



CEEFF in Brief

Directors

David Sherman
President

Dorie Barber
Vice President

Jim Harvey
Treasurer

Laura Lynch
Secretary

Beth Babcock

Bill Boeschstein

Peter Cary

Jim Ekedahl

Evelyn Garland

Barbee Gilman

Lisa Hansen

Virginia Hanson

Susan Kelley

Molly MacAuslan

Carol Makrides

Bo Norris

Marybeth Otterbein

Colleen Taintor

Kevin Thomas

David Weatherbie

Education Advisors

Elaine Brownell

Debbie Butterworth

Alan Hawkins

Elaine Moloney

Sarah Simmonds

Julie Tselikis

A very special thank you to the following incredibly committed and talented people completing their terms as CEEFF board members:

Theo Dunfey

Patty Grennon

Linda LeBlond

Gail Rice

Mark Sawyer

Katie Shisler

Ann Tyler

Inspiring Bright Futures Campaign Surpasses \$700,000 Mark

Broad Community Support Makes All the Difference

The 2005-06 academic year has been an exciting one for our schools and the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation. Last year we embarked on our Inspiring Bright Futures campaign to raise \$750,000 over a three-year period. The purpose of the IBF campaign was three-fold: (1) to support the creation of an Achievement Centers in our schools, (2) to continue funding classroom, professional development and large-impact grants, and (3) to bolster our permanent endowment. Thanks to the generous support of our community, we raised \$600,000 in pledges by March 1st of this year. On that date, we sent a mailing to hundreds of families in Cape Elizabeth who had not yet had a chance to contribute. To make things even more exciting, a group of anonymous donors posed a generous challenge to our community: they agreed to match every pledge of \$250 or above, provided those pledges totalled \$50,000 by June 1st.

Well before the deadline, Cape's families rose to the challenge. Helped along by two nights of a spirited phonathon in mid-March, with sixty volunteers making calls to over 800 Cape residents, we received an additional \$60,000 in pledges. Because more than \$50,000 of that amount qualified for the matching funds, the challenge grant came into the campaign. As a result, our

overall pledge total has reached \$725,000. More important, CEEFF is in a better position than ever to help our teachers and schools inspire our children to become life long learners.

Now our goal of \$750,000 is well within reach. Thanks in part to TD Banknorth's selection of CEEFF as the named beneficiary of this year's Beach to Beacon Race, we continue to receive donations from people in our community and far away. The bank's decision has also spurred CEEFF's efforts to reach out to other towns in Maine to help them establish their own education foundations. Last month our board hosted a gathering of foundations and school administrators from Lewiston and Kennebunk to share our knowledge of what works (or doesn't work) in building an educational foundation. And we learn from the experiences of other towns, such as Falmouth, Cumberland, and North Yarmouth, so we can make CEEFF more effective as a supporter of education in our community. *(Continued on page 5)*



Interested citizens from various towns in Maine gathered to share strategies for creating successful education foundations. In attendance were: Lewiston Schools Superintendant Leon Levesque, CEEFF Advisors Linda LeBlond, Gail Rice, and Patty Grennon (back row), Founder of the Kennebunk Education Foundation Ted Damon, Lewiston Education Fund President Peggy Rotunda and Executive Director Anne Niemic (front row) .

A Place to Practice, Learn, and Succeed

If You Build It, They Will Come!

As I look back over the past 7 months—yes, the Achievement Center has only been open since mid-October—it is both incredibly satisfying and exciting to realize what we have accomplished. Though it sounds cliché, I find myself thinking, “if you build it, they will come.” They have come and “they” include not only students looking for assistance, but volunteers as well. Students, CEHS staff, parents and community members have embraced the concept and volunteered to help.

The CEHS mission speaks boldly of the goal to meet the academic, civic and social expectations of all our students. For the past two years, the school board identified as a top priority the need to provide more individualized academic support for students. Out of this need grew a vision—to find creative and innovative ways to provide that support. The Center became a reality with CEEF’s support.

The concept of “learning resource centers” is not unique to Cape Elizabeth. Progressive school systems across the country, both at the high school and college level, are embracing the concept. Jeff Shedd, a primary architect of the Achievement Center, took the concept and customized it to meet the unique challenges and opportunities at CEHS. What is unique about the Achievement Center is the commitment to meet the academic needs of all students and the incorporation of a variety of methods, including the use of the Plato® instructional software, to provide that support. The result of the efforts of all those involved is a warm and welcoming place where students are supported and encouraged to excel and achieve.

