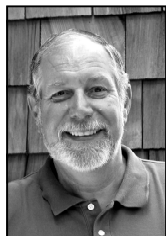


# Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



## From the Helm

This is the time for us to build bridges: bridges to the future, bridges to the past, bridges to each other, but never bridges to nowhere.

The Education Foundation believes in building bridges and supports that effort in all our activities. Our grants in support of science education help our kids build bridges to their future by helping to ensure that they are excited about learning science (maybe some of these science students will really build bridges). Our support of a poet in our primary schools helps build bridges to the future so children learn how to be creative. Our grant to teachers at Brookhaven Elementary School has helped build bridges between students, parents and the school. Our grant to the High School SEQ to research the club's significant history helped build a bridge to the past, so the students can learn from it and move into the future.

Our recent dinner dance in support of Dancing Classrooms helped build bridges between our 5th graders, who are learning so many lessons from ballroom dancing, and their parents who were thrilled to see a group of students demonstrate its skills.

Our new art fund will help build bridges to connect our art students with the world of artistic endeavor and help enrich their lives because of it.

Our Becker/Gambles Music Fund continues to connect our students with the world of music through workshops, concerts, master classes and scholarships—building a bridge to the Arts.

Nationally, many of our bridges need repair, we are trying to be sure that the bridges in our community are strong and can carry us and our children into the future. —GENE WESTHOFF

## Art Fund in Formation

Since the Becker/Gambles Music Fund has had increasing success in raising funds and finding ways to enrich our students' music education, it is no wonder we are now supporting the formation of an art fund to promote art education in our district. Students for Art will have its first fundraiser at the Artists on the Lane on July 4th in Bellport. Students from our district will be selling their artworks to raise money for a proposed summer art workshop program this year.

The committee is in the planning stages but hopes this week-long workshop will be open to students from elementary to

high school ages exploring a variety of media. The program will include visits to artists' studios.

District art chair Suzette Fandale is heading the committee. Members include Pamela Lerner, Lorena Salcedo-Watson, Cheryl Steinhauer, Lilliam Di Giacomo, Dava Stravinsky, Gene Westhoff and Marilyn Silverman. If you are interested in supporting this new group or in serving on the committee, please email Suzette at <sfandale@southcountry.org>



