



# Education Business Coalition

A n n u a l R e p o r t  
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# A Year of Transition

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Dear Friends:

The 2010-2011 school year has been a year of transition for the (N)EBC. We completed the merger of the NEBC with the Newburyport Education Foundation and have become the Education Business Coalition (EBC). While some EBC governance issues remain to be addressed, the merger has been smooth, and the underlying benefits of it, namely a single education fund raising face to the business community, are already being realized. I would like to thank the NEF Board, and especially the NEF Executive Committee on which, as EBC Chair, I have the privilege to serve, for their warm welcome of the EBC into the fold and for their unflagging support of our important program efforts.

Regarding programs, and the energy around them, the year has also been one of transition. Our flagship Partnership Grant program continues to bring real-world impact to the education students in Newburyport receive. Please take a moment to read about the programs funded by our grants in this report. Our other support of programs like the Gulf of Maine Institute, the Internship Program at the High School, and others continues. Against this backdrop we have undertaken an effort to move the EBC to the next level of program impact.

This winter Dr. Kerble hosted two lunch meetings with teachers and business leaders to talk about how real-world, community-based experiences for students can have an impact on their learning. Dozens of teachers shared their past experiences with the EBC and brainstormed the kinds of new and changed activities that would bring even more impact. We invited members of the business community who haven't been involved with the EBC in the past. As a result of these sessions the EBC Board gained several new members and formed three working groups to address three critical challenges:

- How to more clearly link business and community resources to curriculum challenges in the classroom.
- What infrastructure is necessary to support partnerships between the business community and educators effectively, and affordably.
- How to create many more of the kinds of strong relationships between individual educators and business/community people necessary to make partnerships work.

These groups have been hard at work and we expect to begin to see the fruits of that work as school reopens in September.

I would like to thank the EBC Board for their renewed enthusiasm and commitment and for their support of our team efforts on behalf our students and educators.



Bill Heenehan  
EBC Chairperson



**TECHNOLOGY CLUB**



**PLANT THERAPY (PARTNERSHIP GRANT)**

**EDUCATION BUSINESS COALITION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## 2011 Sponsors and Members

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*Newburyport Maritime Society, Inc.*  
*Newburyport Youth Soccer Association*  
*Parker River National Wildlife Refuge*  
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*Delores Person Group, LLC*  
*Pentucket Medical Associates*  
*Pitman Law Offices LLC*  
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*Strem Chemicals, Inc.*  
*St. Jean's Credit Union*  
*Douglas S. Sweazey, CPA*  
*Taintor & Associates*  
*TD Bank*  
*Vine Associates*  
*Verizon Wireless*  
*Village Pet Shop*  
*Watts Eye Associates*  
*WDS Payroll, LLC*  
*Wentworth Greenhouses*  
*Woodstock Corporation*  
*David and Cheryl Zaino*

# Partnership Grants

The Partnership Grant Program is the heart of the Education Business Coalition. The program joins business partners with teachers who then work together to create meaningful educational experiences that allow students to see how their skills apply to the world of work. The program connects the standards-based curriculum content to the skills that relate to real life experiences. As a result, students have chosen the specific fields explored through the partnership program as careers.



## GRADE LEVEL:

*Kindergarten  
G.W. Brown School*

## EDUCATOR:

*Melissa Duguie*

## BUSINESS PARTNER:

*Zip Type*

## GRANT AWARD: \$1,500

## Our Community: An A-Z Guide To Safety

### PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

To create our book, children will brainstorm a list (from A to Z) of people, places, and items in our community that help to keep us healthy and safe. The list will be made through a shared writing process where children will share the pen with the teacher (i.e. writing known words and sounding out unknown words). This list will then be used to guide our learning on safety in the community.

Throughout the year, we invited community workers into our classroom and went on walking field trips. Each visit taught us more about our community and its resources. We took photos and will draw pictures to create the images throughout the book. The final product will be printed at Zip Type Printing Services.

## GRADE LEVEL:

*Kindergarten  
G.W. Brown School*

## EDUCATORS:

*Melissa Duguie  
Ali Pappas*

## BUSINESS PARTNER:

*Bill Hoyt, Painter*

## GRANT AWARD: \$1,000

## Playing it Safe

### PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Brown School is working hard to make the building and its grounds an age-appropriate place for our young students. The EBC grant provides funds allow us to paint structured games and activities on the paved area of the playground. Currently students have a small area with a play structure and a larger paved area that is under-utilized.

