



# CEE in Brief

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## CEE Celebrates Teachers

**FUNDING GRANTS** for innovative programs is a hallmark of CEEF's mission. The creative energy that makes these grants so successful comes from one source, our teachers. In recognition of their invaluable contributions, CEEF recently established two teacher awards to be given annually. At a ceremony last August, the first recipients of these awards each received a glass apple and a check for \$2,000.

The "Brownell Award," named in honor of high school mathematics teacher Elaine Brownell, seeks to recognize that faculty member who did an outstanding job implementing a CEEF grant during the prior school year. This year, the first annual Brownell Award went to Evan Thayer, for the incredible job he did with the Lego Robotics program. Having seen how hard Evan worked on this program, it was a thrill for us to honor him with this award. Modest to the end, Evan's acceptance speech was filled with thank-yous to other teachers, community volunteers, and students who had contributed to the success of the Robotics program.

The "Thompson Award," established by Tim and Nancy Thompson in memory of their son



*Elaine Brownell congratulates Evan Thayer, the first recipient of the award in her name for excellence in implementation of a CEEF grant.*

Timothy, seeks to recognize that faculty or staff member who goes above and beyond the call of duty in reaching out to and mentoring students. High school special education teacher and coach Ben Raymond was the first recipient of this award. When his name was announced at a high school assembly at the beginning of the school year, it was clear that he is loved and respected by students and teachers alike. "It is strange to me to be accepting an award for basically doing my job," said Ben in a moving speech before his peers and students. "I am honored to be the first recipient of this award and look forward to seeing the award continue to grow and recognize all the other wonderful caring individuals in the Cape Elizabeth School System."

As president of CEEF, I echo Ben Raymond's kind words. Our organization is delighted to recognize teachers for doing their jobs, because they do them incredibly well. We also look forward to honoring more of Ben's and Evan's colleagues in years to come. This newsletter celebrates not only the grants that CEEF is able to fund, but also the creative energy and dedication of our educators. They are our most important resource.



*Tim and Nancy Thompson embrace the first Thompson Award winner, Ben Raymond.*

~ Dave Sherman

# Students Show Off Harvest Gardens

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER PAM VOSE has created a year-round opportunity for learning and growing with her students in the life-skills program. As the autumn harvest drew to a close, culminating in their sumptuous harvest garden party, the group turned to experimenting with cold frames and garden expansion plans that will occupy much of the snowy season, filling in the front portion of the open space. "We plan to grow each year, upward for now. We're planning trellis gardens for spring and student artists will display sculptures toward the front," answers Pam Vose when asked about the layout. Principal Steve Connolly recognizes the value of this space for many diverse projects: a seventh-grade advisory group is planting bulbs in one of the beds; two eighth-grade groups are tending worm farms in a couple of the other beds.



*Middle School Principal Steve Connolly smiles as he measures the cornstalks which reach almost to the school's second story windows.*



*Students proudly tour the magnificent garden with their guests at the first annual harvest garden party this September.*



*Students offer a "farmers market" every Friday at lunchtime.*



*Recycling and composting techniques fill out the broad curriculum the gardening experience has offered. From pre-season seed orders and building materials for the raised beds to hauling soil and water, the students have managed every aspect of work a project like this entails. Community members, town employees and the Jordan Farm family have all lent their support as well.*

*Teachers, administrators and CEEF board members received beautiful hand-made invitations to the first Harvest Garden Party in September. Full bloom doesn't aptly describe the sumptuous gardens the students showed off that day. The students' buffet was filled with many delectable treats: homemade bruschetta made with their own herbs and tomatoes, an eggplant spread, cucumber sandwiches and a homemade mint lemonade to select a few favorites.*



## CEEF Celebrates at the B2B



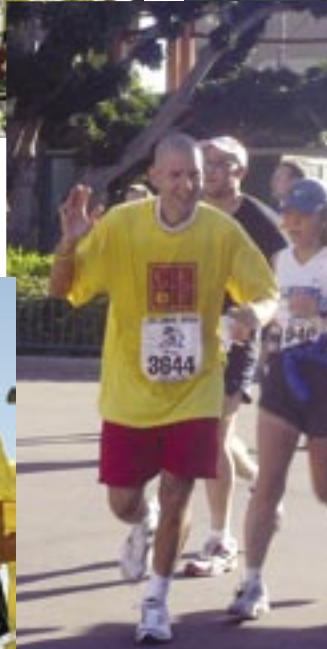
*TD Banknorth's Maine President David J. Ott presents the 2006 Beach to Beacon Beneficiary award check to High School Principal Jeff Shedd.*