## Opera Appreciation Course Offered

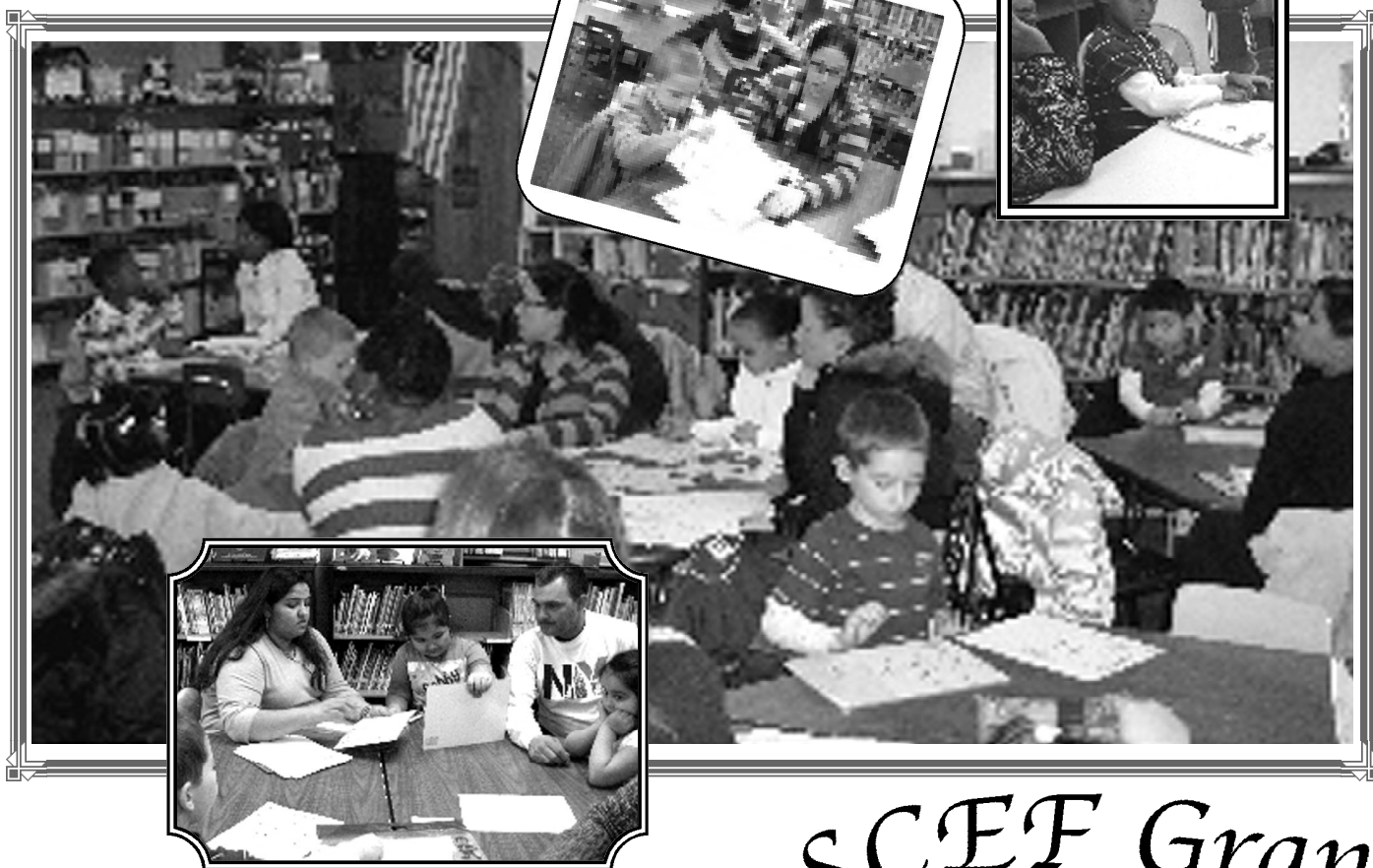
Ira Hayes, Ph.D., local resident, educator and opera buff, has generously offered to give a series of opera appreciation classes to benefit the Becker/Gambles Music Fund. From Handel to Strauss, the first of the two eight-week courses is to be held on Monday evenings in May and June at Bellport High School. This course will be an overview of opera from Handel, Mozart, bel canto, French opera, Verdi, Puccini and Wagner. The second course, Verdi and the Romantic Tradition is slated to begin in September and will be held on Thursday evenings.

Ira writes:

*I've been hooked on opera for most of my life. As a Columbia College freshman, I went to my first performances at the Met, Puccini's Gianni Schicchi and Richard Strauss' Salome. I was thrilled by the larger-than-life quality—the voices, the orchestra, the size of the audience! I saw five operas that year. The next year, I saw everything I could, getting standing room, joining the line at 5pm, talking to other standees who had seen the great singers and every opera one could think of. I learned opera on that line. I went to more than fifteen operas a year then. I don't go as much now, but I'm still always excited at opera's potential to thrill me the way no other theater can!*

*Opera is one of the treasures of western civilization. Live from Lincoln Center, the Three Tenors, the Metropolitan Opera's high definition movie theater telecasts have all helped popularize it. More and more people go regularly to the opera, attracted by its vocal Olympics and a blend of music and drama.. Participants in these courses will be even more eager to attend an opera performance and to take advantage of one of the highlights of New York City cultural life.*

We thank Ira for his generosity and creativity in suggesting we offer this course as a fundraiser for the Becker/Gambles Music Fund. The cost for each of the two eight-week courses is \$120, and all proceeds after expenses will go toward the summer music scholarship fund. For more information, please call Will Struyk at 286-6129.



