

SCHOOL NEWS

Valley Central Foundation presents awards

On Thursday evening, October 3, the Valley Central Education Foundation held its Second Annual Harvest Awards Reception, at Osiris Golf Course. Eighty-five people were in attendance as Anne Sussdorf and Patrick Carrfizzi were honored with the Foundation's "Sowing the Seed, Reaping the Dream" awards for 2013. Each received a glass apple, hand blown at Hudson Beach Glass, in Beacon, NY.

In addition, the Foundation awarded its first annual Teacher Grants.

Anne Sussdorf was honored for her forty-two years as an educator in the Valley Central School district. Her career began at VC as a student teacher in 1971, then as a reading teacher in the Middle School, then assistant principal in Walden and then as principal at Maybrook Elementary from 1997 until her retirement this past year.

Patrick Carrfizzi was honored for his outstanding career in the field of music. Patrick regularly performs with the New York Metropolitan Opera as well as the San Francisco Opera, the Seattle Opera and the Opera in Cologne Germany.

Recent notable roles include Paolo in "Simon Boccanegra" with San Francisco Opera, Brander in Berlioz' La damnation de Faust with the Metropolitan Opera, Nourabad in "Les Pêcheurs de Perles" with Seattle Opera, Taddeo in "L'italiana in Algeri" with Dallas Opera, Dr. Bartolo in "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" with Canadian Opera Company and Papageno in "Die Zauberflöte" with Houston Grand Opera. Additionally at the Metropolitan

Opera, he has performed such roles as Schaunard in "La Bohème," the Mandarin in "Turandot," Masetto in "Don Giovanni," Haly in L'italiana in Algeri, and Peter Quince in Benjamin Britten's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Patrick will be performing in three operas this season at the Metropolitan Opera.

This year marked the first year that the Foundation has given Teacher Grants to Valley Central teachers. Five excellent programs were selected and awarded grants.

First Grant Recipient is for "Understanding Food from plant to table" submitted by Nancy Phelps of Walden Elementary - This project is math and science based with a writing component for each activity. Ms. Phelps will lead her class, throughout the course of the school year, with activities including apple pie making and a trip to Fox Hill for making of maple syrup. It's a truly wonderful way to enhance the learning in her classroom.

Second Grant Recipient is for the "Berea Chess Club" submitted by Amy Van Zanten of Berea Elementary. Ms. Van Zanten will host a chess club during recess once a week. When the idea was presented to the fifth grade class, more than half of the students signed up. The VCKF will pay for the necessary chess sets to allow all the students to learn to play chess, gain an understanding of the game, and have collaborative discussion around new learning strategies. Who knows, maybe we have the next Bobby Fisher in the making!



Lisa Lewis, Patrick Carrfizzi, Juanita Valastro, Anne Sussdorf, Diane Cartright, Mary Ann Lindner.

Third Grant Recipient is for "Using Nooks to Increase Student Achievement" submitted by Tara Meyer and Kerry Devine of Walden Elementary. The grant is to purchase three Nook HD Tablets to be used with students with special needs who read significantly below grade level. Using the Nook will allow students to read books on their level, without feeling uncomfortable and benefit those who have trouble concentrating or need text sizes to be bigger.

Fourth Grant Recipient is for "8th Grade Art Service Club," submitted by Francine Adams of the Middle School. The grant will purchase supplies and the club will study a variety of clay and fiber art products in our consumer society. They will design and create art products that can be sold, design and set-up displays, keep inventory and sales records.

The products will be sold and the profit will be donated to charity. Creating art and supporting charity, a great combination.

Fifth Grant Recipient is for "Homeless Help" submitted by Barbara Gravel. In Valley Central we have an average of 150 homeless students. The district has been awarded a McKinney-Vento Act Grant in the amount of \$550, but this is not enough to meet the needs of our homeless students which could be school supplies, sneakers to participate in physical education and even necessary hygiene supplies such as soap, shampoo and toothpaste. The VCKF Grant will be used once the McKinney-Vento Act grant has been exhausted. This is all done in a discreet and respectful way.



Meghan Caldwell (Patrick Carrfizzi's sister), Gail Caldwell (Patrick Carrfizzi's mother), Patrick Carrfizzi.

Pine Bush High School schedules homecoming festivities

Pine Bush will be sporting blue and gold next weekend, when Pine Bush High School hosts its annual Homecoming Weekend festivities.

The celebration will kick off at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 25 with a Bonfire and Pep Rally at the Town of Crawford Government Center, located at 121 State Route 302 in Pine Bush.

The fun will continue on Saturday,

October 26 when a Homecoming Parade steps off from the parking lot of Edward J. Russell Elementary School at 11:30 a.m. The parade, which is open to students, faculty, town officials, local business owners, and police and fire departments, will march down Center Street before turning onto Main Street and continuing onto Route 302.