*Beach to Beacon Race Founder Joan Benoit Samuelson welcomes CEEF President David Sherman at the pre-race press conference with elite athletes.*



*Cape Elizabeth children Joey Doane, Kathryn Grenmon, Caroline Winchell and Ally Boyington (l. to r.) on the awards podium with Jeff Shedd, Ingrid Stressenger and Susan Dana (not shown)*



*Greg Young of Sedona, AZ, a fundraiser at this year's Beach to Beacon, proudly shows off his shirt at the Disneyland Marathon in CA this fall.*



*High School Musicians Joe Wolanski, Brandon Meagher and Luc Cary, known as the Joe Mama's, entertain at the "Inspiring Bright Futures" Celebration in August.*

## Stars Shine Brightly in Southern Maine

**T**HANKS TO HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS, Southern Maine Astronomers and a CEEF grant, our students and community members are learning more about our solar system and beyond. With the cameras and equipment purchased with funds from a CEEF grant, students are able to take pictures of objects in space. Kerry Kertes and Michael Efron, high school science teachers, have organized a four-part lecture series and multiple star parties. The lectures will be shared with our community on public access television and with other schools by utilizing the ATM room at the high school. Plans are underway for the students to finish, mount and frame their captured images in a spring photo exhibit.

The guest lecturers, all members of the Southern Maine Astronomers are: Joan Chamberlin, Paul Howell, Ron Thompson and Kirk Rodgers. They are sharing their learning about characteristics of our sun and nearby stars and the ancient stories and sagas about the constellations in our night sky.



*The most recent image taken of the Orion Nebula by the Hubble Space Telescope.*

## Achievement Center Thriving

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!** This fall, students and staff already know who we are and an increasing number are taking advantage of our services. Freshmen toured the Center on their first day of school, and like last year, we want to make sure their math classes come to the Center for training and orientation to Plato®. Algebra teachers aligned Plato® math modules with their classroom curriculum this summer in anticipation of the new students' arrival. Writing-related services are off to a very busy start: several Inspiration classes have already been offered; students in all grade levels are coming in to the Center to work on writing assignments; many are scheduling conferences with Lisa Melanson and Hannah Jones. We expect to have another active year for peer tutoring—interest is high. By week three this year we had already surpassed our 2nd semester average. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year!

~ Ginger Raspiller, Lisa Melanson and Rob Thompson



*Ginger Raspiller and Lisa Melanson presented a workshop entitled "Using Technology and Other Strategies to Help All Students Achieve" at the annual Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine Conference (ACTEM) at the Augusta Civic Center on October 13.*

## Robotics In Full Gear This Fall

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS PROGRAM** is gearing up for a FIRST Lego League competition in December. In preparation, students meet after school on Tuesdays with Evan Thayer and dedicated community volunteer, Eric Jensen. Their main topic for this year is nano-technology. Each session begins with a mini-lecture followed by hands-on creating. The students are working with equipment like light, touch and rotation sensors and learning programming topics such as forks and loops. Reinforcing their structures is the construction challenge of the season as they ready themselves for the year-end meet.



**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL COMPETE** in the FIRST VEX competition in January 2007 with their robots that are designed to collect softballs and place them in 2-foot high containers. The competition field is a 12x12 foot grid in which multiple robots will function concurrently. While the group meets regularly on Wednesdays, these more sophisticated creations must often travel home for further refining.



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### E-mail communication in addition to spring newsletters begins in 2007!

**C**EEFF intends to share grant highlights, general foundation and school news with our community more frequently in 2007 via e-mail news briefs. If you are interested in this option, please send us an email at [email@capeeducationfoundation.org](mailto:email@capeeducationfoundation.org) or visit our website at [www.capeeducationfoundation.org](http://www.capeeducationfoundation.org) and follow the quick link on the lower left corner of the home page. Your e-mail address will only be used for CEEF-related communications and will not be shared with any other party. We hope you will take advantage of this new service!