## SCEF Grants

### 1-800-School to Home Connect

This project addresses the needs of the young students at Brookhaven Elementary School who are participating in our early intervention reading programs. The Reading Department held two workshops for our students and their parents on Thursday, February 26th. One was held during the day and the other in the evening. The workshops gave the teachers the chance to show parents some strategies that can help foster literacy skills. Most of the activities used erasable white boards along with magnetic letters.

All students were also given a selection of KEEP books to provide them with the opportunity to practice their newly acquired reading skills at home. We were so glad that many parents took the opportunity to attend our workshops with their children, thus enriching the students' beginning literacy skills.

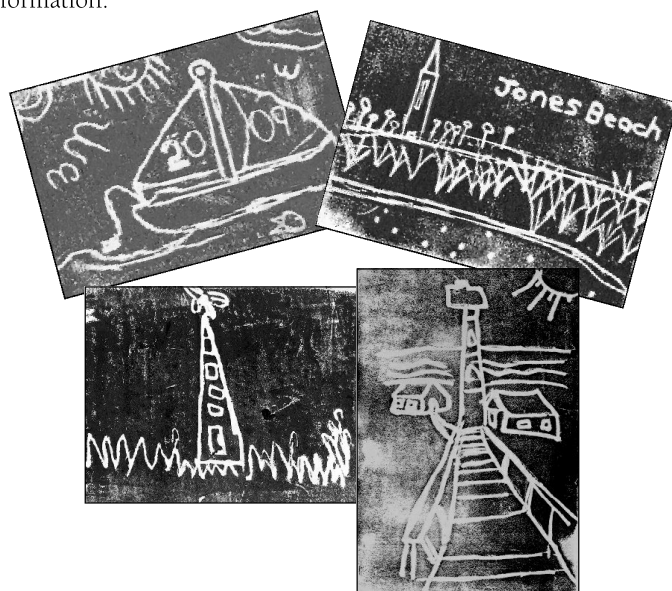
—JOANN TOMASZEWSKI

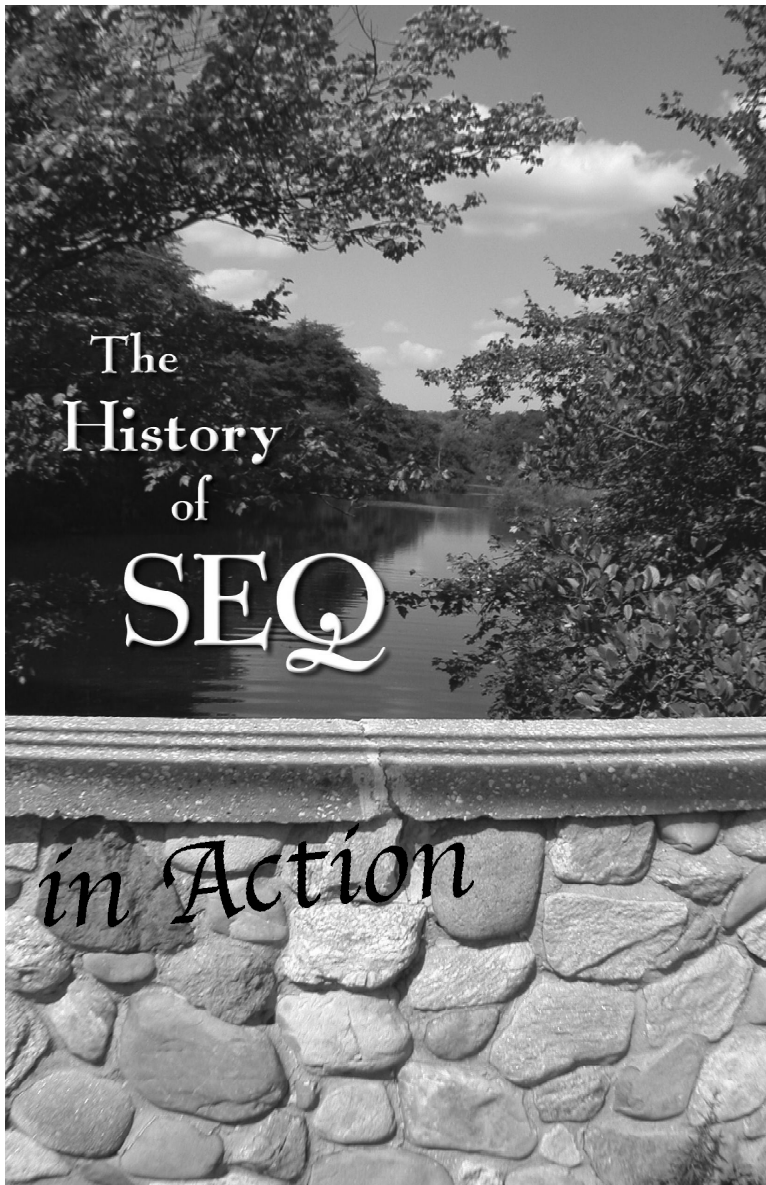
### Postcard Exchange

The third grade students from Kreamer Street Elementary have been exchanging postcards with students from two schools in South Carolina through the Postcard Exchange grant. Teachers Maryanne Brandi, Maryann McCann, Denise Yee, Pat Mischler and Christine Belford have designed a program that allows the students to create and design their own postcards using different

art techniques and encouraging them to write about a variety of topics pertaining to themselves and their community. Topics will include interpretations of their hometowns and states, their study of several artists and local birds and butterflies. The students will take a walking field trip and visit the Bellport post office later in May.

<http://www.southcountry.org/KREAMER/NewKreamerSite/PostcardExchangeProject/PostcardExchange.htm> is the website for more information.





