

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



From the Helm



This is the time of year for classroom discussions which focus on gratefulness. The same holds true for the board of the South Country Education Foundation. In this issue, we take note of the hundreds of people in our community who have lent their generosity and support to our organization. Each and every donor and volunteer is an integral

part of our mission which allows us to keep our promise of enhancing the educational lives of students in the South Country district.

We have just awarded another round of grants this fall totaling more than \$16,000. Special and innovative programs in the areas of math, science, language arts, life skills and enhanced learning through the use of the latest technology will be offered because of the generosity of the Bellport, Brookhaven and East Patchogue communities. The timeliness of a field trip to the Montauk Lighthouse to learn about erosion is going to be quite relevant for our students in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy.

We have chosen to continue the Knapp Swezey Swim Program we started last year as well as the partial funding of the Dancing Classrooms program. All this would not be possible without the support of our donors and volunteers.

Please keep updated on all our upcoming events throughout the year and to stay informed about our grants by visiting our newly designed website at www.scefonline. Thank you for your continued support.

—MARY MOJALLALI

Doing Something About Hunger

"The Empty Bowl Project," an outreach event presented by the South Country Education Foundation, fo-

cused on hunger in a simple meal of soup and bread. The meal was offered to approximately seventy-five diners on Tuesday, November 27th at Bellport High School. The event was organized by Suzette Fandale, Art Department Chairperson at South Country School District, who secured the grant.

This project, a local expression of an international effort to raise awareness about hunger around the world, began with an art project. An SCEF grant provided clay and glazes for the potters, students, educators and community members who gathered in the weeks beforehand to create handcrafted ceramic bowls.

In exchange for a cash donation at the November community supper, each diner chose one of these bowls and was served soup and bread donated by local restaurants. The local restaurants participating were Avino's Italian Table, The Bellport, Chachama



Grill, Porter's on the Lane, South Country Inn, Swan Bakery and Varney's.

"Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the restaurants and other food providers who donated soups and breads for this meaningful event," said Mary Mojallali, the SCEF president.

The committee organized by Ms. Fandale included Cheryl Steinhauer, Nicole May, Michelle Procida, Mary Mojallali and Dava Stravinsky. Art students and students from the Key Club also helped at the event. Students 4 Art, a committee of SCEF, donated an iPad mini that was raffled off.

Empty Bowl is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and was created by The Imagine Render Group. The concept is to draw people from the community together to fashion bowls which attendees take home as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world.

Becker/Gambles Music Fund Advances Mission

The mission of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund, the education of dozens of district students, and the concept that 'music should

be enjoyed' were all advanced in the past few weeks.

In early October, the pianist and East Patchogue resident Jerome Malry entertained music lovers at an afternoon recital in the home of Bellport residents Jai Imbrey and Bob Apfel. More than \$3,400 was raised at this community concert and the monies are earmarked for master class programs that will

be initiated by Becker/Gambles. All this ties handily into the Fund's mission to sponsor community concerts and provide master class training to the students of the district.

Mr. Malry performed solo works for the piano by Schumann and Debussy. "We sincerely appreciate Mr. Malry's generous contribution of his time and talents. His efforts will make our master classes a reality for years to come," said Daryl Jordan, Becker/Gambles master class coordinator.



Pianist Jerome Malry with SCEF supporter and hostess Jai Imbrey at the fall piano recital in Bellport.

In a spirited master class last spring at Bellport High School, cellist and Stony Brook doctoral candidate Richard Vaudrey coached BHS student Madeline Mojallali.



Master classes will continue this spring when doctoral candidates from Stony Brook perform and coach district students in orchestra, wind ensemble and chorus.

On November 20th, Bellport High School was alive with sound as Donald Knaack, also known as The Junkman, led BHS music students in a concert of his unique music played with

wooden staffs, discarded shingles and metals, plastic drums and other 'found' objects, some cascading from a metal rack and played like a vertical xylophone.

Believing that rhythms are easier for listeners to relate to if they echo familiar words, Knaack accompanied many of the exercises with phrases to recycling and ecology, converting a slogan into a rhythmical experience timed to phrases such as "Buy less, waste less," and "Don't let the water run."

Students brought in some of their own objects during the course of the two-day program adding hubcaps, wash pans and a collection of sticks to the collection of 'band' instruments. The objects, when struck, produced a variety of sounds and meters and when synchronized had great power. In addition to classroom instruction, Mr. Knaack offered an in-school concert for high school students followed that evening with a community benefit concert.

