

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



From the Helm

If you read the mission statement of the South Country Education Foundation you will find that the word “opportunities” appears. For the last thirteen years, the volunteers who have been involved in the foundation have worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for all of our students. We do this because we believe that a quality education is centered on the value of educational opportunity. Our complex modern world demands that our students are provided with as many educational opportunities as possible in order to help them navigate their path through society.

Another priority for SCEF is to focus on the strengths and positive qualities of the South Country School District, as well as to form partnerships within the community which will help us achieve our goals. As you read through our newsletter, please take note of all the positive stories and wonderful activities taking place throughout the district. We have much to be proud of. We encourage you to visit the SCEF website and the school district website to read about the accomplishments of our students.

This summer the Becker/Gambles Music Fund will be providing opportunities for students to study music with \$6000 in scholarships which will be awarded to students in grades 4–11. We are very proud of committee member and South Country Music Department Chairperson Tim Hogan for being awarded the 2010/2011 Dowling College/News 12 “Educator of the Month”. Tim has given valuable insight and volunteered many hours to our Becker/Gambles Music Committee. He has, as well, helped to coordinate concerts and master classes for our students.

Please take a few minutes to read about the how some of the fall grants have unfolded and to find out what spring grants we have recently awarded. It will give you a picture of the unique opportunities we have been able to fund this year. We are fortunate to have so many supporters and donors who have helped us provide countless opportunities over the years. After all, educational opportunities open doors for our students, and you can help open them through your continued support of our organization.

—MARY MOJALLALI

A Gift that Keeps on Giving

When electric violinist Mark Wood capped a two-day workshop program at Bellport High School with a concert on March 24th

he surprised the members of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund with a donation of one of his handcrafted Stingray SV-4 violins. His suggestion that we hold a raffle for it that night was a lucrative one—we netted over \$700 for the B/G scholarship fund.

The Scharpf family of Brookhaven was the lucky winner, and Mr. Wood signed the violin for them that evening. In the days to follow, we were notified that Gabriela and Jeff Scharpf had donated the violin to the orchestra at Frank P. Long Intermediate School where their daughter Chiara plays cello under Dr. Andrew Perea. We are thrilled to know that the violin will be used for the benefit of so many of our young students and Dr. Perea vows that it will be played in all future Frank P. Long concerts. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of Mark Wood and the Scharpf family for this valuable donation.

Please go to www.woodviolins.com for more information about Mark Wood and his complete line of electric violins, violas and cellos

Luca and Chiara Scharpf with Dr. Andrew Perea and the Mark Wood Stingray SV-4 Violin.



Becker/Gambles News

The Becker/Gambles Music Fund has had a successful year in fundraising with its two main concerts: the Mark Wood concert featuring the Bellport High School concert orchestra, jazz ensemble and jazz choir and the Opera, Organ and More recital with Michael Douglas Jones and other performers at the historic Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. The proceeds from these concerts, as well as donations from loyal supporters, have allowed us to fund two additional major programs this spring.

In May, Becker/Gambles brought three doctoral candidates from Stony Brook University to give performances and master classes to the three main performing groups at Bellport High School. Candidates in voice, violin and percussion gave first period performances to the chorus, concert orchestra and wind ensemble followed by one-on-one master classes with students preparing for the NYSSMA competition.



Chris Graham, doctoral candidate in percussion performance, demonstrates drumming technique for sophomore Perry Nesi.



BHS sophomore Aidan Lundstrom receives instruction from JongEun Lee, doctoral candidate in violin at Stony Brook University. Tyler Wottrich, piano performance master's candidate, accompanies him.

Additionally, the committee was able to return to its maximum funding this year pledging \$6000 to students in grades 4-11 for summer music lessons and scholarships to music camps and special performance groups. Eighteen students from Frank P. Long Intermediate School and Bellport Middle School in band, chorus and orchestra were each awarded four summer music lessons with any teacher participating in the South Country music department's summer lesson program. Eleven high school students were awarded a total of \$3,750 for programs ranging from individual music lessons to participating in the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, attending SUNY Fredonia Band Camp and the Saratoga School of Orchestral Studies.

