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Dear Fellow Westonites:

I am very pleased to share this summary of the Weston Education Foundation's (WEF) contribution to education in our community this year. The grants we have awarded and the events that we have sponsored are made possible solely by the generosity of our donors. I thank each of you for your continued financial support. With new projects on the horizon, we hope that you will take this opportunity to donate to WEF. Join your neighbors, whose financial support since 1994 has enabled us to award \$600,000 in grants, to promote town-wide learning.

(WEF) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote excellence and innovation for Weston residents of all ages. We raise funds to fulfill our three pillars:

- Technology Initiatives
- Teacher and Curriculum Development
- Community Education

Support for our Schools in 2010

We are at the end of a two-year drive to equip a television studio at the high school. Thanks to your generous donations, television production classes have begun and programs are airing on Channel 78. Preparing our children to compete in the 21st century requires more than just technology. In the coming year, WEF will be focusing on promoting projects and initiatives that foster critical thinking skills. Please read Assistant Superintendent Tom Scarise's article as he shares the district's vision.

Support for our Community in 2010

In 2011, your donations will help sponsor the Select Committee on Sustainability's speaker series promoting energy conservation.

It has been almost 150 years since the start of the Civil War. With the help of a WEF grant, this spring, the Weston Historical Society will host events that will give us a glimpse into this difficult period in our nation's history.

An organization functions best when it meets the needs of the people it serves. Please take a few minutes to let us know what you think of our work by completing the enclosed survey. There are two ways to participate and your comments will reach us either way. Please visit our website (westoneducationfoundation.org) and click on the link on the home page. Or, if you prefer, simply fill out the paper survey and return it to us. Your feedback helps us to better serve Weston.

I encourage you to learn more about WEF. Consider getting involved with an organization that has been implementing new ideas in education for over 16 years. To learn more about our work, the grants we fund, and upcoming events, please visit our website at westoneducationfoundation.org. Please feel free to write or call me at 203.984.3893.

Sincerely,
Maria Pappas Kalivas
Chairperson

P.S. As a response to the current economic climate, the Board of Education has had to cut our school budget. Please consider adding 25 percent to your contribution to help WEF continue to fund innovative programs for our schools and our community.

The Weston Education Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

The Future is Now – Tom Scarise, Assistant Superintendent

What types of skills will children need to succeed in today's world? Which skills are most important? What can be done to help schools meet an educational challenge never seen before? Does the traditional promise of "work hard, get good grades, go to a good college, and get a good job" still apply?

Assessment is the most powerful determinant of practice in the classroom. We teach what we test and we value what we measure. Current standardized testing emphasizes core academic skills only. In addition, the methodology is disconnected from real-world application and performance. This practice must not be just retooled; a complete transformation is necessary.

In an effort to accelerate the process of transformative assessment and to teach and to measure the acquisition of 21st century skills in its students, the Weston Public Schools have begun a collaborative project with Columbia University Teachers' College. The goal of this project is to develop and implement a valid and reliable internal assessment framework that measures student achievement of specified, high-priority 21st century skills, competencies, and understandings while also informing and driving classroom instruction and innovation.

View this as a call to action nationally and for our community. Building on the solid foundation of the Weston Public Schools, we can be leaders in the type of

school reform that addresses a complex world growing smaller each day. Our commitment to continuous improvement has given us an opportunity to rise to the next level of excellence and deliver a program that meets the unprecedented challenges of this era.

WEF and its donors continually support cutting-edge technology and the implementation of new and innovative teaching methodologies. We thank you for your continued support.

Please access Tom's full article on the WEF website westoneducationfoundation.org.

David Trigaux Innovation Award

The David Trigaux Innovation Award is a \$2,000 cash award given to a Weston teacher who has demonstrated an unusual level of originality and dedication toward creative teaching – a teacher who has truly made a difference in our school community.

This year, WEF presented the award to Amy Capalbo, a biology teacher at Weston High School. Ms. Capalbo truly exemplifies the creativity and dedication that this award honors.

Recent recipients have been: Sydney Girardi, WHS Visual Arts Teacher, and Dave Eger, WHS Videography teacher.