"It's been a good few weeks for Becker/Gambles and we have more master classes and community concerts yet to come," summed up member Daryl Jordan.

The Junkman, Donald Knaack, in workshops with student musicians at Bellport High School in November.



Fall 2012 Grants: Technology, Math magicians, Field trips and more...

Some students will be encouraged to "act like math magicians." Others will explore a museum in New York City. And, staying closer to home, a timely field trip to Montauk Point will help students see first hand the results of the ocean's erosion. These are just a few of the exciting, innovative programs approved in the 2012 fall grant cycle.

A Click is Worth a Thousand Words

Lisa Nabi, Joseph Tortora
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1,998.21

Instant assessment of student progress is the goal of this grant. The grant will pay for software and 32 SMART Response remotes to be used with SMART boards already in classrooms. The benefits include exposure to new technology, rapid assessment of student program and a reduction in the costs for paper and toner.

A Journey through Erosion: Montauk's Lighthouse

Aimee Volk, Eileen White,
Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge,
Donna Warshaw, Joe Tortora
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1,275.04

Students will study erosion at the Montauk Lighthouse. The grant pays for two buses, student admissions and adult admissions. The grant will come at the conclusion of a unit on erosion. Students will learn how air and water break down the earth's minerals resulting in erosion. The field trip will include a visit to the museum, tower and beach.

Think Like a Star! Act Like a Magician!

Shawana Vega
Kreamer Street Elementary School
\$602.56

Math fluency for challenged students is the goal of this grant. The concept is to provide math games that students can take home or to the school math center to improve skills. Students will be allowed to sign out math games on topics such as measurement, telling time and word problems. The funding request is for an assortment of games and markers.

Functional Community Life-Skills Learning Experience

Danielle Aiello, Lorine Nolan,
Michelle Dunn, Jennifer Samin,
Jen Tully
Kreamer Street Elementary,
Frank P. Long Intermediate,
Bellport Middle School
\$2,000.00

Five classes for students with multiple disabilities will travel to a supermarket, restaurant, theater and other settings as part of a life-skills curriculum that is geared to foster language and communication skills and also help students make a concrete connection between classroom learning and hands-on experience. The grant pays for bus transportation to the various locations and for admission fees and food.

Students Instantly Respond: SMART Response Interactive

Tracy Behl
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1689.21

This grant will fund the purchases of two dozen "clickers" for existing SMART boards. This technology increases spontaneity and interest in the daily classroom setting. These sets of clickers can be used by several special education classes at a time, as these class sizes are smaller. The goal is to improve individual achievement and comprehension.

The Junkman and His Junk Music

Eric Roeske
Bellport High School
\$1,000.00

Renowned percussionist/composer Donald Knaack, known as "The Junkman," will work with Bellport High School students for two days in a workshop designed to create an original composition to be performed on instruments made from "junk" or other recycled materials. The two-day residency includes classrooms workshops concluding with an assembly concert at the high school.

American Museum of Natural History Field Trip

William Corbett
Bellport High School
\$2,000

Honors and Regents Earth Science students will visit the American Museum of Natural History in New York. As part of a technological component of the trip, students will report and record their observations, presenting them to the class upon their return. Approximately 75 students will participate. The grant will pay for museum admission, and transportation.

Readers Become Leaders

Nicole O'Leary, Becky Huey,
Kimberly Gosselin
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$1,470.59

This grant addresses the needs of remedial reading students at Brookhaven Elementary School. The grant will be used to purchase "guided reading books" that are designed to assist students in reading more complex text.

Fostering a Love of Reading

Stephanie Pirozzi
Kreamer Street Elementary School
\$668.12

This grant provides for the purchase of more than 50 books that are considered to be highly engaging and thus will help instill a love of reading. The books will be used during "read-a-louds", small group instruction and independent practice.

A View into a New World: SMART Cameras

Donna Warshaw
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$1,398.00

This grant is for the purchase of two SMART Document Cameras for use in Cluster B. The cameras enable teachers to project information from a hard copy, such as a newspaper story, to the SMART board in seconds. The cameras will be used primarily in the fifth grade classes but may be signed out to other classes when not in use. This equipment will improve spontaneity during classroom lessons as well as improving attention.