Students 4 Art News

Plans are underway for the third annual Students 4 Art summer program for students of the South Country School District to be held August 1st–5th. This year's program will focus on painting, drawing, printmaking, wood sculpture and found art sculpture. Visiting artists will demonstrate their techniques and educators will encourage students to explore a chosen technique to develop their own work of art. The program will take place in the art wing of Bellport High School, as well as on the Post-Morrow Foundation's grounds in Brookhaven Hamlet.

Enrollment is limited; there is space for a maximum of sixty students (entering grades 1-12 in September), so sign up as soon as possible. Scholarships totaling \$1800 to attend this summer's program have been awarded to students of the South Country schools by the S4Art committee.

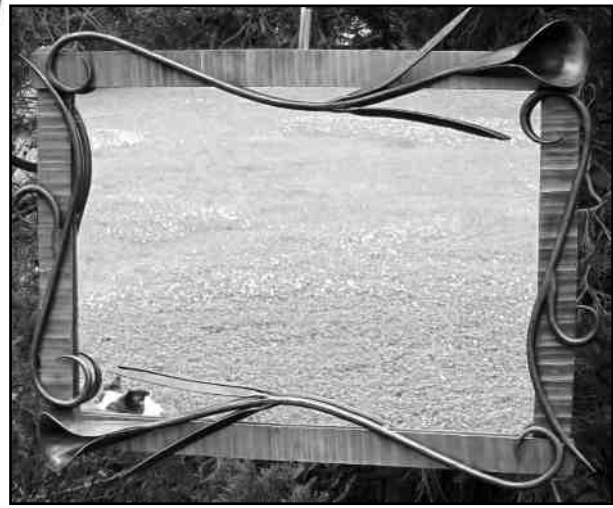
For more information about this year's program, please see our website www.scefonline.org and click Students 4 Art.



Savannah Darrow creating her own ceramic sculpture at last year's S4A summer program.



Arthur Pinajian No.1539. Bellport shore, 1973, Watercolor and pencil on paper, 15 x 21 inches. Courtesy of www.PinajianArt.com.



Hand-forged iron mirror from Sayville's Spirit Ironworks, a collaboration between sibling blacksmiths and artists Rachel (BHS '89) and Timothy ('91) Miller.



21" Wooden model of (Pirate Johnny Depp's??) 15th Century Spanish Galleon



10" Ceramic Bowl by Marilyn Silverman



Some 2011 Auction Biddables



A custom bicycle built by Matt Palermo of East Patchogue and donated by Sy Molinoff, MD. For complete details of the bicycle and other auction items, see www.scefonline.org and click on Cocktail Party/Auction.

Bug Art by second graders in Michelle Procida's Brookhaven Elementary School art class produced from an SCEF classroom grant with artist Lorena Salcedo-Watson: Vineshar Bountree, Christopher Dweck, Thomas Graziano, Nicolas Keissling, Victoria Monte, Justin renfroe, and Nigral Sinkler.



The kayak is a two person, 16.5 ft Mill Creek Kayak made by Gene Westhoff. It's hull is bright red and the decks are varnished. It comes with custom seats and two beautiful wooden paddles.

SCEF Awards More Than \$11,000 in Spring Grants

Flowers will bloom and chimes will sound in school buildings of the South Country School District with the choice in May by the board of the South Country Education Foundation of eight innovative grants. Below is a short description of the grants that will receive funding.

Outdoor Classroom

Jessica Weinberg

Brookhaven Elementary School

\$2,000.00

The Courtyard Committee at Brookhaven Elementary School will create an outdoor classroom and composting site on the school grounds. Students will plant their own vegetables and learn about composting, health, conservation and citizenship. The funds will be used to purchase materials such as lumber and chicken wire to build a compost pile, along with other materials such as seeds, plants and fruit trees for the garden. Additional funding is being sought through the Welch's Harvest Grant program.

Welcome to Brookhaven!

Michelle Procida and Merrill Banks

Brookhaven Elementary School

\$1,675.00

In an effort to welcome mid-year transfer students to the Brookhaven Elementary School, students and teachers will create a book using student artwork to help explain basic school information. This illustrated book will be given to incoming students prior to their first day. The grant will provide funding for printing 125 copies of the book.

