



Bethel Education Foundation

Supporting Innovation, Creativity and Excellence in Learning

Newsletter

November 2011

Board Members

- Gladys Gonzalez, Co-Chair
- Joe Vitarelli, Co-Chair
- Dionne Craig, Vice Chair
- Filomena Weiner, Treasurer
- Sallita Ballard
- Sue Canfield
- Tasha Mascioli
- Maureen Tyra
- Heather Wootton
- Janice Chrzescijanek, Board of Education, Ex-Officio
- Dr. Janice Jordan, Associate Superintendent of Schools, Ex-Officio

Teacher Liaison Team

- Christy Bibb, Rockwell
- Jeff Moscowitz, Johnson
- Angela Bassett, Berry

1st Annual Family Summer Kick Off Raises Over \$3,500



Despite the weather, over 300 guests enjoyed the games, food and fun at the Bethel Education Foundation's 1st Annual Family Summer Kick Off on June 22nd at Rockwell School.

The sky was dark and showers were in the air but that did not stop more than 300 people from kicking off their summer vacation with The Bethel Education Foundation. The first annual Family Summer Kick Off, held Wednesday, June 22nd on the grounds of the Anna Rockwell School raised more than \$3,500 for the Foundation. Highlights of the event included food, games, raffles and much more. "A

lot of families are looking for a fun way to celebrate the last day of school, so we came up with the idea to host a big party with something for everyone", said Janice Chrzescijanek, the event's chairperson. Thanks to Super Fun Inflatables whose Pitch Burst helped soak "good sports" Nathan Rinas (BMS PE teacher) and Kim Trinklein (BHS Science Teacher); Karate America's George Chaber and his students

Jerry Prince, Joe Perrotta and Remy Van Vliet who included the crowd in an interactive karate demonstration; Dr. Janice Jordan for her fortune telling; Billy's BBQ, Famous Pizza, The Big Y and numerous donors as well as the many volunteers who helped make this a great family event. Mark your calendars, the 2nd Annual Family Summer Kick Off is already in the works!

Inside this issue:

ABOUT THE BEF	2
FALL 2011 GRANT AWARDS	2
THANK YOU ANNUAL FUND DONORS	3
SAVE THE DATE: 2012 BARNUM BALL	3
HONOR A TEACHER	4

Annual Fund Drive In Progress

It's not too late to make your contribution to the Bethel Education Foundation's Annual Fund Drive. Established to further assist the BEF in funding unique projects and programs not provided by the town's education budget, The Annual Fund Drive will help our schools

fill these gaps and maintain our excellent school system. Please consider making a donation **of any amount** – no contribution is too small to help our schools. Donations will be accepted through December 31, 2011 and are fully tax deductible. To learn more

about The Annual Fund Drive and how to make your donation visit www.betheledfoundation.org. Your friends, neighbors, school staff and administrators who have already made contributions are listed on page 3.

What is 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.

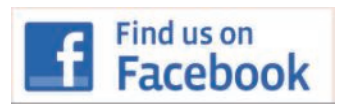
The Foundation supports innovative teachers, creative opportunities for students and excellence in the community.

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.

Totalling tens of thousands of dollars, our contributions to education, both public and private, have affected our children directly.

The Bethel Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit corporation, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service

as a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible by contributors to the extent allowable by law.



www.betheledfoundation.org
bethelctedfoundation@yahoo.com

The BEF was pleased to approved a \$5,000 gift in support of the community pool project at Bethel High School. This gift will be used along with additional funding currently being raised to complete the necessary architectural plans for the project.

Spotlight on Fall 2011 Grants

Bringing STEM Education to BMS



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education has come to the forefront as a national educational priority in preparing student to be globally competitive. Bethel Middle School is developing a STEM Laboratory that is fully equipped to provide students with meaningful STEM experiences by creating a cutting-edge program that will be provided to all middle school students. Through federal grants, BMS was able to acquire computer hardware and fund teacher training as well as purchase materials for hands-on projects; the BEF has granted additional funds to purchase Vex Robotics kits and CAD Autodesk Inventor software which will round out the new Lab. Through this grant, all BMS students will engage in hands-on curriculum and problem solving. Students will improve their reasoning skills and spark their ingenuity, creativity and innovation, exposing them to new concepts and developing a greater interest in STEM-related fields.

