

NEWSLETTER



Hingham Education Foundation



Helping our kids make the grade!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A bit of history...the Hingham Education Foundation was created in the early 1990's in response to a severe fiscal downturn. A group of concerned citizens had the wisdom to create a community partnership financially committed to enriching the quality of public education and instruction in Hingham through both good and bad times.

Fast forward to 2009, and our community is facing the same challenges as in the early 1990s. If you attended the Economic Summit on November 1, you heard that there will be substantial cutbacks to all town services, including the school department. How fortunate we are today that HEF is at the ready working to help bridge those fiscal deficits.

You will read in this Newsletter and on our website about some of the wonderful programs we sponsor, programs we hope make a difference in the educational lives of our children. Additionally, many of you know about our successful SMART™ Board program which enabled us to install 51 boards into our schools, technology that our children would not have without the contributions of private donors.

Now, more than ever, we appeal to you to support our fundraising programs. Please send in those Phon-a-thon donation cards, host an Entertaining for Education Party or run in the 2010 Boston Marathon with an HEF number! Perhaps you are more comfortable attending a party or sponsoring a runner; we simply ask that you help our mission in any way that you can.

On behalf of all of the Trustees, including those original Founders, we thank you for your continuing support.

Carol Falvey, President

FEATURED GRANT

"Bullying, Cyber bullying, and Youth Depression"

John Halligan, the father of cyber bullying victim Ryan Halligan visited the Hingham Schools and community on September 29th and 30th to share his son's story. Ryan was a 13 year old who committed suicide after being bullied by classmates at school and online.

The Hingham Education Foundation provided a grant to the Hingham School District in support of this proactive, community-based solution to school violence. The grant allowed Mr. Halligan to give separate presentations to 7th and 8th graders at the Middle School and grades 9-12 at the High School as well as an evening session which was open to the public.

The idea came from students within the Hingham High School community. Peer mediators viewed a DVD about Ryan's story which made such an impact on the students that they worked with their Advisor to bring Mr. Halligan to Hingham. Their foresight allowed Mr. Halligan to personally tell his story to approximately 1420 students, or 40% of the students in the Hingham School District.

The emotional presentation and genuine concern that John



Halligan was able to convey is an important component to the success that was experienced throughout the school system. From a parental perspective, it was difficult to hear his story, but incredibly important to listen to his reality! We'd all like to think that "it will never happen to us," or that "my child would never do anything like that," but the reality is that it CAN, and they sometimes DO!

From a student perspective it hit home. In talking with my daughter about their presentation, she said that it made an impression on all of the students. The usual talking and fooling around didn't go on during the presentation and the kids were talking about their personal experiences and

continued next page

HEF 2009 PHON-A-THON

Another success!

“I continue to be amazed by the generosity of the Hingham Community and their ongoing dedication to enriching the education of Hingham students.” Those are the sentiments of co-chair Amy Happ after another successful HEF Phon-a-thon.

For three consecutive evenings volunteers from HHS called residents of the community asking for donations to help fund the over \$100,000 worth of grants which will be awarded to teachers this spring.

With the generous donation of office space and phone lines from William Raveis and Coldwell Banker, the students succeeded in securing pledges in the amount of \$26,000 but are hoping to double that amount with pledge cards sent to people who were not home to answer their call.

Volunteer Sarah Middleton said, “This is such a great fund raiser. It is so much fun. I will be back next year!”



HEF Phon-a-thon 2009 volunteers



FEATURED GRANT

“Bullying, Cyber bullying, and Youth Depression” (continued)

identifying possible behaviors they’ve used that could have hurt other students.

Jennifer Henriksen, Assistant Principal of Hingham High School and co-writer of the grant application said that there was a buzz around the school and students were using words from the presentation like “bully” or “bystander.” There were students talking about what they’ve kept silent and there were apologies for past infractions. Mrs. Henriksen knows that this is the first step in bringing awareness to an issue that has been around forever. The difference in bullying today is the use of computers, cell phones, and the internet. As stated in an interview with John Halligan on Frontline, “the computer and internet were not the cause of my son’s suicide, but I believe they helped amplify . . . the hurt and pain he was trying to deal with that started at school and in person in the real world.”