Games and activities will be taught in Physical Education classes and carried over into recesses. These games also encourage use of social skills taught through the Second Step Program.

**GRADE LEVEL: 5**

*Rupert A. Nock Middle School*

**EDUCATOR:**

*Brad Balkus*

**BUSINESS PARTNERS:**

*Keiver Willard Lumber Co.  
Mass Audubon*

**GRANT AWARD: \$1,420****Bat Houses****PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The north shore of Massachusetts supports some of the most incredible and unique natural resources in the country. Nature enthusiasts from around the globe visit our area and wonder at the health, abundance and diversity of our local ecosystems. Bats however, a major participant in the critical cycles of our local ecology, are under threat and in serious decline. White nose syndrome, loss of habitat, climate change and environmental degradation are threatening the future existence of all hibernating bat species in North America. Some areas of the northeast have experienced an 80% decline in bat populations over the past two years.

Partnering with the Keiver Willard Lumber Company and the Mass Audubon, the technology engineering program at grade five worked to increase student awareness of bats in our local and global ecosystems. Our focus was on: preserving local bat habitat, threats to bat populations, and the effects of bat disappearance on humans. Students learned and used the engineering design process, CAD (Pro-Engineer), and materials tools and machines to design, build, and place bat boxes to help sustain our local bat populations and keep our local ecosystems healthy.

**GRADE LEVEL: 8**

*Rupert A. Nock Middle School*

**EDUCATORS:**

*Mary Kate Allan  
Kristen Marroncelli*

**BUSINESS PARTNER:**

*Strem Chemicals Inc.*

**GRANT AWARD: \$1,500**

## Chemical Bonding

**PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The purpose of this collaboration with Strem Chemicals was to enable students to participate in and observe chemistry in action. We have spent a great deal of class time discussing bonding. This demonstration was critical for our students because they were able to witness ionic bond formation, which can often be a challenging and abstract concept for middle school students. Our students were also able to participate in and observe a catalytic decomposition reaction. The Strem Chemicals' chemists designed an interactive demonstration that kept students of all levels engaged and increased our students' general interest in chemistry. Due to the generosity of Strem Chemicals and the EBC, we have received a variety of equipment that will help us further increase our students' general interest in chemistry and improve their understanding of major chemistry concepts.

**GRADE LEVEL: 9-12***Newburyport High School***EDUCATOR:***Betsy Scott***BUSINESS PARTNERS:***Country Rehabilitation and  
Nursing Center  
Wentworth Greenhouses***GRANT AWARD: \$1,750**

## Plant Therapy

**PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

This year the Plant Therapy program continued to partner with Country Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and Wentworth Greenhouses. Through this project, High School Language Based Learning Disabilities teacher, Betsy Scott, taught her students team building, social skills, research and writing skills using a hands-on approach to learning.

Students traveled to Wentworth Greenhouses to meet with Brian Wentworth to learn about the horticulture business. As part of the Wentworth Greenhouses project, Brian Wentworth taught the students about the various aspects of the horticulture business. Country Rehabilitation and Nursing Center's, Tracey Tibbets provided training to the students about the issues and needs of the elderly, as well as the basics of the health care field. In the classroom, they role played and researched various issue of the elderly with the end product of a research paper. During the students' visits with the gardening club at the Country Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, students shared their newly obtained horticultural knowledge with the residents to facilitate memory enhancement, work on range of motion, awaken their senses while providing an opportunity to visit and enjoy plants with the elders. The project provided connections for the students to their learning and the real life environment of health care and horticulture.

The Plant Therapy program is a continuing program that has been successful in facilitating the transition from school to work for the last 16 years for the Language Based Learning Disabled students at N.H.S. Several former students have chosen to work in the health care field, while another student completed his Master's degree in horticulture from the University of Massachusetts. Others are pursuing degrees in teaching. This exhibits the close ties to the "world of work" coupled with a thematic method to build skills, teach stewardship, build self esteem, and help some of the frailest, often neglected members of our community.

**GRADE LEVEL: 9-12**

*English and Creative Writing  
Newburyport High School*

**EDUCATORS:**

*Debra Szabo*

**BUSINESS PARTNER:**

*Minuteman Press*

**GRANT AWARD: \$650**

## Poetry Soup

### PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Poetry Soup, a monthly gathering of student-writers and their mentors, has been running for the past eighteen years as an extracurricular activity. It has grown from a small group of about a dozen students to a core group of twenty five students, with an additional fifteen who occasionally attend. Our guest speakers, who agree to publish their work along with the students, include professors from Salem State College, Simmons College, and Endicott College, along with performance poets, and our beloved local Powwow River Poets.

