



The Achiever

A publication of the Stonington Education Fund -- Fall 2004

SEF announces Apple and Mini grants

Middle school students will stage a musical, share literature with their parents, and learn about heart health and yoga. Younger students will have more hands-on science lessons, learn writing from a published author and make environmental discoveries.

These are among the programs made possible this year with the help of grants from the Stonington Education Fund. SEF's board of directors voted in October to provide \$10,061 for seven Apple grants.

In addition to the larger grants, SEF also appropriated \$5,000 for 14 teacher Mini grants recommended by the school district's career incentive committee. The Mini grants will help fund programs planned at all six of the Stonington Public Schools.

SEF directors said they were particularly pleased to fund a \$2,708 environmental studies grant initiated by town officials and embraced by the school system. This is the first time SEF has provided funding for a program that is a town-school system partnership.

"The caliber of all the grant applications was especially high this year," SEF President Paul Sartor said. "We are exceedingly happy that one grant was initiated by town officials. We'd love to see more of those types of applications."

SEF was founded in 1995 and

has provided some \$320,000 worth of grants for innovative programming for Stonington's preschool through high school students. In the last school year alone, SEF made more than \$22,000 worth of grants.

The Apple grants made this year are:

\$2,708 for an environmental education program designed to teach all the town's third graders about water quality and runoff problems. The grant was submitted by Alisa Morrison, who serves on the town's Stormwater Task Force, and Town Engineer Joe Bragaw. Assistant Superintendent Claudia Albert praised the proposal and

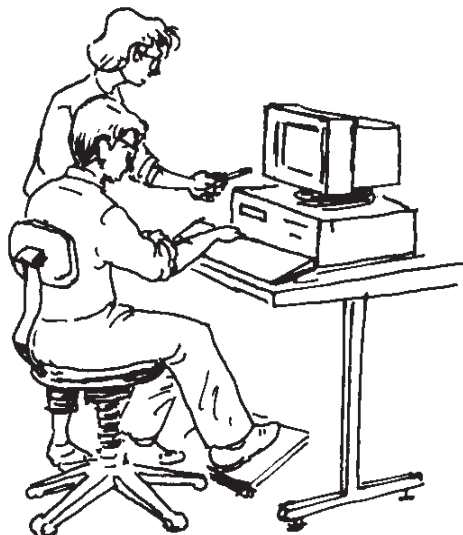
said the lessons also fit into the town's sixth grade curriculum.

\$1,455 for a program called Lessons from the Heart at Pawcatuck Middle School. Submitted by Paulla Solar and Janis Ingham, the money will purchase heart monitors and teach all PMS students about healthy lifestyles and heart health.

\$798 to begin an after-school yoga program at Pawcatuck Middle. The grant was submitted by grade 7 teacher Anne O'Sullivan.

\$2,000 to purchase equipment and supplies necessary to stage the musical "Guys and Dolls" in April 2005 at (See grants continued page 2)

Visit us on the web



SEF is launching its first website this fall.

The site is being designed by Wendy Limage of The Computer Lady and should soon be complete. Please check it often for updates, events, news and projects. The address is: www.stoningtoneducation-fund.com.

SEF --- Expanding Opportunities, Supporting Innovation, Opening Minds

SEF announces grants (cont.)

Pawcatuck Middle. The grant was requested by choral director William Clark.

\$600 to buy books and supplies for a grade 7 literature circle project at Pawcatuck Middle. In addition to learning during the school day, students will also lead evening literature circles with their family members. The grant was requested

by teacher Anne O'Sullivan. **\$800 for a special hands-on science program for grade 2 students** at West Vine Street School.

The students will learn about stars and animals through outreach provided by The Science Center of Connecticut. The WVSS PTO is a partner in providing this program proposed by teachers Marika

Heughins and Katie Southard.

\$1,700 to help bring a published author to West Vine and launch a special writing program there for grade 2 students.

The WVSS PTO is also partnering for this important program proposed by teacher Katie Southard.

SEF funds 14 Mini grants

SEF has approved providing \$5,000 to fund 14 teacher Mini grants. The grants, recommended by the school system's Career Incentive Committee, provide for programs at all six of the town's public schools.

The grants are:

\$350 to Marika Heughins and Katie Southard for an integrative art, music and writing program at West Vine Street School.

\$450 to Tim Flanagan for a poetry project at Pawcatuck Middle School.

\$100 to Matt Peel for a geometry project at Stonington High School.

\$500 to Art Howe and Fran McSweeney for a computer repair

business at Stonington High School.

\$400 to Deidre Toole for a Reading Buddy program at Pawcatuck Middle School.

\$200 to Tricia DeLapp for a Black Light Story Book Theater at West Vine Street School.

\$300 to Lea Kennedy and Donna Frantz to publish a multicultural magazine at Mystic Middle School.

\$420 to Tina Eisenbeis and Noreen Elliott to sponsor a Family Literature Night at Pawcatuck Middle School.

