



NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

From the Helm



What inspires a student? Is it a master class in music with an incredible musician or having the chance to play African djembe drums? Could it be digging into a scientific project about local climate? What about growing fruit trees, harvesting the fruit and enjoying the beauty and wonder of nature?

Maybe it's learning how to dance or create a digital film. For some students, working side by side with a professional artist may do the trick. Educational inspiration comes in many different forms and it helps build a fertile environment for a student's natural curiosity.

At the South Country Education Foundation, we challenge teachers, staff and community members to create ways to inspire students through our grant process. It's very rewarding for the entire board of the Foundation to award grants that will excite our students and get them to be more curious about learning. In the following pages of our newsletter you will be able to read about our latest round of grants and see what inspiring activities we have been able to fund.

Over the last twelve years, the South Country Education Foundation has awarded well over \$400,000 in grants and scholarships to benefit the educational lives of the students throughout the district. This year our Becker/Gambles Music Fund awarded \$4,000 in scholarships for students to participate in youth orchestras and to study music over the summer. The Students 4 Art committee hosted a weeklong art camp for students of all ages, and with its fundraising efforts was able to award several scholarships totaling \$1800 for some students to attend the camp.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support and generosity of our South Country community. Even in these difficult economic times our donors, in continuing to support SCEF, help sustain our efforts to stay true to our mission. I would like to personally thank every donor and to ask that you continue to support us as we look ahead to more inspiring grants for our students.

---MARY MOJALLALI

Inspiring Our Youth Through Art

Back by popular demand, Students 4 Art held the second Experience of Art summer program for students in the South Country School District in August 2010 at Bellport Middle School. Inspired by local artists and guided by educators, the 60 participating students let their imaginations run free to create their own original works of art using five distinct art mediums.

This year, we were delighted to offer eight scholarships for the one-week program funded with the proceeds generated through our Meet the Artists Studio Visits program. A special thanks to local artists John Cino, David Ebner, Michael Ince and Mary Samuels and the participants for making this a reality.

Students 4 Art developed this program to foster in students of all ages the freedom and confidence to express themselves through visual arts. "The days were filled with experimentation and creation, as students' personal visions came to life—it was truly an exciting week," exclaimed Suzette Fandale, chairperson of the South Country art department.

Ceramicists Susannah Tisue and Marylin Silverman kicked off the week by sharing their love of working with clay, demonstrating different approaches to designing and creating "multiples" in ceramic work. The students created original three-dimensional objects such as pendants, treasure boxes and they also designed sets of plates.



Taking the lesson in creating "multiples" in ceramic work, young artist Gina Marie Falk designs her very own plate.

PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA IOSUB



Young artists and brothers Colm and Declan Brown team up, creating a sailboat from bamboo and designing with their very own "Relief print" flag.



Andrew Lovito
tests out the techniques he
learned from Impressionist painter
Mary Samuels in carrying out his vision

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA IOSUB

The week continued as impressionist painter Mary Samuels guided students in learning different techniques to create layers and textures with watercolors. The young artists were very challenged and created many images, each one building on the prior one.

The third day was a wonderful one spent off campus at the Post-Morrow Foundation with artist and sculptor Michael Ince, along with Bellport's talented trio of volunteers: Oreste Di Giacomo, Jamie Salcedo-Watson and Lance Snead. Inspired by Michael Ince and his sailboat, the trio encouraged students to visualize their creations

and guided them through execution. The results were amazing—working with bamboo and creative knot-tying, students created sailboats, wind chimes and sculptures. They also enjoyed executing relief printing from nature on T-shirts.

On Thursday, Melissa Hin evoked her passion for drawing and painting and helped students understand the classical approach to still life drawing (one of the more difficult aspects of drawing) and the effects of perspective and shading. The young artists very diligently embraced the challenge, learning about composition, color theory and drawing with colored pencils.

On the last day, Lorena Salcedo-Watson, printmaker and educator introduced students to the world of printmaking. After viewing several of her images, which combined nature and imagination, students created original drawings and worked on intaglio prints. Using plexiglass plates, they learned how to create impressions, ink their plates and finally how to print their own masterpieces. It was an inky and exhilarating day!

The culminating event was an evening student exhibition in the lobby of the new Bellport Middle School auditorium, with students experiencing the pleasure and pride of seeing their original works of art displayed in a "gallery" setting for their family and friends.