For the past seven years, through the generosity of the EBC, students have committed their writing to posterity in the Poetry Soup Magazine. It is exciting for us to publish our students' work side-by-side with that of professional poets. Additionally, students have learned about graphic design, layout, and printing, as they bring the magazine through the necessary steps to publication with the help of Sumner Missenheimer and Minuteman Press. Finally, students have been responsible for distribution, learning that even artists must partake in the world of salesmanship. For the past two years, students were particularly successful when they set up a table in front of the Firehouse and sold magazines during the Newburyport Literary Festival. In addition, the magazine has brought recognition to Newburyport High School, when it has been distributed at numerous teaching conferences around the country by Newburyport resident Poet, Rhina Espaillat.

**GRADE LEVEL: 1-3**

*Francis T. Bresnahan School*

**EDUCATOR:**

*John Gangemi*

**BUSINESS PARTNER:**

*Village Pet Shop*

**GRANT AWARD: \$1,200**

## Science Center (Mobile Animal Habitats)

### PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Science Centers, funded through an EBC Partnership Grant, has allowed the Bresnahan School to continue to build a connection between the habitats on display and our science, language arts, and visual art curriculum. Students in all grades have had the opportunity to study the aquatic and terrestrial exhibits.

The displays have been very well received by students and teachers. Some displays can be moved from room to room at various times of the year and enable many students and teachers to use the displays for various curriculum projects. This year we expanded the present displays by adding a fiddler crab display and leopard gecko display into classrooms. Additionally, we updated the existing displays with new animals, substrate, and background. Updating the displays involved purchasing new livestock and other required materials to maintain and support the animal(s) habitat.

Al Hom at Village Pet shop is a vital partner in this endeavor. His expertise and enthusiasm for animals is contagious to our students. One particular student earns time every week to help Mr. Hom with the care and maintenance of the habitats. Mr. Hom has developed lesson plans for his time with this student to create a weekly learning opportunity. The resulting enthusiasm has led to the student's parents purchasing a tortoise for him to care for at home. Another classroom has created observation journals on their African albino frogs and fish. The class consistently looks forward to Mr. Hom's weekly visits to utilize his expertise to answer their questions. Mr. Hom has truly become a partner with the Bresnahan School community.

The goals for this year's project included: Updating and maintaining displays; adding appropriate animals, plants, equipment, and fixtures; adding two new displays; and making the habitats available to all classes in grades 1 to 3 for curriculum connection projects. Curriculum areas included: science, English language arts, math, and visual art.

**GRADE LEVEL: 3***Francis T. Bresnahan School***EDUCATOR:***Eileen Whitney***BUSINESS PARTNER:***Custom House Maritime  
Museum***GRANT AWARD: \$255***(awarded in 2009-2010)*

## Walking Tour of Newburyport

**PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The trip to the Custom House Maritime Museum enriched and solidified our knowledge of our special place called Newburyport. The students viewed the treasures of the Maritime Museum as part of a culmination of the study of Newburyport. History came to life as the children walked the culturally rich streets of Newburyport guided by the Maritime docents. They experienced the thrill of reenacting the “Newburyport Tea Party” which took place just three days before the famous “Boston Tea Party.” They also had the pleasure of finding a bell fashioned by silversmith Paul Revere at the Old South Church on Federal Street.

**GRADE LEVEL: 8***Molin Upper Elementary  
School***EDUCATORS:***Jen Groskin  
Mike Pirolo***BUSINESS PARTNER:***Beacon Coalition***GRANT AWARD: \$1,531**

## Youth Assets Project

**PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Youth Assets Project (YAP) program will continue district-wide literacy initiative of independent reading. It will also continue 7th grade evening book club initiatives. YAP is an evening book program where students and adults read and then share ideas based on a fiction novel. The goal is to build assets through discussion and comparison of real life verse fiction. Topics are derived from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered by the Beacon Coalition. These surveys have shown that Newburyport middle school students exhibit some tendencies toward risk-taking behaviors on a variety of levels. Assets are a list of 40 elements that are proven to reduce risk-taking behaviors among adolescents. Building assets has become a part of the school's strategic plan and school wellness policy

YAP provided our 8th grade students with opportunities to discuss issues in their lives and contrast these issues with the characters in specific novels. The program also helps our students to connect with resources (programs and/or individuals) in the greater Newburyport Community. Experts and other adults from the Beacon Coalition and the Newburyport Community will serve as a knowledge base for these various assets and issues.

