

Norwalk Education Foundation Newsletter

NEF Matters

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Teacher Thank You

More than 50 teachers and friends attended a party at the Norwalk Inn and Conference Center as a thank you to all the teachers who support NEF.



[l-r, Brookside teacher - Keith Morey, Mike Rafferty - Literacy Instructional Specialist, Lorry Given - Roton teacher, and Elisa Keogh - NEF photography instructor.

Otterson, Simonsen win 2nd Annual Run for Education

Matt Otterson of Bridgeport and Kristin Simonsen of Norwalk won the men's and women's divisions of the Norwalk Education Foundation's second annual Run for Education June 1 in sunny 75-degree weather over a three-mile course through SoNo starting and finishing in front of the Maritime Aquarium.

Otterson completed the run - the field of 70 also included walkers - in 18:29, 31 seconds ahead of runnerup Hank Bercowitz of Rowayton. Simonsen's time of 18.52 placed her third overall, six seconds in front of James Wyper of Darien.

Issue: # 6

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You Be The Chemist National Challenge

Doug Streat of Roton MS represents State of Connecticut

On Friday, June 13th, Doug Streat of Roton Middle School represented the State of Connecticut at a national chemistry challenge called You Be The Chemist in Philadelphia. Special thanks go to Arch Chemicals of Norwalk who sponsored Doug, and science teachers Susan Kelly and John Spennato of Roton for supporting Doug and a chemistry study group that prepared for the challenge. Thanks also go to retired Jefferson science teacher Donna Raguseo who came out of retirement to help NEF get the challenge up and running.



[l-r, Doug Streat, John Spennato, Susan Kelly, and Doug Streat Sr.]

Doug did a *phenomenal* job in this middle school competition of high school and college level chemistry. He competed against some of the nation's top students - seasoned veterans of competitions like the National Spelling Bee and repeat state reps to You Be The Chemist. BRAVO Doug for making it through so many rounds against such fierce competitors!

Simonsen's daughter Keegan, 8, and husband Kurt also completed the course, running together. Cecilia Porhorille of Rowayton was second among the women and Lisa Tuffy third.

10th Annual Golf Classic Raises \$74,000

A 63 gave the foursome of Michael Stein, Roy Sjolund, Jim Rossetti and Dave Czablicki the low gross in the Norwalk Education Foundation's 10th Annual Golf Classic at the Shorehaven Golf Club. The tournament drew a full field and raised \$74,000 to support the work of the NEF.

The low net in the bestball competition May 5 went to Roger Knight, Terry Brooks, Bill Sowich and Randy Keleher. Benji Buckle won the long drive contest for men and Grace Monahan was the women's winner. In the closest-to-the-pin competition, Ed Crown was the No. 1 man and Cindy Cross was the top woman.

Runnerup for low gross was the foursome of Buckle, Ed McGettigan, Larry Simms and Dan Moses. In low net, the No. 2 team was made up of Dave Arteaga, Peter Cohane, Peter Daigle and Don Savigne.

Funds raised by the tournament support the NEF's educational activities for the 11,000 students in Norwalk's 19 public schools- programs like the Power Hour literacy program, Middle School University and online homework assistance.

Xerox Foundation Grant Awarded

The Xerox Foundation recently announced a \$5,000 grant to the NEF for the literacy program Power Hour.

Power Hour extends to 11 elementary schools, delivering Kidzlit™ literacy programming to children in out-of-school time, and specialized training to teachers and para-professionals.

Norwalk Teacher Grants Need Funding

Please consider funding a Norwalk teacher grant on our DonorsChoose challenge page. Grants funded over the summer will be delivered in time for school in September. What a way to make a Norwalk teacher's day!

9 grants funded
These 8 still need funding.

All grant donations are tax-deductible.

