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Save this date!!

**The Concord Education Fund presents:
HOMECOMING... GLORY DAYS!**

Auction, Dinner, Dancing

Saturday, November 15th, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Nashawtuc Country Club, Concord, MA

Spend an evening dining and dancing with friends, while benefiting the Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. One-of-a-kind Auction items like trips, theme parties, wine and more! Casual dress; homecoming theme encouraged! Tickets are \$100 per person. *Look for your invitation in the mail!*

Fritz & Gigi, The Children's Shop of Concord is hosting "Pumpkin Palooza!" on **Saturday, October 18th** (rain date October 19th) from 12pm - 4pm at the store on Main Street.

Activities will include BBQ food, a pumpkin decorating contest and carnival games.

Professional photographer, Maura Wayman, will be doing outdoor sittings of children. The owners of Fritz & Gigi will generously donate the proceeds of this event to the Concord Education Fund.

Mark your calendars for this fun-filled day!

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NEWS FROM THE CONCORD EDUCATION FUND ISSUE 7 AUTUMN 2008

Historic Year Includes Headway towards a \$400,000 Gift to CCHS

The Concord Education Fund (CEF) awarded \$63,000 in grants to the Concord Public Schools and the Concord Carlisle Regional School this year. In addition, CEF gifted \$50,000 to Concord Carlisle High School to allow the district to start work on a state-of-the-art music lab and digital recording studio. This facility will offer all students with an interest in music, from elementary

school through high school, the opportunity to experience a professional, multitrack recording system.

"All sorts of kids are excited about its possibilities. Whether they're members of choral groups, the Jazz Band, or one of the many – and there are many – 'rock bands,' they're all looking forward to the chance to use the studio," said Ned Roos, the WIQH Station Manager at Concord Carlisle High School. According to Gene Warful, IT Director for the district, a 24 track board able to record 24 simultaneous tracks at very high resolution will be purchased along with furniture to house the board and related equipment with the \$50,000 raised thus far. The Ed Fund is working hard now to raise an additional \$38,000 to complete the studio.

The CEF is raising money for another key initiative that would create new opportunities for advanced science study at CCHS. A Concord family has issued a challenge to all of us. For every dollar we raise toward the science gift, this family will match it up to \$200,000. We have \$42,000 in pledges to date. The CCHS Science Department created the "Hooked on Science" program in response to this generous opportunity. It is a combination of curricula enhancements and electives designed to inspire the interest and provide the foundation needed for students to



Talented CCHS jazz musicians will be able to take full advantage of the state-of-art digital recording studio. (Music photos courtesy of Richard Pasley.)

pursue science at the collegiate level and beyond. The big idea driving this initiative is that the world needs more engineers and scientists to solve the energy, environmental and ecological issues confronting us in the 21st century. With this program, hundreds of CCHS students will be exposed to a rich range of hands on science study.

For a detailed description of the traditional

teacher grants funded this year, please turn the page. They included Curiosity Carts, for fourth graders to enhance their environmental science study (and prepare them for the Hooked on Science program)! Photo Essays, a cross-cultural bridge-building project, will strengthen the bond between METCO students and their Concord buddies at the Alcott School. Twenty-four MacBooks were granted to the eighth grade foreign language department, allowing improvement to students' language listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. New percussion instruments, including large drums, will liven up the music curriculum at CMS. And, a grant to CCHS library will give the space better signage to direct students to their destinations, supply carts will ease the burden of overstuffed backpacks and new games and puzzles will allow students to unwind and interact with each other.

None of these grants would be possible without the generous donations of families throughout Concord and Carlisle. At the same time, there continue to be many worthy grants and gift opportunities that go unfunded. If you want to encourage innovation and creative programming in the public schools, please make a tax-deductible gift to the Concord Education Fund.



We're almost there; we're \$38,000 away from fully-funding the \$90,000 digital recording studio. Help us reach the finale! Please send in a tax-deductible donation today. Thanks for your support!

CEF Grants Awarded for the 2008-2009 School Year



A Thoreau student shows water and soil samples to visitors at the Assabet River Trail opening. (2007-2008 Grants in Action)

Reluctant Readers Library (\$5,000)

This grant will create a library of high interest appropriately leveled books for struggling and reluctant readers in grades 3-5 at the Willard School. Many of these upper-elementary students are often interested in a range of exciting and thought provoking topics, which they are unable to access due to the difficulty of the reading material. The books chosen will include topics that grab the interest of upper elementary school readers in order to foster their love of reading.

Curiosity Carts (\$6,000)

This grant will focus on raising environmental awareness of our fourth graders through hands on activities. The hands-on investigations in the cart will build on young children's curiosity about the world around them and promote environmental education and awareness. The investigations in the cart are based on science concepts, which promote critical-thinking, problem solving, and decision-making skills. The activities and artifacts in the cart are designed to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to help all learners understand, appreciate and care for their environment. Each elementary school will house one cart containing several investigations, which may be carried out in the field or in the classroom.

Kurzweil 3000 Software Program (\$6,500)

This pilot program will run at the Willard School. The Kurzweil 3000 is comprehensive reading software for struggling readers and students with learning difficulties in grades 1-5. This program uses a computer to read out loud a scanned text, giving all students equal access to curriculum. Its ability to read text aloud while highlighting individual words on screen enables students to access text and information that was previously unavailable to them. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade, who receive support in the area of reading, will benefit from this grant.