Mrs. Henriksen said that one of the goals of the HHS Improvement Plan is to conduct a series of programs that allow the school to continue to focus on this issue and other challenges our students face in their every day lives. There is a parent workshop being offered on November 3rd regarding Adolescent Psychology – The Parent Version by Joani Geltman, a book discussion will be held on January 13th on

the Negotiation Generation; Take Back Your Parental Authority Without Punishment by Lynne Reeves Griffin, and on March 10th, the climate committee will be discussing the Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness: Five Steps to Help Kids Create and Sustain Lifelong Joy by Edward Hallowell.

What does this mean for parents? Become involved in your child’s cyberspace. Halligan suggests that you sit at the computer and let them teach you how they use the internet. Please go to www.hinghamschools.com and visit the high school site where a link entitled “Tips for safe computer use” will bring you to Halligan’s handout regarding technology. These are practical steps you can take to protect your children.

What does this mean for our children? Hopefully this is another lesson that reinforces the concepts of respecting other people, that all people have worth and dignity, and that it’s important to stand up for what is right and not what your friends think is funny at the expense of another human being.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

RUNNERS WANTED...HEF 2010 BOSTON MARATHON TEAM!



Boston Marathon regular registration is already full even for qualified runners. However, Hingham Education Foundation is still currently accepting applications for its 2010 Boston Marathon Team. Our team in its second year, has a limited 10 official entry numbers. Each team runner will be required to raise a minimum of \$3,250 to help support technology for Hingham schools. Last year our team raised over \$36,000 which was used to put Smart™ Boards in Hingham classrooms. If you have ever dreamed of running the Boston Marathon (26.2 miles!), here is your chance....it could be an outstanding lifetime accomplishment for you! The 114th Boston Marathon will take place on Monday, April 19, 2010. Interested runners should contact: Katherine Forbes at katherineforbes@comcast.net or 781-740-2911 for an application. Applications are due by December 14 and chosen runners will be notified by December 16. For more information or to download an application visit www.hinghameducation.org



2009 HEF Boston Marathon Team Member, Debbie Warran, and her cheering squad!

The Hingham Education Foundation is proud to have provided the Hingham Public Schools over \$115K in grants last spring. For a complete detailed listing of approved grants please refer to the HEF website, hinghameducation.org.

HEF 2010 CALENDAR

Early February	Grant Applications available on HEF website (www.hinghameducation.org)
Early March	Grant Application Deadline
March 26 th - 27 th	Entertaining for Education

For those who wish they could run but can't, you can still participate by sponsoring a runner. Your support will not only encourage the team but also supports Hingham's great schools. Simply mail the coupon below noting 2010 HEF Marathon Team donation. Donations of any amount are appreciated.

YES! I would like to support the HEF 2010 Boston Marathon Team.

Sponsor Name _____

Sponsor Email _____

Donation Amount: _____

Donations of any amount are appreciated!

WHO ARE WE?

The Hingham Education Foundation is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to enriching the quality of public education in Hingham. Since its incorporation in 1992, the HEF has awarded grants to enhance educational quality throughout the system. Funds for the HEF's programs are generated through community contributions, and all monies raised are used to extend public funding for the schools. All donations, in-kind contributions, and volunteer hours are gratefully accepted. For further information, please call 781-740-8217 or visit our website at www.hinghameducation.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

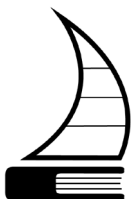
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Christine Wood
Dr. Dorothy Galo, Superintendent, ex officio
Ellen Keane, Assistant Superintendent
Linda Partridge, Teacher Representative

** Please welcome our new board members.*

Goodbye and thank you to the following departing board members:

Janene Burke
Elaine Hoey Gomez
Christine Kay

Thank you to Joe Costello for helping with our taxes and Margaret Hebert for hosting our website.



Hingham Education
Foundation
P.O. Box 284
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Mark your calendars for

Friday, March 26th & Saturday, March 27th, 2010

for the annual

Entertaining for Education Parties

Parties are held at many homes throughout Hingham each spring, entertaining over 1,000 guests.

We are looking for party hosts. Get in on the fun! Together with your friends, host a neighborhood potluck, ladies or gentlemen night out, or a neighborhood backyard bash. Any type of get-together is great!

HEF will help you!

- We will supply invitations
- We will provide a discount on beverages
- We will thank guests for their tax-deductible contributions

Support our schools and have fun at the same time!
All proceeds raised go directly to fund HEF school grants.

If you are interested in hosting, RSVP to the "Entertaining for Education" chairs. We look forward to hearing from you.

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