### **“The History of SEQ” is Here!**

The Students for Environmental Quality club at Bellport High School has completed a comprehensive history of the club going back to its origins in 1970. Students interviewed former members, advisors, researched archives of the club and took photos to bring the history of this unique and active club to light. Current president Grace Healy spoke at a recent reception at BHS about the process of writing the history and the impact that it had on the current students. Dan O'Connor oversaw the students's work and Searles Graphics has done a masterful job of printing copies for the club.

The History of SEQ may be viewed on the BHS website [http://www.southcountry.org/HIGHSCHOOL/History\\_of\\_SEQ\\_Book/HistoryofSEQBook.pdf](http://www.southcountry.org/HIGHSCHOOL/History_of_SEQ_Book/HistoryofSEQBook.pdf) and the printed version is available for \$10 by contacting Dan at [doconnor@southcountry.org](mailto:doconnor@southcountry.org).



### **Outdoor Classroom**

Under the supervision of Sonia Orfin and Alissa Connell the courtyard project at Brookhaven Elementary School is in full swing. The staff recently participated in a courtyard clean-up with parents and children on hand to help out. Using kid-sized gardening sets purchased with grant monies from SCEF, they weeded, edged flower beds and helped prepare the grounds for planting. Once it gets warmer, frogs and lily pads will be added to the pond. Butterfly feeders will also be installed, and the classes will be able to release their butterflies into the courtyard. Teachers started vegetable seeds in their classrooms with the root-viewing kits, and these vegetables will be planted. Many resources have been added to the book room and library about insect and animal life cycles that teachers and students can borrow. In Mrs. Orfin's words, "We couldn't have done it all without the SCEF grant!"

—KATHY LEONE

### **Students as Cool Tool Creators**

Fourth grade students from Frank P. Long Intermediate School visited the Long Island Children's Museum as part of a grant titled "Students as Cool Tool Creators."

