



WESTON EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

December 2011

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Dear Fellow Westonites:

I am pleased to share this summary of the Weston Education Foundation's (WEF) contribution to our community this year and invite you to partner with us as we move forward into 2012. Thanks to your continued generosity, we are able to enrich educational opportunities for all of our residents through our mission to provide excellence and innovation in education. We support projects and programs that fulfill the three pillars of our mission:

- Technology Initiatives
- Teacher and Curriculum Development
- Community Education

Through many successful partnerships with Weston organizations and individuals, we have funded new initiatives and served as a catalyst for introducing new technology. Your donations allowed WEF to bring Internet wiring to the schools, purchase the first wireless computers, and fund the first permanently installed Smartboards when these were on the forefront of cutting-edge technology. This year, WEF applied for and was awarded a \$67,000 grant from the State of Connecticut to expand the programming capabilities of Channel 78, our local public access television station.

As we move into 2012 and toward the future, we are considering what is next on the frontier of education. Our strength as a community lies in our ability to harness and capitalize on our intellectual capacity across all demographics. To support this principle in the schools, WEF is proud to assume a lead sponsor role with a \$50,000 grant and to partner with the PTOs in the AIM initiative. Further, WEF is promoting the importance of perspective and reflection with a recently awarded grant to the Senior Center for an oral history project.

Our ability to make positive and lasting changes in Weston comes from the collective power of our donors. With your support, we have reinvested over \$700,000 in education programs for Weston since 1994. Last year, over 150 donors contributed with gifts ranging from a few dollars to thousands. What our donors have in common is a love of our community and of education. As one donor stated, "I understand budget constraints and like being part of the solution."

Empty nesters Jean Anne and Peter Barnes "consider education as a major building block in the future of all thriving communities" and believe WEF grants help provide "out of the box" teaching and learning opportunities. Dawn Egan, another faithful donor, particularly likes forward-looking projects like AIM because "it is preparing our children for life outside the classroom with more practical life skills."

If you have not donated to WEF before, I invite you look inside and learn more about what WEF does for Weston. We would love to hear your ideas about how to make Weston a better community.

For more detailed articles and upcoming events, please visit us at westoneducationfoundation.org. I invite you to contact me through our website or to call me at 203.984.3893.

Sincerely,
Maria Pappas Kalivas
Chairperson

P.S. As a response to the current economic climate, 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.

Greetings from the Superintendent

The foundational core of excellence that permeates our schools is a result of an impenetrable partnership between the town at large and the district. We are grateful for the exceptional educational enhancements to the core academic programs that are afforded to our students through the incredible support of WEF.

Through the years, WEF has provided resources for technology, television productions, teacher grants, the AIM Initiative, and a host of other noteworthy projects that have touched the lives of our students, providing

engaging educational experiences to students in all grades, in all classrooms.

WEF has been a valued supporter of quality learning through creative, diverse initiatives, often assuming a leadership role in our town in its commitment to securing additional resources for the education of all of Weston’s children. WEF has exemplified the words of G. K. Chesterton, “Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.”

Colleen Palmer
Superintendent

Thanks to our Donors,
WEF Supports Weston with
Community Education Grants

The Weston Senior Center will soon be offering its members an opportunity to archive their personal history. A professional facilitator will interview, record, and videotape participants for an oral history/video project. This pilot program is a great opportunity to capture and celebrate our seniors’ histories and preserve their stories for future generations. These archives may be shared with the Weston Historical Society, the schools, and the community at large.

The Weston Sustainability Committee hosted a speaker series in 2011. The topics included food systems, local farming and agriculture, grassroots democracy, understanding climate change, finance and peak oil, and even a better understanding of ticks and Lyme disease. The Weston Historical Society conducted a lecture series with experts, commemorated the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War and the role the State of Connecticut played, and celebrated its 50th year as our town's historical society.

Community Education Grants

WEF has been supporting education in our community through Weston Open Learning and Weston Talks for years. Your recent donations helped to fund these initiatives.

Weston Historical Society Civil War Commemoration	\$700
Computer Training Class for Senior Citizens	\$1,500
Years in the Making	\$1,500
Sustainability Committee Speaker Series	\$1,500

Major Grants

Funding pilot programs, new initiatives, and purchasing cutting-edge technology is possible only with your generosity.