Since the Center opened, students, parents and community members have volunteered to tutor in math, science, grammar, foreign language, and writing. Curiosity brought retired professor and community member Andy Warde to the Center for the grand opening. That very night Andy volunteered to be a writing mentor and has been involved with numerous writing conferences



Math Department Chair Elaine Brownell facilitates a tutoring session between Ben Pomeroy and Matt Lavallee.

since then. Debbie Cushing provided crucial writing conference expertise during busy research paper times; Wendy Keeler, Moey Burchenal, and Susan Spagnola also teach writing (Susan also teaches French); Karen Burke took on mathematics; and Mary Anne Tranfaglia shares her knowledge of chemistry with students after school. And the word is out that Dr. Efron can be found in the Center during his free periods helping students with physics. Students from all classes feel comfortable stopping by and joining the “physics table.” CEHS staffers, parents and community volunteers have provided over 400 hours of instruction and support since the opening in October!

There is math activity almost every period during the day, but it is particularly busy during period D, when veteran teacher Elaine Brownell and her dedicated group of peer tutors help students with math. Elaine eagerly volunteered to be part of the Achievement Center startup; as she puts it, “I’m always interested in new and exciting opportunities like this!”

One of the biggest challenges to matching students with tutors is Cape’s unique schedule. The solution to that problem turned out to be other students. Peer tutors work one-on-one and in small study groups during study halls throughout the day. Peer tutors have become a critical part of the Achievement Center team.

Much effort and attention has been focused on writing. I am not sure who coined the phrase “writing conference” to describe the one-on-one writing sessions with students, but it has certainly become one of the most important activities in the Achievement Center. Dr. Lisa Melanson works with the staff, which this year included English teacher Matt Clements, and many talented volunteers to provide students with a quiet, thoughtful, supportive place to develop their writing skills. We purchased and installed Inspiration® software on a few computers to assist students with organizing their writing . . . and the students love it! *(Continued on page 5)*



Senior Laura Williamson (who designed the AC logo) and Ginger Raspillar collaborate on the brochure for the Center.

Spring Grants Highlights, by Evelyn Garland

Cape Robotics ... Powered by CEEF

The sound of whizzing machines, the sight of robots climbing over obstacles, the feelings of pride and excitement on the faces of the newest members of the Cape Robotics team were all in evidence on April 29, when the First Lego League competition was held at the USM gym. Using LEGO bricks, sensors, motors, and gears, students gain hands-on experience in engineering and computer programming as they constructed and programmed their unique robotic inventions. Cape Elizabeth Middle School students competed in the day long event, watching their creations roll and climb along with dozens of other LEGO enthusiasts. Coaches Evan Thayer, Eric Jensen, and Conor Dodd spent weeks working with the middle school students to expand the program beyond the high school. CEEF is pleased to award a \$4,000 grant to support this program's growth.

*Matthew Feeman,
Evan Long, and
Harper Chalut
prepare their robots
for competition.*



A Glimpse at the Future, Thanks to a CEEF Grant



Whirlpool Galaxy, discovered in 1773 by Charles Messier, in the constellation Canes Venatici 37,000,000 light years away

Star Light, Star Bright is the name Cape High School teacher Kerry Kertes chose to describe an exciting collaboration with the Southern Maine Astronomers. A group of over 50 amateur astronomers have offered to work with both the senior Astronomy students and ninth grade Honors Physics classes next fall, their first adventure with a local high school group. Astronomers will be lending equipment and expertise to the students with a series of Star Parties, where students and community members can search the skies for glimpses of celestial wonder. CEEF supports this investment in the expanded classroom by granting \$5,995 to purchase a telescope camera and cover various costs associated with the program. According to Kertes, "This grant will allow the students to look beyond our classroom programs, to allow them to delve deeper into the unknown and to start questioning things they can't see. This will open their eyes to a whole new world."

Life Skills Program

How does your garden grow? If you are part of a new learning experience at Cape Elizabeth Middle School, it will be growing outside the window as a new school garden is planted in the central courtyard of the school. Students in the Life Skills program, which has extended into year-long classes, will maintain the gardens and learn a lot in the process. Hands on, experiential learning is a way to integrate academic skills and the demands of nature, providing both reinforcement of classroom learning and new skills to our students. Program opportunities include "Plant a Row," which encourages gardeners to plant a row of vegetables for distribution to food pantries; donating the produce to the school cooking program; and growing flowers and drying herbs for sachets. Social Worker Pam Vose has even enlisted the aid of several master gardeners in our community for planning and planting help. CEEF, viewing this project as a great example of community and school collaboration, awarded a grant of \$2,563 to construct raised beds and get the program growing.