Photo Essays (\$2,370)

This cross-cultural bridge-building project, which integrates art, technology and language arts, is designed to strengthen ties and break down barriers between METCO and Concord students. This grant will provide the METCO students in the fourth and fifth grades at the Alcott School an opportunity to share their families, homes and neighborhoods through photo essay books. The CEF will fund the purchase of digital cameras that the METCO students can bring home and use to document their lives. They will then put the books together at Alcott with their Concord buddies during the after school workshops. The photo essays will be added to the multicultural picture book collection in the art room and additional copies will be placed in the author-illustrator's classroom and the library.



CMS students learn that their vote counts! Students cast their vote using the Activotes and watch for the results to appear on the ActioBoard. (2007-2008 Grants in Action)

Percussion Instruments for CMS (\$3,907)

The CMS music department will be more rhythmic and primal this year. The implementation of this grant will allow CMS students to experience the joys and benefits of drums. Funding from this grant will purchase large drums (tubanos, djembes, and bongos) and smaller instruments (Chinese cymbals, tambourines, and agogos). The unique variety of timbres in percussion instruments adds musical excitement to student work and enriches their explorations. Current research emphasizes that establishing skills in rhythm and steady beat is the foundation of musicianship. The instruments will be used at both the Peabody and Sanborn buildings.

Technology Integration in the Eighth Grade World Language Classrooms (28,492)

This grant will provide funding for a pilot program in which 24 MacBooks will be used in the eighth grade world language classes. The MacBooks will allow students to use technology designed to increase and improve their language listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The world language teachers will be able to integrate and implement student learning activities through audio and on-line technology within all units of study. Through audio software like Audacity, students can hear vocabulary and expressions, record their voices and compare a wavelength of their voice with that of a native speaker. Students will be able to work on on-line vocabulary building, grammar review and listening activities. Foreign newspapers and magazines can be accessed on-line allowing students to read current articles in the targeted language. In addition, students can use the computers to research and explore cultural information relating to Paris and Madrid, as well as work individually to study for the National French and Spanish exams.

Fitness Center Renovation (\$2,038)

This grant will help fund renovations to the fitness room at CCHS. The renovation will allow the fitness center to maximize the room's potential. The renovated room will have a larger area for more cardio equipment and will allow for greater utilization of the room. Students will greatly benefit from the more efficient use of space during their health and fitness classes, as will athletes using the room for pre-season training and students participating in the after-school strength training program.

Library Makeover (\$1,867)

Robin Cicchetti, the CCHS librarian, has a vision for a new model of a high school library. This vision embraces changes in technology, emerging trends in Web 2.0 tools, equitable access, global awareness, recognition of the benefits of collaborative learning and the power of social networking. With this funding, she will be able to energize the physical space, and provide students with appropriate options when they come to the library looking to unwind a bit. The CEF monies will focus on space and social options. Fresh signage will direct students to their destinations. One student supply station



Sandra Haupt, a CCHS earth science teacher, visited Iceland, the Land of Fire and Ice. Here she is emerging through a lava pipe (from a 1973 eruption) in Heimaey. (2007-2008 Grants in Action)

will be placed on each floor of the library, thus providing welcome relief to the overstuffed backpack. New games and puzzles will be purchased adding depth to the current selection. The new games, which will include word play, probability, election, connection and trading genres, will promote social skills, spatial awareness and strategic thinking.



Kate Richmond, a CCHS English teacher, uses her encounters, photos and cultural objects collected from her trip to Ghana to bring West Africa and the African-American experience alive for her students. (2007-2008 Grants in Action)

Network Program Enhancements (\$3,200)

The Network Program is a regular education initiative developed to address the growing concern about a subgroup of ninth graders that are not making effective progress due to a complex array of academic and social-emotional needs. Students in the program will access a regular education curriculum along with other incoming freshmen, but as Network students, they will have additional structures of support. The Network Program will employ a modified "house model" whereby all faculty and staff working with a group of students meet weekly to review student progress and evaluate the effectiveness of teaching strategies. The Network Program is designed to minimize transitions by clustering students in classes that will provide a learning environment in which the teacher is aware of individual student strengths and weaknesses and is assisted by a tutor that will be assigned to the Network students. The Network program itself will be implemented by existing staff, but will use the CEF funding to provide after-school tutoring for the students participating in the Network Program.

Patriot Productions Centralized TV/Video (\$3,000)

This fall, CCHS students will have an easier time staying informed of school events. With the funding of this grant, a large (50" or larger) screen LCD TV will be purchased and mounted in the cafeteria as a way to disseminate all-school announcements and important information, including celebrations of student accomplishments. It also will serve as a place to showcase student work, such as presentations of student-created video, film and television projects. This new means of obtaining information pertaining to the happenings at CCHS, will promote a stronger sense of connection to the school community for students, faculty and staff.

Concord Education Fund Donor List 2007-2008

The CEF is enormously grateful to the individuals, businesses, and non-profits listed below whose generosity makes our work possible. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted any names, this list comprises donations through June 2008.

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