

CEEF in Brief

Spring 2010 Issue

CEEF's Mission Reaffirmed

Guitars strum in the music wing of the Cape Elizabeth Middle School. The songs of the Beatles, Green Day and Elvis reverberate against the walls. Thanks to an enthusiastic teacher and a \$3,000 grant from the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation, music theory is no longer being taught in the traditional manner. These students don't just learn about chords, they play them on the guitars purchased with a CEEF grant. The program is such a resounding success that students are begging their parents for instruments, bringing what they have learned into their homes and enriching the experience beyond the classroom.

Local education foundations do not replace public school funding but rather provide valuable resources to enhance a school's offerings. Founded in 2001, CEEF's mission is simple: to support faculty, staff and students by providing funding for creative and innovative educational programs that fall outside the school budget. This is particularly important as declining public funding in Maine is increasingly directed toward supporting essential programs and services.

In Cape Elizabeth, CEEF works with School District leaders to help ensure that our



Jennifer Jacobson and second-grade fiction writers put on their directors' glasses. "Jennifer's work with us has been amazing. She is professional and flexible, creating a valuable learning collaboration throughout the year. This has been the most meaningful school-wide professional development that I have ever participated in," says teacher leader Shari Robinson.

students are engaged and inspired in learning. CEEF has supported the school district's technology initiative, met its founders' goal of establishing a large-impact grant in each school, supported professional development opportunities for teachers, and funded a wide variety of grants to enrich classroom learning.

While the benefits are many, building a strong foundation to continue to fund initiatives takes time and commitment from a number of people: community leaders, educators,

school administrators, teachers, an active board of directors and donors.

Please consider supporting the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation. Your tax-deductible donation supports CEEF initiatives and grants that help attract and retain talented educators in our school system. Most importantly, your gift enhances student learning by providing innovative programs and exciting teacher enrichment that may just create the extra spark in a child's life and education.

Answer The Call! May 24-27

Working to enhance educational opportunities for Cape Elizabeth School students, CEEF is once again reaching out to the community by conducting its annual phonathon the evenings of May 24-27th. During the phonathon, volunteers will call residents to educate them on CEEF programs and initiatives, thanking our past supporters and encouraging additional support to attain our ambitious goal of \$30,000. By completing the enclosed donor envelope, you can avoid the call and help to fulfill CEEF's mission to foster innovation and excellence in our schools.



P.O. Box 6225
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
207-767-2333 www.ceef.us

"Our decision to contribute to CEEF was easy as grandparents of four terrific children growing up in Cape Elizabeth. First, we can make no better investment than to support their education—particularly in the early years. Second, contributing to CEEF reinforces a much needed public/private partnership. Third, we know if you can find the right schools locally, that is the ultimate leverage of your tax dollars, your community and the needs of the country. We have supported and will support many terrific private schools. How neat to be able to do the same thing for Cape public schools through CEEF!"

Jay and Kirk Hufford, Grandparents to Mac, Bear, Gus and Pippa Hufford

Fostering Innovation and Excellence

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Range and Diversity of Grants

Spring 2010 marks the fifteenth time CEEF has funded requests from faculty and administration for opportunities to expand educational experiences for both teachers and students. It is CEEF's mission to foster innovation and excellence in our schools, and our role is to fund initiatives that fall outside the school budget. The process is competitive to the extent that we usually receive grant requests totaling more than our budgeted allocations for each of our two annual cycles, but we encourage teachers

