



CAPE Continues Its Strong Start

In its two years since revitalization, the Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) has drawn tremendous support from the community, with a volunteer board and the enthusiastic endorsement of the School Committee and Superintendent, Dr. Irene Sherry Kaplan. CAPE is a non-profit, community-based foundation dedicated to enhancing Canton's commitment to excellence in public education. We seek to promote innovative and productive programs that challenge students and teachers to achieve their true potential. As a partner with both the community and the schools, we raise money to sponsor grants for projects that will successfully achieve this mission. The purpose of our grants is to provide funding for the development of innovative and enriching educational projects within the existing goals and curriculum of the Canton Public Schools.

CAPE is staffed entirely by volunteers. Our success hinges on the involvement of people dedicated to making Canton Public Schools the best they can be. Especially in these challenging times, CAPE's work is all the more important. Most of the organization's efforts goes into soliciting funding for grants from generous individuals,

corporations and foundations. To date, our *Honor Thy Teacher* campaign and the annual *Celebration of the Senses* gala have provided the bulk of our grant funds. This year we are planning other events and initiatives to raise awareness and increase the amount we have to fund grants. Others in the organization are involved in publicity, grant review and monitoring, database maintenance and other internal support tasks.

We encourage you to join the ranks of those who advocate for a brighter future for our schools and our students by investing in our success.

Save the Dates!

Friday, November 3, 2006 – Spelling Bee! Elementary school finalist competition, as well as a chance for adult teams to square off!

Friday, March 2, 2007 – Third annual *Celebration of the Senses* will be a bit more informal, and the trivia contest returns!

Please help us support creativity and innovation in the Canton Public Schools!

Yes, I would like to support the initiatives of Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE).

- Enclosed is my tax deductible \$10 membership dues for the 2006/07 academic year. (You'll get a free bookmark clip!)
- I am making an additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ .
(If you want a receipt for your donation, please check here and include e-mail address below).

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

telephone _____ e-mail _____

school affiliation (check any that apply): Hansen Kennedy Luce GMS CHS Other

- I would like to help with a small volunteer task. Feel free to contact me.
- I would like to take an active roll in CAPE, either on the board or as a project coordinator.

Please return this portion of the newsletter with your check payable to: Canton Alliance for Public Education, P.O. Box 482, Canton MA 02021.

CAPE Grants Fund a Wide Range of Initiatives

The money raised by CAPE is used to award grants to teachers and others who seek support for programs that challenge students to achieve their true potential. CAPE awards grants for creative programs in literacy, science, technology, the arts, and student enrichment, as well as curriculum materials and professional development that are not funded in the operational budget. The grants provide a unique opportunity for teachers to try interesting challenging programs that are currently not a part of the curriculum. Since revitalization, CAPE has received \$79,684 in requests, and has been able to award \$34,595 in grants. More extensive descriptions are available on our website, www.CantonEducation.org.

2004/05 Grants

Family Literacy Nights (Luce) – *Provided evening workshops for parents of PreK - Grade 2 students highlighting reading strategies that promote literacy and helping parents to foster a love of reading in their children.*

Listening Centers (Hansen) – *Funded the establishment of two listening centers, each serving two 5th grade classrooms. Students engage in literature through differentiated instruction.*

Extreme Reading Club (GMS) – *Supported an after school reading club for students that focused on award winning books and quality literature. It created a safe and comfortable environment for students to discover young adult literature and their connections to it.*

Math Games Club (Kennedy) – *After school enrichment program provided 3rd grade children the opportunity to play games that offered extra practice with pertinent math skills, strengthening the foundation for more complex math concepts and problem solving within the classroom.*

Technical Theatre Training (CHS) – *Funded a workshop to provide the training needed to insure that the equipment in the newly refurbished auditorium is used safely, effectively and that equipment is treated with the necessary care to insure long lasting use.*

2005/06 Grants

In Praise of the Earth: Stories, Journals, Poems from Where We Live (GMS) – *Clare Walker Leslie of the Audubon Visual Arts Center – a noted educator, naturalist, artist, illustrator and author – introduced students to nature journaling. This process reinforces language arts skills and the study and expression of art through nature.*

Nature Tech Club (GMS) – *Funded a pilot program for middle school students with an interest in designing and constructing devices related to natural and physical sciences.*

Strengthening Mathematical Thinking Through Problem Solving (Hansen) – *Students work independently to solve real-world mathematical problems, share solutions with partners and/or small groups and finally, innovative solutions are shared among the whole class using visualizers and projectors.*

Using Literature to Promote Character (Luce) – *Integrated key literacy objectives with the current student recognition/character*

education program. At each grade level students were exposed to stories from a multicultural anthology devoted to the themes of kindness, best effort and respect.

Canton Homework and Tutoring (CHAT) Club (CHS) – *Through this grant Canton High School developed an after school homework and tutoring program targeting students at risk of failing academic coursework.*

School Book Closet (GMS) – *Developed a high quality book collection to support the school's reading program through access to a wider range of materials appropriate to students' needs, abilities and interests.*

Fun and Games in Colonial Times (Kennedy) – *Through this grant music, dance, food, game and art activities were integrated into the curriculum to provide hands-on, experiential learning for the students. The focus is on activities that went on in the home during the this time period with an emphasis on children's experiences.*

Visiting Music Therapy Program for Children with Autism (Luce) – *Introduced music therapy to the preschool and primary level programs for children with autism and other significant disabilities, addressing many of the sensory needs of these students in a fun and interactive setting.*

Civil War Reenactment and Encampment (GMS) – *The entire 8th grade participated in a multidisciplinary Civil War Reenactment Day Exit project, providing the students with a total immersion, experiential approach to learning that promoted reading, writing, public speaking, and developed an affective, emotional connection to the topic.*

2006/07 Grants

In School Design (CHS) – *The Fine Arts and Science and Technology department students will replicate a real-world design and production team. Working together they will produce wearable products that will be available for sale in the school store. Rodman Ford has provided \$1,000 in matching funds for this grant.*

Composition and Community (Luce, Kennedy) – *Each 5th grade class will create and perform musical work using Orff methodology and instruments. They will perform at a concert which will raise funds for a charity they have selected.*

Video on Demand (GMS) – *This project will provide access to 1,000 current videos to enhance and support current curriculum and instructional materials. This server based, subscription service will provide outstanding materials that would not otherwise be available to teachers and students.*

Improving Mathematical Communication and Strategies (Luce, Hansen, Kennedy) – *Working across all three elementary schools, this project will use a visualizer to to advance teaching of mathematics and to better accommodate different learning styles.*

CONNECT: Bringing Family Literacy to Life through Literature Backpacks (Hansen) – *Literacy backpacks will be used in the 1st grade to promote literacy development and to enhance the involvement of families in their child's learning and development.*