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Volume X Number 2

Summer/Fall 2007

## WE'RE 10 YEARS OLD

The Norwalk Education Foundation proceeds into its 10th anniversary year with an extensive legacy of progress and accomplishment.

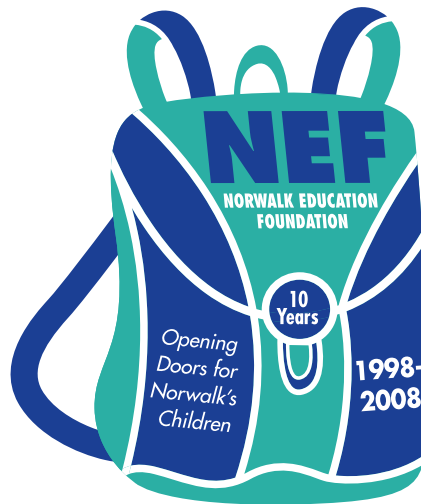
Over the decade, it can be reasonably estimated that NEF's wrap-around-the-school day activities have added value and enhanced the educational experience of thousands of students, teachers and academic professionals.

Factor in the exponential influence or ripple effect and NEF's reach has been incalculable.

Dr. Corda, Norwalk's superintendent of schools, says: "If the NEF did not exist, we would have to invent it. The support NEF provides in professional development for teachers and administrators, the mini-grants the NEF has provided for teachers, and the constant independent and supportive voice for education has helped to keep the importance of education in the forefront."

As an independent nonprofit committed to "Opening Doors for Norwalk's Children," NEF has evolved into an incomparable resource for education in the community. The focus is:

1. Accelerating technology in the classroom.
2. Leveraging Classroom Excellence Grants to drive teaching innovation.



3. Increasing teacher effectiveness through the Teacher Technology Training Institute.

So many individuals—parents, education, volunteers—and organizations have made altruistic contributions to the advancement of NEF's mission over the years, a list is impractical.

But at the administrative level, recognition has to be accorded to investment in NEF made by Richard Costello, NEF's president from 1998 to 2004, Shari Ulman, his successor and NEF's incumbent president, and the executive directors of the organization starting with Jan King in 1998, Dorsey Weber Gude from 2001 to 2006, interim director Kris

Francefort in 2006, and the current e.d., Lauren Rosato.

Founding president Costello looks back and says, "It's amazing to consider that NEF has grown to a professional staff managing a vibrant and growing foundation from a handful of volunteer parents getting together 10 years ago. Back then, we had a vision of creating an organization that would make a difference in the quality of Norwalk's public schools. That vision is becoming a reality."

Lauren Rosato, current e.d. says, "I was immediately aware of the momentum that existed from my predecessors when I came to NEF. This organization has the infrastructure, support, and track record to continue its mission of quality public education for Norwalk's children and to continue to make a difference."

Between now and the end of the 2007-2008 school year, a number of activities are in preparation. So mark your calendars for:

- Annual Business Partners for Education Awards Breakfast* – November
- Development Breakfast* – January
- Wine and Chocolate Party at Lillian August* – February
- DineOut for Education* – March
- NEF Programs Showcase* – April
- Annual Golf Classic (Cinco de Mayo)* – May 5th
- Annual Run for Ed Road Race* – June
- Concluding Anniversary Event* – June

### DID YOU KNOW?

That the goal of Ed in 08 is to make America's schools a key topic of discussion among presidential candidates in 2008

## TWELVE RESTAURANTS SUPPORT DINEOUT FOR EDUCATION



Twelve restaurants in Norwalk, Darien and Westport raised \$5,000 in DineOut for Education, a partnership with diners in support of the work of the NEF and the Norwalk AfterSchool Alliance.

The restaurants donated 15 percent of their proceeds March 28, DineOut's fourth year.

Kate Johnson of the NEF, co-chair of the day with Sally Grosse of the Norwalk ASA, said DineOut is an example of cause marketing that brings together the business sector and the dining public for the overall benefit of the students, ultimately enriching the community.

Said Johnson: "It was an exhilarating and festive day that captured the public's imagination and helped build business for restaurants which are outstanding examples of corporate citizenship."



Harbor Lights chef serves DineOut patrons.

### PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Arcudi's Venezia Restaurant<br>19 First St., Norwalk<br>866-7644       | Gallo's Sandbar Restaurant (dinner only)<br>7 Winfield St., Norwalk<br>853-8531               |
| Backstreet Restaurant<br>22 Center St., Darien<br>655-9944             | Gallo's Stadium Dog House (lunch only)<br>7 Winfield St., Norwalk<br>853-8531                 |
| Bang Bang Pizza (takeout)<br>325 Westport Ave., Norwalk<br>857-2264    | Harbor Lights Restaurant<br>84 Seaview Ave., Norwalk<br>866-3364                              |
| The Brewhouse Restaurant<br>13 Marshall St., South Norwalk<br>853-9110 | Jani<br>650 Main Ave., Norwalk<br>849-1122  |
| Cantina Sforza<br>243 Post Rd. West, Westport<br>454-4444              | Marina d'Amalfi Trattoria (dinner only)<br>172 Main Street, Norwalk<br>847-5166               |
| The Fat Cat Pie Company<br>9-11 Wall St., Norwalk<br>523-0389          | Mike's Ristorante<br>50 Main Street, Norwalk<br>838-3256                                      |
| Fat Cat Joe's<br>9-11 Wall St., Norwalk<br>523-8531                    | O'Neill's Irish Pub & Restaurant<br>77 North Main Street, Norwalk<br>838-0222 (phone and fax) |

## TEACHERS LEAD THE WAY

On May 17th, NEF hosted a garden tea party at Brookside School's Hope Garden, a project initiated by Brookside teacher Tracey Sutton and supported by NEF. The tea party was the setting for "Teacher's Lead The Way", a new program that is an extension of classroom mini-grants.

Teachers Lead the Way provides funding to teachers for replicable projects. Cranbury and Jefferson School each received \$2,000 at the tea party to help start their own school gardens. Fox Run, which also has a school garden, came and shared their garden experience.

All four schools heard from each other on how to incorporate a community garden into their curriculum, and how to start and maintain their school gardens. Teachers Lead The Way will continue to help teachers learn from each other.



## TEACHER POWER!

On April 12th, NEF hosted a book party for our Power Hour after school literacy teachers. Coffee and cookies were graciously provided by our host, Barnes & Noble booksellers, who then presented children's books and fun activities to do with them. Teachers got to choose books and create their own book boxes. The boxes are rotated among Power Hour teachers at 11 elementary schools to



keep teaching content fresh and to share innovative learning activities. An end of the year party was held at Tuscan Oven Restaurant as a thank you to our Power Hour teachers for all the **teacher power** that they bring to after school.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIVERSITY GIVES STUDENTS A TASTE OF COLLEGE

**A STANDUP COMEDIAN.**

**A COOK WHO MAKES HEALTHY MEALS.**

**AN INVENTOR OF VIDEO GAMES.**

**A CINEMATOGRAPHER WHO CREATES FILMS.**

The doors to those vocational worlds were opened on the campus of Norwalk Community College for students at Norwalk's four middle schools in the spring.

Middle School University, as it was tagged by NEF, gave the young people an insider's view of the professions of show business, cuisine, computer games, and film-making.

The Saturday afternoon workshops, all taught by credentialed experts and supported by funding from the EMCOR Group, Inc., proved to be a highly popular activity for those enrolled.

The Hour quoted one seventh-grader and video game creator as saying: "I love this class. I look forward to it every week... you have to spend a lot of time and hard work on what you're doing but you can also have fun."

Added the instructor: "You're doing authentic, difficult math when you're making a video game. They're learning about code and I'm impressed with what they've been able to do."

Two eighth-graders created a video game they called the "King of Norwalk" and reported the class inspired them to think about computer programming as a career.

Another eighth-grader who completed the cooking class said: "I have a passion for food and this was really fun. I also loved it because I want to be a chef."

The father of another cooking student observed: "She's not afraid of cooking anymore. She realizes cooking is not difficult and she's cooking healthy meals."

The newspaper also quoted NEF Executive Director Lauren Rosato in summation: "In the beginning I saw kids come in quiet and reserved. (Then I saw) parents drop them off and they charge into their classrooms. . . . This makes college look cool."



