



Bethel Education Foundation

Supporting Innovation, Creativity and Excellence in Learning

Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2009

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Girl's Night Out—Fun for a Great Cause



Enjoying the patio at La Zingara at BEF's Girl's Night Out

Over 100 Bethel ladies turned out on the evening of October 20th for Bethel Education Foundation's first Girl's Night Out. The sold out event, to raise money to support education in Bethel, was held at La Zingara Ristorante in downtown Bethel.



Guests were treated to delicious appetizers including Calamari

Fritti, Crostini di Maiale, Crostini di Gamberi, Penne Estive, Rigatoni alla Buttera and Piatto del Salumiere. For dessert, Varano's Bakery provided a selection of mouth-watering pastries.

A few lucky guests were winners in a raffle which included two tickets to the 2010 Barnum Ball (see page 3) and gift baskets from La Zingara, Maddington's and a chocolate fondue basket donated by BEF.

The evening raised more than \$1,200 which will directly benefit Bethel's public and private school students.

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Girl's Night Out Raffle Winners

Barnum Ball Tickets

Mary Jane Strasser

Ann Marie Walker

Chocolate Fondue Basket

Kelly Stewart

La Zingara Basket

Debbie Hermansen

Maddington's Gift Basket

Jody Tinios



BEF Partners with Macy's Shop for a Cause



Since 2006, Macy's has partnered with non-profit organizations like BEF to help raise

money for local and national charities. Each year Macy's invites non-profit organizations to sell \$5 shopping passes that offer in-store discounts of up to 20% on merchandise purchased on the designated shopping day. Macy's donates 100% of the proceeds of every shopping pass sold; Bethel

families supported our campaign and this fall we sold over 170 passes for a profit of more than \$850.

The proceeds of this partnership will help BEF continue to advance your child's educational experiences in Bethel. Thanks, Macy's!

What is the Bethel Education Foundation?



Students using a Smart Board purchased through a grant from the Bethel Education Foundation

The Bethel Education Foundation (BEF) was founded in 2004 by a group of parents and educators who share a common priority—public and private education in the town of Bethel.

Our mission is to promote innovation, creativity and excellence in learning for our children and community through grants to educators or community members.

The Foundation supports innovative teachers, creative opportunities for students and excellence in the community.

Since Spring 2008, the Foundation has provided funding for dozens of very special projects which support initiatives for pre-school children, the Bethel Public School District and St. Mary School. Totaling tens of thousands of dollars,

our contributions to education in Bethel have affected our children directly.

The Bethel Education Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible by contributors to the extent allowable by law.

Spotlight on October 2009 Grants

Buddha Boards Helps Inspire Art Students at Rockwell

The Bethel Education Foundation is funding a full set of 25 Buddha Boards. A Buddha Board is a 10"x12" stone surface equipped with a water trough and a Japanese bamboo brush. Students paint on the surface with water; the image darkens and then slowly fades away. The concept behind this teaching method is to show the students how to immerse themselves in the process of creating art, therefore eliminating the stress to craft the 'perfect' end product. As a result, self-discovery and confidence may be experienced by students who may not envision themselves as artists.

Grant submitted by Nancy Miller, Rockwell School Art teacher



COMMUNITY
SUPPORT HAS
ENABLED BEF TO
AWARD GRANTS
TOTALING NEARLY
\$60,000 TO OUR
SCHOOLS
SINCE 2008

SMART Camera = Smart Kids at BHS

The Bethel Education Foundation approved a grant for a SMART Document Camera which will be used in conjunction with revision lessons in the English department at Bethel High School. The camera allows the teacher to take a picture of a rough draft of a student's work and project it right onto the SMART Board. As a result students will benefit from immediate feedback provided by the whole class, while the teacher is able to model proper technique in grammatical revision.



Grant submitted by Venessa Eisenmann, Bethel High School English teacher

"THIS IS A GREAT PROJECT TO GET THE WHOLE SCHOOL INVOLVED IN HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE MEETING THE GOALS OF THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM. THANKS TO THE BEF FOR YOUR SUPPORT!"
Sarah Anastasia

Going Green at Rockwell



The Bethel Education Foundation is proud to announce funding for a composting program that will foster social and global responsibility in the Rockwell School community. By composting snack and lunchroom scraps, the school's solid waste stream will be reduced and a useful end product, finished compost, will be available for use on school grounds. This project meets the science goals and objectives of the 2009 Connecticut Frameworks.

Grant submitted by Sarah Anastasia, Rockwell School 3rd grade teacher

Teachers, educators and community members can learn how to apply for a grant by visiting the BEF website at www.BethelEdFoundation.org.

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A great time was had by all. Many thanks to La Zingara, Varano's Bakery and Maddington's. Look for another Girl's Night Out in 2010—it will be a

great way to beat the winter blues!



Your donations have enabled BEF to award grants to all of our schools totaling close to \$60,000.

Projects funded over the last several years include:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Grade(s) Served</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
Health and Fitness computer simulation software	4-8	\$12,000
Laptops and Projectors	K-3	\$5,000
Senteo interactive response systems	4-8	\$4,950
SMART Board systems	K-12	\$13,300
Workshop—Connect with Connecticut History	3	\$2,200
Workshop—"Names can really hurt us"	9-12	\$4,000
Visiting artist workshop—Signature Project	K-8	\$1,950
DIRT program—raising drug and alcohol awareness	9-12	\$2,700
Shakespeare Experience	9-12	\$900
Curriculum development—Music Technology	K-5	\$3,000
Digital Cameras	K-3	\$2,000
Aerogardens, growing plants without soil	K-5	\$1,025
Curriculum development—Science	9-12	\$2,000
Curriculum development—Reading	Pre-K	\$450
Preschool program implemented at BHS	Pre-K	\$830
Music Technology—arranging/composition/scoring	6-12	\$1,000

For more detailed information, visit www.BethelEdFoundation.org



SAVE THE DATE!
Tickets on sale in January

The Bethel Education Foundation
Invites You To

Barnum's Birthday Ball

Join Us in Celebrating PT Barnum's
200th Birthday!



Saturday

April 10, 2010

7:00 pm to Midnight

**Ethan Allen Inn
Danbury, CT**

**\$60 per person
Cocktail Hour**

Dinner (Tables of 10)

Silent & Live Auctions

DJ Ethan Carey



For ticket information visit
www.BethelEdFoundation.org in January





We would like to thank the following individuals:

Laura Curry, Beth and David Joseph, Bridget and Fred Zalzman

and businesses:

Macy's, La Zingara Ristorante, Maddington's, Varano's Bakery

for their recent generous support of the Bethel Education Foundation.

Please express your gratitude by patronizing these businesses.

Yes, I'd Like to Support BEF!

Help us achieve our educational mission with a tax-deductible donation.

Please accept my contribution of

\$ _____

Employer's Matching Gift form enclosed
Tax ID 26-0133116

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

***Please make checks payable to
Bethel Education Foundation***

P.O. Box 92
Bethel, CT 06801
bethelctedfoundation@yahoo.com

Honor A Teacher

Show your appreciation to a special mentor in your child's life— teacher, coach, librarian, bus driver or daycare provider. For a minimum donation of \$10, your honoree will receive a certificate of appreciation, their name on an honoree list on the Bethel Education Foundation website and special notice to the Superintendent of Schools.

Please accept my contribution of

\$ _____ in honor of someone special

Honoree's Name: _____

Honoree's School/Affiliation: _____

Special Message to be included on certificate, max 20 words (not required): _____

Donor's Name: _____

Donor's Address: _____

Donor's Phone: _____

Donor's E-mail address: _____

***Please make checks payable to
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