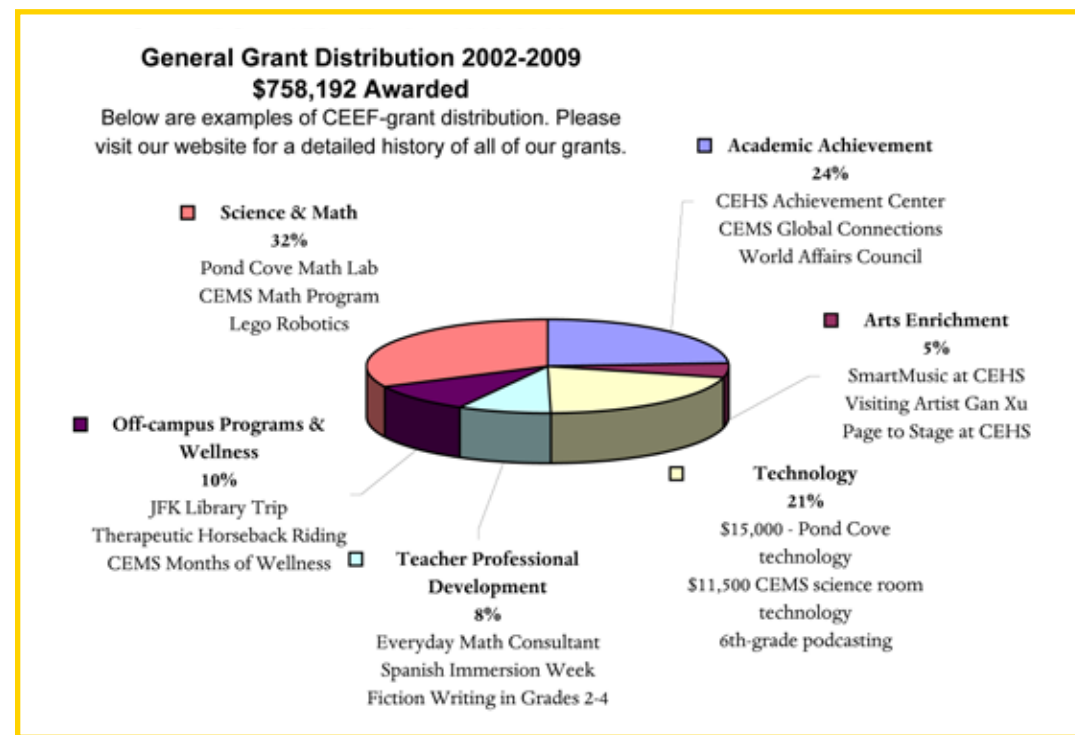
and administrators to "reach for the stars" and, despite the current budget crisis, to continue to "dream big."

Last year there were a number of CEEF grants that closely partnered with the School District's aim to bring technology into the classrooms. CEEF was excited to hear how the use of SmartBoards in Pond Cove and MIMIOs in Middle School science were going to help both students and teachers in their endeavors. From music and art to Lego robotics, High School speech, Latin, wellness and professional

development - these grants highlight some of the range and diversity of the initiatives we have supported. Thank you for your donations which make it all possible.

"I donate to CEEF because I want my seven grand children, who all live in Cape, to have all the best possible advantages in their education that my four children did when they were in the Cape schools."

Dana Wigton



CEEF: Grant Maker to Grant Seeker?

It's true! With the help of a community volunteer and a professional grant writer, CEEF has decided to try "seeking" grants in addition to "giving" grants. Last fall, CEEF contracted a Cape Elizabeth resident, who is also a professional grant writer, to launch this effort. A kickoff meeting with the grant writer, a community volunteer and CEEF board members outlined the many foundations and companies that award money to non-profit organizations like CEEF. The discussion focused on how to get started and what the grant-writing process entails.

With some contracted hours still left to assist with future grant applications, we are ready to roll. CEEF is hoping to target grants that either match up with existing projects, fund new projects that fit the mission of CEEF and the School District or fund projects that may have been deferred or partially funded in the past due to lack of funds or timing.

The Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization of community members committed to fostering innovation and excellence in Cape Elizabeth schools by: partnering with the school district to help achieve its vision, building community-wide support for the benefit of our schools, and funding initiatives that fall outside the school budget.

Professional Development

In our educational system quality teachers are the single greatest determinant of student achievement. Professional development is a key tool that keeps teachers abreast of current issues in education and helps them to implement innovative techniques in the classroom. This is especially important in light of our economic budget concerns. It is vitally important for our teachers to stay motivated, enthusiastic, and challenged so they will continue to bring new skills and positive energy into our classrooms.

Over the past seven years CEEF has proudly awarded over \$60,000 in professional development grants to our Cape Elizabeth teachers. These grants have positively impacted everything from the arts & world languages to literacy, math, and science. Recipients have included: Susan Dana, Debbie Butterworth, Rebecca Bean, Marguerite

Lawler-Rohner, Jamie Michaud, Shari Robinson, Annemarie Dionne, Lisa Melanson, Karen Abbott, Steve Price, and Evan Solender.

Cape Elizabeth teachers who have benefited from professional development have commented:

"I personally feel that professional development is extremely important. It keeps me growing, moving forward and involved in innovation."

The professional development activities that were participated in, "are likely to have a positive and lasting impact on my classroom instruction."

As stated in the School District's five-year plan, "Our community expects, values and supports excellence in teaching." With your help, CEEF can continue its work to support excellence in teaching in our Cape Elizabeth schools through our funding of professional development for our teachers.

"I use the new projector all the time for science presentations. Kids make movies with Power Point, create Excel spread sheets and can express themselves in so many ways. And they love making the projects!"