Dance Lessons

Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area
\$2,000.00

The Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area is seeking funds to continue a successful dance lesson program. The ten week session is for children between the ages of five and 12 and will run twice weekly. Participants will learn ballet, jazz and hip hop. They will also work on posture, balance, coordination, turns, jumps and rhythms.



Art from Near and Far, Experienced by our Young Artists



Inspired by cultural and artistic diversity, the Students 4 Art Committee was focused on bringing a different flavor to the 2012 Experience of Art summer program. And that it did, starting with providing the 65+ young artists a taste of Australia, igniting their creativity with whimsical illustrations and giving them an opportunity to create their own works of art—all with the guidance of working artists.

Aboriginal artist Chris Pitkin, who has traveled extensively throughout his native Australia (in particular, the Outback), shared his wide knowledge of aboriginal culture through aboriginal art and the didgeridoo, the world's oldest wind instrument. The students were able to create their own stories using the storytelling elements Chris taught them.



Mixed media artist and art educator Lealand Eve Richards urged the students to explore fairy tales, carnival culture and ideas of beauty and identity through the creation of layered paintings using diverse materials including watercolors, collage and cut-paper work.

Glass artist and graphic designer Kathy Seff guided students as they sketched out their vision of what they would create in glass. Parents were thrilled to see their children's miniature flower glass vases at the exhibition.

This year, most of our art educators were visiting artists. Joining Lealand and Kathy were art educator Debbie Milano and visual design artist Dan Kudreyko who led the silk screening sessions at the Post Morrow Annex.

Whether designing and assembling bottle wind chimes, silk screening t-shirts or creating aboriginal art, Experience of Art students are encouraged to do one thing: to express themselves, to follow what feels right for them because art is personal and that's what makes it their own experience.

In 2012, the Students 4 Art Committee awarded 15 scholarships for the summer art program to students of the South Country School District. The Committee is looking forward to the 2013 program, which will run from Monday, July 29th, through Friday, August 3rd.



Scholarships will be available to students of the South Country School District for both the summer program and art programs which are held outside of the district.

Applications will be available in mid-January on the SCEF website.



South Country
Education Foundation
is pleased to announce that
its website has been redesigned by
Erin Sribnick Rawitch (BHS 1996)
of bellport.com. To see our new
improved website, go to
www.scefonline.org



Melanie Guptar, left, photographer for SCEF's invitation, joins Chris Daconto, right, on the lawn of Chantal and Richard Berman's Bellport home at the foundation's annual fundraiser. Chris was Melanie's subject in a photograph used for the event. The photograph was taken during a special photography program titled "Belle Lumiere" and funded by the foundation.



Attendees of all ages gathered in the largest number ever at the bayfront event, the primary source of revenue for the foundation. Auction items attracted much interest as gatherers were treated to hors d'oeuvres and drinks in a sun-drenched setting.

Fundraiser Draws Biggest Crowd Ever





SCEF thanks the following young people who so graciously served at the July fundraiser: (left to right) Meghan Uhrie, Samantha Fassman, Madison May, Matthew Swift, Kendrick Kusa

2012-2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING GRANTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 7TH, SPRING GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH, SPRING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH, SPRING GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH, 3:30-5 PM, RECEPTION FOR FALL 2012 AND SPRING 2013 GRANT WINNERS
HOME OF BARBARA AND EDWARD KNOWLES, BELLPORT

CULTURAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 5 PM, OPERA, ORGAN AND MORE: VOICE AND ORGAN RECITAL
OLD SOUTH HAVEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN

SATURDAY, JULY 13TH, 5-7:30 PM, 15TH ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY & AUCTION
HOME OF CHANTAL AND RICHARD BERMAN, BELLPORT

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 29TH-AUGUST 2ND, FIFTH ANNUAL STUDENTS 4 ART, "THE EXPERIENCE OF ART"
OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-12, BELLPORT HIGH SCHOOL

➤ CHECK OUR WEBSITE WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ◀

Humbled. This is how we feel every year when we compile a list of all those in the community—business people, teachers, regular folks—that make it possible for us to enhance the learning experience of students in the South Country District. We know your generosity does not occur in a vacuum. Those who support SCEF are most likely to be on lists of donors to many other local charities and organizations. We offer humble thanks that your generosity extends to SCEF as well.

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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 educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that fall outside of the District budget.

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