The museum is an interactive facility and a not-for-profit organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Students had the opportunity to learn about map making through powerful and motivating hands-on activities. They also learned about graphing and how to construct their own treasure maps. The museum seamlessly integrates New York State Board of Regents standards of math, science, technology, English language arts, Social Studies and career development into its activities.

The grant was written by Aimee Volk and Eileen White who accompanied the students. Several other classroom teachers were part of the trip as well.





### Visiting Poet Darren Sardelli

Long Island children's author and poet Darren Sardelli brought a lighthearted and enthusiastic message to the students of Verne Critz and Kreamer Street Elementary in March in celebration of National Poetry month. Known for his interactive style and humorous approach to writing, our students responded with their own creativity and insights. Darren spent three days at the two participating schools conducting writing workshops and giving assemblies to the classes as a result of a recent grant from SCEF.



### Science Club Honored

The Bellport Middle School Science Club took second place in a two-part competition held recently at Brookhaven National Laboratory. They were coached by Middle School teachers Sharyn Plotnick and Matt Gualtieri who received a grant from SCEF to purchase a special buzzer system that enabled students to simulate competition conditions in practice. Show, left to right, are: Mrs. Plotnick, Mackenzie Moran, Mr. Gualtieri, Avery Samuel, Sajid Hossan and Billy Tunney. Sajid and Billy took home honors in the Fuel Cell Car competition.



### BHS Science Project

The Bellport High School OSSP has gotten off to its spring start with two fantastic juniors who have volunteered to spend time after school and during the summer break. Both Eric Hernandez and Ian Lundstrom have started their observations of Beaver Dam Creek at several points. They have initially started to record air temperature, water temperature, local weather conditions at the time of data collection, cataloging any visible animal life and GPS locations for sample collection. In the near future they will start to take dissolved oxygen readings, salt concentrations and several other variables in addition to water samples so they may look at the plankton populations.

We have high hopes to represent BHS this year at Brookhaven National Labs OSSP night set for the start of June. The evening is a science symposium of all the local Long Island school districts that are involved in the program. A night that allows the students involved to show case their environmental observations. I will keep you posted and send you literature and pictures once the event has passed. —JOHN ROMASHKO, III

