

## **SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATORIUM KICKS OFF EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S SPRING CAMPAIGN SEASON**

On March 24, approximately 230 Pelham families and over 600 people attended Exploratorium 2010, co-hosted by the school district and Pelham Education Foundation and sponsored by TD Bank. Supported by over 40 faculty and administrators and 50 middle and high school students, this event featured hands-on, interactive activities for elementary age students, in a broad range of areas such as history, geography, science, music, art, mathematics, physical education and technology. Over 50 community members attended guided tours of the district's state of the art middle and high school facilities, many funded by Foundation grants such as the foreign language and science research labs, broadcast news studio, and fitness center. Dinner was donated by AJs Burgers of New Rochelle.

"We are hoping the Exploratorium gave parents and students a better understanding of the dramatic impact this valuable private / public partnership between the school district and the Foundation is having on the quality of education in our schools," said Jeanne Radvany, President of the Foundation. "We cannot do it without broad community support. Many people are still not aware that there are thousands of education foundations across the country, including most school districts in Westchester, and that they are playing an increasingly large role in shaping the educational opportunities available to our children."

Many Exploratorium activities highlighted ways in which the Foundation's funding priorities, including enhancements to technology, specialized facilities, and programs in the arts and core curriculum, enrich student experiences. Students discovered the wonders of distance learning while creating "slime" under the live tutelage of an instructor in Michigan, while others built race cars and designed bridges in the tech lab. Future broadcast journalists reported on breaking news from the broadcast production studio. Students had the opportunity to try out stringed instruments in the Music Zone, future engineers figured out how to drop an egg without breaking it, and history buffs traveled back to 1776 and joined the ranks of the first Westchester militia.

This week, the Foundation kicks off its annual Spring Fundraising Campaign with goals to raise \$150,000 as well as significantly broaden its support base across the community in order to continue to enhance the quality of Pelham's public schools, beyond what the annual school budget can provide.

The Foundation will decorate the homes and businesses of supporters on Saturday, May 1 to show appreciation for Pelham's strong support for education and help raise awareness for the Foundation's goals. The Foundation's "Invitation to Give," designed by Pelham dad Tom Bricker of 560 Design, arrived in Pelham mailboxes this week.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation log onto [www.pelhameducationfoundation.net](http://www.pelhameducationfoundation.net). Donations by check may be sent to the Pelham Education Foundation, c/o Erika Kalyvas, 999 Pelhamdale Ave.