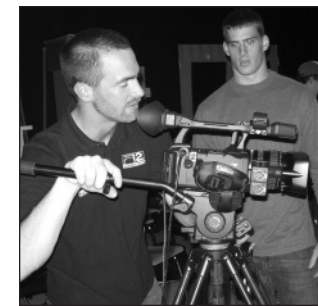
Your generosity has enabled WEF to award grants totaling \$600,000 to our community

Projects funded during the last several years include:

Television Studio Equipment . . . . .	.9 – 12	\$ 80,000
Videography Lab . . . . .	.9 – 12	80,000
Smartboard Systems . . . . .	.K – 12	67,300
Data Collection and Analysis Equipment for Science Labs . . . . .	.9 – 12	26,200
Laboratory Probes and Equipment . . . . .	.6 – 8	11,100
Curriculum Development – Science . . . . .	.K – 8	8,400
Digital Spectrophotometers . . . . .	.9 – 12	7,900
Professional Development Workshop on Teaching Math, Greg Tang . . . . .	.1 – 5	6,200
Senior Internship Program . . . . .	.12	5,000
Writers' Workshop, David Biedrzycki . . . . .	.4	5,000
SMART Response Interactive Response Systems . . . . .	.6 – 8	4,800
Discovery Museum Light Labs . . . . .	.5	3,300
Visual Presenter Equipment . . . . .	.K – 2	2,100
American Classical Orchestra Workshop . . . . .	.9 – 12	1,300
Visiting Artist Workshop . . . . .	.9 – 12	500
COMMUNITY EDUCATION GRANTS:		
Computer Training Class for Senior Citizens		1,500
Years in The Making		1,500
Speaker Series – Sustainability		1,500
Weston Historical Society Civil War Re-Enactment		700

The Weston Education Foundation's board is comprised of volunteers who have all made financial contributions this year.

Television Studio



When high school students work together in the television studio, they develop skills in cognitive thinking, information communication technology, and interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. For WEF's donors, it is an

\$80,000 investment in 21st century learning for our students.

Our students are saying:

"This class is a reminder that art is still alive in schools today." **Stuart Linver**

"I really enjoyed videography and television production has allowed me to further develop my communication skills." **Andrew Katz**

SMART Student Response System



WEF's generous donors make it possible to pilot new programs. Weston Middle School purchased 24 SMART handheld remotes that interface with Smartboards. Students using this equipment provide instant feedback to their teachers, demonstrating what they are learning. This program was successful and WMS will be purchasing additional remotes for the 7th grade.

WEF Supports Weston with Community Grants

The Community Education Grant gives Weston-based non-profit organizations the opportunity to apply for up to \$1,500 to develop educational programs to benefit its constituents and/or the residents of the Town of Weston.



WEF is pleased to support the **Weston Historical Society's** 2011 commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Thanks to our donors' generosity, the Society will host Rick Spencer, a singer/narrator who will entertain the public with songs and

stories from the period. Many Westonites served in the Civil War and this grant will also fund a staged battle re-enactment that will be an educational and historical event for our town.



The **Select Committee for Sustainability** will use a WEF Community Education Grant to fund a speaker series. Well known experts, including Anna Lappé, will educate and encourage the community to adopt more sustainable practices. These events will serve as a catalyst to encourage

involvement, innovation, and new project formation that will benefit our community. The committee is developing the calendar of speakers and events. Please visit WEF's website for updates.

Trivia Night

Sometimes raising money is as much fun as giving it away. In March, WEF hosted Trivia Night at Norfield Parish Hall. Community members filled the room for an evening of trivia and a sumptuous buffet that raised over \$12,000 to benefit the Television Studio. The committee is busy planning another fun-filled event to raise money to support our other grant initiatives. Check our website for upcoming events this spring. westoneducationfoundation.org

Years in the Making

Weston Education Foundation, the lead Weston sponsor for the award-winning documentary film, "Years in the Making: A Journey into Late Life Creativity," was proud to partner with the Friends of the Weston Public Library to offer a screening of the film on December 5. The documentary honors the artistic legacy of Weston and Westport artists over 70 who are still active in the arts and in our community. The film is available to the public at the Weston Historical Society and at the Weston Public Library.

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO DONATED THEIR SERVICES:
Olivia Benjamin, Emily Dorsey, Emma Gambino, Aaron Kabenell, Caroline Lane, Olivia Lewis, Franci Litvak, Liz Mauer, Michael Zaken

DONORS:
The work of the Weston Education Foundation is made possible by the generous contributions of many individuals, businesses, and institutions. We gratefully recognize the donors who made gifts between Nov. 24, 2009, and Nov. 30, 2010. We commend them for the confidence they have shown in our community and its future.



Yes, I would like to join my friends and neighbors to support the work of the Weston Education Foundation.

My tax deductible contribution is:

- Patron** \$1,000 and above
- Sustainer** \$500 - \$999
- Contributor** \$250 - \$499
- Associate** \$100 - \$249
- Friend** \$99 and under
- Employer's matching gift form enclosed**

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ For information purposes only. We will not share your e-mail address.

- I would like to participate in the Foundation's work directly.
- I would like more information about WEF.

Please contact me at: _____