



# Bethel Education Foundation

*Supporting Innovation, Creativity and Excellence in Learning*

Newsletter  
Volume 4, Issue 1

May 2011

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- Karen Fildes, BHS
- Jeff Moscovitz, Johnson
- Angela Bassett, Berry

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## “A Night at the Museum” Raises Nearly \$30,000



A sampling of artwork created by Bethel school students, faculty, staff and local artists then donated for auction at April's Barnum Ball. The annual event raised nearly \$30,000.

On Saturday April 2nd, the beautiful sights and sounds of a Soho gallery came to life at “A Night at the Museum”, Bethel Education Foundation’s 5th Annual Barnum Ball.

The art-inspired Barnum Ball included performances by Bethel High School’s Chamber Singers and Show Choir, “Last Refrain”, cocktails, dinner and dancing as well as live and silent auctions. Numerous art-work pieces were created and donated by students, faculty and staff as well as local artists. “This was a fabulous way to get the students, the staff and the community involved in raising money to support the grants they benefit from”, said Barnum Ball Co-Chair Filomena Weiner. “These kids and teachers are the real benefactors of their own hard work.”

The event raised nearly \$30,000 which will support innovation, creativity and excellence in learning for our children and community through grants to educators or community members.



Barnum Ball Committee members, from left standing Beth Gorry, Gladys Gonzalez, Sallita Ballard, Kate Addonizio, Janice Chrzescijanek, Lillian Joyce, Tasha Mascioli, Joe Vitarelli, Maureen Tyra; seated Dionne Craig, Silvia Islam, Filomena Weiner, Heather Wootton



Bethel High School students provide musical entertainment



Bethel Public Schools faculty and administrators, from left standing ?, Brian Kirmil, ?, ?, Dr. Pat Cosentino, Dan DuBlois, Derek Muharem, Dr. Kathleen Gombos, Liz Dibiase; seated Pam Chapman, Dr. Janice Jordan, Dr. Gary Chesley, ?, Dr. Kristen Brooks



Nicholas Gazetos, Board of Education member Melanie O'Brien, State Representative Dan Carter

**For a slide show of Barnum Ball photos, visit [betheledfoundation.org](http://betheledfoundation.org)**



Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and Board of Education member Stuart Carlsen

## 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.



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## Spotlight on Spring 2011 Grants

### Portrait Painting at BHS



Portrait painting is an art form all its own and student at BHS will get a chance to learn from a professional. Thanks to a grant from the BEF, visiting Southbury artist A.J. Picard will spend two days at BHS demonstrating his craft and working with students in AP Studio Art,

Painting and Drawing classes. This program was developed in conjunction with an assignment to complete a portrait and students will use Mr. Picard's advice and guidance to get the job done. Students will learn how a professional artist approaches and completes a portrait assignment while completing their own.

*Grant submitted by Anne Bogart, Bethel High School*

### The Sound of Music at Rockwell School

The sound of music will soon be much clearer in Cafeteria at Rockwell School. The BEF will be helping out by providing funding for a new projector that will be permanently mounted on the ceiling and project a VCR, DVD or computer presentation on an existing pull-down screen. Teachers, parents and students will have easy access to the new equipment via a wall-mounted control panel. The system will



improve the numerous performances, meetings and school functions that take place in the School's cafeteria throughout the year including award and spirit assemblies, Jump Rope for Heart, PTO Meetings, grade level instructions and, of course, Rockwell's many student musical performances.

*Grant submitted by Dennis Arcano and Eileen Bomberger, Rockwell School*

### iPod Touch Brings Educational Applications to Berry School

The BEF has approved a grant to provide five new iPod Touch systems for Berry School to be used as manipulatives during classroom instruction. Many students already use technology independently and with access to over 65,000 applications—200+ specifically for education—teachers will sign out and use these tools for small group instruction, one-on-one or for classroom centers. Teachers will now make use of technology and interactive “gadgets” in a way that appeals to students and makes sense to educators.



*Grant submitted by Shannon Robinson, Berry School*

### New Computer Access for Bethel Teens



When Bethel teens need a place to go after school to do research, work on group projects, research community service projects, search the internet for jobs and much more, they will now be able to do so at Pro Access, Bethel's Teen Center. With funding from the BEF, Pro Access will purchase one Mac and one PC to be set up in it's new home at the Bethel Municipal Center. With 300 members in grades 7– 12, teens can take advantage of the facility's dedicated computer/homework room where the new equipment will installed.

*Grant submitted by Hilda DeLucia, Director, Bethel Pro Access*

## 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.

**Mrs. Lisa Buchholz, Berry School**

**Honored by Perri England**

## Grant Update—BHS Manufacturing Lab

An unused classroom at Bethel High School has been transformed into a Manufacturing Lab with help from a grant from the BEF. Up and running since Navy JROTC cadets built and installed 11 workbenches provided by the grant, the new lab in Room 100 is now being used collaboratively by the Technical Education and NJROTC students for light woodworking and manufacturing projects.



## ELMO Comes to Rockwell School

Students at Rockwell School will have ELMO to assist teachers and improve student learning. The BEF has approved a grant for two Electronic Visual Evidence Presenters (ELMO) document cameras for use in the school's classrooms. Unlike traditional overhead projectors, ELMO does not require special paper in order to operate. Teachers place their papers directly on the "stage" for the entire class to see, allowing teachers to share any type of work from student work, to a written piece or any book resulting in a fully colored, shared reading experience. Especially helpful to visual learners, ELMO encourages peer critique, immediate feedback and illustration of reading strategies, author's craft and vocabulary. Way to go ELMO!



*Grant submitted by Clint McLeod and Anthony Liberati, Rockwell School*

## Fine Motor Improvement in Kindergarten

Weakness in fine motor development can affect all areas of functioning including handwriting, eating, dressing, computer use and book handling. Thanks to a grant from the BEF, Kindergarten students at Rockwell School will have new materials to strengthen these skills. Fun and kid-friendly tools such as wood pegs and pictures, magnetic learning numbers, snap-together letter blocks, hook and loop sticky blocks, wind-up toys and other manipulatives will be available to students within their independent stations and during arrival time activities.



*Grant submitted by Kristen Sprock and Erica Hebert, Rockwell School*

## Wired for Sound at BMS

Communication between the director and the crew is essential in creating a high-quality TV production. Thanks to a grant from the BEF to purchase a 4-headset, wired intercom system for use at Bethel Middle School, students from BMS and BHS who tape performances in the BMS auditorium will have an easier, more effective and reliable means of communication. These new headsets will allow the director—usually a BHS student—to give instruction and guidance to students—typically BMS students—working the cameras. These performances, concerts and events, which will be improved with superior communications equipment, are aired on BETV Channel 26 for the Bethel community. That's a wrap!



*Grant submitted by Cindy Feuerman, Bethel High School*