



# NEF NEWS 2019-2020

NORTHAMPTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 44 · NORTHAMPTON, MA · 01060 · WWW.NORTHAMPTONEDUCATION.ORG

## NEF HIGHLIGHTS

### 2019 - 2020 School Year

- Thanks to all of you, the 2018-2019 Small Grants to Teachers Program awarded \$52,112 to fund 19 projects. This money was raised through our Annual Appeal and the Northampton Adult Spelling Bee.
- This year, the Support Our Schools Book Fund awarded \$20,533 to Northampton's schools to purchase books and educational materials.
- The Daniel Stephen Goldstein Fund supported a lively performance by the Sweetback Sisters, a classic country music group with roots in the Valley. They were joined by NHS students who participated in workshops with them the day before.
- The NEF Endowment awarded \$50,075 for the 2018-2019 school year, with an additional \$5,800 for school years to follow.

## President's message

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Great news—thanks to your generous support, we have raised over 75% of our Endowment goal of a million dollars, ensuring that the NEF continues to empower educators and create meaningful impact in our schools. We're making real, positive change—and you're part of it!

It's hard to concentrate in school if you haven't eaten, so this year a NEF Endowment Grant is funding Breakfast After the Bell at Bridge Street and Ryan Road Schools. Families who qualify for free/reduced lunch also qualify for free breakfast, which has traditionally been served before school, when children naturally prefer playing with their friends. This grant provides all students with a free breakfast that is served after the first bell. We're so proud that our community is pioneering equity in the schools.

Live STEAM provides the foundation for a course on production management and sound recording in the theater program at NHS. This intersection between art, technology, and engineering will take our high school productions to the next level, giving students skills in the complexities and opportunities of new technology.

**Endowment Grants are just one piece of what we do.** We also fund classroom grants and libraries for every school in the district.

Your Opportunity to Make a Difference. Like you, the NEF values equal access to an exciting, effective education. and we are helping our passionate teachers and administrators make the maximum impact. We are very close to our fundraising goal and hope you'll feel moved to help us cross the finish line. Thank you for joining us and for being part of the change!

*Lisa Papademetriou and Jennifer Sanders James*  
Co-Presidents

The Northamptones, who began as a NEF-funded project, will perform at the event.



### BE PART OF THE CHANGE IN NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tuesday, Dec. 3

from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Smith College Campus Center Carroll Room

A festive evening to celebrate the Northampton Education Foundation Endowment, thank our wonderful community of donors, and raise money to bring us to our \$1 million goal

[www.northamptoneducation.org/celebrate](http://www.northamptoneducation.org/celebrate) for more information

# Thank You NEF Annual Fund Donors!

The following donors gave to the NEF Annual Fund from September 2018 through August 2019. Annual Fund dollars underwrite the Small Grants to Teachers program as well as our yearly administrative costs. Thanks for your generous support of NEF and our schools!

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**Daniel S. Goldstein Concert**

The 2019 Goldstein performance will be on Tuesday, November 26 and will feature a performance by Alex Casimiro, who specializes in Brazilian percussion.

*(Note: these performances are NOT open to the public.)*

**SOS PLANT SALE**

Thank you to our new board member, Francie Lin, for taking over the Plant Sale from the capable hands of Robin Fredenfeld.

We raised over \$9,000 for the SOS Book Fund! Francie and dozens of volunteers transplanted plants, lugged them to the sale, tagged them, set up the tent, helped customers, and did the cleanup.

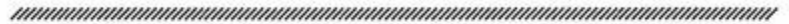
The NEF SOS Book Fund provides funding to each of our schools for books, periodicals and digital aids. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the plant sale.

*Please check the website for more details!*

**Comings and goings on the NEF Board**

Lisa Papademetriou joined Jennifer Sanders James as Co-President. Thank you, Lisa!