Erika Kent's poetry and writing workshop welcomed visiting author Dawn Potter

CEEF's Mission is to Fund Innovation

No matter how you look at it, the mission of the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation is a noble cause. Even before a single dollar is donated and assigned to an educational grant, CEEF represents an acceptance of personal responsibility from our town citizens. Dozens of hard working individuals have organized, volunteered countless hours, and toiled diligently to raise funds. Hundreds of families have enthusiastically responded, embracing the concept of excellence in Cape schools through their donations to CEEF. Not least of all, CEEF has elevated the public awareness and ongoing debate regarding the future of our schools.

Now CEEF, and by extension nearly five hundred families that have committed time and money over the past year, finds itself being pulled into the midst of the debate. Some members of our community have suggested that CEEF could cover the funding gap between the School Board's proposed budget and the 3.4% spending cap imposed by the Town council two years ago. How the debate shifted, even momentarily, from our town's



Ben Wolf, Andrew Harrington and Patricia Janick enjoy the benefits of Marie Hayes' 2003 CEEF grant for a firing kiln

responsibility to fulfill the Cape Elizabeth mission of excellence in our schools to one of alternative funding is both unclear and decidedly unfortunate.

When CEEF was conceived five years ago, there was much discussion, and concern, about the potential of CEEF's privately raised funds being used to cover portions of the schools' yearly budget. The consensus was that CEEF would cease to exist if potential donors felt that they were covering the public obligation to our schools. As a result, our mission makes specific mention of funding only those opportunities that fall outside of the school's operating budget. By doing so, CEEF is well positioned to assist the school's faculty and administration in providing an extraordinary public education experience for Cape Elizabeth students.

~Kevin Thomas

Thank You Volunteers!

Pat Allen
Kathy Barber
Dede Bass
Randi Bollenbach
Emily Keith
and Don Bonoff
Jennifer Bornick
Anne Bosworth
Marlene Bottomley
Jody Boyington
Denise Budkiewicz
Moey Burchenal
Stephanie Clifford
Mollie Coburn
Allene Cooley
Jacqueline Cottrell
Lynn Cross
Ann Dittrich
Claudia Dricot

Jim Doliner
Kate Ekedahl
Jim Fisher
Kelli Flaherty
Anne Gale
Beth and Jamie Goduti
Betsy Goldstein
Kim Grey
Karen Hare
Lauren Hollyday
Karen Holmes
Kathleen Janick
Alex Johnson
Lisa Johnson
Jenn Jones-Spann
Melissa Kelly
Hulda and Imad Khalidi
Linda LeBlond
Sara Lennon

Jennifer MacDonald
Martha MacKay
Sharon McIntyre
Sue Mitchell
Jo Morrissey
Lisa Naseef
Cathy Houlihan
Terry O'Brien
Greg Otterbein
Grace Ott
Martha Palmer
Kathy Pappas
Andrea Pellechia
Clint and Sue Pierce
Ken and Kathleen Pierce
Sheila Pinette
Sarah and Dan Price
Rona and Ken Purdy
Jeff Rand

Jennifer Riggle
Pam Salerno
David and Beverly Sherman
Michelle Spencer
Diana Sterne
Deb Stone
Jayne Thomas
Lee and Mike Wilson
Jana Zimmerman
AutoEurope
Barber Foods
Buttered Biscuit
Downeast Beverage
Drummond, Woodsum &
McMahon
Nappi Distributors
SeaFax
Shipyard Brewing Company
Sysco Foods

Grants and Teacher Awards *(continued from p. 1)*

The success of the IBF campaign allows us the privilege of helping teachers foster innovation in our schools. In the grant cycle for the 2006-07 academic year, CEEF has committed \$50,000 for classroom and professional development grants, and an additional \$40,000 for the Achievement Center. We continue our dialogue with the District Leadership Team to identify exciting initiatives within our schools that will enhance our children's education.

During the course of the IBF campaign, many people in our community told us what they liked about Cape's schools. One message came through loud and clear – we have incredibly dedicated educators in our midst. Many CEEF donors believe that our town should do all that it can to recognize teachers' contributions and support the work they do. As a result of these discussions, and in keeping with our mission of fostering innovation and excellence in our school system, CEEF's Board of Directors recently approved two teacher awards, to be given on an annual basis.

