



Glenview Education Foundation

We're in the Classroom
Kindergarten

Visit GEF at www.gef34.org

The ABCs of GEF

What is GEF?

- A.** The Glenview Education Foundation (GEF) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization formed by District 34 parents concerned about the impact of increasing budget constraints on the quality of public education.
- B.** GEF raises private funds to help cover the gap between the District budget and an educator's great idea! Teachers and staff use GEF grants to improve and expand their skills, integrate new technologies and systems that enhance learning, and create new instructional methods and programs.
- C.** These projects are made possible only through charitable donations from local families and businesses.

How does GEF help your Kindergartner's classroom?

One way is by funding kindergarten art.



In 2003, District 34 was forced to eliminate art instruction within the kindergarten curriculum. Henking art teacher, Janet Conlin, realized that funding from the GEF was the perfect solution.

Besides being fun, research shows that visual art instruction is an important building block to learning. The *Kindergarten Art Program* helps children learn to understand, respond to and talk about images. Visual art helps children understand the meaning of words, even if English is not their first language, because it opens doors to perception and encourages interpretation from different points of view.

For more pictures, go to www.gef34.org.

A Picture is Worth 1000 Words

The *Kindergarten Art Program* is thriving in the classroom. The pictures in this newsletter tell the story.





GEF in the Primary School Classroom

GEF Grant Helps First Graders Become Fluent, Skilled Readers

"My students have acquired a higher level of comprehension, a heightened interest in reading, are more accurate in self-selecting books at their independent reading level and can better articulate the strategies that good readers use."

That's the good news from one District 34 first grade teacher about guided reading, a program in which the teacher provides support for small, flexible reading groups. Guided reading helps students become fluent, skilled readers by teaching them to use different strategies such as context clues, letter and sound knowledge, and syntax or word structure.

To date, the guided reading program is the largest single grant awarded by GEF.

Can the GEF Count on You?

It's as easy as 1-2-3

The GEF needs your ongoing support to continue its investment in District 34 classrooms.

With your support, the GEF can help District 34 provide an enriched, innovative education beyond what is possible with tax dollars alone.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation. For more information, please visit our website at www.gef34.org.

Keep the Ball Rolling!



That's the theme for the 6th Annual GEF Benefit scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd at Pinstripes.

The annual benefit is the Foundation's most significant fundraising event. This year, GEF is planning to invest more than \$130,000 into District 34 classrooms.

The benefit will feature bowling, bocce, a large Italian buffet, cash bar, an auction, and of course, the company of friends and neighbors across the District.

Dress is casual, so grab your favorite jeans, throw on the bowling shirt you haven't worn in years, and meet us at Pinstripes.

Invitations went out (via U.S. Mail) to every District 34 family at the end of September. If you did not receive one, there are extra invitations at the District 34 Administration Building at 1401 Greenwood Road (just north of Westbrook School).

Last year's benefit sold out so be sure to R.S.V.P.

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Questions? Please e-mail GEF at gef34@glenview34.org

