

Lisa DeVoto

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Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 6:06 PM
To: lisadevoto@optonline.net
Subject: ELF Anniversary Party & News

Easton Learning Foundation Newsletter

Update on ELF Grants and Events

February, 2010 - Vol 2, Issue 1

In This Issue

Anniversary Party
Engineering and
Innovation Lab

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

[Anniversary Party Tickets](#)
[STEM News](#)
[Trivia Bee](#)
[More about ELF](#)

[DONATE NOW !](#)

Note from ELF

Dear Easton Friends,

Please join ELF as we celebrate our Fifth Anniversary at the lovely Aspetuck Valley Country Club on March 13th from 7-10:00 PM. See the details of this [party](#).



An additional \$73,000 is still needed by May 2010 in order to fund the renovation, teacher training and the equipment purchases necessary to operate the HKMS Engineering and Innovation Lab by September 2010. Please watch this short video from Principal [Joan Parker](#) as she explains the need for this Lab.

ELF is still hard at work making your donations impact the classroom experience. To watch a short video of teachers discussing their recent ELF grants please click:

[Lego Machines Grant for Fifth Grade](#)
[DNA Research Grant for Seventh Grade](#)
[Journey North Exploration Grant for First Grade](#)

On behalf of all the students who benefit from your donations, we thank you and we are truly grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

The Easton Learning Foundation Board

Anniversary Party

All Easton residents and their friends

are invited to
The Easton Learning Foundation's
5th Anniversary Party

Saturday, March 13, 2010 7-10 PM

Cors d'oeuvres and Silent Auction

Aspetuck Country Club
www.aspetuckvalley.com
67 Old Redding Road
Weston, Connecticut

Come celebrate ELF's successes in the last five years and learn all about the new Engineering & Innovation Lab planned for Helen Keller Middle School in Sept. 2010. The entire project is being funded by Easton Learning Foundation.

All proceeds from the Anniversary party benefit the Engineering & Innovation Lab.

Coming Soon!! Online Silent Auction Bidding! New auction items will be added daily on our website (until the day before the Anniversary Party). Be sure to visit www.eastonlearningfoundation.org often to view new items and bid.

Note: Get your high bids in by March 12th so you are not outbid at the party. Guests at the party have the last chance to out bid someone!

Tickets are limited to the first 150 registered guests.

Please click to view the [invitation](#) and [RSVP card](#)

What is the Engineering & Innovation Lab?

"The Engineering & Innovation Lab" is a new hands-on science and technology class designed by a non-profit organization called "Project Lead the Way" (www.pltw.org) and will take place in a soon-to-be renovated "wood shop" room at Helen Keller Middle School.

These are photos of the Lab prior to renovation.
The renovation has not started; awaiting funds.



Front of Lab:

This will be the technology center of the Lab. A smartboard will be mounted on the front wall and students will work at desks with individual PCs arranged in a horseshoe configuration around the teacher's smartboard. The PCs will be loaded with state-of-the-art software. In the technology center of the lab students will design prototypes and machines, calculate and analyze data and then print charts and graphs before heading to the hands-on areas of the lab.

These are photos of the Lab prior to renovation.
The renovation has not started; awaiting funds.



Side of Lab (along windows): *This is the "shop" area of the lab where students will drill, sand and cut materials to prepare for the building and assembly process. A large butcher-block counter is planned for along the window sill to accommodate the various pieces of equipment. This location was ideal for the "shop" tasks due to the natural light.*

This is a photo of the Lab prior to renovation.
The renovation has not started; awaiting funds.



Back of Lab: *This is the assembly and testing area of the lab where students will manipulate materials on large refurbished butcher-block tables and build their prototypes, systems or machines. This arrangement is optimal for team problem solving.*

**Demolition is done.
Quotes from subcontractors are in.
Equipment is selected.
Teacher Training is scheduled.**

**Donations received: \$42,000.
Donations still needed: \$73,000**

ELF needs to raise an additional \$73,000 by May to make this happen in Sept.
Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated.

Special Recognition Donation levels:

- \$1,250:** *Your/business name engraved on a nameplate on a computer*
- \$5,000:** *Your/business name engraved on a nameplate on a table*
- \$10,000:** *Your/business name on a Wall Plaque of the Lab (4 available)*
- \$25,000:** *The Lab is named after you or your business (The XYZ Engineering and Innovation Lab) and is prominently displayed in the lab.*

To make an immediate impact, [Donate Now!](#)

Why is the Lab important to Easton Students?

This is a science/technology/engineering/math program that develops skills that are relevant to the "real world" such as design, problem solving and analytical skills.

The Six Units of Study that are offered by this program:

1. **Design and Modeling (DM):** Students use geometry, problem solving, teamwork, and project management skills to design and develop product prototypes.
2. **The Magic of Electrons (ME):** Engaged in relevant hands-on projects, students unravel the mysteries of digital circuitry.
3. **The Science of Technology (ST):** Students apply scientific principles and concepts of simple machines and energy to solve real-world problems.
4. **Automation and Robotics (AR):** Students design and build automated systems that incorporate the principles of electrons, physics, and robotics to gain an enriched understanding of the contemporary mechanical world.
5. **Flight and Space (FS):** Developed with NASA, this unit explores the technology of aeronautics, propulsion, and rocketry. Students see connections between hands-on projects and academic subjects such as math and science.
6. **Energy and the Environment (EE):** Students investigate the importance of energy in our lives and the impact that using energy has on the environment. They design and model alternative energy sources and participate in energy fairs to demonstrate energy concepts and innovative ideas. Students evaluate ways to reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency and waste management techniques.

How will this program differentiate Easton in it's DRG?

No other middle school in our DRG* offers this exciting program. You can help make this happen by donating to ELF! This lab can be offered in September for ALL HKMS students should ELF raise the funds. ELF's goal includes the funding needed to implement this lab for Grades 6, 7 and 8 for the next five years. Over 2000 students will benefit from this program.



*Easton, Darien, New Canaan, Redding, Ridgefield, Westport, Weston and Wilton.

How can you help?

1. Come to the ELF Anniversary Party: To aid in funding this new Lab, ELF is having a Fifth Anniversary Party on March 13th from 7-10:00 PM at Aspetuck Valley Country Club. All proceeds from the party go to the new innovation lab.

2. Make a donation to the ELF silent auction: Possibly offer: Tickets to a sporting event? A Fishing Boat charter? A Broadway show with a back stage pass? A condo or vacation home for a few days or a week? A round of golf with lunch? A Portrait by a local artist? ELF is looking for "experiences" for children or adults that folks would love to bid on. Please e-mail Barbie Powell at bgpowell@optonline.net with your auction idea ASAP so we can add it to the online auction!

3. Can't offer an auction item? Donate to the STEM campaign directly. You can mail a donation, donate online or make a donation at the party.

4. Can't make the party? Bid at the online auction prior to the party! The online auction will be starting soon and continues March 12th. If no one at the party out bids you, you can win the item! If you don't want to bid on anything, you can always mail a donation or make a donation on the ELF web site.

5. Please visit the ELF website regularly and volunteer when you can: ELF is updating their web site continually with new event information, volunteer opportunities, fundraising goal measurements and recent grant videos featuring administrators and teachers. Of course you can always donate too :)

Thank you, donors.
Together the possibilities are endless.

The Easton Learning Foundation Board

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