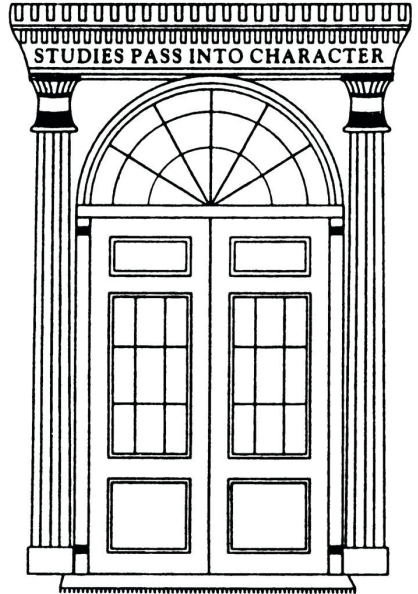
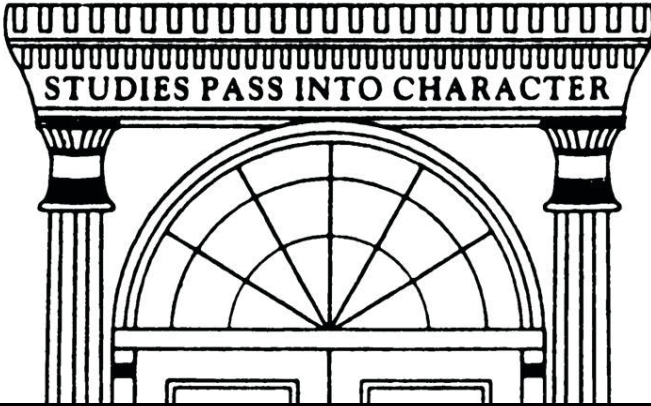


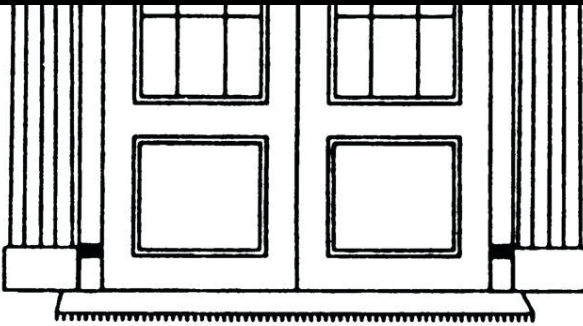
The Essex Fells
Foundation
for Educational
Excellence

Annual Report
2014-2015





A Personal Commitment
to Public Education





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September 2015

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence would like to thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Essex Fells School.

This year was another busy year for the Foundation, as we continue to strive to expand our programs and offerings to The Essex Fells Elementary School. Throughout the year we were able to fund so many wonderful programs that truly enhance and enrich our children's learning environment.

In September, we hit the ground running as we funded a grant for the 6th grade team building overnight trip geared to develop their relationships with other students and promote a positive environment for the coming school year. It was a huge success.

Examples of some of the other programs that are funded and supported by the EFFEE are Study Hall during lunch and recess for the 4th - 6th graders, the School Store, mobile lap top charging stations, stocking classroom libraries with books, the annual school musical - Mulan, Yearbook Club, Newspaper Club, Art Club, the Bengal Cage Invention Fair and co-funding with the PTA, the All-School End of the Year trip in June.

We have also funded assemblies for Earth Day "Helping Our Earth", an author visit from Elvira Woodruff, and hosted Sgt. Rich for a serious presentation on cyber-bullying.

It is only with the support of our community that the Essex Fells School is able to sustain such high levels of excellence and achievement.

We are so incredibly appreciative and grateful for your donations. Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Maggie O'Connor
President

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Income:

<i>Gifts Received</i>	35,750	
<i>* 20th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser</i>	780	
<i>The Little Mermaid Related Income</i>	1,614	
<i>Afterschool Enrichment</i>	8,715	
<i>Interest Income</i>	24	
<i>**Spring Party</i>	-50	
TOTAL INCOME		46,833

Expense:

Grant Disbursements:

<i>Student Enrichment</i>	13,783	
<i>Classroom</i>	8,469	
<i>Cultural Arts</i>	13,586	
<i>Math and Science</i>	1,199	
<i>Technology</i>	3,176	
<i>Will Redmond Learning Center</i>	1,000	
Total Grant Disbursements	42,023	
Administrative Expenses	6,332	
TOTAL EXPENSES		48,356

NET PROCEEDS (EXPENDITURES) FOR THE YEAR \$ (1,522)

Fund Balance June 30, 2013 \$ 64,468

Fund Balance June 30, 2014 \$ 62,945

*Gala event occurred in 2013-2014 fiscal year - addtl' money record

**postponed to 2015-2016 fiscal year

Grants Approved

Student Enrichment Grants 2014 - 2015

Student Store: J. Whitman

The 6th grade students will continue to operate the student store, selling pens, pencils, erasers, bookmarks, notepads, crayons, colored pencils and material for various projects. The students take inventory, place orders, calculate sales and net profits. Funds raised go to a charity selected by the students at the end of the year.