\$541 to Nancy Sullivan to enhance a weather station at Mystic Middle School.

(see mini-grants continued page 3)

Did you know?

The Stonington Education Fund is celebrating 10 years of service to Stonington students.



The Achiever

Stonington Education Fund

P.O. Box 1922

Pawcatuck, CT. 06379

(860) 572-0506

Fax: (860) 599-2258

E-mail: gbraccimac@aol.com

Directors

Paul Sartor, president

Kathleen Murphy, vice president

Donna Abbott, treasurer

Matt Riordan, secretary

Susan Alfiero-Bavasso

Vera Harsh

Deborah Jaccarino

Corinne Kelly

Tina Haley Levine

Nancy McAndrew

Gail B. MacDonald

Don Steinhoff

Michael McKee, superintendent of schools, ex-officio board member;

Rob Cary, Board of Education

representative, ex-officio

board member

Mission

The Stonington Education Fund seeks to promote excellence in the Stonington Public Schools through the effective use of donations and grants. A further goal is to increase community support for, and understanding of, the educational mission of the Stonington Public Schools. The Stonington Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.

Inside our schools:

Pawcatuck Middle School PAWS for success

by Janis Ingham (PMS teacher)

The Pawcatuck Middle School staff is dedicated to creating a school climate where all students feel safe, feel a sense of belonging and feel capable of success. To achieve this, students must be motivated, they must believe learning has meaning, that their efforts make a difference, and that someone knows them and cares about them.

Two programs that guide PMS towards its goals are Panther Pause (the advisor/advisee program), and "PAWS" for Success, an annual all-school thematic learning program.

Panther Pause meets once or twice each month. Eight to 12 students meet with an advisor to give each student the opportunity to develop a meaningful relationship with at least one staff member. Panther Pause helps develop communication skills, friendship skills, a sense of community, and a sense of value and appreciation.

To help motivate students, PMS also takes part in yearlong community service/school spirit programs with themes that have included Olympics 2004, Hogwarts Panther Challenge and Survivor Pawcatuck. The primary goal of these "all school" annual themes is to make the school a place where everyone enjoys spending time, to foster teamwork, school spirit, student recognition, and community service. The ultimate goal is to motivate each student to get involved and strive for success.

"PAWS" for Success is the theme for the current school year. In addition to a number of service challenges, the program is also focusing on wellness - making good choices and decisions that lead to positive and healthy lifestyles. (Note -Two SEF-funded grants for after-school yoga classes and Lessons From the Heart aid in the PMS goals.)

Did you know?

SEF relies on generous donations from individuals to fund grants for student programs. The annual community appeal, one of two major fundraisers, is currently underway.



Mini-grants continued from page 2

\$365 to Lisa Allen for micro oxygen labs at Stonington High School.

\$300 to Sheila Adams, Emily Noyes, Hayden Obuhanick and Lee Stepanishen for a poetry publishing project at West Broad Street School.

\$325 to Linda Whelan to establish a special shade garden at Pawcatuck Middle School.

\$349 to Deborah Miceli, Leslie Fleury, Maureen Tierney and Karen Hamm for a literature program at West Broad Street School.

\$400 to Ken Sherwood to provide reading motivation through the use of therapy dogs at Deans Mill School.



Eyeing the prize

The SEF Prize Patrol is on its way

SEF is kicking off a new program to recognize the town's most innovative teachers, administrators and others who serve our students.

Watch for the SEF Prize Patrol
at a school near you.

The Prize Patrol promises to be a lot of fun
for our kids and a much-deserved "thanks"
for teachers.

We'll be on patrol soon
and look forward to seeing you.

**Thanks to our
generous
newsletter sponsors**

Silver Sponsorship

- * Murphy Management LLC
- * Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut

Bronze Sponsorship

- * ASP Security Systems
- * The Day of New London
- * The Westerly Sun
- * Stonington Veterinary Clinic/
Dr. Richard J. and Debra Willner
- * Alexis Ann and The Resident

Please help sustain this newsletter.
If you could provide a \$100, \$250
or \$500 sponsorship, please contact
Gail MacDonald at: (860) 599-8654.



**Celebrate a decade
of service
to Stonington students**

SEF is celebrating 10 years
helping provide the best for our kids.
Plan to join us as we reflect on our first decade
and look ahead to our future at:

Education Celebration 2005

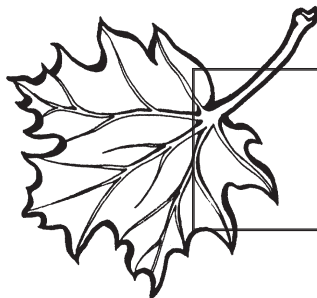
April 9

Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa.



Stonington Education Fund
P.O. Box 1922
Pawcatuck, CT. 06379

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3
Pawcatuck, CT



Expanding Opportunities

Supporting Innovation

Opening Minds