

FOUNDATION FOR Educational Excellence

Providing Educational Enrichment in the Pioneer Valley Regional School District Since 1993

The Mission of FEE

“The purpose of the Foundation for Educational Excellence, a non-profit organization, is to promote educational enrichment, foster community awareness, and encourage individual and corporate involvement in the educational life of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District. The Foundation identifies appropriate educational programs and activities in the arts, the humanities, and the sciences, and seeks to support them and their implementation.”

2018 Annual Newsletter

Inside this issue...

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| About FEE | 1 |
| FEE Mission Statement | 1 |
| 2017 Award Winners | 2 |
| Beryle Hammond | 2 |
| Did You Know? | 2 |
| Find Us on Facebook! | 2 |
| Grants Funded | 3 |
| Support FEE | 3 |
| FEE Board Members | back |
| Call for Members | back |

What is the Foundation for Educational Excellence (FEE)?

About

The Foundation began in 1991 when members of the Pioneer Valley Regional School Committee met with faculty and administration members to discuss how to restore educational enrichment programs that had been cut from the school curriculum due to budget constraints. A plan was made to involve the greater community in a foundation to help support enrichment programs.

Parents, students, teachers, and community members work together to provide or enhance the education of our students. Many of these experiences would be impossible without the help of the Foundation.

Funds Granted

FEE's mission is to fund programs to enrich the educational life of the four elementary schools (Warwick, Northfield, Leyden, and Bernardston) and Pioneer Valley Regional School. They seek to fund programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences that cannot be funded by the regular school budget. Grants are awarded for long-term programs as well as smaller grants for more immediate use.

Teacher Recognition Certificates

At the end of each school year, FEE makes it possible for families in the district to recognize an outstanding teacher or staff person in their school who has made a difference in their child's educational life. For a donation to FEE in any amount, an individualized certificate of recognition will be sent to the honoree noting their outstanding work. Simply send the name of the nominating student, the name of the teacher, and school to the Foundation for Educational Excellence, P.O. Box 56, Northfield, MA 01360 with your check. We will send an acknowledgement letter back to you. Children will be sent home with information and donation forms as well.

Awards and Scholarships

Each year FEE presents the Robert S. Coy Art Award to a graduating senior. The winning piece of art, chosen by the art department, is displayed at Pioneer as part of its permanent collection.

The Richard Martin Theater Award is presented to a graduating senior who has demonstrated commitment, teamwork, and leadership while participating in the annual musical or All School Play in grades 7-12.

FEE facilitates the Greenfield Cooperative Bank Scholarship Award, which is presented to a graduating senior.

Turn to page 2 to see the winners of the 2017 awards and scholarships.....

2017's Winners!



Aisha Mueller

Recipient of the Richard Martin Theater Award



May Kenney

Recipient of the Robert S. Coy Art Award



Samantha Leduc

Recipient of the FEE/Greenfield
Cooperative Bank Scholarship

Beryle M. Hammond

1924 - 2018

Beryle M. Hammond, a long-time resident of Northfield and one of FEE's founders, passed away on January 22, 2018, at the age of 93. Beryle was actively involved with FEE for many years. Her involvement decreased over the past few years, but she remained an honorary member of the Board.



FEE respected Beryle's experience as a teacher, and her involvement with the PVRSD school system. She had a willingness to share her knowledge and time, and showed her support in many ways.

We will always remember her quick wit, her easy smile, and her twinkling eyes. Beryle will be missed by the past and present board of FEE, her many former students, friends, and all who knew her.

Did You Know...

...the Foundation for Educational Excellence (FEE) is *not* a national organization but is instead devoted to students in the Pioneer Valley Regional School District?

...FEE has helped supplement curriculum offerings at Bernardston, Northfield, Pearl Rhodes, and Warwick elementary schools as well as Pioneer Valley Regional School by providing well over \$100,000 in support?

...the Foundation is comprised of Franklin County residents who work independently from the schools.

...your contribution to FEE helps enhance the educational experience of the students in our school district?



Please visit our Facebook page, "Like" Us, and set it to "See First" in the "Following" down menu, so you can remain current on FEE's latest news, including programs, fundraising events, activities, and special announcements.