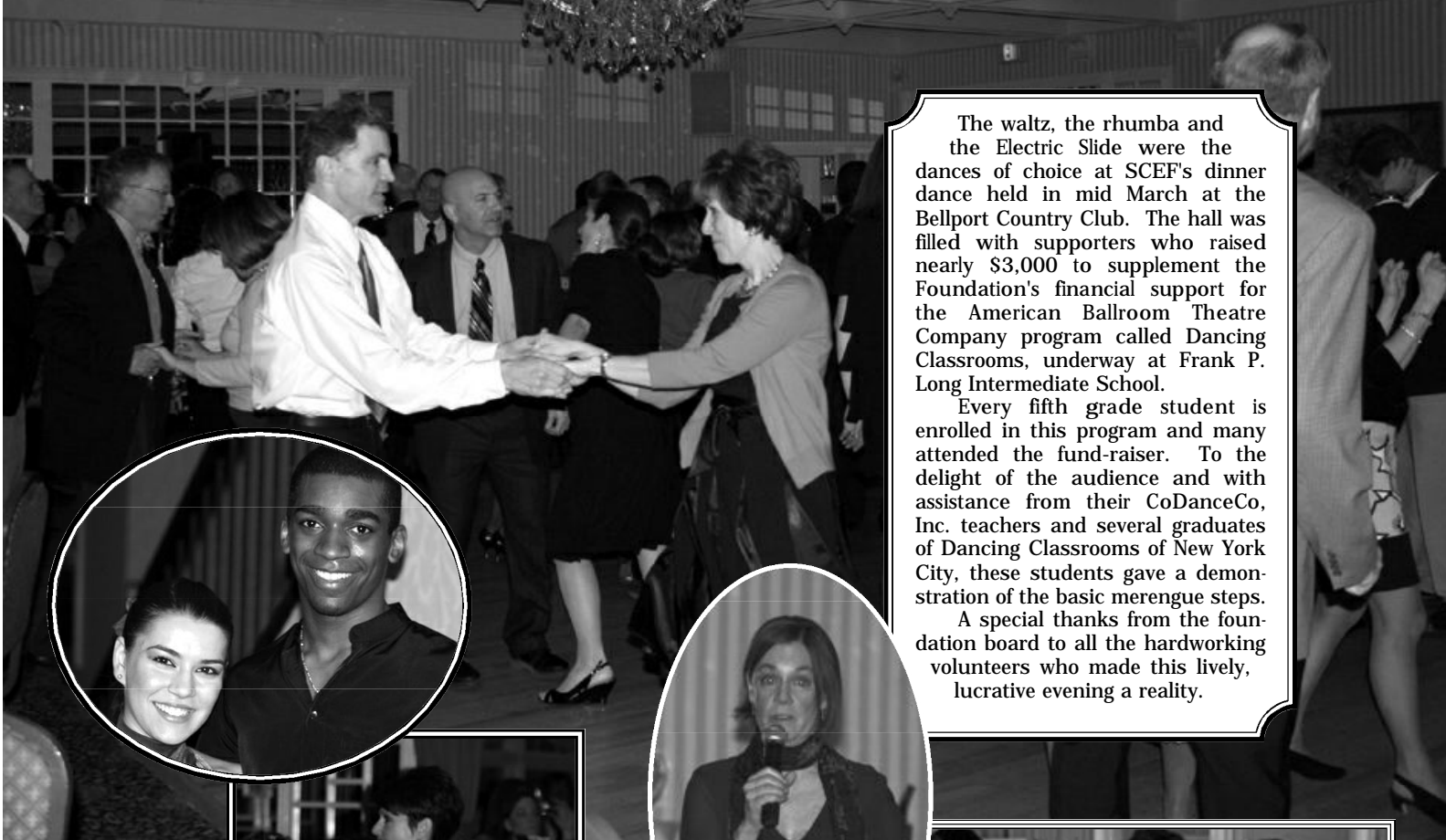
## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MONDAY EVENINGS, MAY/JUNE—Opera Appreciation: Handel to Strauss with Ira Hayes, Bellport High School, Brookhaven**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 11—RECEPTION FOR FALL 2008 AND SPRING 2009 GRANT RECIPIENTS  
The Garden of Barbara and Edward Knowles, 25 Academy Lane, Bellport**

**SATURDAY, JULY 11—11th Annual Cocktail Party and Auction, 5–7:30pm  
Bayfront home of Chantal and Richard Berman, 40 Academy Lane, Bellport**

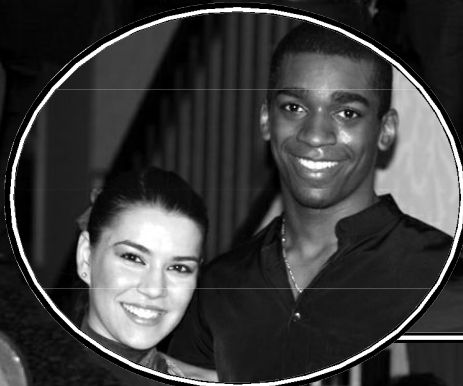
(For more information, see our website [www.scefonline.org](http://www.scefonline.org))



The waltz, the rhumba and the Electric Slide were the dances of choice at SCEF's dinner dance held in mid March at the Bellport Country Club. The hall was filled with supporters who raised nearly \$3,000 to supplement the Foundation's financial support for the American Ballroom Theatre Company program called Dancing Classrooms, underway at Frank P. Long Intermediate School.

Every fifth grade student is enrolled in this program and many attended the fund-raiser. To the delight of the audience and with assistance from their CoDanceCo, Inc. teachers and several graduates of Dancing Classrooms of New York City, these students gave a demonstration of the basic merengue steps.