The committee would like to express its special thanks to Alexandra Iosub, photographer extraordinaire, and to Eileen Sribnick for dedicating time and talent to make the summer program a success. For more information on Students 4 Art and our upcoming winter 2011 programs for adults, contact Suzette Fandale at 631.730.2108, email students4art@gmail.com or check www.scefonline.org.

Calendar of Events 2011

Tuesday, March 22nd / Mark Wood, electric violin with vocalist Laura Kaye in concert 7:30 pm / Walter Ebersole Auditorium, Bellport High School

Spring (Date & Artists TBA) / Opera and More: Voice and Organ Recital 5 pm / Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, Brookhaven

Saturday, July 9th / 13th Annual Cocktail Party and Auction 5-7:30 PM / Home of Chantal and Richard Berman, Bellport, NY

Monday, August 1st–Friday, August 5th / Third Annual Students 4 Art: The Experience of Art, open to students in grades 1-12 Bellport High School

March (Date & Artists TBA) / Celebrating the Arts—An evening with those who inspire us 7:00~pm / Bellport Middle School Auditorium

Saturdays, March 5, 12, 19 / The Experience of Art for Adults 9 am–1 pm Bellport High School

Check our website www.scefonline.org for up-to-date information.



SCEF funds more than \$19,000 in Fall Grants

The board of the South Country Education Foundation, Inc. acted at its October meeting to fund more than \$19,000 in grants to innovative educational initiatives in the South Country School District. Reading programs, field trips and projects requiring the purchase of a wide variety of special equipment were among the funded grants.

"It's not our goal to keep a large bank balance. We love giving money away and this cycle of grant requests was one of the most interesting we've seen," said board president Mary Mojallali. Below is a listing of the most recent awardees.

Master the Art of Reading JAnn Armann, Kreamer Street PTA \$2,000.00

Fused Glass Workshop *Barbara Gallagher, Bellport High School* **\$1,250.00**

"West Side Story" Conflict Resolution Strategies Monica Pullows-Tetuan, Diane Bavosa

Bellport High School \$1,942.50

Inspiring Life-Long Learners Through Real Life Experience

Danielle Gulotta
Frank P. Long IntermediateSchool
\$800.00

Drumming and Drum Circles

Carmine Pastore and Dave Moir Bellport Middle School \$1,890.00

Introduction to Robotics
Jaime Canjura, Bellport Middle School
\$2,000.00

Exploring Multimedia *Jaime Canjura, Bellport Middle School* **\$1,900.00**

Canoes for SEQ Elise Budd, Bellport High School \$1,789.86

Authentic Research ClassWilliam R. Corbett, Bellport High School
\$2,000.00

Wii Fit for Adaptive PE Charles Maragioglio, Bellport High School

\$299.98

\$2,000.00

Class Brass Valerie Gilliam Esnes, Frank P. Long Intermediate School \$1,250.00

Dancing Classrooms Stephanie Rucinski, Frank P. Long Intermediate School

Time Travel
Aimee Volk and Cheryl Ittig,
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$624.00

Science Club
Matthew Gualtieri and Sharyn Plotnick,
Bellport Middle School
\$1.255.00

SCEF will partially grant this request to bring the popular artist and author Richard Hight to Kreamer Street Elementary for a kick-off assembly of this year's Parents as Reading Partners project. Books will also be purchased with the balance of the grant.

Forty-six students in the Bellport High School arts program will attend a 2 1/2 hour workshop with local artist, Julianna Kirk, learning how to design, cut, fuse and fire glass. Each student will create two pieces of fused art. The workshop will be followed by a six week, in-class, glass fusion project.

Thirty students enrolled in the Bellport High School English as a Second Language program will attend a Broadway production of West Side Story as an extension experience to reading Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. These experiences will culminate in a research project in which students will evaluate methods of conflict resolution that may have changed the violent endings to these stories.

Students with multiple disabilities will take a number of field trips to build background knowledge of life experiences. The grant will fund admission and transportation for these students to visit a grocery store, Atlantis Marine World Aquarium in Riverhead, Friendly's Restaurant and the Holtsville Park and Ecology Center.

This grant provides for the purchase of ten African djembe drums to be used by 7th grade students enrolled in the General Music class. These instruments are particularly appealing to students at this age level and provide a valid musical experience for a student population not involved in a performing group.