Go to [facebook.com/FoundationforEducationalExcellencePVRSD](https://www.facebook.com/FoundationforEducationalExcellencePVRSD)

Be sure to find "FEE's Beginnings" in our FB "Notes" section.
Learn all about how the Foundation for Educational Excellence came into being.

2016/2017 School Year Grants Awarded

A professional development grant was awarded to librarian **Fiona Chevalier** at **PVRS** so that she could attend the Massachusetts School Library Association conference.

Nine mini-grants were awarded:

At **Pearl Rhodes Elementary School**, students in grades 5 & 6 read Jane Buchanan’s *Hank’s Story*, a book about orphans and orphan trains. Buchanan visited the school to discuss her writing process and help students to begin creative writing projects of their own.

The “Genius Hour” model at **PVRS** allowed 8th graders to conduct independent studies on their projects for Science Night.

Funds were also awarded to provide supplies for the **PVRS** Science Night.

FEE provided funds for the purchase of one ‘wobble” chair for **Northfield Elementary School**. Flexible seating such as the wobble chair help students with difficulty concentrating on their studies to stay focused for more extended periods of time.

Warwick Community School held a “Genius Hour with a Classroom Makerspace”, funded by FEE. According to teacher Christine Mullen, the Makerspace allowed 4th and 5th graders to “complete challenges that help them to discover the science of engineering, electricity, physics, coding, mathematics, and art.”

Warwick Community School 6th graders with 11th graders in the **PVRS Design and Engineering class** created a “GaGa Pit”. GaGa is a fast moving game that involves a number of players and a ball. Players attempt to knock their opponents out of the game by hitting them below the knees with the ball.

At **PVRS**, FEE funding purchased “TRX Training Kits”, allowing students to tone muscles without lifting weights or causing potential stress to muscles and joints. Students were able to develop their own exercise regimens using this equipment.

FEE provided admission for the **Design and Engineering class** at **PVRS** to the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT, where they learned about aeronautical principles and the design and construction of airplanes.

Photography students at **PVRS** learned about Giclée film transfer techniques in a workshop funded by FEE and taught by PVRS alum, **Terri Cappucci**. Images printed on transparency film were altered using wet sponges, pointed tools, etc., and were then flipped onto watercolor paper treated with hand sanitizer and transferred to the paper using brayers.



Students at PVRS exercise using TRX Training Kits purchased with FEE mini-grant funding.



Giving to the Foundation for Educational Excellence

Please clip this donor coupon and send with your tax deductible donation payable to **PVRS FEE** to:
P.O. Box 56, Northfield, MA 01360

Donor’s Name: _____

In Memory or Honor of: _____

(please circle one)

Address: _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

(name & address)

Thank You for your support!

Donations made in someone’s memory or honor will be acknowledged promptly.

GET INVOLVED. WE ENCOURAGE THINKING "OUTSIDE THE BOX." IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, TALK TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO APPLY FOR A GRANT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL US AT FEE@pvrsdk12.org!

Foundation Board Members

The Foundation for Educational Excellence functions thanks to the time, creativity, and passion of a working board. We express profound appreciation to those board members who serve with enthusiasm and dedication:

Kathy Abbott, Warwick
Millisa Gerry, Bernardston
Jen Glazier, Bernardston
Alison Holbrook, Bernardston
Linda Jacque, Northfield
Justin Lawrence, Bernardston
Barbara Lemoine, Northfield
Lynne Manning, Administrative Assistant, Warwick
Caitlin Sheridan, Northfield



The Board is always looking for people interested in expanding FEE's mission. This invitation is open to all, including those who do not have children in our schools.

Show Your Support for PVRSD Students!

The Foundation for Educational Excellence works to support students and teachers by expanding the opportunities for academic learning and educational enrichment within the PVRS District. The support of individuals and local businesses within our community is critical to underwriting these programs. If your child has benefited from a program funded by FEE, please consider making a contribution to the Foundation for Educational Excellence. Every donor and each contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference for our children. The Board of Directors for the Foundation of Educational Excellence thanks all those who have contributed their time, talents, and energy this year.