We have two new board members. Francie Lin is a writer and editor whose book, *The Foreigner*, won the Edgar Award for Best First Novel. She is the proud parent of a second grader at Leeds and a sixth grader at JFK. Mona Kulp is a faculty member in the Chemistry department at Smith College who has volunteered at numerous science outreach events in Northampton public schools. She has two daughters- a ninth grader at NHS and a sixth grader at JFK.



**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**October 16, 2019**  
*Fall Small Grant deadline*

**October 23, 2019**  
*NEF/PTO gathering,*  
*7 pm, A2Z*

**November 26, 2019**  
*Daniel S. Goldstein concert*

**December 3, 2019**  
*Endowment Campaign*  
*Celebration*

**March 1, 2020**  
*Endowment Grant deadline*

**March 25, 2020**  
*Adult Spelling Bee*

**April 19, 2020**  
*Spring Small Grant deadline*

**May 9, 2020**  
*Plant Sale*

**June 12, 2020**  
*Showcase*

# 19 SMALL GRANTS TO TEACHERS AWARDED

for the 2018-2019 school year, totaling \$52,112

- The Wonders of Water, Year 1** \$3000  
BSS  
Nicole Bunnell, Mary Demerath  
Second graders at Bridge Street will work with Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary to conduct hands-on environmental activities on aquatic ecology and water related topics.
- Number Talks and Socio-emotional Learning, Year 1** \$1200  
JSS  
Mary Cowhey, Tala Cossin  
This Professional Learning Community of teachers at JSS will read and discuss Number Talks: Whole Number Computation, by Sherry Parrish, with the goal of increasing skills in developing computational fluency and socio-emotional learning in their students.
- Red-backed Salamander Project, Year 3** \$2810  
Leeds  
Renee Bachman  
Third graders continue work with Ted Watt, naturalist at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst, to learn about red-backed salamanders in the forests along the Mill River.
- Multi-media Approach to Immigration, Year 1** \$2550  
Leeds  
Andrew Foster, Rocky Mariani-Prati  
Fourth graders will write, edit, produce, design, perform, and distribute a film about immigration from the early 1900's to the present.
- Pottery on Wheels, Year 1** \$2040  
JFK  
Gregg Kerstetter  
Pottery on Wheels (POW) will bring a mobile pottery studio to the RK Finn Ryan Road School, where 5th graders will learn to make a bowl, present it as a gift to a student they do not know, and receive a bowl from another student they do not know.
- Lassia-Tuulo Pen-Pal Project, Year 1** \$500  
JFK  
Phil Cole, Laura St. Pierre, Kaitlyn Myers, Sara Churchill-Winsor  
Students on the Recyclones team will build a relationship with students in Lassia-Tuulo, a rural village in northwestern Ghana, through letters and video-conferencing.
- After School Science Super Group, Year 1** \$2500  
JFK  
Ellen Kennedy  
JFK students representing a cross-section of the student body meet four times a week, twice during lunch hour and twice after school, to explore topics in physics and science.
- Identity Masks Revealed, Year 1** \$2527  
JFK  
Michelle Mallory, Peter LaBruscioro  
Students will create three-dimensional masks that represent what is important to them as they transition from JFK to NHS. A visiting artist and mask-maker will use physical theater and visual arts techniques to help students create their own masks.
- Jazz Ensemble, Year 1** \$2355  
NHS  
Paul Kinsman  
