

The Medfield Coalition for Public Education

- SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER -

MCPE's New E4E Fundraiser Well-Received in First Year

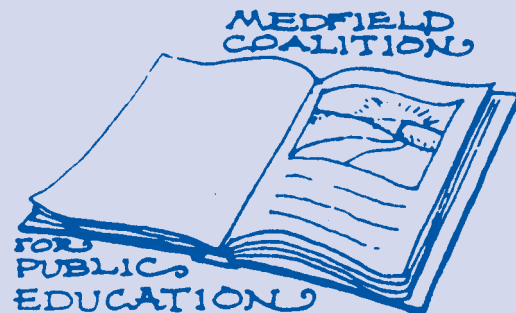
After many successful years hosting an annual auction as its primary fundraiser, MCPE introduced a new concept, Entertaining for Education, or E4E last fall. As they have always done with the auction, community members rallied behind the fundraising effort, donating nearly \$55,000 to support innovative educational programs that fall outside the parameters of the school budget.

The concept behind E4E was simple: ask members of the community to



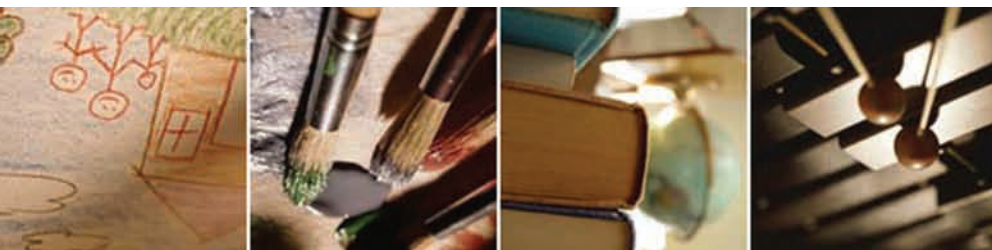
host an event – any type of event – where guests make a donation to support MCPE. Over the course of the fall months, over 60 parties were held, ranging from the kick-off art sale/live music event in Holliston to a band party at the Kingsbury Club,

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*The Medfield Coalition
for
Public Education*

Supporting Academic Excellence in Medfield

Current Resident
Medfield, MA 02052

Non-Profit Organization
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From the Co-Presidents . . .

Fall 2009 started off a bit more lively than usual in Medfield as the community rallied to participate in MCPE's new fundraiser, "Entertaining for Education" or E4E. After completing 20 years of hosting benefit auctions, MCPE launched E4E, where people from all over the Medfield community participated in the fun by either hosting or attending an event. Our gratitude goes out to all who dedicated their time and energy to help make E4E such a success in its first year.

Our teachers express their creativity, generosity and energy in the classroom to further develop and enhance the educational experience of our students. This is visible through the diverse array of grants submitted to the Coalition for funding this academic year. The grants awarded during the 2009 – 2010 academic year support authors in residence, music, curriculum and professional development, art, technology, fitness, and character in keeping with our mission to promote academic enrichment in the Medfield public schools.

We would like to send a special thank you to the teachers for their generosity in providing items for the newly established "Teacher Donation Raffle" held during the month of March. Due to the many parents and students that expressed an interest in the highly coveted teacher-donated events and items from the benefit auction, the teachers devoted their creative energies and time to provide MCPE with raffle prizes. The raffle was very well received by the community. Thank you again to all the teachers for their efforts and to all the students and parents who participated.

The MCPE board looks forward to continuing to work together with the community to provide funding for the numerous grant requests that are submitted each year. During these times of tight school budget constraints, the generosity of MCPE supporters makes a significant difference in enhancing the education of Medfield students and is especially appreciated by teachers and administrators. Please consider hosting or attending an E4E event next fall, participating in the spelling bee and teacher donation raffle during the early spring, or making a contribution to our annual fund. Also, many volunteer opportunities are available and all are welcome to participate.

It has been a privilege to serve as Co-Presidents of the MCPE this year. We have enjoyed working with our fellow Board of Directors and our community toward enhancing our schools and our children's education.

Sincerely,

Ezia Varner & Ellen Bankert
2009-2010 Co-Presidents

2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Bankert (*Co-President*)
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MCPE Would Like to Thank the 2009-2010 Corporate Sponsors

Roche Bros.
Sports and Physical Therapy
Associates
Middlesex Bank
Central Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge
Medfield Properties
Century 21

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

*The Medfield Coalition for Public Education
cordially invites all Medfield residents
to the Annual Meeting*

on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 7:00 pm

*at the Zullo Gallery Center for the Arts
456 Main Street, Medfield, Massachusetts*

A presentation of selected grants awarded in 2009-2010 and the presentation of the 2010 Thomas Reis Award will be made. Officers and board members for the 2010-2011 school year will be elected.

