



Bethel Education Foundation

Supporting Innovation, Creativity and Excellence in Learning

Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 2

May 2010

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- DR. JANICE JORDAN, ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS, EX-OFFICIO

Inside this issue:

- ABOUT BEF **2**
- SPRING 2010 GRANT AWARDS **2,3**
- WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS **3**
- HONOR A TEACHER AWARDS **3**
- BARNUM BALL HIGHLIGHTS **4**
- HONOR A TEACHER NOMINATION FORM **INS**

4th Annual Barnum Ball Raises Over \$33,000



Barnum Ball Committee from left Sharon Palmer, Beth Gorry, Janice Chrzescijanek, Heather Wootton, Sue Canfield, Filomena Weiner, Janice Jordan, Silvia Islam, Maureen Tyra, Kim Lemone, Cindy Rizzo and Carol Ann Viebrock



Bethel Public Schools administrators in attendance from left Dr. Kevin Smith, Mr. Derek Muharem, Dr. Gary Chesley, Mr. Dan Dublois, Ms. Pam Chapman, Ms. Theresa Yonsky, Mr. Gary Lawlor, Mr. Christopher Troetti, Dr. Pat Cosentino, Mr. Brian Kirmil, Dr. Janice Jordan and Dr. Kristen Brooks



Board of Education member Mr. Stuart Carlson and Mrs. Jeanne Carlson

The final tallies are in and the 4th annual Barnum Ball, which was held on April 10th at Ethan Allen Hotel, raised more than \$33,000. Over 200 people came out for a fun-filled evening with dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions.

Over 140 silent auction items were available for bids throughout the evening. After dinner, auctioneers Pat Cosentino and AJ Campofiore revved up the crowd with live bidding on in-school parties, golf outings, airline and baseball tickets and more.

A special thanks to Board of Education members Stuart Carlson, Melanie O'Brien and Jill DeRosa for attending the Ball and to the entire Board for supporting our efforts all year long.

In addition, a big thanks to all the faculty and staff members from the Bethel Public Schools who joined us at the Ball. We appreciate your continued support!



Bethel Education Foundation Vice-Chair Sue Canfield and Chair Silvia Islam



Barnum Ball Co-Chairs Filomena Weiner and Kim Lemone



First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker and Mrs. Adrienne Knickerbocker



Bethel Education Foundation 2009-2010 Board of Directors from left, Sue Canfield, Filomena Weiner, Heather Wootton, Janice Jordan, AJ Campofiore, Sallita Ballard, Jennifer Spear, Lillian Joyce, Beth Gorry, Carol Ann Viebrock, Silvia Islam and Pat Cosentino

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.

Totaling 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.

Spotlight on Spring 2010 Grants

Climbing the Walls at Berry School

The Bethel Education Foundation is proud to partner with Berry School in the partial funding of a new climbing wall for the school's gymnasium. Currently one of the fastest growing activities in America, the new climbing wall will develop teambuilding, positive risk taking, creative problem solving as well as improve muscular strength and endurance in our young students.



Grant submitted by Michael Cohen, Gym Teacher, Berry School

A SmartView for BMS Math Students

Every day in BMS math classrooms, students are utilizing graphing calculators to perform complex algebraic operations. The BEF has approved a grant for SmartView Software that will allow teachers to more effectively demonstrate and model the steps and processes to effectively use the TI-84 Plus calculator required for all math classes. Used in conjunction with a SMART Board, SmartView offers the opportunity for visual as well as auditory learners to interact and follow the sequence of operations required to complete complex operations.

Grant submitted by Marie Jowdy and Alison Salerno, Math Teachers, Bethel Middle School



COMMUNITY
SUPPORT HAS
ENABLED BEF TO
AWARD GRANTS
TOTALING OVER
\$80,000 TO OUR
SCHOOLS
SINCE 2008

Rockwell Students Flip for Video

Students in Rockwell's 3rd grade classrooms have been experimenting with Flip Camcorders in writing and science. A grant from the Bethel Education Foundation will provide four additional camcorders for students to record data and further strengthen descriptions in writing and science. Using Flip Camcorders, students will act out scenes in their writing then analyze their videos; record science experiments for evidence and document the results; and demonstrate skill sets with how-to-videos. These methods allow students who experience writing difficulties to record strong, detailed descriptions orally.

Grant submitted by Michael Pierce, 3rd Grade Teacher, Rockwell School



Berry School Gets New Toys for Science

Currently, 1st grade students at Berry School use the outdoor playground equipment as the tools to investigate the scientific principles of force and motion. Thanks to a grant from the BEF, these students will now have scientific "toys" such as Stomp Rockets, Build N Roll and Wheel-o toys to engage in hands-on, experiential and interactive learning. With these new tools for learning, students will have the opportunity to hypothesize, write predictions, experiment, analyze and draw scientific conclusions about force and motion, without having to brave the weather on the playground.



Grant submitted by Lisa Buchholz, 1st Grade Teacher, Berry School



The Bethel Education Foundation is pleased to announce the approval of grants for two SMART Board systems for Berry School and three SMART Board systems for the English Department at Bethel High School. These award winning interactive whiteboards will be used in classrooms to further enhance the learning experience.