**GRADE LEVEL: 7-12**

*Rupert A. Nock Middle School  
Newburyport High School*

**EDUCATOR:**

*John Halloran*

**BUSINESS PARTNER:**

*Parker River National  
Wildlife Refuge*

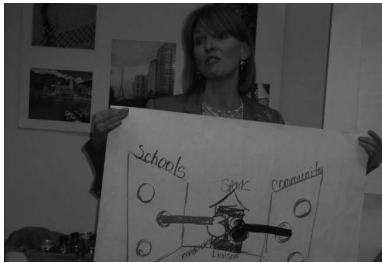
**GRANT AWARD: \$1,500****Special Grant:****NEWBURYPORT GULF OF MAINE INSTITUTE TEAM (GOMI) THE PEPPERWEED PROJECT**

The EBC has continued to support the Newburyport GOMI team, a committed group of Newburyport High School students, who help raise environmental awareness in the community and throughout the Great Marsh region. The group's objectives are to raise awareness of environmental issues through education and outreach, and to locate, educate, and help eradicate the invasive species, perennial Pepperweed.

In the last year, the group has continued to serve the community as appointed representatives to 8 Towns and the Bay (8T&B), a regional environmental board of coastal Essex County communities. In this role, they have mapped the presence of Pepperweed in the Great Marsh, inspired the Parker River Refuge to hire an invasive species coordinator to oversee control efforts, and coordinated student volunteer efforts at NHS. This past school year, the team began to teach Watershed, Climate Change and Local Environments classes to groups of 7th graders at the Nock School. They also worked with their principal, Michael Parent, to provide leadership in an expanded community service effort at the high school. Most recently, they hosted a "Green Career Workshop" and an "Environmental Issues Forum" as part of a GOMI mini workshop for US teams held at the Parker River Refuge. Over 60 teens from all over New England participated.

GOMI teams act locally yet think bio-regionally. We will continue to help move Newburyport student education beyond the confines of the community to a bioregional perspective.

# Internships



## KEY EVENTS AND MILESTONES

- Some student internship sites resulted in great decision-making opportunities.
- The program aligned the curriculum with the Literacy Plan for the district.
- Students will take career inventories to help them find internships that match their goals.
- Students will learn new technology skills using the MassCis website <[www.massCis.intocareer.com](http://www.massCis.intocareer.com)>.
- Increased accountability regarding student's internship requirements.
- Modified grading rubric and assessment tool for next year.
- Internships are paid and unpaid experiences.
- Using a new database system for tracking internship sites, but there is a need for more data entry time.
- Strengthened connections with the business community, by using a business packet that includes information needed to improve the business/education connection.
- Students involved in the Internship Program have commented that, "This internship helped me because I wanted to learn about the difference between going into education and psychology." Other students stated that they really liked the field they interned in and plan on majoring in the same field.

## PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The goal of the Internship Program this year was to place students in internship sites so the students could experience one of the student's career interests. The 2010-2011 Internship Program provided approximately 50 student-career explorations, between two semesters, with hands-on career experiences. Students participating in the program are given the opportunity to discover whether they have the foundational skills necessary for success after graduation. They spend a minimum of 78 hours at their internship site and receive academic credit for their experiences. Internship placements this year not only strengthened students interest in the careers they wanted, but helped students decide on different career paths after experiencing a real work environment in their career exploration.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to sincerely thank the individuals and businesses who sponsored an internship or work experience student. Without your help and support this program would not be possible.