High School's *Rachel's Challenge* Grant Winner of 2010 Thomas Reis Award

The Medfield Coalition for Public Education is pleased to announce that *Rachel's Challenge*, a grant submitted by Medfield High School students Hannah Donnelly and Matthew Burchill, has been awarded the 2010 Thomas Reis Award.

Rachel's Challenge was a presentation given by Craig Scott, the brother of a student killed at the Columbine shooting, at the 2009 Call to Excellence Assembly at Medfield High School this past fall. Craig's mission, in his sister Rachel's honor, is to empower students and community members to make permanent, positive culture changes in their school and community by exemplifying Rachel's behavior: eliminate prejudice, dare to dream, choose positive influences, use kind words, and start a chain reaction with family and friends.

Hannah and Matthew, both members of the Medfield High School Student Council, were so moved by Craig Scott's presentation at the 2009 Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC), that they wanted to bring the program to Medfield. In their own words: "We believe that our peers after hearing such a powerful man speak, will be motivated to accept the challenges.



From left to right: Jessica Safer, MHS Student Council Advisor, Shea Maloney, Student Council President, Matt Burchill, Student Council Representative, Craig Scott, *Rachel's Challenge*, Jack McDermott, Student Council Vice President, and Hannah Donnelly, Student Council Historian.

Craig Scott is by far the most impactful speaker we have ever heard. He speaks through his pain to help others and offer guidance rather than asking for pity. Throughout our years of different assemblies and watching different speakers, we have never seen an audience of 2,500 high school students so engaged with a speaker, with tears and laughter. Craig is phenomenal." *Rachel's Challenge* was presented to the students of Medfield High School and then presented to the community again that same night. Medfield agreed with Hannah and Matthew. Craig Scott delivered an amazing idea that touched every member of both audiences.

The mission of *Rachel's Challenge* lives on at Medfield High School with the creation of a club, Friends of Rachel, that will carry on the mission of *Rachel's Challenge*.

The Thomas Reis Award is given each year in recognition of a project that promotes cooperation among schools, develops a new program of study or highlights creativity and innovation in the classroom. Mr. Reis was a co-founder of MCPE, a leading supporter of volunteerism in our schools, and an ardent advocate of children.

Congratulations to the winners of the MCPE 5th Annual Spelling Bee!

The grades 3-5 competition winning team:

The Not so Dum-Dums

The winning word was: **Lozenge.**



Dale Street teacher Joe White with 3rd-5th grade winners Anna Pagliarulo, Francesca D'Angelo and Mehr Sawant.

The grades 6-8 competition winning team:



The winning word was: **Sagittarius.**



Blake teacher Steve Guditus with 6th-8th grade winners Alice Ju, Cal Newlon and Patrick Lydon.

MCPE ANNUAL APPEAL

Help MCPE by giving to the Annual Appeal. These important funds support, encourage and enrich Medfield's public schools.

Please consider making a donation by returning the attached Annual Appeal envelope.

**MCPE thanks you
for your generosity!**

Grants Awarded by MCPE in 2009 - 2010

NCTM Regional Conference

Andy Delery

This grant provided funding for the 20 math teachers at Blake and Medfield High to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Boston Regional Conference.

Rachel's Challenge

MHS Student Council Reps

Matthew Burchill and Hannah Donnelly

This grant provided partial funding for the MHS Student Council to invite Craig Scott, brother of one of the victims of the Columbine shooting, to speak to students as part of the 2009 Call to Excellence Assembly and to address parents in an evening program.

Pixie 2 Software

Teri O'Brien

The software purchased through this grant is used by elementary school students for drawing, animation and as a presentation tool for projects.

Medfield to China:

Link to the Future

Richard DeSorgher

Funding provided to assist with the travel expenses for MHS history teacher Richard DeSorgher's travel to China as an exchange teacher as part of the China Initiative.

Dale Street

Writer-in-Residence

Heidi Crable and Bethany Sager

Funding allowed for the continuation of the popular Poet-in-Residence and Writer-in-Residence programs offered in both 4th and 5th grade classrooms.

Angel Wagner Latin Musical Workshop

Cynthia Dalpe

Funding was provided to Blake for a musical workshop for eighth graders as part of the school's Foreign Language Week celebration.