*Cooking . . . fresh from the oven.*



*Computer games . . . with intensity visible in faces and posture of students.*



*Comedy . . .*



*Cooking . . . parents taste their kid's creations.*

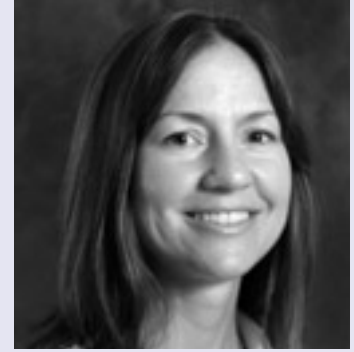
**Guarnieri, Walcott elected to NEF board**

Robin Guarnieri and Isaac Walcott have been elected to the board of directors of NEF.

Walcott, the father of a child entering school in September, is assistant vice-president of Fairfield County Bank in Norwalk. Guarnieri, the mother of two daughters in middle school, is a consulting research specialist with Hewitt Associates in Norwalk and a former program director at the Darien YMCA.



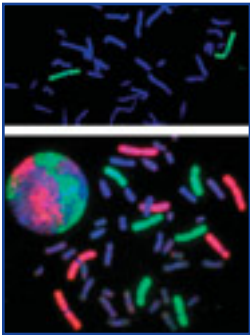
Isaac Walcott, Fairfield County Bank



Robin Guarnieri, Hewitt Associates

## UNPARALLELED STUDY OF FISH DNA AT BRIEN MCMAHON H.S. FUNDED BY NEF

A \$2,005 grant to fund a study at Brien McMahon High School analyzing the strands of life in the DNA of fish—unprecedented for its level of scholarship—was a typical grant in the winter round of Grants for Classroom Excellence disbursed by NEF.



According to an international authority on DNA protocols, the study initiated by biotechnology teacher Jeffrey Brentson at BMHS was believed to be the first such research at the high school level. Only professional scientists and researchers associated with universities are known to have done such work in DNA exploration up to now.

Brentson’s innovative approach extended to some 75 students in biotechnology and marine biology each semester at BMHS, engaging them in an international alliance to barcode the DNA of all living things.

The award is part of \$6,505 distributed to six teachers by the NEF in support of creative platforms they developed to make classroom instruction more absorbing for students. There were two other \$2,000 disbursements.

One went to three teachers at West Rocks Middle School—Elizabeth Thana, Victor Baptista and Jonathan Gibson—for their West Rocks Rock Climbers afterschool incentive for at-risk students to reduce the number of student suspensions by providing academic support and activities such as community service to build self-esteem.

The other funds another West Rock enterprise, originated by teacher Pamela Fusaro and linked to a national trend called “Dance, Dance Revolution.” The objective is to reduce generation obesity in girls, combining video game with a phys ed workout.



WRMS Rock Climbers

A \$500 grant in the winter round went to Tracey Sutton at Brookside Elementary School for “Incredible Edibles” where students cultivate the school’s Hope Garden to grow berries, herbs and vegetables.

In the DNA study Brentson directed at BMHS, a winter flounder yielded the first DNA protocols for the students, utilizing a sequencing apparatus on loan from Dr. Edwin Wong at Western Connecticut State University.

Norwalk’s Maritime Aquarium and students in Tom Seuch’s marine biology classes at BMHS agreed to provide other fish samples.

## GOT HOMEWORK? GET HELP!

Norwalk Online / Live Homework Help provides free, online tutoring services in English and Spanish every day from 3pm-8pm for Norwalk students from grades 4 – 12. Students can access the program through computers at the Norwalk Public Library and the South Norwalk Library, and at 5 after school sites at the Housing Authority’s Community Learning Centers.

The program is also accessible online from home by authenticating into the Library’s system, selecting the subject in which tutoring is needed (math, science, social studies, English), and indicating a

grade level (4-12). The student is then connected immediately to a qualified tutor where learning takes place in a secure web-based, online classroom.

From July 2006 to June 2007, 2,859 tutoring sessions averaging 25 minutes were provided to Norwalk students for free in the following subjects: English and English-Essay Writing; (Math) Algebra, Algebra II, Calculus, Elementary Math, Geometry, Middle School Math, and Trigonometry; (Science) Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Elementary Science, and Physics; and Social Studies.

Parents and Teachers: when extra homework help is needed, encourage your kids to get a LIBRARY CARD and go to the Library or Community Learning Center, or log onto [www.Norwalklib.org](http://www.Norwalklib.org) and click Got Homework?