Grant submitted by Dr. Kevin Smith, Bethel Middle School

Art Classes Move into the 21st Century

Technology is coming to art classes at Johnson School with the addition of five Apple iPod Touch systems. A grant from the BEF will put iPod Touches in the hands of art students, giving them creative freedom in a compact digital format that many are already familiar with. This technology opens students up to new ideas and gives them a venue for displaying, promoting, manipulating and transforming their art through a broad spectrum of artistic and technological opportunities.



Grant submitted by Tamara McCue, Johnson School

iPads for Elementary Small Group Instruction

Studies have shown that students are often much more engaged by the use of technology than traditional printed materials. Thanks to a grant from the BEF, third grade students at Rockwell School will have the opportunity to use iPads in small group instruction so teachers can target specific needs. Education applications, programs and techniques now available on the iPad will allow teachers and students to focus on vocabulary and spelling lessons, guided reading or critical math skills.



Grant submitted by Michael Pierce, Irene Drake, Holly Hefferan, Patrick Walsh and Christy Bibb, Rockwell School

Senteo System to Aid Social Studies at BMS

Thanks to a grant from the BEF, 6th grade Social Studies teachers at Bethel Middle School will have a Senteo System to aid in their assessment and guided instruction. The Senteo interactive response system is a hand-held device used by students to answer questions which then allow teachers to determine comprehension prior to teaching a unit. Upon completion of the unit, Senteos allow the students to receive instant feedback on their learning and aid the teachers in offering additional small group instruction, practice or enrichment. Senteo questions can also be embedded into the classroom's SMARTBoard activities for quick practice and further assessment that follows.



Grant submitted by Maria Lateef and Donna Burns, Bethel Middle School

The Annual Fund Honor Roll

The Bethel Education Foundation would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to The Annual Fund.

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Joseph & Irene Santangelo

CUM LAUDE

Mark Baranovic & Mary J. Hanifin

Filomena & Michael Weiner

HIGH HONORS

Belardinelli Services, LLC

The Gaita Family, Dan & Erin

Jerry & Gladys Gonzalez

Dr. Janice Jordan

The LaBree Family

Kim & Chris Lemone

Susan & Robert White

HONORS

Sallita & Willis Ballard

Sue & Tom Canfield

Janice & Joe Chrzescijanek

Dionne & William Craig

Scott & Barb Davis

Mark & Karen Dwinells

Maureen & Gary Tyra

Joe & Patti Vitarelli

Heather & Simon Wootton

SUPPORTER

Ylber T. Beshi

Frank Dorman

San Juanita Mata

Isabela & Livia Oprea

Sunshine Kidz Daycare

Mary Wicklund

Jessica Wismar

Tracy Yost

FRIEND

Annemarie Bagley

Robert Mammone

Francesco & Diane Mastracchio

Brigid A. Raso

The Bethel Education Foundation would like to thank Paul and Bea McKirgan and the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund for the following donations:

In honor of Michele Walsh, third grade teacher, Berry School.

In honor of Bethel High School, Class of 1990.

Save the Date!

6TH ANNUAL BARNUM BALL

"A Toast to Bethel"

TO BENEFIT THE BETHEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION
AND THE CHILDREN OF BETHEL

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

7PM—MIDNIGHT

ETHAN ALLEN HOTEL

• OPEN BAR 7-9PM

• DINNER

• DANCING

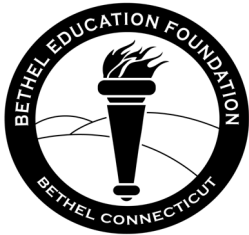
• LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

TICKETS ON SALE JANUARY 1, 2012
\$70 PER PERSON/\$650 FOR TABLE OF 10

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[WWW.BETHELEDFOUNDATION.ORG/
BARNUMBALL2012.HTML](http://WWW.BETHELEDFOUNDATION.ORG/BARNUMBALL2012.HTML)

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS TO DATE:
CARALUZZI'S MARKETS
PLAN B TIRES
TOM'S PAINT & WALLPAPER

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.BETHELEDFOUNDATION.ORG



Perfect
Holiday
Gift!

Bethel Education Foundation

Supporting Innovation, Creativity and Excellence in Learning

Bethel Education Foundation presents

A Gift with a Future Program

Just in time for the holidays! Show your appreciation to someone who is a special mentor in your child's life—a teacher, coach, librarian, bus driver or daycare provider. For a minimum donation of \$15, 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.

Your donations help our foundation's efforts to enhance and enrich student programs throughout the Bethel Schools.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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 Bethel Education Foundation and mail to
P.O. Box 92
Bethel, CT 06801