A special thanks from the foundation board to all the hardworking volunteers who made this lively, lucrative evening a reality.



*Dancing With the Student Stars*



## SPRING GRANT CYCLE TOPS \$22,000 AGAIN!

**Reading, Writing and Wii in Spring Grant Program.** The South Country Education Foundation awarded more than \$22,000 to projects in science, reading, art and physical education. A record number of applications was received for special school projects, but the SCEF board was forced to leave unfunded many worthwhile and innovative projects.

Below are details of the grants that did earn funding in this competitive grant cycle.

**Storytelling in the  
21st Century Classroom  
\$456.00**

*Carolyn Conroy-Kelly, Debra Poore  
Verne Critz Elementary School*

Digital cameras will be a tool to encourage first graders to create stories about their surroundings, peers and families. Students will be trained in the use of the cameras and, with parental permission, will take photographs that apply to particular themes. The applicants indicate that the pictures will be used to enhance the writing experience. The grant will fund the purchase of five digital cameras as well as carrying cases, SD cards and batteries.

**Fun with Printing  
\$1,500.00**

*Michelle Procida  
Brookhaven Elementary School*

Lorena Salcedo-Watson will be an artist in residence at the Brookhaven Elementary School and will offer printmaking instruction to the student body. Students will then create prints using a variety of materials, both traditional and unconventional. The program will conclude with a school-wide art show. The grant money will pay the \$1,500 artist fee.

**Challenge III  
Buzzer System  
\$742.00**

*William R. Corbett, Jr.  
Bellport High School*

This grant is for the purchase of a tabletop buzzer system for the school's Science Bowl Team. The buzzer system will help simulate competition events enhancing the performance of the team.

**Wii Fitness and Motor  
Development for Adaptive PE  
\$1,300.00**

*Beth Clark, Bridget Roche  
Bellport Middle School*

This grant is for the purchase of the Nintendo Wii video game system for use by the physical therapist at the Middle School as well as for students enrolled in Adaptive Physical Education. The video program will help students develop motor coordination, balance and muscle strength. In addition to the purchase of the Nintendo Wii, the applicant will purchase games and a lockable cart.

**Ranger for a Day  
\$1,209.00**

*Nicole May, Rob Keenan,  
Theresa Turecamo  
Frank P. Long Intermediate School*

Fifth grade students in Cluster A will be given a guided tour by Fire Island National Seashore rangers of Sunken Forest and the museum at Sailor's Haven on Fire Island. They will learn about the centuries-old forest and the endangered species that live on Fire Island and in surrounding waters. The grant will fund two buses to transport 100 students, teachers and chaperones to the Sayville Ferry Terminal as well as the ferry passage to Fire Island. The program is being considered for all fifth grade students next year.

**Book Blogs  
\$2,600.00**

*Maryanne Brandi, Fran Dunton,  
Vicki Pirozzi, Laura Earl,  
Kathleen Munisteri  
Verne W. Critz, Kreamer Street  
and Brookhaven Elementary schools*

Reading and writing skills will be honed by all first graders in the district as they create "Book Blogs." Topics for the blogs will be taken from the district reading series. Students will write their blogs at home using special materials and with input from their parents. The grant will provide for the purchase of writing books with spaces for illustrations, book bags, card stock, and other supplies. The students will also learn book binding technique. The end products will become part of the classroom library.

**Summer Swimming  
Lessons  
\$1,600.00**

*Tracie Van Dina  
Boys & Girls Club  
of the Bellport Area*

The Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area will use this grant to take 30 club members for 10 swimming lessons at the Holtsville Pool. The swimming program is offered by the Town of Brookhaven. The Foundation will cover Brookhaven Town recreational fees of \$1,500.00 and \$100 for the purchase of bathing suits for participants who need them.

