the struggles immigrants face, to appreciate that we are all immigrants with unique strengths, and to help develop respect for and empathy toward people from other cultures and backgrounds. These books will help provide students with a rich opportunity to deepen their understanding of the immigrant experience and expose students to cultures similar to and different from their own.



Grants in Action



Foundation tiles and magnet boards help new readers.



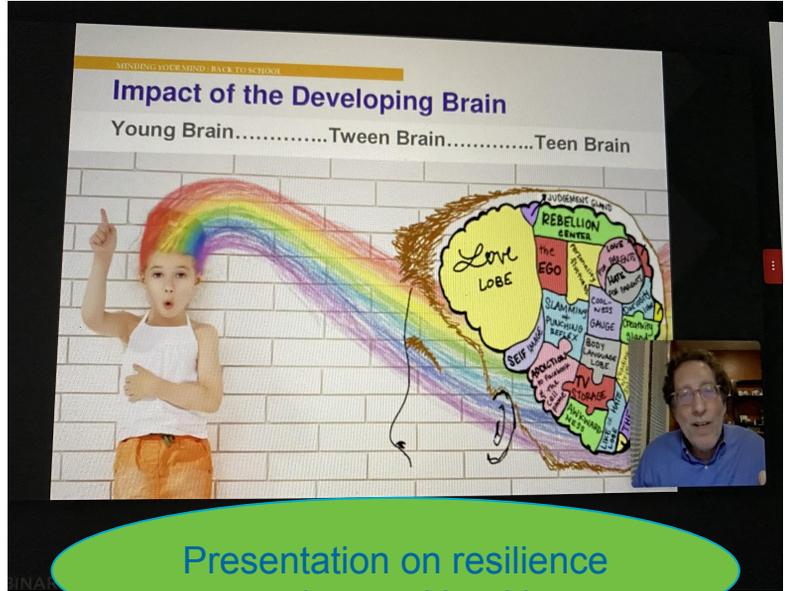
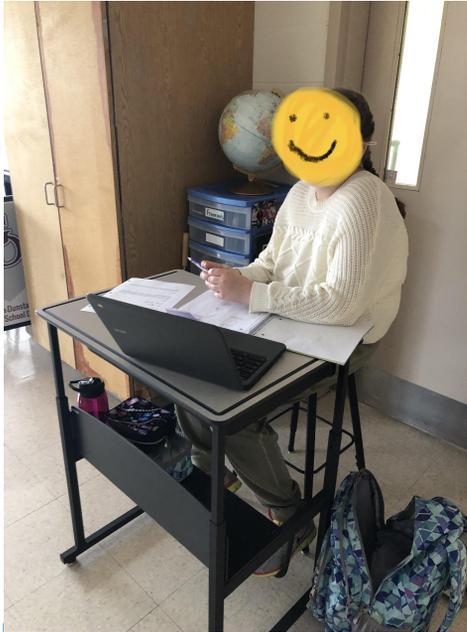
The Prusa 3D printer brings excitement to engineering design..



Hardscape designs give kids a new way to play outside this year and make sensory breaks fun.



Grants in Action



Presentation on resilience and mental health

Flexible seating, such as standing desks, scoop seats and yoga mats, allow students to have comfortable alternative seating while maintaining distance.

Net games provide new options for spaced gym activities.



Yoga mats and scoop seats.



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& Communications Team



Kimberly Lindstrom
Grants Follow Up
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Roche Liaison



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Boutwell & HS Liaison



Betsy Spear
Swallow Union Liaison



Kristen Ferrara
Director at Large



*Thank you to our community!
We appreciate each and every one of you!
Everything we do is ONLY possible through the generosity of your donations.
Together we can reach the stars!*

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www.gdefinc.org

Want to get involved?

GDEF is actively seeking community members to join the board!

Longer term (1-3-year commitment)

- 1) Grants Coordinator (Manage incoming grants and communicating with staff.)
- 2) Directors-at-large (General volunteers who help with bigger jobs!)

Short term (1-3 day commitment)

- 1) Grants Review Committee Members
(Help us read the grants received and make recommendations to the board.)

For more information contact Emily Davis, President at: info@gdefinc.org