

# Westerly Education Endowment Fund

Fall 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

*Help meet funding gaps so the educational needs of our children are met to the fullest extent possible!*



*Welcome to the Westerly Education Endowment Fund's first newsletter!  
We appreciate your support and wanted to share all the good news that is going on. We hope to issue our newsletter quarterly.  
We hope you enjoy it and welcome any feedback you may have.*

## Grants Awarded for 2009 to 2010

### Current Board Members

Philip Friend, President

Lauren Matarese, Vice President

Bethany Schonning McGill, Secretary

Anthony Antoch, Treasurer

Janell Hayes Bruno

Joe Celico

Ann Cruso

John Fusaro

Robert Hoffman

Jane Holdredge

Marion Leddy

Jason Lin

Michael Lynch

Malcolm Makin

Fran Prescott

Fred Sculco

Deborah Ventresca

John Weaver

### Contact Information:

Westerly Education Endowment Fund  
P.O. Box 1219  
Westerly, RI 02891  
weef@cox.net  
401-741-5680

## Upcoming Event

### Old Fashioned Variety Show

January 15<sup>th</sup>

If you would like more  
information, email us at  
[weef@cox.net](mailto:weef@cox.net) or contact  
Ann Cruso or Gina Laudone.

Thirteen grants totaling \$19,413 have been awarded for the 2009 to 2010 school year. The following grants were funded:

**Baking and Pastry equipment** for the high school culinary class: this equipment will allow students to learn and explore the varieties of baking techniques and methods in preparation of baked goods and pastry.

**Bradford Community Center Activities:** weekly activities that will expose the children to different experiences through stories, arts and crafts, music and games.

**Children's Community Garden "Pea Pods"**, to develop and implement an organic garden at Tower Street Community Center. Pea Pods will be a place where youths and adults will grow and harvest vegetables, fruits and flowers.

**Film Clips for Character Education**, to support an advisory program for 6-8 grade students that will focus on making them better students and citizens. This resource consists of an eight episode set of movie film clips for Character Education.

**G.O.A.L Program**, an after school / Saturday program for children whose goal is to stretch the students' learning by providing an enriching curriculum, mentors and a forum for presenting the students' work.

**Guitars for Kids:** music teacher David Harrington will utilize guitars for Dunn's Corners, Springbrook and Bradford Elementary Schools in his music program.

**I Have a Dream-College**, to expose fifth grade students to the college environment, giving them an image to

associate with the word. Students will visit the University of Rhode Island for a day and interact with students and faculty.

**Literacy and Math Games:** this grant will be used to purchase FROG Family Fun Pack sets that will enhance instruction of literacy skills and math skills in a kindergarten classroom. Games will be played in class and sent home with children to bridge the gap between home and school in a positive way.

**Laptops:** to fund sixteen computers to be put in a cart at Westerly Middle School to help further enhance the use of technology based assignments and projects in the classrooms.

**Portrait Studio Photography**, to provide funding for camera, software and projector to add Portrait Studio Photography to current Photographic Communications Course.

**Summer Family/Community Involvement & Library Program:** this grant will fund summer field trips whose focus is to prevent academic regression over the summer in Mathematics, Reading and Writing. Children will be required to complete a weekly packet to participate on the trip.

**The Build-A-Book Literacy Program:** this grant will provide students with the tools and techniques to enhance their creative writing skills and to generate excitement about the writing process; thus empowering them to meet or exceed current writing standards.

**Turning Grease Into Fuel:** WEEF helped sponsor a team to bring their project to the Community Problem Solving Conference.

## Comedy Caravan

Our Comedy Caravan fundraiser was held at the new Knickerbocker on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2009. We had over 200 people purchase tickets for this laugh a minute night out, complete with a Wine Tasting (thanks to The Wine Store) and delicious food. Charlie Hall brought three comedians who completely entertained the crowd for this worthwhile cause. Jane Holdredge did an amazing job coordinating the event. WEEF made a little over \$8,500. A big thank you to all those who attended this event! Check out the pictures, we have lots more posted on our website!



A laugh a minute!



*Want to send a donation to WEEF? Make checks payable to WEEF and mail to P.O. Box 1219, Westerly, RI 02891. We really appreciate your support!!*

## Golf Tournament

We had our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Winnapaug Country Club. We had thirty-two foursomes, beautiful weather and great golfing! Joe Celico did a seamless job coordinating this event! A big thank you to all our sponsors, our Golf Cart Sponsor, Professional Planning Group, and our corporate level sponsors, Dime Bank, Lathrop Insurance Agency, Newman Dignan & Sheerar, Schonning Insurance Agency, The Washington Trust Company, and the Westerly Community Credit Union. Check out all our golf photos on the website!

The winning foursome was: Joe Luzzi, Rick Carsten, Cheech Luzzi and Marc Nicole with a score of 15 under par! Congratulations and thanks to all our players for participating!!



Winning Foursome



Funniest Foursome Picture

## Letter of Thanks

Letter from Rachel Schilke 5<sup>th</sup> Grader at Bradford School to WEEF:

Due to your generous donation of \$500.00 the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Bradford Elementary School were able to travel to Boston, back 250 years ago to the time of the American Revolution.

During this educational field trip we were able to see many amazing historical sites and increase our knowledge about the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War. We were able to stand in the same places that important historic events have taken place and that we had previously read about in books, such as The Boston Massacre and The Battle of Bunker Hill. We walked through graveyards, climbed monuments, visited multiple churches that existed during the time of the American Revolution and visited famous Patriots' houses.

This field trip was so important because it caused much enthusiasm and interest in this topic throughout the unit. I think it should be available to all 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Even though reading books about the American Revolution was great, we learned more during this trip than we ever could have by just staying in the classroom.

## Spotlighted Grant

During the 2008 to 2009 grant cycle WEEF awarded a grant to Springbrook School. This grant provided funds to start a school-wide science initiative to create mini-ecosystems and vegetable garden beds on school grounds. The students were involved in selecting the vegetables to grow, composting, testing the soil, measuring, planting, cultivating, tasting and delivering the vegetables to area shelters for distribution to needy families, as well as many other useful skills. We recently had the pleasure of attending a cooking class for parents and a storytelling session for the students, as well as a visit to their garden. This project encompassed reading, math, science and various other life skills for all grade levels. WEEF was proud to support such a wonderful project spearheaded by Jayne Bouchard & Annie Oosterwyk. Please take a look at the pictures below to see firsthand how WEEF enhanced the educational opportunities of all the students at Springbrook School.



## Updated Web Site

Our website is changing due to changes at Westerly Public Schools. It will be under construction through the month of August, but if you'd like to see more pictures from different grants we've supported, the Golf Tournament or Comedy Caravan, please check it out. The link for our site is at [www.westerly.k12.ri.us](http://www.westerly.k12.ri.us), then click on Community and then select the link for the Westerly Education Endowment Fund at the bottom of the list. Email us at [weef@cox.net](mailto:weef@cox.net) if you'd like to be added to our email list, or have any ideas for future newsletters.