Joanne Bearor
7th grade science teacher



The Middle School Drama Department's production of A Christmas Carol, benefited from Evan Solender's and Stephen Price's professional make-up techniques which they acquired by attending the Broadway Theatre Workshop, a CEEF-funded professional development grant. The program focused on new teaching methods and production skills for school theatre productions.



2009 Teacher Awards

Thompson Award
Joe Doane

Brownell Award
Rebecca Bean

Read about the 2009 recipients and nominate a special teacher for the 2010 awards by visiting www.ceef.us. Deadline is May 15.



Tim and Nancy Thompson, Joe Doane, Rebecca Bean, Christine Mackenzie and Elaine Brownell at the 2009 Teacher Award ceremony.

"Though we were able to see and play in bands with Cape Jazz, a professional touring big band is a different breed: it has the star players, the top-notch rhythm section, and a real fire of a performance. It's possible to see that kind of thing outside of school, but let's face it, most kids are too busy to think about it. To have a big band like the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra brought right to your door by CEEF? Now that's a cool experience!"

Luc Cary,
CEHS Class of 2009

Congratulations Red Apple Award Recipients!

Pond Cove

- Karen Abbott
- Janet Amberger
- Nicole Ball
- Tara Bucci
- Sara Carroll
- Catherine Cornell
- Karen Dow
- Mary Dulac
- Holly Forsyth
- Mary Jane Ham
- Marianne Harrington
- Amy Kieran
- Lisa Derman
- Julie Nickerson
- Erik Nielsen
- Linda Paul
- Julie Robbins
- Tom Robinson
- Susie Saffer
- Debra Sampson
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Middle School

- Joanne Bearor
- Charlie Carroll
- Deb Casey
- Susan Dana
- Joe Doane
- Cheryl Higgins
- Elizabeth Johnston
- Adam Killip
- Marguerite Lawler-Rohner
- Jamie Michaud
- Carrie Newton
- Steve Price
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- Julie Tselikis
- Kathy Walsh
- Matt Whaley

High School

- Dwight Ely
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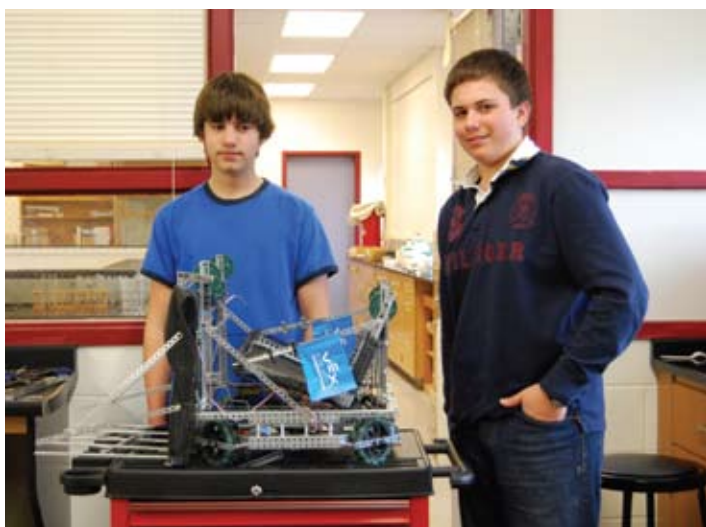
Members of the CEHS Speech Team revel in their victory as state champions

“Being a member of the Speech Team has been a wonderful experience for me. It has been educational and fun, and I’ve gotten to meet and share experiences with kids from other schools. We all appreciate the financial help from CEEF that helped to make our very successful season possible!”

**Kelsey Krull,
11th-Grader/Speech Team Member**

“CEEF jump-started this wonderful Speech Team which was non-existent two years ago. These kids, led by Coach Dick Mullen, have worked hard to become Forensic State Champs! This has been a wonderful learning experience and creative opportunity that will benefit our children in all their future endeavors.”

Jenny Campbell, CEHS Parent



Anthony Castro and Luke Dvorozniak, accomplished VEX-Robotics competitors

Chewonki Outdoor Experience Continues

CEEF’s commitment to foster excellence in our schools ensures approximately 415 students will participate in the annual spring trip to Chewonki Foundation Environmental Education Center. For over 20 years, Cape Elizabeth sixth-graders have participated in a week-long discovery of teamwork and collective effort through group challenges and decision-making activities. Every student benefits from the opportunity to experience how to live with and appreciate the natural beauty of Maine’s woods and coastline, and leadership skills learned through this unique experience cultivate future community leaders.