After more than **ONE HUNDRED QUESTIONS** were asked, Christopher Pillay, an eighth grader at Margaret Mead Junior High School in Elk Grove, IL, emerged as winner, gaining the title of 2008 National You Be The Chemist (YBTC) Challenge champion. Ethan Li an eighth grader at Detroit Country Day School in Bloomfield Hills, MI, and Nabil Shaikh a seventh grader at Exeter Junior High School in Reading, PA, placed second and third, respectively.

Participants received a Thames & Kosmos' CHEMC3000 chemistry set, a gift subscription to Science Illustrated magazine, and a gift card to the Discovery Channel Store. First-, second-, and third-place winners also received \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,000 savings bonds, respectively. In addition, participants, their families, and industry members visited the Franklin Institute for an afternoon of science exploration and dined at the historic City Tavern and relaxed with fun and games at Dave & Buster's.

For more information about the 2008 national competition, please visit www.chemed.org.

Middle Schoolers Explore Warhol

The 6th grade students in Lorry Given's Consumer Science class may not have known who Andy Warhol is or anything about pop art, but they certainly do now. Thanks to a NEF-funded artist-in-residence program at Roton Middle this spring, 80 students were given the opportunity to expand their creative abilities beyond cooking and sewing.

Local professional photographer, Elisa Keogh, worked with Given's classes on photographing fruit and vegetables. They then took their images and learned the graphic design program Photoshop to manipulate them into a Warhol-esque, multi-colored image.

Givens says she got the idea for the class after speaking with Keogh, who taught an NEF after school photography class at the middle school. "Looking at an existing curriculum and finding new and inventive ways to teach it is what makes each school year exciting and unique. As ideas are discussed between teachers, one thought leads to another, and before you know it, a wonderful new lesson/unit has evolved."

Consider That

- More than 1.2 million students drop out of school every year. That translates to one dropout every 26 seconds.
- Of those who do graduate, only one out of four are prepared to handle college courses.
- Nearly 44 percent of dropouts under age 24 are jobless.
- Almost half (45 percent) of homeless Americans age 18-25 are dropouts.

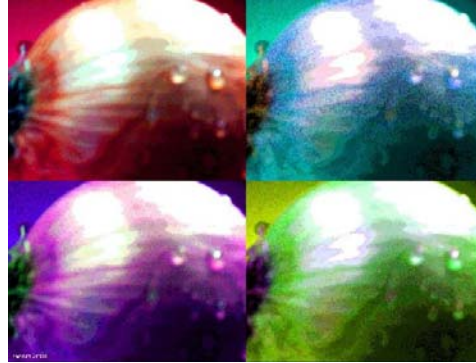
Our Mission

The Norwalk Education Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to quality public education for all of Norwalk's children. We effect positive change by providing programs and funds for innovative classroom instruction, teacher and technology training, and a variety of learning opportunities beyond the school day.

www.norwalkeducation.org

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Says student Hannah Lipson, "I loved this. If anyone had told me I would like photographing fruit I would have called them crazy; I never thought I'd enjoy it so much. I'm even thinking of making my project one of the pictures on my wall at home."

Meet Our Teachers

Joe Re

Our Middle School University class, "How to Make A Music CD," was taught by instructor Joe Re. You can hear Joe's professional work on the soundtrack of the award winning Indie film, **MONA**.

Joe worked on set during filming as a production assistant and boom operator, and also supported the director during the editing phase as a technical advisor. He created music for the film using a Mac G5, Soundtrack Pro, loops, live instruments and additional musicians. Samples can be heard at [MONA the Movie](#) and at [Silver Street Sound](#).

Elisa Keogh

Elisa rotated through Norwalk's middle school's this year teaching our after school digital photography class which culminated in a professional showing of student art work in April.

Then Elisa did an artist-in-residency program for us at Roton Middle School. The program gave students enrolled in Family and Consumer Science and Computer elective courses the opportunity to learn about digital photography and computer photo manipulation.

Elisa's work is on display from June 20 - July 20 at the [Westport Arts Center](#), where she is one of 6 artists featured in the SOLOS SHOW.

THANK YOU for your support.

Sincerely,

The Norwalk Education Foundation (NEF)

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