

Fall 2014



Dear Friends,

A school is a community's expression of what it means to be a human being. Keene Central is an exceptional school in an exceptional community. I'm writing to ask you to help us help the school continue to get better and better as a school and as a center of community life.

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A small school, with 172 students kindergarten through 12th grade this year, up from 166 last year, it is the kind of school where everyone is needed and has an opportunity to participate on athletic teams, and in community service, theater, music and all the dimensions of school life. It's the kind of school where the kindergartners know who all the seniors are and look up to them, and where the seniors know who the kindergartners are, and encourage them. It's a human place, with a quality of caring, like a family. It's situated in one of the most beautiful places in the world, close to nature, full of history and character.

The food in the cafeteria is really good. This unusual fact was pointed out to me recently by Shannon Pitcher-Boyea, the new K-8 principal, who has come to us from Malone. Shannon's keeping a list she calls "Only in Keene," of the kinds of things you notice when you come here from somewhere else.

Nonvoting

Dan Mayberry
**Superintendent and
High School Principal**

Shannon Pitcher-Boyea
K-8 Principal

On her list, in addition to the quality of cafeteria food, is the fact that teachers regularly interact and play with the students during recess, and that school board members enthusiastically greet students and staff with high fives, balloons and flowers on the first day of school, and that the cafeteria staff make sure that all students have enough to eat, and that teachers eat with students. A very caring place.

Kathy Regan
**Board of Education
President**

The teaching and learning are good, too. The KCS elementary school was recently recognized by the New York State Department of Education as being in the top 10 per cent of elementary schools in the state, based on grades 3 to 8 test scores in math and literacy over two years, 2011-12 and 2012-13. In the second of these two years, the state was using the new, more rigorous Common Core standards. Around the country and the state, the overwhelming majority of schools' test scores dropped precipitously in 2012-13 as teachers and students across the country implemented and adjusted to the new standards, but the KCS scores improved a little in this period. Being in the top 10 per cent meant roughly that 55 per cent of the KCS 3rd to 8th graders met or exceeded state standards. What I like most about this good news is that superintendent Dan Mayberry's response is to focus on how to more effectively reach the 45 per cent who didn't meet or exceed those standards. The elementary school is doing well, but there's lots more to do.



THE
BRONXVILLE
SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

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Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation

40 Paddington Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

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TO: Scarsdale Board of Education, Suzanne Seiden, President
Scarsdale School District, Michael McGill, Superintendent

FROM: The Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation,
Ellen Miller-Wachtel, President

RE: Creating Working Relationships for the Benefit
of the Scarsdale Schools

This memo is intended to define the working relationship we envision with the Board of Education and the Scarsdale School District. The members of the Board and staff of the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation look forward to working with you on this new initiative to award grants that benefit our students and enhance the value of a Scarsdale education.

LIAISONS

Michael V. McGill

School Superintendent

Suzanne Seiden

President, Board of Education

Lewis Leone

Board of Education

William Natbony

Board of Education

Close and open communication among the Foundation, the Board of Education, and District staff will be essential to the success of the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation. Since the presentation by the Foundation's Steering Committee at the Board of Education meeting on December 5, 2011, we have incorporated as a not for profit entity, been recognized as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, established a board of directors, and raised \$1 million in startup funds to support this initiative, while learning more about the educational priorities, aspirations, and financial needs of the District that would be appropriate for the Foundation to address and support.

This Fall, your board approved our first three grants and we awarded a total of \$90,000 for MakerSpace (elementary schools), Gaming and Simulation (Middle School), and HackScarsdale (High School). We have very much appreciated and benefited from the advice and counsel of District staff in selecting these programs as priority needs that are worthy of the Foundation's support.

The Foundation will continue to make funding decisions that support the priorities of the Scarsdale Board of Education and the District. Our goal is helping you improve educational programming in the Scarsdale schools. We have identified a number of steps to realize that goal:

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Board of Education of the Scarsdale Schools

and

The Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation

The Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation is enthusiastic about seeking to raise funds for two projects within the current Master Plan for Scarsdale High School. Specifically, after consultation with the Board of Education, the Foundation has selected the Design Lab and Fitness Center as the projects that will be the focus of its efforts. The Board of Education agrees that these are important components of the overall facilities plan. The Foundation and Board of Education agree on the following specific aspects of the Foundation's contribution to this effort.

1. After financial contributions for both projects from the Board of Education, consistent with any legal requirements related thereto, the net of funds necessary to construct the Design Lab is \$1.8 million and the Fitness Center is \$800,000.
2. The Board of Education and District leadership support the Foundation as it launches a fundraising campaign for these two projects.
3. The Foundation, Board of Education and District administration will communicate, so the Foundation can stay abreast of relevant curriculum developments and implementation plans, and work together on the presentation of programs relevant to the fundraising effort.
4. The Board of Education agrees to support an appropriate means of recognizing donors to the projects, within the Board's sole discretion and with the details of that recognition to be determined through mutual discussion.
5. The Foundation will make every effort to raise the needed funds as expeditiously as possible, but cannot guarantee it will be able to raise the full amount.
6. The Foundation agrees to keep the Board of Education informed about its progress in securing pledges of financial support and the schedule for payment of its funding commitments.
7. The Board of Education understands that the Foundation anticipates receiving multiyear pledges, and that that will mean a significant portion of the funding provided may not be available until 2016 or later.
8. The Foundation understands and agrees that the timing, scope and implementation of these projects, including the development of related curriculum, remain the sole responsibility of the Board of Education and District staff.

The Board of Education and the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation look forward to a continued working relationship concerning this fundraising effort for the benefit of the District's schools.

For the Board of Education:

May Beth Gure

10/20/14

Date

For the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation:

Allen Miller Wachtel

10/20/14

Date

NCCC Foundation Board of Directors

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The NCCC Foundation Board of Directors is a volunteer group composed of leading community, business, and civic leaders of Essex and Franklin counties who share a special interest in the health and future of the North Country region.

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(<http://www.ncccwebs.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NCCC-Campus.png>)

Serving Three Campuses

Saranac Lake

Malone

Ticonderoga

Upcoming Events

- There are no upcoming events.

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