Contrast and Tone:

Artist in Residence

Michelle Procida

Brookhaven Elementary School

\$1,500.00

Students will explore various drawing techniques with artist Lorena Salcedo-Watson using a wide range of drawing materials. The artist will take up residency in the school for one week in January of 2012.

Technology: Smart

Document Cameras

Cari Negri

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,398.00

This grant is for the purchase of two SMART Document Cameras to be used by fourth and fifth grade students. The cameras, which quickly complete reproduction tasks, will add spontaneity to the classroom and spark an interest in learning, especially for disabled students and others with learning disabilities.

Tone Chimes

Michelle L. Stiriz

Kreamer Street Elementary School

\$1,950.53

First graders, whose curriculum includes hand bells, will add tone chimes to their musical repertoire this year. The purchase of two sets of chromatic choir chimes, known as tone chimes, will enable students to become fluent in their reading of musical notation while expanding their performance experience.

Woodworker's Club

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$1,000.00

Birdfeeders, foot stools and bat houses are some of the items constructed in the Woodworkers' Club at F. P. Long Intermediate School. Approximately 135 children participate in the popular club which meets before classes begin. The club has been in existence for 10 years and students find it an enjoyable way to hone their mathematic and artistic skills.

Garden Club

Peter Cisek

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

\$750.00

Fourth and fifth grade students develop an understanding of environmental issues, measurement and mathematics skills, organizational and project management skills by participating in the F. P. Long Intermediate School's Garden Club. Club members have made many improvements to the school's courtyard by planting and tending perennial gardens, vegetable beds and a small fruit orchard. This grant will enable the purchase of plants, including six more fruit trees and additional garden supplies.

Bellport Youth Ensemble

Summer Clinic

Deborah and John Kocay

174 South Country Road, Bellport,

\$1,000.00

A grant from SCEF will cover a portion of the staff honorariums for the Bellport Youth Ensemble Summer Clinic in its inaugural season. This new program will give local students an opportunity to continue with instrumental and vocal studies during the summer. The two week program will commence this August. There will be a fee to participate in the summer clinic but scholarships will be offered.

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH, 5-7:30 PM; 13TH ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY AND AUCTION
HOME OF CHANTAL AND RICHARD BERMAN, ACADEMY LANE, BELLPORT

MONDAY, AUGUST 1ST THROUGH FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH; THIRD ANNUAL STUDENTS 4 ART
SUMMER ART EXPERIENCE OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-12, BELLPORT HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY, AUGUST 22ND; FALL GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH; FALL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST; FALL GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

(For more information, see our website www.scefonline.org)



Left to right, bottom row: Matthew Gualtieri, Jaime Canjura, Sharyn Plotnick, Barbara Gallagher, Monica Tetuan, Diane Bavosa.
 Second row: Cari Negri, Elisa Budd, Merrill Banks, Michelle Procida, Carmine Pastore.
 Back row: Pete Cisek, Valerie Gilliam, John Kocay, David Moir, Bill Corbett

A Reception to Celebrate Our Grants

A reception was held in Bellport for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 grant winners at the home of SCEF board member Barbara Knowles in early June. Members of the SCEF board and the Community Advisory Council were present and eager to hear the details of the various grants taking place. Over \$30,000 was awarded this year to a variety of projects and programs supporting the arts, science, technology, reading and the environment.

In the picture above are some of the grant winners who were in attendance.

Dear South Country Education Foundation Members,
 Thank you very much for the generous grant which you provided for Michelle Procida to invite me to work with her students for a week this January. It was a wonderful experience for me, as I hope it was for the students at Brookhaven Elementary School. I had an intense week of sharing my work and ideas with them, listening to their own thoughts and an incredible surge of energy which I will carry with me—and which will enter my teaching throughout the year. The purity of a child's vision is something which many artists try to essentially return to. A child's confidence in the strength and clarity of their unique ideas is something extremely precious—and essential. You are providing all of us with a cyclical nurturing—a contagious synergy of creativity that we must continue to value.
 It is always energizing for me to have an opportunity to work with younger students. I am very inspired by Michelle Procida's dedication to her students. They are the future creative thinkers we are entrusted with nurturing.
 I sincerely appreciate being apart of that vision. Thank you.
 Sincerely,
 Lorena Salcedo-Watson

Some Grants in Action



This spring Dancing Classrooms celebrated its third year teaching 5th grade students the rudiments of dance and social graces at Frank P. Long Intermediate School (Program artwork by Travis Cutter.)