This project will reinvigorate the Jazz program at NHS by creating an ensemble and bringing in local jazz artists to work with students. Building a NHS Jazz ensemble will allow students in the thriving, NEF-funded middle school ensemble program to continue to develop as jazz musicians.
- Bringing the Latin American Rain Forests to Life, Year 2** \$3900  
JSS/JFK  
Tracy Dawson Greene, Diane Zamer, Laura St Pierre, Tara Robinson  
Bringing the Rain Forest to Life uses a real rain forest on the Caribbean coast of Panama to guide students through a largely self-directed exploration of Latin American geography, ecology, human-environment interaction and conservation initiatives.
- Reading Into Diversity, Year 1** \$3500  
Bill Brown, Holly Taylor, Lauren Lawrence-Riddell  
This project will create a reading list of elementary level books that address race, culture and diversity. A collection of reading materials drawn from the list (including picture books, middle readers, biographies, and other non-fiction) will be placed in the libraries of each of the four NPS elementary schools.
- Building a Mindful School Community, Year 1** \$3000  
BSS  
Sara Cobllyn Porth, John Zyskowski  
Sara Cobllyn Porth will deliver mindfulness lessons, based on the Mindful Schools curriculum, to five classrooms at Bridge St. School. Six BSS teachers will be trained to bring the mindfulness curriculum to their classrooms.
- Jackson Street Peacemakers, Year 1** \$3000  
JSS  
Jodi Shaw, Joan Cameron  
The Mediation & Training Collaborative of Community Action Pioneer Valley will work with JSS to create a "Peacemakers" program. This pilot program will build on existing socio-emotional learning curricula and offer training to all 5th graders, teachers and related staff.
- Florence Heights/Meadowbrook Family Engagement, Year 1** \$5000  
Leeds and Ryan Road Schools  
MaryBeth O'Connor, Holly Taylor  
This collaboration between Ryan Road and Leeds Schools will offer a program of after-school family engagement events at two of Northampton's low-income housing developments.
- Summer Reading Success: It's in the Mail! Year 3** \$1000  
Leeds and Ryan Road Schools  
MaryBeth O'Connor, Rachel Ellis  
The goal of the project is to motivate approximately 40 students to read over the long summer months by supplying them with a steady stream of new and exciting books.
- JFK Day of Service, Year 3** \$2890  
JFK  
Michael Sancy, Lesley Wilson  
This school-wide day of community service helps strengthen community connections, promote leadership and citizenship and build pride and self-confidence in the student body.
- Finding Our Voices, Year 1** \$4340  
JSS and NHS  
Gwen Agna, Nick Ames  
SASH (Students Against Sexual Harassment) students from NHS will run an after-school program for 4th and 5th grade students from Jackson Street School on understanding sexual harassment and exploring ways to find their voice and stand up to sexual harassment.
- REAL (Racial Equity and Learning) Northampton, Year 2** \$4000  
K-12  
Deborah Keisch and the NPS Anti-Racism Affinity Group  
The overall mission of the NPS Anti-Racism Affinity Group is to support the school community through ongoing development and implementation of intentionally anti-racist culture and practices.
- ELL Acculturation Project, Year 2** \$3000  
K-12  
Susan Sullivan  
The purpose of this project is to introduce ELL students, many of whom are immigrants or refugees, to US history and culture through hands-on experiences and to document these experiences in writing, photos, and displays to share with peers.

