

Catherine Dhingra Receives WEF's Impact Award

Wakefield Educational Foundation (WEF) recently held 22nd Annual Celebration of Learning Ceremony and Reception at the Galvin Middle School. The inaugural event was the inspiration of the late Dr. Christine Bridges, a former school committee member, chairperson and very involved citizen of Wakefield. The evening was conceived as an avenue for recognizing exemplary faculty, volunteers, students and Wakefield community members, truly a celebration of the things that make our schools great.

Elizabeth Russell of WEF and Superintendent Dr. Kim Smith proudly presented WEF's **Impact Award** to Catherine Dhingra (center) in recognition of the significant impact that she has had in our school district and our community.



Following are Dr. Smith's remarks honoring the Mrs. Dhingra with the Wakefield Educational Foundation's **Impact Award**:

"Catherine's leadership with Wakefield's unified prevention coalition, WAKE-UP, has propelled the organization to be a significant, action-oriented presence in our community. Catherine has developed Youth Action Teams at Wakefield High School at the Galvin, and these students are doing

incredible work in their schools and community to raise awareness and promote positive, healthy life styles."

"Catherine has been a guiding presence with the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, assisting school administrators with the implementation of the survey, interpretation of results, and development of responsive action steps each year. Her assistance with new substance abuse prevention screening regulations has been critical."

Catherine has also assumed a major leadership role in organizing and presenting at the school district's annual Parent University program. Dr. Smith concluded, "Just like anything else she is a part of, she raises the level of professionalism, meaning, and excellence. Catherine is an exceptional educator, her positive energy is contagious, and she models service to community in a way that the rest of us can only aspire to."