Whether scrubbing clothes on a washboard...

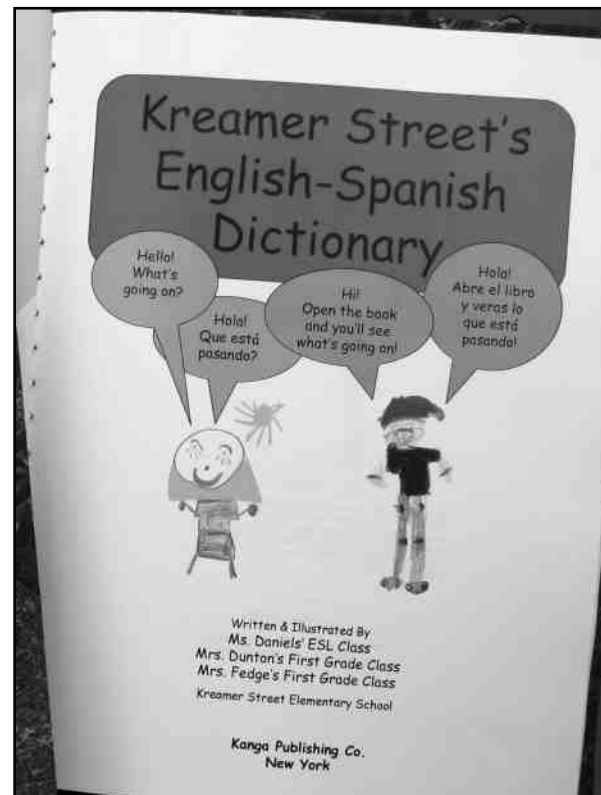


...or finding out how to use a scythe, these youngsters on an SCEF grant trip to the LI Museum of American Art, History and Carriages learned a bit about living in a century gone by.

Dear South Country Education Foundation,
 Thank you for funding our field trip to the Long Island Museum of Art, Art History, and Carriages. I liked the art museum. I learned about William Sydney Mount. I also liked the barn. We learned about the horse mouth feeder. Lastly, I liked the grave yard. Its graves go back to the 1700's! Thank you for funding our trip.

From,
 Ben M.

Pete Cisek's Woodworking Club Grant at Frank P. Long Intermediate School.



Written & Illustrated By
 Ms. Daniels' ESL Class
 Mrs. Dunton's First Grade Class
 Mrs. Fedge's First Grade Class
 Kreamer Street Elementary School

Kanga Publishing Co.
 New York

Maryanne Brandi: One Teacher's Success

Since the fall of 2007, I have had great good fortune in being the recipient of five grants from the South Country Education Foundation. The first involved the creation by first and third graders of their own non-fiction alphabet book.