For greater detail  
on the grants, please go to  
[Northamptoneducation.org](http://Northamptoneducation.org)



# HELP US REACH THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE:

## \$1 Million for the NEF Endowment by the end of 2020

### NEF is at such an exciting moment!

Thanks to the generosity of lead donors, we have raised well over \$700,000 in gifts and pledges in our campaign to add \$1 million to our Endowment by the end of 2019.

Right now we have a unique opportunity to grow and protect the NEF Endowment and provide grants offering more time, more money, more impact. Your contribution or pledge to the NEF Endowment will benefit children by enhancing their K through 12 experience and will continue to benefit students and teachers far into the future.

We are so grateful for the wide support already shown by so many. But to achieve our goal, we need full community support.

You can help us reach this \$1 million milestone and impact all Northampton students, now and to come. Thank you – public education in Northampton will be all the stronger for it!

To learn more about the Endowment, see a list of donors to this campaign, and more:

<http://northamptoneducation.org/endowment-grants/>

### TO DONATE:

<https://northamptoneducation.org/donate-to-nef/>

Choose NEF Endowment Fund  
from the drop-down menu.

The NEF Endowment awarded \$50,075 for the 2019-2020 school year, with an additional \$5,800 for school years to follow.

**Breakfast After the Bell:** Bridge St and RKFRR Schools: Many students have hectic morning schedules or sense the stigma around school breakfast. Breakfast After the Bell models break barriers and increase participation, providing a greater percentage of students with one of the most important ways to start their day- a healthy breakfast.

**Grow Food Kids:** All elementary schools: This ongoing project helps students develop positive relationships with food by teaching basic cooking skills, nutrition, and a deeper understanding of where food comes from. Grow Food offers hands-on experiences to students at each of the four Northampton elementary schools in the classroom and on field trips to Crimson & Clover Farm and our Community Garden and Giving Garden.

**Live Steam: NHS:** Students in the performing arts programs will be exposed to and master the advanced technologies used in their disciplines and will be introduced to popular forms of expression which exist outside traditional instrumental, vocal and theatrical curricula. Two courses will be developed in this 3-year program. Music Technology and Sound Recording will teach students musical composition and recording. On the Theater and Film side, Production Management will provide guidance and training to sound engineers, lighting designers, stage managers and producers for live performances.

**Sojourner’s Truth in the 21st Century:** The new 5th grade state standards include Sojourner Truth and other abolitionists in the “Slavery and Legacy of Civil War and Struggle for Civil Rights”. This grant will provide teachers with the necessary support to continue to develop a 5th grade model social studies unit for the district.



NHS students observe an Audubon scientist examine a soil sample as part of the multi-year Endowment project "Arcadia/Audubon Climate Change"



Jo Comerford and Mandy Gerry present an official Senate citation to JSS Principal Gwen Agna announcing the Principal Gwen Agna Fund for Northampton Public Education at the NEF Endowment.

## Thank you to all our 2018- 2019 SOS Book Fund Donors for providing money to each of our schools for books, periodicals, and digital aids!

Jordan Abbott and Justin Gianesin  
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and Debra Novitch  
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Sandra Jean Stattery  
Lesley Slay  
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Jane Sommer  
Spencer Family  
Joel Spiro and Leigh Bailey  
Janet Sponberg  
and Christopher Stetson  
Gail Steele  
Benjamin Steinberg  
and Thuy Nguyen  
Nora Sweeney  
Linda Thomas  
Darlene Thorpe  
Margaret Tomasko  
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Harold and Deborah Wheeler  
Baraka Williams  
Judith Wisch  
Joan Wofford  
Wohl Family Dentistry  
Martin Wohl and Marisa Labozzetta  
Jennifer Wolfson  
Gary and Sandra Worden  
Yellow Wood Farm  
Sarah Zorn  
Donna and Donald Zuckerman



# THE NEF ADULT SPELLING BEE

The 19th Annual NEF Spelling Bee was dedicated to Gerald Budgar, lifelong Northampton resident and prominent advocate for the city, who passed away suddenly on January 20, 2019. Jerry was among the founders of the Northampton Education Foundation and remained on the board ever since. He was the heart (and institutional memory) of our organization, and he was passionate about supporting and enriching our public schools.

## THANK YOU!

### Our Major Sponsors:



The winning team, En Ess Cee, won on the word "pleurodynia". Elizabeth Armstrong, Wendy Parrish, Vanessa Smith.

#### PLEASE THANK OUR GENEROUS TEAM SPONSORS WITH YOUR SUPPORT:

- A2Z Science and Learning Store
- Apex Dental Associates
- Atlys. Sasson, Turnbull, Hoose
- Beit Ahavah
- BHN Court Clinic
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- The Childrens Heart Center
- Cindy Chandler-Guy, Toni Krell, Dale Melcher
- Daily Hampshire Gazette
- The Dadz
- Florentine Films/Hott Productions
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- Greenfield Community College
- Hawley Hooligans
- Journeys Within Massage Therapy
- Leeds Elementary 5th Grade
- Maple and Main Realty/Olin Lippiello LLP
- Marisa Labozzetta and Martin Wohl
- Mayor David Narkewicz Campaign Committee
- Miriam Krell Bourke, Attorney/Mediator
- North Star Teens
- Northampton Area Pediatrics
- Northampton School Committee
- Osaka Lunch Club
- PJ Library
- River Valley Coop
- Ryan Road PTO
- Valley Medical Group
- Wohl Family Dentistry
- Bridge St PTO