Laboratory Probes and Equipment	6 – 8	\$11,100
AIM Project	K – 12	\$25,000
Data Collection and Analysis Equipment for Science Labs	9 – 12	\$26,200
PEGPETIA Grant for Television Studio	9 – 12	\$67,664
Smartboard Systems	K – 12	\$67,300
Videography Lab	9 – 12	\$80,000
Television Studio Equipment	9 – 12	\$80,000

WHS Alumni
Directory

In partnership with the Weston Board of Education and Harris Connect, we have produced an alumni directory. We believe it will be a fun and useful reference that will help alumni keep in touch with each other. Look for more information on our website. If you are planning a class reunion or alumni event, please contact WEF board member Alisa Trugerman: adtruger@hotmail.com

Honoring
a Teacher

Sometimes a teacher or staff member has such an impact on the life of a student that “thank you” is not enough. Fran and Mitch Cohen feel that way about special education teacher Laura Seele. Their donation to WEF honors Laura Seele for her dedication, compassion, and persistence. You too can honor a teacher or staff person with your donation.

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

Taking AIM on the Future –
Tom Scarice, Assistant Superintendent

“As an educator, I believe that this is the kind of work that activates young learners and prepares them for the fast-paced and progressive world that they will soon enter.” Walt Durand, WHS teacher

We are fortunate that Weston schools have a long track record of undisputed academic excellence. But for our children to succeed in a fiercely competitive international world, we have had to reexamine the types of skills this generation requires. Our challenge was to overlay the critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and global thinking capacities taught in the most successful schools worldwide into Weston’s current academic curriculum. Competence in these disciplines is necessary for preparing our students to compete with their highly skilled, educated, motivated, and innovative global peers.

WEF embraced this initiative and through their generous funding has helped support a district partnership with Teachers’ College, Columbia University, to develop Academic Innovation and Measurement (AIM). AIM identifies the highest priority student outcomes necessary for success in the global economy, measures student progress, and drives innovations in the classroom to ensure student mastery. Teachers’ College provides the technical expertise and training to our teachers to support this innovative approach.

Last spring, four Weston High School teachers piloted this program with Columbia University and documented their efforts so that this approach could be replicated throughout the district over the next two years. Feedback from the pilot indicates that students were much more engaged in tasks that required a deeper level of reasoning, including innovative, creative thinking. The teachers all agreed that, “Our instructional practice will never be the same.”

With support and partnership from our community, our teachers, Teachers’ College, and WEF, the Weston schools will remain at the forefront of the movement to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century. See our website: westoneducationfoundation.org for the complete version of this article.

Trivia Night

WEF hosted this now popular annual event to benefit the AIM Initiative. We expect the winners to return to defend their title.



Your Donations Help WEF Support the Arts

Visiting Artists Workshop	9 – 12	\$500
American Classical Orchestra Workshop	9 – 12	\$1,300
Writers’ Workshop, David Biedrzycki	4	\$5,000
Word Up – Poetry Week at Hurlbutt	K – 4	\$8,000

Technology and Curriculum Grants

WEF supports Technology and Curriculum Development that could take years to be included in the school budget because of tight budget constraints.

Visual Presenter Equipment	K – 2	\$2,100
Discovery Museum Light Labs	5	\$3,300
SMART Response Interactive Response Systems	6 – 8	\$4,800
Senior Internship Program	12	\$5,000
Professional Development Workshop on Teaching Math, Greg Tang	1 – 5	\$6,200
Digital Spectrophotometers	9 – 12	\$7,900
Curriculum Development – Science	K – 8	\$8,400

PEGPETIA Grant –
WEF Seeks Alternative
Funding Streams

In 2010, the Weston Education Foundation applied to the State of Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for a grant to fund the purchase of portable cameras for Weston High School’s television studio. In August, the grant was approved and the Department of Public Utilities awarded WEF \$67,664. The new portable equipment will expand the ability to tape and broadcast more events in our schools and our town. We now have the opportunity to use channel 78 as a unifying influence within the town of Weston.

David Trigaux
Innovation Award

The entire second grade team nominated Janis Larrabee for this year’s David Trigaux Innovation Award. WEF presents this \$2,000 award to a teacher who has demonstrated unusual levels of originality, dedication, and creativity in the classroom.



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Hilary Berger
Writing Coach, Deirdre Doran
Yoga Shala

* includes cash & in-kind donation

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, 2010, and Nov. 21, 2011. 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**

☐ **Donation to Honor a Teacher** _____ (Teacher's name)

Name (as you would like it to be recorded): _____

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: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Weston Education Foundation**

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