Art Club: K. Mc Nish, J. Trogani

The 6th grade students will be working on an art enrichment activity that will involve designing, developing, and painting of a Bengal mural on the ceiling tiles of the gymnasium. This is an ongoing project with the 6th grade creating and painting the ceiling tiles for the mural.

2014 Variety Show: N. Buonomo, J. Trogani

The annual Variety Show includes participants from Grades 3-6. Students show off their best talents: singing, dancing, comedy, and more! This is a great way for the children to explore performing arts in a fun and engaging way.

6th Grade Overnight Team Building Overnight to Calvary Church: C. Codella and J. Whitman

This event which is to be held the first weekend that school resumes in September is to promote team building and help develop their relationships with each other that is conducive to a positive experience outside of the classroom. By hosting an overnight event the goal is to start fostering these positive relationships early in the year. Activities include team-building activities, a scavenger hunt, and a camp fire.

Media Center Books: K. Trafford

This grant will expand the book collection in the media center for the older grades. The books will enrich the student's literacy knowledge and increase their interest in reading. The books will cover various genres and align with the curriculum, but will also offer students material that is current and enjoyable.

Yearbook Club: S. Dalton

A new Yearbook Club for the 6th graders is being formed to begin working on the 2013-2014 yearbook using Entourage Yearbooks online. Six sessions of the Yearbook Club will be held during lunch hours once a week. Students will work with the teacher to complete as much of the yearbook as possible before turning the project over to the PTA for completion.

Recorders: J. Trogani

This grant represents an annual rite of passage for our EFS 3rd graders as they are introduced to the baroque recorder. The grant will purchase 30 TD 200 recorders with case and cleaning rods.

STUDENT ENRICHMENT GRANT (cont.)

Bingo/Grades 1 to 3: D. Hromoko

This lunchtime club offers bingo to Grades 1 to 3 during the winter months, from December to March. Each class will select five students per week to take part in bingo.

Bingo/Grades 4 to 6: J. Trogani

This lunchtime club offers bingo to Grades 4 to 6 during the winter months, from December to March.

Stories with Holes and 24 Club: J. Whitman

"Stories with Holes" introduces logic stories that stimulate critical and creative thinking skills for students in Grades 4-6. 24 Club is a gifted and talented math club that is open to all students in Grades 4-6. The students use mental math to arrange the math cards and arithmetic signs into a formula that makes 24.

Newspaper Club: K. McLain

This grant will fund a pilot program for Grades 4-6 to design and create one newspaper publication per marking period. If there is sufficient student interest, the program will extend to become a bi-monthly publication.

"Bengal Cage": S. Hacker, M. Craveiro, S. Dalton

Students in Grades 4 to 6 will be taking part in the first Essex Fells Invention Fair, "Bengal Cage." Students who choose to participate will be tasked with coming up with an invention. They will need to design the model, create a tri-fold poster, and pitch their idea to fellow students and teacher judges. Students will prepare for this invention fair at home. They will have the option of working alone or with a partner, and can work as a group across grade levels.

Yearbook Club: S. Dalton

This grant will continue the Yearbook Club for the 6th Grade students as they work together to produce the yearbook.

Study Skills: M. Gadaleta

The Study Skills program will run for two additional six-week sessions. This program, open to Grades 4-6, is an after school program which teaches the children how to organize themselves to prepare for tests and accomplish homework. The students will learn how to use a planner to keep track of tasks, how to break large projects into smaller ones, and better use their time.

Computer Literacy Classes: N. Cervino

This grant will fund a computer literacy and word processing class for students in Grades 2 and 3. The classes will run once a week in the morning before school and will extend student exposure to technology and develop computer fluency.

Classroom Discretionary Grants 2014 - 2015

Study Hall: N. Buonomo, M. Craveiro, S. Dalton, C. Belmont, S. Hacker, J. Whitman, M. Barshay, D. Banek, L. Flanagan

The Study Hall program is available to students in Grades 4-6 who feel they need extra time in order to stay current with their class work and homework. Participation is voluntary. Study Hall runs for the 50 minute, recess/lunch period and has proven to be beneficial to the students.