The first award will recognize a faculty member who did an outstanding job implementing a CEEF grant during the prior academic year. Oftentimes grants sound great on paper, but it is the teacher's hard work and dedication that determine the success of the grant. This award seeks to recognize the innovativeness of the grant and how well it was executed. Each spring CEEF will make a cash award to a deserving faculty member.

The second award seeks to recognize a teacher or staff member who has reached out to students in lasting and meaningful ways. Oftentimes teachers or staff members have an impact on students that transcends academics. With input from the Superintendent and school principals, CEEF will make a cash award each spring to that special person who went above and beyond the call of duty in caring for our children. This is not meant to be "the most popular teacher" award, but rather to recognize those unsung heroes in our schools who influence students on a daily basis. Named in memory of Timothy Thompson, a Cape senior who passed away in 2004, the "Thompson Award" will initially be funded by contributions made to CEEF in his honor. In the words of Tim's mother Nancy, "This is a special way to honor our son's memory and say thanks to Cape's teachers and staff for taking that extra step to help our children each and every day."

As you read on our website (www.capeeducationfoundation.org) and in this newsletter about what CEEF has been doing these past few months, and all the great things that are going on in our classrooms, please keep in mind that none of this would be possible without your support. Thanks to you, we can all continue to be proud of our schools and excited about their future.

~David Sherman



Abby Hunter, Zach Culver and Glenn Findlay examined the X-fish at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute last week as part of Maine's fifth-grade students continuing education in marine science. This opportunity was initiated by teacher Sally Connolly's CEEF grant two years ago.

(continued from page 2)

The program was so popular with students that we added it to all the computers in the center and are conducting Inspiration® classes on a regular basis. Rob Thompson and Lisa Melanson are our resident Inspiration® experts.

The Center staff is flexible; capable of meeting a variety of needs and responding to unanticipated needs on a daily basis. Assisting juniors with SAT preparation was not one of our original priorities, but it became a necessity when the state mandated that all juniors take the SAT exam and that those results would be one of the standards by which CEHS is judged. Achievement Center staff worked with classroom teachers to help students prepare.

The number of students using the Center has continued to increase since the opening. In the first semester, we averaged about 140 sessions per week. So far, in the second semester, we are averaging 160 sessions per week. Some weeks are more hectic than others; it depends on the timing of assignments, test dates and vacations.

Our challenge as we move forward is to remain focused on the students and to be flexible to meet their needs. I want the Center to continue to be a warm and welcoming space for all.

~Ginger Raspiller

CEEFF Grants Awarded for 2005-06

Grants awarded for the school year of 2005-2006 totaled \$47,208. CEEF is thrilled to support the great work of these applicants and is confident that the funded programs will continue to enrich and enhance the curriculum of our schools. CEEF funds two cycles of grants each year, spring and fall. Applications may be for student-focused grants or for professional development. Every proposal is evaluated on the basis of innovation, educational enhancement, collaborative potential, ability to impact future students, and potential to be continued with measurable results. Programs are evaluated at the end of each year.

Teacher/Classroom Grants	Amount	Recipient	School
Star Light, Star Bright	\$5,995	Kerry Kertes	High School
A School Garden	\$2,563	Pam Vose	Middle School
Escapade Mentoring	\$2,500	Karen Johnson	All Schools
National History Day	\$1,000	Sarah Welch	Middle School
Cape Robotics	\$4,000	Evan Thayer	Middle School
Art Display Cases	\$6,570	Marguerite Rohner	Middle School
Climbing Wall	\$5,000	Andy Strout	Middle School
Digital Music Production Club	\$ 725	Chad Bechard	High School
Professional Development Grants			
Responsive Classroom	\$5,000	Karen Abbott	Pond Cove
Improved Writing Collaboration	\$5,500	Tom Eismeier	Pond Cove
Social Studies Conference	\$1,225	Sarah Welch	Middle School
World Drumming	\$ 800	Rebecca Bean	Middle School
Reading Strategies	\$4,000	Lisa Melanson	High School
Project Zero Classroom	\$2,330	Lisa Melanson	High School
Total Awarded this Year:	\$47,208		



Non-profit
ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, ME
Permit No. 98

P.O. Box 6225
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
www.capeeducationfoundation.org

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.