

"Keeping our schools a step ahead"

Winter 2015

Since 1991, The Education Fund of Westfield has funded programs to support educational excellence and innovation in our schools. Through grants to teachers, we support great ideas that enrich and energize students' academic experience but fall beyond the school district budget. To date, we have invested more than \$350,000 in grants to our schools, reaching every school in the district and every area of the curriculum.

This year, in addition to grants for teachers, the Ed Fund is excited to be supporting two important district-wide initiatives in the STEM areas – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. At the elementary level, Westfield is partnering with four neighboring districts to design innovative curricula that align with the newly adopted Next Generation Science Standards. We look forward to seeing these exciting problem-based learning units enhance science instruction in our schools. At the middle and high school level, the Ed Fund is enthusiastically supporting the expansion of the Robotics team to allow two teams to participate in competitions.

Thanks to your generous donations, the Ed Fund also funded five teacher grants for the Fall/Winter 2014 grant cycle. We hope you will give generously to help us support high quality, innovative programs in our schools. There is no better investment than in our children's education.

Family Science Night

On October 16, more than 600 Westfield students and family members descended on Westfield High School to spend an evening immersed in hands-on STEM activities. The Ed Fund's First Annual Science Night featured a demonstration by the robotics club that amazed the audience with robots that could catch a ball and navigate through mazes and up and down ramps.



Talented teachers from across the district's elementary schools then led participants in a variety of interesting



engineering challenges and science experiments, such as the "Straw Boat Engineering Challenge," "Elephant Toothpaste," and "Saving Fred, the Gummy Worm." It was wonderful to see so many parents and children working side by side, deeply engaged in STEM learning. Given the great success of the evening, we plan to make science night an annual event. We hope to see you at our science night next year!

**ROCK
4
SCHOOLS**

February 21st • Saturday • 8 PM
Crossroads in Garwood
3rd Gear • Crash Combo • The Core
Music • 50/50 • Silent Auction
\$15 / person (at the door)
www.westfieldnj.com/edfund

Congratulations to our Fall 2014 Grant Winners!

The Ed Fund is providing nearly **\$17,000** in grants this funding cycle:

Westfield High School will receive support to compete in the New York Fed's annual **High School Fed Challenge**. The team will play the role of monetary policymakers by analyzing current economic conditions and recommending a course for monetary policy.

Franklin Elementary School will receive a set of **Flashmasters** to help children achieve mastery of basic math facts in a fun and independent way. Students will be able to monitor their own progress and identify improvement in accuracy and speed.

The art department at Roosevelt Intermediate School will receive a **hot wire Styrofoam cutter** to allow students greater exploration of sculpture materials. Students will be able to cut, shape and build using Styrofoam with great ease and develop higher levels of technical skill, problem solving and creativity.

Westfield High School's new **Digital Learning Center** will receive two iMac desktop computers. The center is a digital learning lab staffed by students who assist teachers and their peers bridge the gap between technology and education. The Digital Ambassadors design, create, and publish digital products and tools to support 21st century learning at WHS.

In partnership with the PTO, Jefferson School will receive four **new computers for their library** to help students learn to use online public access catalogs to identify and locate books on the library shelves. This will provide a foundation for them to learn education research skills.

The Ed Fund is supporting the expansion of the **Robotics program** at Westfield High School to allow two teams to participate in competitions.

The Ed Fund is providing support to a **district-wide elementary STEM initiative**. In partnership with administrators and teachers in Summit, Milburn, Edison, West Caldwell and Morristown, Westfield educators will participate in a two-year professional development initiative to implement the Next Generation Science Standards. The Center for Excellence in STEM Education (CESE) will guide the consortia activities.

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HS Holocaust Survivor Assembly

On April 24, students from Westfield High School had the opportunity to hear from Mr. Olek Rosner, a survivor of Dachau and Auschwitz concentration camps who appeared in the film Schindler's List. Following a viewing of the film, Mr. Rosner described his years of separation, starvation and fear as a young child of the Holocaust and then participated in a question and answer period with the students. The assembly was funded by the Ed Fund through a grant submitted by teacher Thom Hornish and is expected to take place again next year.

How You Can Help

There are many ways you can support our work to improve education in Westfield:

- **Donate:** No matter the dollar amount, your contribution is critical. Donations can be made online at <http://www.westfieldnj.com/edfund> or by sending a check to The Education Fund of Westfield, P.O. Box 2221, Westfield, NJ 07090.
- **Honor A Teacher:** Make a contribution in honor of a favorite teacher or other school staff. Teachers will receive a letter from the Ed Fund notifying them of your tribute and will be thanked in an article in the Westfield Leader.
- **Participate In An Event:** Join us at the annual Rock 4 Schools fundraisers and donate to our April 18 clothing drive at Roosevelt Intermediate School.
- **Share Your Time:** We are always looking for new members to join our board. Learn more about how you can share your time and talents with the Ed Fund by emailing edfund@westfieldnj.com.
- **Shop at AmazonSmile:** Visit smile.amazon.com when you shop at Amazon and select "Education Fund of Westfield, Inc" as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to us at no cost to you!
- **Become a School Liaison:** Liaisons share information with parents and staff at their school about the Ed Fund's activities and events. This is a new and important position for the Ed Fund, and requires a very small time commitment. It's a great way to get involved! Contact edfund@westfieldnj.com for more information.