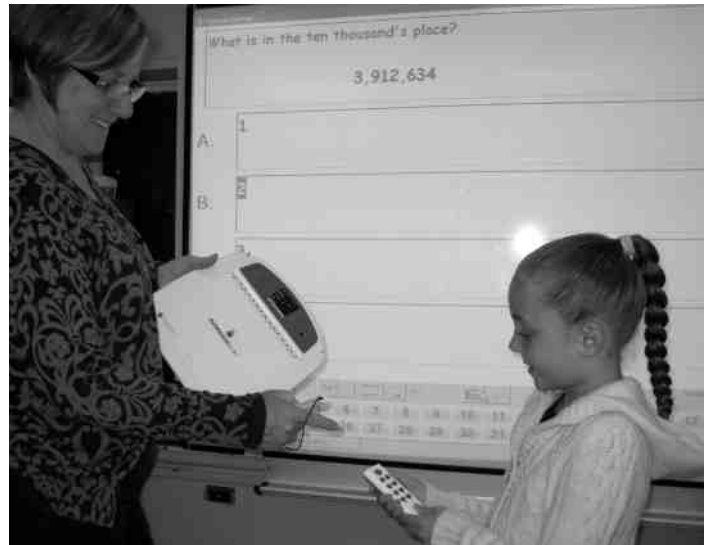
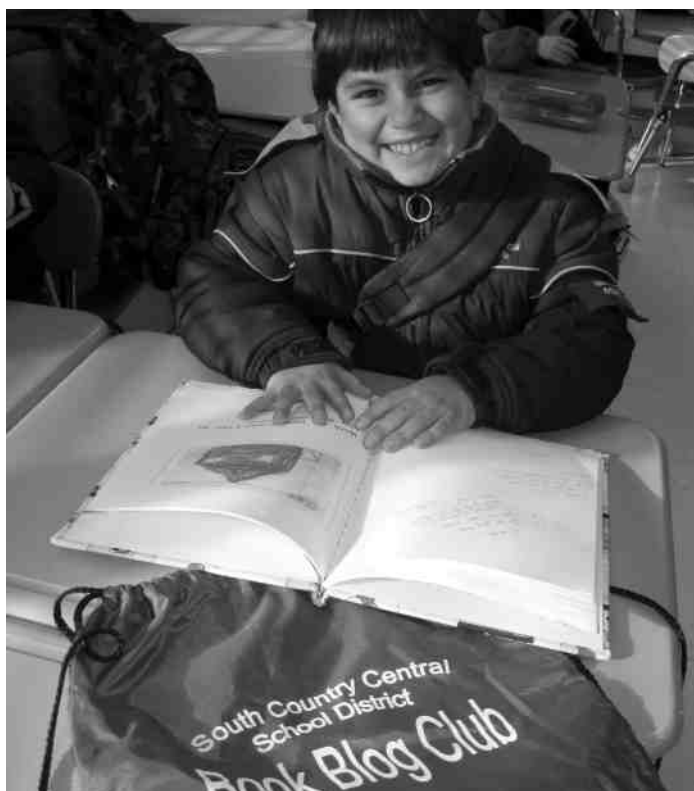
Several of my colleagues at Kreamer Street Elementary School joined in on the project titled "Student Publishing of Books in Digital and Hard Copy Formats." SCEF provided our students with eight student cameras which were used to identify and photograph common and proper nouns. The students became authors as well as photographers. The projects continue in all three elementary schools now with the original cameras enabling students to author and publish their own books.

A year later, I was awarded a grant for two projects. The first, launched a correspondence and artwork exchange with some students in South Carolina. Our students compared their lives and culture with the young people in South Carolina. This was called "The Postcard Exchange."



In the fall of 2008, "Student Development of Bi-Lingual Dictionaries" was funded (*see opposite page*). This involved first graders and ESL (English as a Second Language) students. The students worked together to bridge the gap of the language barrier by creating an English/Spanish dictionary. The cameras purchased for the alphabet book project were an integral part of this project also.

A fourth grant was awarded in that same year. "Book Blogging at South Country" was the title. Students' compositions and illustrations were bound at the end of each reading unit. The books were sent home and shared with the students' families. The readers at home would share their thoughts and return the



books to school. This grant encompassed all the first grade students at all three of the district's elementary schools. SCEF provided each classroom teacher with a book binding kit.

The fifth and final grant was awarded in the spring of 2010 and titled "Clickers for Educating a New Generation." This grant funded the purchase of a Classroom Performance System (CPS) also known as 'clickers,' and an interactive mini-mobile white-board tablet called the Mobi. SCEF provided the first classroom system that was soon embraced by the district as a successful way to reinforce classroom instruction with technology. This initiative encouraged the district to purchase CPS sets for each of the buildings.

The clicker technology is used in conjunction with another SCEF initiative called Brain Pop and Brain Pop Jr., two online technologies first introduced to South Country schools through SCEF grants.

Innovative and excited teachers have taken advantage of foundation funding to bring new educational experiences to students in our district. We are grateful to South Education Foundation and to all its supporters.

I have been with the South Country Central School District off and on since 1992, mostly involved with computer technology programs. In 2002, I was a Civil Service Computer Lab assistant at Verne W. Critz. Several years later, my position grew to encompass Kreamer Street. The vast array of technology being used today has grown enormously in our schools. It is amazing to see how far we have come during my fifteen years with the District.

—MARYANNE BRANDI



South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 512, Bellport, New York 11713-1502

WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG

Mission Statement: *South Country Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country School District.*

Its mission is to promote and enhance educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that fall outside of the District budget.

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SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

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