Rehabilitation Equipment for Physical Therapy

Maria Hutsick

Through this grant, the high school purchased additional equipment for use in the rehabilitation of athletic injuries.

Native Speakers in HS French Classes

Paul Bruemmer &

Monique Goodrow-Trach

Students in upper-level French classes were able to benefit from participation of two native speakers of French in the classroom.

Buzz in for Learning

Steve Guditus

This grant funded the purchase of a *Classroom Jeopardy!* game console and accessories that can be customized by teachers to reinforce material taught in the classroom.

Training for Blake Teachers in Use of Link Sheet Instruction

Marissa Gumas

This grant funded the training of six teachers in the use of Link Sheets, a teaching tool that can be used across subject areas to provide a multi-representational view of one concept.

Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy Equipment

Maria Hutsick

Funding from this grant enabled the purchase of two additional pieces of rehabilitation equipment: an electrical stimulation and an ultrasound machine.

Destiny Library Software

Joanne Schmidt & Randie Groden

This grant provided funds to upgrade to a web-based catalog and circulation system for all schools, including a shared server.

Classroom Jeopardy! Big Hit with Blake Students

Always looking for a way to make learning more fun for his students, Mr. Guditus, an 8th grade social studies teacher asked for and received funding to purchase Classroom Jeopardy!, a powerful piece of technology that makes learning come alive for students. Describing the benefits of the game system, Mr. Guditus explains, "the volume of material that can be effectively reviewed and covered can literally double. As students quickly buzz in with their answer, the console automatically deducts or adds points based on the answer; when the correct answer is given, the teacher has the power to pause the class, expand and



Students in Mr. Guditus' 8th grade Social Studies class competing in a game of *Classroom Jeopardy!*

explain, and "patch" any holes in concepts that may be unfamiliar or confusing." With some upfront training and preparation, teachers

from other grades and clusters can "sign-out" the system for customized use in their classrooms.

Grants Awarded by MCPE in 2009 - 2010

Workshop on Helping Kids Reach their Potential

Suzanne Cooney & Kim Perry

This grant enabled two staff members to attend a workshop on how to develop plans to help students showing weaknesses in organizational skills.

Art Awareness Program

Nancy Deveno

This grant funded a program to help expand Dale Street students' ability to understand the visual arts in an emotional and cognitive context.

Fitness Equipment for Wellness Classes

Maria Hutsick

Funding allowed for the purchase of new equipment to be used in 9th and 10th grade wellness classes as well as the general high school teacher and student population.

Harvard Model Congress

Richard DeSorgher

This grant funded the attendance of a group of HS students interested in government and politics to experience what an actual session of Congress is like.

Dale Street Sound System Upgrade

William Pope

This grant provided funding to repair and upgrade the Dale Street auditorium sound system.

Marimba Magic

Barbara Oxholm & David Ruggiero

Funding through this grant enabled the purchase of Marimba instruments to be used by a start-up Marimba ensemble and eventually in general music classes.

New England Kindergarten Conference

Marie Hedberg

Funding allowed for kindergarten teachers to attend conference to engage in learning and discussion on range of subject areas relevant to the kindergarten curriculum.

Blake Audio-Visual Enhancement

Jon Haycock

This grant allowed for purchase of a 9'x12' portable screen to be used in all-school assemblies.

MARC Parent Presentation

Lisa Sailer & Tracy Allen

This grant paid for a presentation by the Massachusetts Aggression and Reduction Center (MARC) for parents and students in grades 5-8 on internet safety and cyberbullying.

Lyme Disease Prevention and Curriculum Support

Jon Haycock

This grant funded the purchase of cards to hang in the shower to educate students and families on Lyme disease and prevention.

2010 All Night Graduation Party

Susan Cowell

MCPE made a donation to offset a portion of the costs of this year's All Night Graduation Party.

Interactive Whiteboards at Dale Street

Kim Cave & Teri O'Brien

This grant will provide funding for one Smartboard interactive whiteboard for the library media center and six Epson BrightLink projectors for classroom use at Dale Street School.

Medfield Destination Imagination

Suzanne Cooney & Andrea Trasher

This donation helped support the travel expenses for a Medfield High School Destination Imagination team travel to Knoxville, TN to compete in the DI Global Competition.