**QUEEN BEE:** Susan Rees

**EMCEE:** Peter Bigwood

**WORD PRONOUNCERS:** Stephen Eldredge, Joe Bartolomeo, Julie Waggoner

**JUDGES:** John Provost, Kathy Service, Gwen Agna, Lisa Papademetriou

**WORDS COMMITTEE:** Megan Rubiner Zinn, Lisa Papademetriou, Naomi Shulman, and Molly Burnham

**PROJECTIONISTS:** Christina Petersen and Peter Rayton

**TIME KEEPER:** Sue Larson

**APICULTURISTS (overseeing the swarm):** Josh Bedell, Mary Beth O'Connor, Elizabeth Horne

**BAKESALE:** Jennifer Dieringer

#### ALSO, THANKS TO...

Barry Nigrosh, for creating radio ads year after year, A2Z Science and Learning Store for the beverages, All the generous bakers for the bake sale goodies, Herrell's for ice cream, Judy Herrell for photography, NHS Key Club, Carol MacColl at Paradise Copies for her patience, Susan Rees and Tina White for teamwork, Sonix Pro Audio for sound.



Most humorous, A2Zzz




Best Costume, We've BEEen Framed

**SPELLING BEE 2020**

**MARCH 25, 2020**

*Save the date!*







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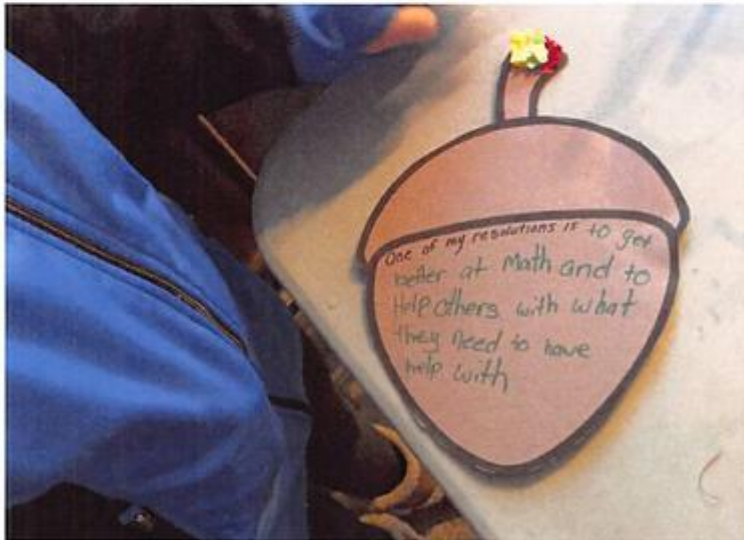
**[www.northamptoneducation.org](http://www.northamptoneducation.org)**

A Community Investment in Our Public Schools

Northampton Education Foundation funds and supports excellence, innovation, and intellectual creativity in Northampton Public Schools. We are an all volunteer organization that relies on the energy, creativity and support of the community to realize our mission of strengthening our schools by enriching students' educational experiences. We rely on your help through the donation of your time and ideas as well as

financial resources

**A Community Investment in Our Public Schools**



A new tutor inspired by the Florence Community Engagement grant



Hunting for Red-backed Salamanders



A handsome award is offered for Red-backed Salamanders!



Local singer-song writer Corey Laitman led a songwriting workshop at NHS; the NHS band later performed its own arrangements accompanying Corey's songs.

**Northampton Education Foundation Board Of Directors**

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