Mobile Laptop Charging Carts / 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Grades: D. Banek, C. Belmont, M. Barshay, N. Buonomo, K. McClain, J. Reynolds, N. Cervino

Two mobile laptop charging carts will allow for easy storage and transport of laptops from room to room as needed. There are built-in safety approved electrical outlets for each compartment and includes locking doors to prevent theft. Each cart will charge and store up to 10 laptops. The 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Grades use these laptops daily for various assignments and projects in all subjects.

Elementary Soil Classroom Kit: M. Craverio

The Elementary Soil Classroom Kit introduces the students to soil through a hands on approach of observations and experiments. These experiments include testing the pH and NPK levels of soil samples, differentiating one soil sample from another, and growing plants in various soils.

Classroom Library Grade 1: L. Massaro

The Grade 1 classroom library will be expanded to include multi-level non-fiction book sets and a book storage shelf. The book set will be used to infuse non-fiction reading into guided reading lessons.

Classroom Library Grade 2: S. Perry

The Grade 2 classroom library will be expanded to include literature of varying levels and genres.

Classroom Library Grade 3: J. Reynolds

The Grade 3 classroom library will be expanded to enrich the Language Arts curriculum. The non-fiction leveled readers allow for targeted instruction to build reading comprehension and fluency. They will further the individualized goals our students benefit from through Achieve 3000.

Character Education Books: C. Codella

There are an assortment of character education books that will be reused for class meeting units for grades PreK through 6th Grade. There are 22 books in all.

Math and Science Grants 2014 - 2015

***Earth Day Assembly “Helping Our Earth”:* M. Gadaleta**

This all-school presentation will focus on the water cycle and the importance of water as a natural resource. The students will learn what it would be like for earth if we didn't have water, how groundwater collects beneath the earth's surface, and the consequences of contaminated water supplies. The students will enjoy an informative slide show and hear about the effects of water pollution and ocean dumping.

***Newark Museum Planetarium Visit:* M. Craveiro**

The Newark Museum Planetarium's astronomy experts will visit EFS and set up an inflatable dome which features a high resolution digital projector. Students will be able to join the astronomers for an interactive tour of the night sky. They will explore the moon phases, eclipses, constellations and more in this exciting presentation.

***Buehler Challenger & Science Center:* M. Craveiro - 5th Grade**

The Buehler Challenger & Science Center provides a simulated space mission entitled "Rendezvous with Comet Halley," where a scientific probe is launched into the tail of the comet. Student work in teams to problem solve and to make decisions beneficial to the entire mission. The Challenger Center experience increases the students interest in science, math, and technology. It also helps students develop realistic processes of cooperation, communication, critical thinking and problem solving.

Cultural Arts Grants 2014 - 2015

***Annual School Musical:* D. Banek**

The Foundation has approved a grant request to fund the annual school musical, which will include participation of Grades 4-6. The musical holds auditions in December and play practices as well as early morning song practices are held on a weekly basis from January through March. This year's production will be Mulan Jr.

***Wireless Microhones:* D.Banek, J.Trogani, N.Buonomo, J.Whitman**

This grant will fund five new microphones to replace five old microphones that have been damaged over the past several years and are unable to be repaired. The extra microphones are needed due to the high level of student participation in the annual school musical.

Sgt. Rich Cyber Bullying Presentation:

Sgt. Rich from alwaysconnected.org will come and speak to the 5th and 6th graders about cyber bullying.

All School Assembly - Ray Boswell: C.Codella

This is an all school assembly for the first day of school in September to promote character development. Ray Boswell uses his pottery wheel to create art in conjunction with teaching the children this important message on character development in this exciting presentation.

Author Visit - Elvira Woodruff: K.Trafford

Elvira Woodruff, author of “George Washington’s Socks”, will speak to the students. Ms. Woodruff will give two presentations, one to the older students and one to the younger students. She will also have a Q & A session.

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Andrew and Kerry Criqui
Tom and Arianne Criqui
Ken and Kerry Simon

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DONATIONS IN KIND

A very special Thank You to the following individuals:

Ron Scalici

“Mulan” Ad Journal Artwork

Dana Lathrop

Design & Production of “Mulan” T-Shirts

These lists have been prepared with great care. However, despite our sincere efforts to avoid omissions or inaccuracies, we know they can occur. If any are noted, we hope you will accept our apology and advise us of the error.

The Essex Fells Foundation for
Educational Excellence
thanks you for your generosity
and continued support.

The Essex Fells Foundation for
Educational Excellence's
fiscal year runs from
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