*Anna Jaques Hospital  
Atria Merrimack Place  
Bresnahan Elementary  
Caldwell Construction  
D' Angelo's Sub Shop  
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center  
Kelley's Service Station  
Loretta's Restaurant  
Molin Upper  
Elementary School  
Muzzylane  
Newburyport High School  
Newburyport Lighting  
Company*

*Newburyport Medical  
Associates  
Newburyport Youth Service  
Parker River Wildlife Refuge  
Port Healthcare  
Port Media  
Remax on the River  
River Valley Charter School  
Rupert A. Nock Middle School  
Sidford Architecture  
Stop and Shop  
Strem Chemicals, Inc.*

## Co-Chairs

Craig Childs  
MacDonald & Pangione  
Insurance Agency

Michael Parent, Principal  
Newburyport High School

Cheryl Zaino, School to Work  
Guidance Counselor  
Newburyport High School

# Book Bag



## CO-CHAIRS

*Angela Bik  
Director of Curriculum  
Newburyport Public Schools*

*Kristina Davis  
Principal  
F.T. Bresnahan Elementary  
School*

## PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The goal of the annual Book Bag Program is to encourage elementary school children to read at home. This is achieved by providing bags filled with books to elementary school children who then take them home and read with their families. The EBC donated funds to enable teachers to fill a bag with “just right” books aligned to the students’ independent reading levels. Children were allowed to take the bags home for one-week periods. This program is one of the longest running EBC programs and remains very popular with both teachers and elementary school children.

# Technology Club



## CO-CHAIRS

*Nick deKanter  
Vision 21 Education Group*

*Dr. Marc Kerble  
Superintendent  
Newburyport Public Schools*

## COMMITTEE

*Don Skane  
Newburyport Public Schools*

*Mike Morse  
Newburyport Public Schools*

## PROGRAM GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Tech Club met twice a week throughout the school year, with either School Technology Operations Manager Don Skane or club adviser Mike Morse. On Tuesdays, the club met in the classroom environment to discuss technology – its past, present, and future. These meetings also included the assembling of computers. Students participated in choosing the components for the new computers. During the Tuesday meetings the students learned: all the components of the computers and their operations; how to install various operating systems such as Windows XP, Windows 7, FreeBSD, and different distributions of Linux; how to setup a network with Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, FreeBSD, and different distributions of Linux; basic repair and maintenance of computers.

## KEY EVENTS AND MILESTONES

This year, Tech Club used the EBC financing for the last two years to assemble 27 new high end computers to replace the machines in the computer lab (Room 245) at the High School. These computers will be used for C.A.D. classes as well as web design and animation classes. The computers that have been replaced will be moved to the graphics arts lab to provide those classes with an upgrade.

Fridays of each week were dedicated to LAN gaming using computers to develop a team atmosphere and collaborative skills.

To learn more about the Newburyport Education Foundation  
and the programs of the Education Business Coalition, visit us at

[www.NewburyportEF.org](http://www.NewburyportEF.org)

## Career Speaker Series

### CO-CHAIRS

*Craig Childs*  
*MacDonald & Pangione*  
*Insurance Agency*

*Michael Parent*  
*Principal*  
*Newburyport High School*

*Cheryl Zaino*  
*School to Work Guidance*  
*Counselor*  
*Newburyport High School*

### KEY EVENTS AND MILESTONES

Newburyport High School (NHS) students take part in a career development curriculum. This begins as freshman, when students complete career interest inventories. In the past, sophomores at NHS have attended a regional one-day speaker series at Northern Essex Community College. In order to connect the career exploration process more clearly to the curriculum and the community, this year we replaced the Northern Essex program with a Speaker Series. Sophomores had an opportunity to hear community members from various professions speak about their careers. Speakers were chosen based on the interests students identified in their career interest inventories (as freshman), as well as a questionnaire distributed during PE class.

More than 200 students participated in this program in 2010-2011. Common comments from participants included: "The presenter really helped me understand the career field better" and "I learned a lot from the presenter and have decided not to go into this field".

During the sophomore year students also begin to consider their educational and career choices for after high school and determine what path they'd like to pursue.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to sincerely thank the individuals and businesses who came and spoke with students about their careers. Without your help and support this program would not be possible.

*Phillip Comeau, Architect & Professor*  
*Fountain Dubus, Performing Arts*  
*Kelly Corrigan, Emergency Physician*  
*Kathleen Horn, Optometrist*  
*Geoff Ness, Information Technology*  
*T.J. Callahan, Lawyer*  
*Alison Ellwood, Film Editor*

*Erin O' Toole, Photographer*  
*Elizabeth Jacobs, Sports Journalist*  
*Katie Habib, In Home Cooking Personal Chef*  
*Brenda Ireland-Painchaud, Nurse*  
*Daniel Carlat, Associate Clinical*  
*Professor of Psychiatry*  
*Charles Vorderis, Police Officer*