

Norwalk Education Foundation Newsletter

NEF Matters

In This Issue

JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Donates \$15,000

Innovation Grant Follow-Up

NEF 11th Annual Golf Classic, May 4th, Shorehaven Golf Club

The 11th Annual NEF Golf Classic will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009, at The Shorehaven Golf Club in East Norwalk.

These are challenging times and we recognize the economic impacts many of you may be experiencing. Yet we firmly believe our cause is much too important to ignore.

You'll notice we made some changes and some sacrifices. And many of you have offered advice on how to proceed despite the current challenges. We are sincerely grateful for your support and guidance as well as that of Shorehaven - our venue sponsor, in continuing our largest fundraising event.

Ensuring that every child in Norwalk Public Schools receives a quality education, providing teachers with the necessary skills and training to teach in the 21st century, and preparing the next generation of college graduates and members of the workforce is a tall order. With your continued support, however, we are making

Issue: # 10

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JPMorgan Chase Foundation Donates \$15,000 for TechSmart Jump Start

Norwalk Education Foundation (NEF) announces it has received a \$15,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase Foundation to jump start a new program called Teacher to Teacher, which will help foster inter-district learning and lesson sharing. Drawing on its popular TechSmart Teachers program, which has been providing teachers (over 800) with technology training for 10 years, the new program will provide targeted training in all curriculum areas under the guidance of the district's administration and instructional specialists.

Teacher to Teacher will provide creative, hands-on, collaborative classes for teachers by teachers, following the TechSmart model. It will energize and inspire teachers to wholly embrace and adopt innovative, experiential classroom skills essential for students to compete in an ever-changing global environment. The program will increase teaching skills, impact student achievement, implement innovative best practices, and increase teacher communication.

"With technology so important today, we need teachers who understand it and can translate it to their classrooms," says Troy K. Jellerette, vice president at JPMorgan Chase Bank. "The Bank feels technology will have a great affect on our youth improving their futures and that of the community we live in."

Additionally, NEF will identify Program Liaisons at each of the city's 19 schools to support the program. These liaisons will identify needs at their school and share best practices and program ideas with their counterparts at other schools, helping to foster a collaborative environment.

tremendous progress. Last year alone, you helped us raise \$70,000.

Please join us by faxing the registration form below to (203) 854-4102 with your commitment level indicated. We're sure you won't be disappointed! If you need more information, call (203) 854-4068.

[Link to Registration Form](#)

NEF TechSmart Classes are BACK

Calling all Norwalk teachers - don't miss out!

- Smartboards
- Power Point
- Excel
- Genesis Gradebook
- Word
- Publisher
- Study Island
- Outlook

[Click here to register](#)

*With special thanks to **JPMorganChase Foundation**, **CitiFoundation** and **GE Commercial Finance** for their ongoing support of NEF's TechSmart Teachers.*

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.

NEF has successfully used the liaison model with their after school literacy program Power Hour. Last year Power Hour delivered to 256 children 1200 hours of literacy instruction through 47 teachers, all managed by 11 Literacy Liaisons. In its second year of operation, the liaison model enabled a 41% enrollment increase to 361 children.



Lauren Rosato, executive director of The Norwalk Education Foundation receives a \$15,000 check from Troy Jellerette, vice president, JPMorgan Chase Bank, to jump start a new program called Teacher To Teacher, an expansion of the successful TechSmart Teacher training program.

No Need to Check these iPods at the Classroom Door

An NEF Innovation Grant Follow-Up

Look into Ms. Li's Chinese class and you'll see a familiar scene - teens on their iPods. But it's not the sound of hip-hop or top 40 coming out of their earphones, the students are listening to Chinese lessons. These students are part of a new program this year that uses iPods in Chinese, Japanese and Arabic language classes at the Center for Global Studies, the inter-district, international studies magnet school in Brien McMahon High School.

The students use the iPods in a variety of ways: listening to text as they read along, taping dialogue between themselves and others in the class, learning songs, and, of course, taking oral exams.



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The program was made possible with funding from a range of sources, including a parent in the Global Studies program, his employer Hitachi Metals and The Hitachi Foundation. The Norwalk Education Foundation facilitated the grants and supplied the funds for teacher training from Apple Computers through the NEF's Innovation Grant program.

Sukthi Ramesh, a 10th grade student in her second year of Chinese says the iPods truly make a difference in her study of the language. "They make it easier to learn because we're hearing the language more often. Plus, they make learning more interesting."

Junior Julian Velez says the iPods definitely help with his Chinese. "Being able to listen to a native speaker and right afterwards hear yourself is extremely helpful. And hey, you're playing with an iPod. What's not fun about that?"

Paula Fortuna, who teaches a World Literature class at the Center, has also used the iPods for a creative writing unit. "My students wrote personal narratives then recorded them on the iPods to share with others. We eventually made a CD out of all of them. Not only did it help the students validate their own stories, but it encouraged class bonding."

The program is still in its infancy, with just three of the Center's teachers - one in each language - using the iPods on a regular basis this year. Hopes are that next year, the rest of the students will be using iPods in their language classes.



Sophomore Sukthi Ramesh listens to Chinese dialogue on the iPod.



Casey Rawson, a 10th grade student at the Center for Global Studies uses the iPod during his 2nd year Chinese class.

*With special thanks to **EMCOR, Inc.** for their support of the NEF's Innovation Grant program.*

THANK YOU for your support.

Sincerely,

The Norwalk Education Foundation (NEF)

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