Dale Street to Create New Marimba-Instrument Ensemble

Under the leadership of music teachers Barbara Oxholm and David Ruggiero, Dale Street school will create a new Shona-style Marimba ensemble using new instruments funded through an MCPE grant. Shona-style marimbas are a type of percussion instrument used in many regions of Africa. This type of music was brought to the United States about 40 years ago and has been growing in popularity since. The music the instruments produce is multicultural in nature and rhythmically challenging. The ensemble groups enhance children's

listening skills and their ability to improvise. While popular in Colorado and the west coast, youth marimba ensembles are in the early stages of forming in the East; Medfield will be the third town in Massachusetts to start a group of this type. Since each instrument is custom made, the ensemble will not be formed until next year, at which time all students at Dale will be invited to audition to play in the ensemble. Students will also have an opportunity to play the instruments in their general music class.



Thank You To Our 2009 - 2010 Annual Fund Donors!

CONTRIBUTOR (up to \$50)

Donald and Colleen Coulombe
Carl and Colleen Jensen
The McCarthy Family
The McGlame Family
James Papadonis
Catherine Pucci
Greg and Ellen Russell

BRONZE LEVEL (\$50-\$99)

Rob & Katie Adams
Donald Coen and Deborah Marvel
Lou and Gay D'Amaro
Paul and Kate Hardiman
The Marble Family
Michael Moon
Gerry and Kim O'Loughlin
Reyn and Emily Parsons
John and Barbara Spillane
The Vagnini Family

An Annual Appeal pledge card is enclosed so that you may add your support for MCPE.

While we have tried to find and eliminate all errors in this listing, some inadvertent errors may have occurred. We apologize for any mistakes. Please let us know if your name has been accidentally omitted or reported incorrectly.

SILVER LEVEL (\$100-\$199)

Gil and Kim Adams
The Bailey Family
The Bankert Family
Kathryn and Philip Boole
Joseph and Kathleen Bruno
Lisa and Chris Carlin
John and Debby Cartisser
The Coulombre Family
Jackie and Jeff Eamer
The Festa Family
David Leiwant
Thomas Loeffler
Dan and Jeanette Macero
The Magid Family
Aurora Richards-Stipnieks
Kathy and Mike Stack
Blanche Teyssier/George Lester

GOLD LEVEL (\$200-\$499)

Gregory and Barbara Andrulonis
Jenni and Brian Brady
Eric and Lisa Brown
William Bryant and
Barbara Preussner-Bryant
Laura and Joseph Cromarty
Susan and Bill Elcock
Dennis and Karen Etzkorn
Roger and Kristen Hobby
Robert Huntington/Susan McCafferty
The Maritan Family
The Mileszko Family
Stanley and Alexis Nasraway
Patrick and Rosemary O'Reilly
Glenn and Karin Ricciardelli
Renee & Joe Romanowski
Nancy and Brian Scheld
The Stahl Family
James and Maryanne Sullivan
The Varner Family
Tim and Wendy Sullivan
Evan and Susan Weisenfeld

PLATINUM LEVEL (\$500 and above)

Jed and Jen Hall
Curt and Shonda Schilling
Michele and Sal Sprofera



System-wide Grant Funds Software Upgrade for School Libraries

As a result of a \$21,000 MCPE grant, the Medfield school system has recently purchased a new library software package called Destiny. It's more user-friendly and attractive than the old system and allows students access to the resources at any of the five schools. As a web-based system, students can log in from anywhere at

anytime. When a student finds a book, they can see a virtual book shelf and scroll through the titles to the left and right of their book. The card catalog displays the front covers, table of contents and previews of books. Think of it as the Amazon.com of the Medfield school libraries - students can even rate the books and write reviews!

MCPE Giving Opportunities

- How You Can Support MCPE -

Host an E4E Party This Fall!

Given the first-year success of E4E, MCPE will be bringing back its “Entertaining for Education” fundraiser this fall. We’ve already heard from some people who have said they would like to host

a party. We welcome parties of all types and sizes! So while you’re enjoying the summer months, we encourage you to start thinking of ideas for next fall and consider hosting your own E4E event.

For questions, please contact our E4E Host Coordinator, Diana Mileszko at 242-5144 or mileszko@comcast.net.

Corporate Sponsorship Program

The Medfield Coalition for Public Education welcomes the support of business organizations by offering various underwriting opportunities through the Corporate Sponsorship Program. The Corporate Sponsorship Committee solicits corporations with relationships in Medfield for major gifts to help fund grants at Medfield public schools. This

program creates a mutually beneficial partnership between area corporations and Medfield schools. Students and teachers gain much needed resources and programs, and corporate sponsors gain increased visibility to a highly targeted consumer audience.

Corporate sponsors can designate a specific purpose for which their donation

is to be used or can contribute to the general fund.

If you wish to learn more about corporate sponsorship for your business, or if you would like to suggest a person or business that may be interested in corporate sponsorship, please contact Tracey Rogers at 508-359-6532 or tracey-rogers@comcast.net.