The majority of funds needed to pay for the Chewonki experience is raised through student fundraising and parent contributions. In early 2008, however, the remaining

\$10,000 funding piece was removed from the district budget. As evidence of our community’s commitment to this strong leadership-building program, three local families stepped forward with the needed funds to allow the trip to go forward. In the ensuing months, a group of parents and students coordinated bottle drives and other activities to raise the shortfall funds for the current 6th-grade class, and those efforts continue for upcoming classes.

CEEF complemented this work and in response to a grant request, awarded \$10,000 over the next three years to offset staff, transportation, and other related costs. Moreover, as part of CEEF’s effort to accept targeted donations, an anonymous donor matched the CEEF award, further ensuring the continued legacy of this much-loved tradition.



Hardy middle-schoolers take on the “spider web” at Chewonki in 2009

“It’s a cool feeling to build a robot for competition and then see it run by itself!”

Luke Dvorozniak 8th-Grade VEX Club Member

“I allow myself to think more creatively knowing that the funding for turning an idea into a reality may be available.”

**Evan Thayer
HS Teacher and VEX Club Advisor/ CEEF Grant Recipient**

“The fiction-writing program has enabled Pond Cove teachers to design a unit that encourages students to unleash their imaginations while learning the key elements needed to craft an engaging, quality story that keeps the reader turning the pages until the end. Having the opportunity to work collaboratively with an accomplished author such as Jennifer Jacobson has been fantastic. As the author of multiple fiction books, she knows what makes a story work well and what the potential pitfalls are. With her guidance we have been able to develop a unit that is both highly engaging for the students and manageable for the teachers.”



Fourth-grade fiction-writer Nina Thomas.

both highly engaging for the students and manageable for the teachers.”

**Ingrid Stressenger,
Pond Cove teacher/CEEF Grant Recipient**



Ingrid Stressenger works on fiction-writing, using a CEEF-funded projector.



Willy Brenneman, Jacqueline Lombardo, Addie Whalen, Sam Whitney, Charlie Dall, Jackson Winslow, Caroline Mahoney with a Pond Cove Smart Board!

Thank You for My Classroom Projector, CEEF!

Dear CEEF,

“I am writing to tell you how much my class and I are enjoying our recently mounted projector. It has become an invaluable tool for us. For example, I am now able to display pages from the student math journals and the math reference book. I cannot tell you how much easier my students’ learning was made by this.

In writing workshop, we have been working on the fiction-writing project, also generously funded by CEEF. In a recent lesson, I opened a word processing document and displayed it on the screen. I cannot tell you how much more engaging and interactive this lesson was made by use of the projector. Every single student was 100% invested in the activity for a full 45 minutes! They then excitedly hurried off to work on their own stories full of ideas and a clear plan for what they would write.

I am so excited about all of the possible ways I will be able to use the projector to enrich and extend my teaching and my students’ learning throughout this year and years to come. It is truly like opening a new gift every day! Please pass on my sincere thanks to the Grants Committee and the Board. Every dollar of money and minute of consideration of this grant for Pond Cove, were money and time very well spent.”



Fourth-grader Issac Monroe-Gibson gets creative.

Best Regards,
Ingrid Stressenger



Two first-graders enjoy the new Pond Cove technology.

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This report acknowledges donations made between January 2009 and January 2010. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy and offer our sincerest apologies for any missed or misspelled names or other mistakes. If you discover any errors, please send an email to info@ceef.us.



MaineHome
+DESIGN
Cape Elizabeth
KITCHEN TOUR

Mark your calendars for the MaineHome+Design Cape Elizabeth Kitchen Tour, to be held on Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information will be available at www.ceef.us.

Win Airline Tickets to Rome!

A Cape Elizabeth family has generously donated two round-trip tickets on Alitalia from Boston to Rome to be raffled off during the Pond Cove 5K Challenge on June 6th. For more information, visit www.ceef.us



Want to read more testimonials about CEEF grants? Visit www.ceef.us for more information and community feedback! Also, learn about the recipients of our next round of grants ... to be announced during the week of April 26th.

B2B Bibs Going Once ...

Beach to Beacon registration is now full! As a past beneficiary of the B2B, CEEF has specially allotted registrations available for fund-raising purposes. For more information, e-mail run@ceef.com or e-mail juliemerriam@maine. Get those running shoes on and hit the roads!



Pasta with Purpose
Carb-up and feed your noodle

3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner
The night before the Pond Cove Challenge

June 5th 5:30 to 7:30

Pond Cove Cafetorium

\$5 per person, \$15 per family, under 5 free!

Food generously provided by:



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