BEF Announces New Board Members

The Bethel Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of new board members, Janice Chrzescijanek and David Joseph. Janice Chrzescijanek has been a Bethel resident for 7 years and has three children, two of whom attend Bethel Public Schools. Janice is active in the PTO and classrooms at Rockwell School and has been a member of BEF's Barnum Ball Committee. Janice devotes her time to her family and looks forward to serving on the BEF Board.

David Joseph, along with his wife Beth Spain Joseph, have been active in the Bethel community since 2000. The Joseph's two daughters attend Bethel Middle School and Bethel High School. David has been a member of Bethel Softball Association Board of Directors and is currently coaching in the Senior League. David and Beth believe in the foundation's mission and look forward to supporting Bethel's educators with the means to achieve excellence in learning for our community.

Honor a Teacher

We would like to recognize the following people for their outstanding contributions to our community and the lives of our children. For their efforts, we thank them and ask that they continue to influence our children to be the best they can be.

Mr. Jeff Moscowitz, Mr. Matt Correia, Ms. Eileen Omundsen

Honored by Danielle Canfield

Mrs. Michele Walsh

Honored by Matthew Canfield

Mr. Brian Kirmil

Honored by The Hermansen Family

Mrs. Margaret Genuario

Honored by Christopher Joyce

Mrs. Karen Hastings

Honored by Patrick Joyce

Mrs. Laura Dobrint

Honored by Timothy Joyce

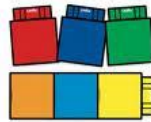
Mrs. Cynthia Jugler

Honored by The Macchia Family

Spring 2010 Grants, Continued

A Head Start for New Kindergarteners

Kindergarteners who need a little extra help getting ready for school will now get it. Thanks in part to a grant from the BEF, incoming students who score poorly on the Kindergarten Screen and are unable to attend the pre-kindergarten skills classes will receive an MP3 player loaded with 15-minute mini lessons as well as songs and free audio story podcasts in hopes of increasing their Kindergarten readiness skill level. In addition the grant also provides for a Math Tool Kit—including dice, counters, unifix cubes and other hands on math games—for every student entering kindergarten.



Grant submitted by Linda Anderson, Coordinator of Community Programs, and Danielle Legnard

BMS Moves to the Beat

Students at BMS will have a new way to help them work up a sweat in gym class. The BEF has approved a grant to provide music in both school gymnasiums and the school's weight room with new iPod stereo systems. Music will be used in an effort to increase student participation in gym class activity 100% of the time and encourage students to work up a sweat and function with an increased heart rate for a sustained period.



Grant submitted by Nate Rinas, Physical Education Teacher, Bethel Middle School

BHS Construction Zone

A hands-on woodworking and light manufacturing lab is under construction at BHS thanks to a grant from the BEF. To be used collaboratively by the Technical Education and Navy JROTC students, the lab will be used to complete light woodworking and manufacturing projects as well as training in safe tool use. The eleven work benches, to be semi-permanently installed at BHS, will allow 20-25 students to work simultaneously on projects such as a bench for in the BHS outdoor courtyard as well as stage props and items to be sold to the public.



Grant submitted by Lt. Commander Mark Dwinells, ROTC, Bethel High School

Lessons Go Real-Time at Berry School

With the implementation of SMART Board systems at Berry School, student lessons have become more hands-on. A new SMART Document Camera, provided by a grant from the BEF, is the perfect tool to use in conjunction with the SMART Board system. This will allow teachers to give every student a perfect view of lessons, from science experiments to a page of a textbook or illustrations in a Read-Aloud story. The camera displays images and captures pictures in real time, offering students instant views of the lesson.



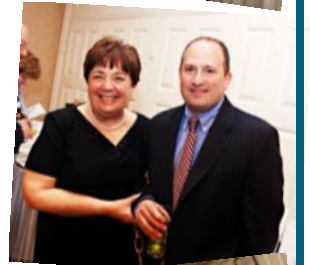
Grant submitted by Shannon Robinson, Media Specialist, Berry School



Thank you to our guests, volunteers, auctioneers, donors and corporate sponsors including:

Advanced Cosmetic & Plastic Surgery
deVisscher & Co.
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Your contributions made the 2010 Barnum Ball a huge success!



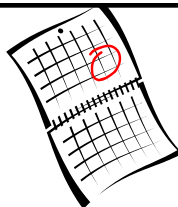
The Bethel Education Foundation would like to extend our sincere thanks to AJ Campofiore, Sue Dolan, Sean Folan and Kim Lemone for their support and dedication. They may have left their Board positions this year but their hard work continues to impact the community of Bethel.

Save the Date!

**Bethel Education Foundation's
Annual Ladies Night Out**

Back by popular demand in October 2010

Look for more details this fall



Yes, I'd Like to Support BEF!

Honor A Teacher—A Great End-of-Year Gift!

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 per honoree, your honoree(s) 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

Bethel Education Foundation

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