Brought to you by:



with support from



# ED IN '08

**E**D in '08 is a campaign project of The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, two of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world. These foundations have provided grant funding (up to \$60 million over 18 months) for Strong American Schools, a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and headed by former Colorado governor and superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, Roy Romer.

Strong America Schools is a nonpartisan public awareness and action campaign offering voice to every American who supports Ed in 08. Its goal is to initiate serious nationwide debate on education reform where every presidential candidate addresses three priorities that hold great promise for improving education:

- Agreeing on American education standards
- Providing effective teachers in every classroom

- Giving students more time and support for learning

Education is primarily a state and local responsibility, but this is an American problem that affects us all. We are all responsible for our public schools. And the future of our nation depends on whether we can come together to meet this challenge head on.

For more information on Ed in '08, visit [www.edin08.com](http://www.edin08.com).

## SMART BOARDS

**N**EF's Teacher Technology Training Institute (TTTI) introduced Smart Boards to its course offerings this summer. A Smart Board is an interactive whiteboard that consists of a touch-sensitive screen and a projector that beams whatever is on a computer onto the screen. Special pens can be used to digitally draw on the images, and the entire set-up is supplemented by software that allows teachers to develop, save and update interactive lesson plans.

Keith Morey, a fifth grade Brookside teacher taught the class and says Smart Boards are valuable because they engage students. "Anything that can be done on a computer – access to the Internet, watch a video, set up a spreadsheet, show a Power point presentation – can be done on a Smart Board," he told teachers. "The only difference is that you can interact with it." Morey then demonstrated a lesson in 3-D geometry by zooming in on a satellite view of downtown Manhattan using Google Maps and identifying shapes found in the skyscraper's designs. The stylus marks up the touch-sensitive screen to illustrate a point.



*Manhattan skyscrapers become a 3-D geometry lesson.*

## ILLUMINATING SCIENCE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

**A**rch Chemicals Inc., The Chemical Educational Foundation and NEF have introduced The You Be The Chemist (YBTC) program to Norwalk's Jefferson and Silvermine schools, and to the elementary after school programs of the YMCA, NEON and ACHIEVE. You Be The Chemist teaches K-8 students about chemistry's role in their daily lives and the world. Students delve into lessons like surface tension and humidity lesson "Ghosts in the Bathroom" or the skeletal system in the "Rubber Bones" activity. The Chemical Educational Foundation, a national non-profit organization that works with the chemical industry to promote the importance of chemicals, chemistry, and

chemical safety awareness education, provided lessons for 30 chemistry experiments while Arch Chemicals, a national specialty chemicals company, provided the materials needed to conduct the experiments along with professional development training.



*Jefferson School chemists hard at work.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### That YOU are ED?

Ed in 08 needs thousands of photos of supporters like you to convey the message that America demands leadership on the issue of our schools. Just take a photo of yourself with an education role model — a parent, teacher, friend, or local celebrity or official — someone important to you who shares your concerns about our schools and send it to [www.edin08.org](http://www.edin08.org).

## GIVE KIDS GOOD SCHOOLS WEEK

**T**his October 15-22 is Give Kids Good Schools Week. Give Kids Good Schools Week is part of a national public education campaign that seeks to provide Americans with the information and resources they need to take action in their communities and improve their public schools. Give Kids Good Schools aims to guarantee a quality public education for every child in the nation.

We encourage everyone to sign the Give Kids Good Schools pledge, which can be found online at [www.GiveKidsGoodSchools.org/pledge](http://www.GiveKidsGoodSchools.org/pledge). This pledge demonstrates your commitment to giving kids good schools in our community and across the country. For more information about the Give Kids Good Schools campaign, visit [www.givekidsgoodschools.org](http://www.givekidsgoodschools.org). To find out how the Norwalk Education Foundation is supporting the campaign visit [www.norwalkeducation.org](http://www.norwalkeducation.org).

## SIX-UNDER-PAR 65 WINS TEE-OFF FOR EDUCATION

A six-under par 65 at the Shorehaven Golf Club gave the foursome of Michael Stein, Dave Czaplicki, Jim Rosetti and Roy Sjolund the low gross in the Ninth Annual Golf Classic (May 7) to support the work of the Norwalk Education Foundation.

The bestball tournament drew a full field of 104 golfers—bringing together the business, educational and sports communities—and with its live and silent auctions raised more than \$70,000 in

gross revenue to fund the NEF's mission of opening doors for Norwalk's children.