**Peaceful Playgrounds  
\$3,000.00***Character Counts Committee  
Verne W. Critz Elementary School*

The Character Counts committee at the Verne W. Critz Elementary School hopes to increase the physical activities of its students on the playground while decreasing student conflicts. With the SCEF grant it will purchase a Peaceful Playground Program Kit which includes blueprints for the design of permanent playground activities such as hopscotch, four square and basketball. The nationally tested program has been proven to reduce playground conflicts through the implementation of organized activities.

**Recycling Club  
\$450.00***Peter Cisek, Mike Miles  
Frank P. Long  
Intermediate School*

Students will learn valuable lessons about the environment through the recycling of plastics, metal cans, glass and paper. The grant will pay for digital and spring scales to be used by students to weigh recyclable products. Students will collect data and use statistical methods to analyze materials and patterns of waste reduction. They will also make posters encouraging students and faculty to participate.

**Garden Club  
\$1,200.00***Peter Cisek,  
Frank P. Long  
Intermediate School*

Students in the Frank P. Long Intermediate School Garden Club will plant a Japanese maple, five flats of flowers and install birdhouses and hanging plants in the school's courtyard. The Garden Club is a project supervised by Peter Cisek with dozens of participants who plant mums in the fall and organize other seasonal displays. The grant also covers the purchase of rakes, work gloves, mulch, potting soil, courtyard ornaments and bird feed.

**Woodworkers Club  
\$1,600.00***Peter Cisek,  
Frank P. Long  
Intermediate School*

Students will use rulers, tools and project design elements to create at least seven woodcraft projects within a 30-week period. There are approximately 125 members of the Woodworkers Club. The club is so popular that meetings are held before school and during lunch period to accommodate the large enrollment. Birdhouses, sitting benches for the courtyard and corner shelves are among the projects. The grant will be used to purchase chapsaw and jigsaw blades, a table saw, wood and various other supplies.

**Circus Arts Program  
\$1,322.40***Al Nolan  
Frank P. Long  
Intermediate School*

This grant will supply materials needed for the Circus Arts program. The program is designed as a two-week gym program and will reach all students. The needed equipment includes manipulative devil sticks, plastic spinning plates, diabolo balance sticks, juggling scarves and walking stilts. According to the applicant, Circus Art Programs encourage self-confidence, self-discipline, balance, hand-eye, hand-foot coordination, all in a non-competitive environment.

**SEQ Water Monitoring  
Program  
\$2,125.00***Daniel O'Connor  
Bellport High School*

This grant provides for the purchase of a Dell Vostro laptop computer and two handheld GPS devices and training to be used by members of Students for Environmental Quality collecting data on undocumented waste and sewer run-off. The collected data will be used to identify the sources of troubling run-off and design corrective measures.

**Career Day at Brookhaven  
National Laboratory  
\$2,390.00***Jayne Johnsen-Seeberger, Adrienne  
Fernandes, Anastasia Munn  
Bellport High School*

This grant is designed to expose female high school students to careers in science. The grant calls for two field trips. The first is to BNL for its annual High School Career Day, funded by BNL's Women in Science and coordinated by Stony Brook University's Women in Science and Engineering program. The second trip is for students to take part in the BNL Open Space Stewardship Program and to participate in stewardship activities. Approximately \$1,700 of the grant is for passenger vans to take 20 students and chaperones to the event. The balance of the grant pays for materials, journals, kits and supplies for participating students.

**Dig It: Adventures in  
Archaeology \$1,090.20***Aimee Volk, Stephanie Maffei,  
David Perkins  
Frank P. Long  
Intermediate School*

Two fourth grade classes will travel to Atlantis Marine World to explore the science of archaeology during a hands-on interactive program. This trip will enable students to analyze data and form opinions about civilizations and cultures based on this information. The trip will blend educational components of science and social studies. In addition to participating in an archaeological dig, the students will also tour the marine museum. The grant pays for bus transportation and admission.



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

WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG

**SCEF 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 are outside of the South Country School District budget.

**HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN**

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