This project will provide 7th and 8th grade technology students with an exciting program that will build their understanding of robotic concepts and develop their math and science technology skills. Guided by a team coach and mentor, students will use Lego Mindstorms NXT to design and build robots that meet specific requirements and solve specific challenges.

Exploring Multimedia is a grant designed to enhance participating 8th grade students' technical knowledge through the creation of digital films using camcorders and digital software.

Students for Environmental Quality, an extracurricular group at Bellport High School, will purchase two canoes and accessory equipment including personal flotation devices to be used for activities on Beaver Dam Creek and Carmans River. This will enhance the club members' sense of environmental awareness and will be used by current and future members of SEQ.

This grant is for the purchase of two Vernier LabQuest deluxe packages to be used by high school students as part of a group Authentic Research class project. The students will observe, measure and interpret local climate data with this sophisticated equipment.

This grant is for the purchase of the Nintendo Wii console and Wii Fit Plus with a balance board bundle to be used by high school students in adaptive physical education. The Wii Fit program focuses on the improvement of strength, coordination and balance; all integral components of the adaptive physical education program.

A professional brass quintet will offer a master class on each instrument and participate in a performance for fourth and fifth graders at Bellport Middle School. The project is designed to build upon beginning skills and expose students to the expertise and talents of professional musicians.

This grant will cover a portion of this program for fifth graders at the intermediate school. The entire class will attend twice weekly dance classes building social awareness, confidence and self-esteem through the practice of social dance. The program is funded with contributions from the Frank P. Long PTA Cultural Program, the Knapp-Swezey Foundation and SCEF.

Fourth graders in Ms. Ittig's and Mrs. Volk's classrooms will visit the Long Island Museum of American Art, History & Carriages in Stony Brook and experience life on Long Island in 1850. They will learn about farm life, practice chores using historic tools, ride in a farm wagon, and study mid-century culture. The grant covers admissions fees and transportation.

This grant will enable the Science Club to enter the Science Olympiad and to purchase the required team shirts and the experimental supplies, books, materials and equipment to construct a solar vehicle. At weekly meetings, students work on experiments and design projects to hone their problem-solving techniques and analytical reasoning skills in preparation for competition.



Students Gain Knowledge and Experience the Good Earth

Student gardeners at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School have planted a 400 square foot orchard which will soon bear fruit, thanks to continuing support of the school's Garden Club by SCEF.

According to Pete Cisek, teacher and club organizer, the youngsters anticipate crops of plums, peaches, apples and pears in the school's courtyard in the coming months and years. Strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, raspberries and pumpkins have already sprouted, soon to provide students with healthy treats.

All this was accomplished despite a difficult summer with little rain and extreme temperatures. The secret was a new irrigation system.

"All in all, we have a terrific crop to appreciate this year,"exclaimed the proud instructor.

The orchard, surrounded by lush perennial and annual gardens with ornamental trees, has been an on-going club project for the past nine years. Garter snakes, turtles, toads and rabbits have taken up residence in the gardens giving students insight into the botany as well as the wildlife of the garden world.

As a living laboratory, it is a familiar sight to see children conducting science experiments while partners weed the tilled earth. Students, in their understanding of the environment, plant and use compost to enrich the soil.

"We would like to thank the school's PTA, the South Country Education Foundation and Lowe's for their generous support in making the Garden Club so successful and such a valuable tool in the education of our students," said Mr. Cisek.

2011 Spring Grant Cycle Schedule

Monday, January 31st Grant applications available

Monday, March 28th Deadline for submission of grant applications Friday, May 13th Announcement of Spring 2011 grant recipients

Thursday, June 2nd Reception for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 grant recipients

June 10th, 2011 End of Grant Report due for Spring 2010 and Fall 2010 awards

An Interview with Peter Clement, Class of '67, Bellport High School



Peter Clement is Deputy Director of Intelligence for Analytic Programs at the Central Intelligence Agency.

What is your most vivid memory of BHS?

I recall being very excited at the prospect of going to "High School" in Bellport as an eighth grader. I loved the old building, its architecture and brick facade, the high ceilings, wide stairwells, etc. That first year,1963,was the year of the fire and I was sad on so many levels; I hated seeing the old school being torn down.