Last year's No. 1 low gross foursome—Dr. Sal Corda, Norwalk's superintendent of schools, with Joe Maddafari, Jim Ferguson and Ed Schopp, emerged as the runnersup, two strokes behind Stein's group.

Maddafari meanwhile won a putting contest, a popular sidelight to the tournament.

The low net winners with a 66 were Roger Knight of Lakewood Capital and his guests Scott Staniar, Bill Sawch and Randy Keleher. Two strokes back at 68 were Ed McGettigan, Larry Simms, Dan Meyers and Benji Buckle.

Deanne Polizzo won the women's category for both longest drive on hole no. 12 and the closest to the pin on the par-3 15th hole while the men's winners were Andrew Claffin for the long drive and Steve Wiggins for closest to the pin.



Golfers on the Shorehaven G.C. practice tee prepare for shotgun start.



Gift packs and draw distributed by NEF staffers at checkin.



L-R, Brett Whitton, Chet Valiente, Ed Musante and Christopher Dolce.



L-R, Norwalk Mayor Richard Moccia, Tony Depanfilis, Paul Jones and Emil Albanese.



Putting contest, won by Joe Maddafari, was a popular stopover near the pro shop.

## NATIONAL CHEMISTRY COMPETITION COMING TO NORWALK MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Chemist Laura Tew of Arch Chemicals, Inc. and Akua Asiamah of the Chemical Heritage Foundation will be presenting the 2008 National You Be The Chemist Challenge to Norwalk's middle school science teachers on August 28th. The 2007 national competition was sponsored by AIG Environmental of New York, NY, a division of American International Group; Arch Chemicals, Inc. of Norwalk, CT; Expo Chemical Company, Inc. of

Houston, TX; and Thames & Kosmos of Portsmouth, RI.

"The Chemical Educational Foundation is providing critical leadership for science education through its YBTC programs," stated Laura Tew, Director of Stakeholder Relations for Arch Chemicals, Inc. "The YBTC Challenge, which Arch Chemicals is proud to sponsor, offers high potential students the opportunity to study beyond their classroom curriculum and compete with their peers on a national-level. For

local communities, this program forges collaboration between schools and local chemical industry sponsors, who can provide guidance into careers in science and chemistry," she added.

The 2007 National You Be The Chemist (YBTC) Challenge was held on June 15 at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, PA. Students from grades 5-8 came from around the country to participate in two days of fun activities, sight-seeing...and a Challenge!

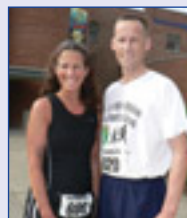
## GOOD FEEDBACK FROM INAUGURAL FIVE-KILOMETER RUN FOR ED

Joe Skelly, a teacher and member of the U.S. Army Reserve who served in Iraq, and Sharon Vos won the men's and women's divisions of the NEF's inaugural five-kilometer Run for ED(ucation) fundraiser June 3 in South Norwalk.

Seventy-eight runners ranging in age from 11 to 75-plus completed the course through South Norwalk, starting and finishing at the Maritime Aquarium.

Jim Gerweck, editor-at-large for RunningTimes and co-organizer of the day with Erol Eyikan of Transigma Partners said "everyone appeared to enjoy the run. We received good feedback. And the word will get out."

He said he looks forward to expanding the run next year "to show off more of SONO."



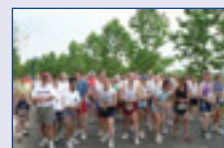
First-place finishers Sharon Vos and Joe Skelly.



Lauren Rosato, NEF's executive director, with Jim Gerweck, co-organizer of the run.



Carriages give infant twins and others exposure to the world of running.



Runners surge ahead at the start of the 5K test.

# THANK YOU NEF'S 2007 DONORS!

We can't do it without you.

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**CHECK OUT WHAT WE'RE DOING!**

**PHOTOS BY NEF AFTER SCHOOL DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS.**



*Ponus Ridge Middle School*



*West Rocks Middle School*



*Roton Middle School*

**PLEASE DONATE NOW**

By check to Norwalk Education Foundation, 125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

By VISA, MC, AMEX online at [www.norwalkeducation.org](http://www.norwalkeducation.org)

All donations are tax-deductible. Tax I.D. 06-1498087

*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.*