



# NCEP News

Spring 2017


Enhancing social, recreational and educational experiences  
for children and youth in the town of Newmarket

## Newmarket Community Education Partnership

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 Find us on Facebook

### Happy Spring!

Look what NCEP has been up to! Since our last newsletter, we've granted \$18,000 to programs that directly support Newmarket's children and youth. In February alone, 13 grants received funding, and we are thrilled to highlight some of them in this newsletter.

~ NCEP Board Members: Nicole Benson, Alicia Buono, Heidi Chase, Alison Leahy, Lisa Kumph, Regan Zimmermann

## Nicholas Popov Award Recipients Recognized

The 2016 **Nicholas Popov Memorial Awards** were given out in June to **Kathi Al-Darraj** and **Delaney Guerino**, two deserving educators at the Jr./Sr. High School. Kathi and Delaney are members of the Newmarket community who demonstrate the spirit of personal generosity, kindness and service that Mr. Popov radiated through his actions as a long-time volunteer in town. This special distinction, which includes a

monetary grant, is funded by the Popov family and administered by NCEP. Please visit our website for more information.

**Kathi Al-Darraj** (pictured left below) is Jr./Sr. High Behavior Specialist. She runs the Interact Club and Youth to Youth. She takes students to local soup kitchens to provide them with service opportunities. Kathi is part of the Wellness Committee and Climate Committee and aids the school and other organizations whenever needed.



**Delaney Guerino** (pictured right) is a 9th grade English teacher who provides guidance and special opportunities for many students. She is an advisor for the National Honor Society, coordinates Poetry Out Loud and offers students the opportunity to take service trips to places like Tanzania and the Dominican Republic.

**Thank you both** for your dedication to Newmarket's kids! And, **thank you to the Popov family**, for continuing to support your father's/grandfather's legacy of kindness and service.

## Fighting Food Insecurity

Many Newmarket students are affected by food insecurity – not knowing where their next meal is coming from. To help ensure all students are alert and ready for learning, NCEP granted the school lunch program \$750 to be used to help pay for breakfast for students in need. Administration, nurses and teachers – at both schools – are working together to make sure no student is hungry.



## A Weighty Matter

NCEP granted \$750 to the Newmarket Jr./Sr. High Wellness Department (health, PE and athletics) for new weight-room gear including: weights, benches, bands and other equipment. The most-recent improvements were five years ago, so granted funds will be used for upgrades as well as to replace unsafe equipment.



## Say Cheese

Students in grades 3-5 will benefit from new digital cameras thanks to a \$750 NCEP grant. The cameras will be used for a variety of technical and art applications including image



composition, photo editing, graphic design, marketing, etc. Putting this high-quality equipment in students' hands will give them an opportunity to bridge practical tech skills and artistic creativity.

## Wobbling Helps!

Students have different physical needs when it comes to learning, and providing alternative seating is helping some of them succeed. NCEP granted \$325 for “wobble” chairs to be used in a grade 1-2 classroom.

The constant wobble engages muscles and provides an opportunity to release excess energy, improve balance and help students' back, knees and hips rest comfortably. This movement results in better, more engaged learning.



## Critters on the Move



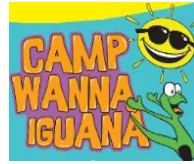
A grant of \$211 will help keep ground-hogs and deer away from the elementary

school's gardens. Last season, students were disappointed to see their carefully tended vegetables disappear before their eyes by hungry animals. The temporary fencing – to be replaced with something more permanent after school construction – will encourage the critters to eat elsewhere!

## Summer Camp Scholarships

For 12 years, NCEP has supported Newmarket Recreation Department camp scholarships. Funds raised during 2016 made it possible for us to present the REC department with a check for \$4,000 in March. This

grant helps ensure that every child who wants to attend summer camp has the opportunity to do so.



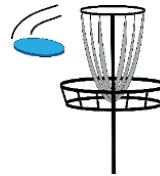
## Nature's Classroom

In May, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will spend three days at the AMC Mountain Classroom. Two separate grants totaling \$1,250 will help make this enriching experience affordable for all students. The curriculum includes nature conservation, hiking and exploring, and at the same time imparting life skills such as teamwork, independence and self-discovery.



## Disc Golf

A grant for \$750 was awarded for the purchase of movable practice disc baskets and discs. Disc golf is a competitive game like golf, but with discs (think Frisbees). The athletic equipment will be set up around the REC fields and used for physical education at the Jr./Sr. High School, after school clubs and the summer REC program.



## Students Study Robotics

NCEP granted \$526 to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade tech ed class for the purchase of a Lego Robotics kit to be used with other kits recently acquired. Lego programming is used as a way to increase a students' higher order thinking skills and to help keep



them keep current with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. The additional kit will help reduce the students-per kit ratio allowing for more hands-on learning.

## A Success Two Years Running



NCEP's second **Newmarket Eats** was a great success thanks to our volunteers, donors and

attendees. Once again, it was a sell-out crowd and evening profits approached \$7,000. Planning is underway for **Newmarket Eats 2017** set for **November 9th**. Keep an eye out on Facebook and our website for more information.



## Join NCEP?

Since NCEP's inception in 2004, we have awarded over **\$100,000 in grants and scholarships to Newmarket's children and youth.**

Are you interested in joining our **Board of Directors?** *We'd love to hear from you.* With minimal time commitment, board members have an opportunity to directly support Newmarket's children. Please talk to one of our board members, contact us on Facebook or email us at [ncepconnects@gmail.com](mailto:ncepconnects@gmail.com).

## Support NCEP

**We couldn't do all this without your support!** We appreciate your tax-deductible donations. Please give online or at: NCEP, P.O. Box 536, Newmarket, NH 03857.



**Thank you!**