MCPE Launches New Blue Ribbon Program

Last Spring, the Coalition introduced a new Medfield school staff recognition program. The new program was appropriately named The Blue Ribbon Program and aims to recognize the many teachers and administrative staff who have played a special role in a student’s life. The program is an ideal way to both honor school staff and give back to the community. A tax-deductible donation is made to the Coalition and recognized recipients receive a personalized “blue ribbon” card. Parents who participated last year found the program to be a simple and yet meaningful way to convey their appreciation. The program will

be offered in December for holiday gifts and at the end of the school year. Blue Ribbon donations will help fund new and ongoing enrichment programs funded by MCPE. To participate, check our website at medfieldcoalition.org. Our kudos to last year’s recipients for making a difference in the day to day school experience of Medfield students. 2008/2009 Blue Ribbon Recipients:

- June Allen - Dale
- Patti Allen - Wheelock
- Sandra Ayers - Blake
- Kathleen Bockhorst - Wheelock
- Kim Cave - Dale
- Kathy Curran - Dale
- Nancy Deveno - Dale
- Deborah Dowd - Wheelock
- Nancy Englehardt - Dale
- Brian Gavaghan - Blake

- Michael Gow – Blake
- Gail Guilmette – Memorial
- Marissa Gumas - Blake
- Lauren Harrington - Dale
- Margot Hayes - Dale
- David Kraemer - High School
- Ann Kristof - Dale
- Jim Kuehl - Wheelock
- Kristin Manning - Blake
- Michael Mason - Dale
- Martha Moon - Dale
- Regina Morris - Wheelock
- Janice Olson - Dale
- Robert Parga - Blake
- Bethany Sager – Dale
- Travis Taliaferro - Blake
- Nick Tatarka - Dale
- Kathy Thompson - Dale
- Andrea Trasher - Memorial
- Erin Watson – Wheelock
- Joseph White - Dale

a Medfield Mom's Movie outing and several Halloween parties. One neighborhood where friends got together often on a casual basis decided to put a basket out at each gathering, and at the end of December, submitted a donation to MCPE. Diana Mileszko, E4E's host coordinator, commented on the success of E4E's first year. "We really didn't know what to expect.

Everyone we talked to liked the idea, but we weren't sure how that would translate into numbers of people agreeing to host a party. And then the emails and phone calls started coming in and people got very creative in choosing what type of event they wanted to hold. We couldn't have asked for a better response in the first year."

In the 2010-11 school year, E4E will again be MCPE's primary fundraiser. Thanks to all who helped support E4E last fall - we look forward to an even more successful year two!

For more information contact Diana Mileszko at 508-242-5144 or mileszko@comcast.net.

MCPE's First-Ever High School Scholarship

New in 2010, MCPE is awarding a \$500 Scholarship to a graduating senior, to be announced at Senior Recognition Night on June 3rd. The recipient, who will be selected by the MHS Scholarship

Committee, will be a student whose character and actions embody the five commitments that comprise *Rachel's Challenge*: eliminate prejudice, dare to dream, choose positive influences, use kind words,

and start a chain reaction. MCPE provided \$5,000 of the funding required to bring the *Rachel's Challenge* program to the high school last fall.

Popular Teacher Donations Available This Year Through New Raffle

Each year at MCPE's annual auction, the items donated by Medfield teachers and staff always generate some of the most active bidding by attendees. After getting feedback from both families and teachers who were disappointed that the items would

not be available through the auction, MCPE decided to create a stand-alone Teacher Donation raffle. From the pizza party with kindergarten teachers to paintball with Mr. Taliaferro and premium seating at graduation, there was something that students of all

ages were hoping to win on the list of over 60 raffle items. Tickets were sold through the schools and the lucky winners were drawn the night of the Spelling Bee. Thanks again to the teachers and staff for their generous donations!

What is MCPE?

MCPE, or "The Coalition," is an independent, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to support academic enrichment in all Medfield public schools, with particular attention to academic needs that exceed the parameters of the school budget.

In 1987, a group of concerned

Medfield teachers, administrators and parents established the Coalition, with a board comprised of five people. Today, fifteen members with staggered, three-year terms sit on the board and another six people comprise a grant committee.

MCPE is funded primarily through the generosity of members of the

Medfield community and local corporate sponsors. The Coalition has two major fundraisers: E4E and the Annual Appeal, conducted through this newsletter. Funds are also raised through the annual Spelling Bee and the Blue Ribbon Program.