The joy of friendship--spending time with so many people with different talents in various school activities or classes. One big memory: being on the cross country team. During my freshman year, Jean-Claude "Frenchie" Ribes persuaded me to try out for the cross country team. I was in awe of the varsity runners--Frenchie, Mike Kalinowski, Steve Mennutti, Jimmy Walker, so I was amazed to find them so friendly and supportive in trying to get the 'new guys" to develop as runners. Our cross country and track coach Bill Kessler had a great impact on me. He kept up with the latest running techniques and theories and--in that precomputer age--kept handwritten statistics on every practice and every track meet, recording our running times and then sharing that data so we could see how we were improving. (Yes, I still have those stat sheets.) At the end of the season, he gave us all a "season factbook," which also contained humorous and factual bios on all of us, as well as awards for "most improved," "best times on which course," "most miles run," etc. His dedication and commitment to the team did much to shape my philosophy of management in a large organization.

What was your favorite class?

I gravitated toward social studies, since I loved history; also enjoyed English because it forced a certain discipline in my writing--although I didn't fully appreciate it at the time. In 8th grade, Mr. Gorman had us reading the New York Times every Friday in class--which gave me an insight to strong journalistic writing. Mrs. Raider had us write often--I recall reading Gandhi's autobiography--a massive book--that opened my eyes to a very different culture.

I actually enjoyed most of my classes because of the teachers. Many of them freely gave of their time to help their students succeed-or at least pass. Mr. Roberge helped me survive chemistry and physics, Mr. Cooley for biology---subjects that generally left me baffled; Mr. Osterer and Mr. Kalil not only helped me through algebra and geometry--he helped me discover I actually enjoyed math. Mrs.Federico and Mrs. Williams instilled a real appreciation of the French language--I remember the joy of read-

ing Jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days and the existential The Plague by Albert Camus; and of course, there was Mrs. Howard, who introduced her students to Shakespeare, creative writing, and drama; a tough and demanding teacher, she instilled in me a discipline in writing for which I am grateful to this day. (She also made us write plays, short stories, and even haiku! Where else could you get such an experience?)

What are some of your more recent activities?

I taught high school history for three years before joining the CIA as an analyst in 1977--and I'm still there. I spent much of my career as a Soviet/Russian affairs analyst, which afforded many opportunities to write for and brief senior US policymakers and Congressional committees. My work accounts afforded me many foreign travel opportunities. I spent a year as a "PDB briefer" (President's Daily Brief)--during which time I briefed VP Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. I am an avid baseball fan, and managed to get to opening day of the Mets' new CitField stadium. I still love photography—I worked in my Dad's camera shop in Bellport, and yes, I was the BHS yearbook (the Log) and newspaper (the Clipper) photographer.

How did going to Bellport prepare you for your life and profession?

Several things immediately come to mind:

- 1. The diversity at BHS gave me an early appreciation for different perspectives, how people in a shared setting can have very different outlooks, and how you can't fully understand other people or cultures without knowing their life experiences. Developing friendships and sharing experiences with people different from yourself also helps you discover who you are, what you believe, and, ideally, to develop a greater acceptance for others' views and attitudes. I couldn't do my current work very effectively--analyzing foreign leaders and their policies--without appreciating that reality.
- 2. Managing your time and making choices. Trying to juggle the demands of six classes a day, extracurricular activities, homework, and social life are great preparation for "the real world." It doesn't get any easier after high school

What is your advice for BHS students?

Take time to savor the moment—the little things that you take for granted. Have some fun every day—levity is important, it provides a sense of balance and perspective. Interact with other people—face to face; communicating in texts and e-mails is fine—but communing with people is far more enriching and meaningful. Look around you—nature provides small miracles every day—a sunset, a cloud formation, a deer walking through the woods, a cardinal's chirp, a rainbow. Try new experiences that are "out of your comfort zone"—you'll learn a lot about yourself in the process. Lots of people do things to help you, though it may not be apparent until you stop to think about it…thank them. Learn a foreign language—or at least travel to other countries. The world is full of diverse cultures, outlooks, and wisdom. In the process, you'll come to appreciate what you have—but also that that we can learn much from others.

he South Country Education Foundation would like to express its gratitude for the generous donations received from individuals, alumni, businesses and organizations. Our mission to enhance the educational experiences of the students of the South Country School District is only accomplished because of the people whose names appear here.

This donor list reflects contributions made between November 2009 and October 2010. We have made every effort to include the names of all of our contributors and regret if anyone has been omitted.

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FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

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