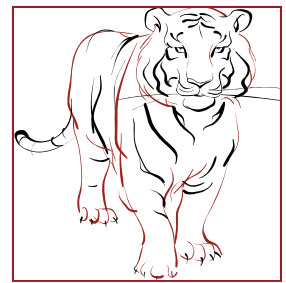


BLOOMFIELD

Educational ★ Foundation



~ Quarterly Newsletter ~
Summer 2008

A Message from our Chairman:

We hope you enjoy the first newsletter of the Bloomfield Educational Foundation. Michael Scurman, our Vice Chairman, created this publication as a means of communicating the past, current and future endeavors of the Foundation in our pursuit of aiding Bloomfield students.

The Blfd. Educational Foundation was founded 7 years ago by Joe Kliminski and Bob Fetterly along with then Superintendent of Schools, Tom Dowd. It's mission is to encourage and supplement creative and innovative programs for today's students. The complexity of the times necessitates private funding to supplement public education in order to give our children the tools necessary to succeed.

We know you will find these news bits enjoyable. We encourage you to join with us in raising the funds needed to carry on and add to the programs that have been created.

We're looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Annual Award Dinner that will take place on April 17, 2009 when we "honor the past to benefit the future." *Howard Friedman, Chairman*

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64 Win Streak Event A Huge Success

A Great Night To Be A Bengal!

On Friday, April 11, 2008 over 175 Bengal supporters gathered at The Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, to honor members of the Bloomfield High School 1956, 1957 and 1958 boys' basketball teams that amassed the longest modern day public school winning streak in New Jersey's history. It is still the number to beat today! Under the direction of legendary coach George Cella, these teams tallied 64 consecutive wins, offering three seasons of nail-biting, hair-raising, edge-of-your seat entertainment.

Bloomfield Educational Foundation (BEF) Chairman-Emeritus, Joseph Kliminski, and Past Chairman, Robert Fetterly, headed a committee of BEF Board members, current HS Athletic Department personnel, and players from the teams, who set out to honor these young men on the 50th year anniversary of this memorable achievement. A majority of players and managers attended with their families and friends. Coach Cella and Assistant Coach Moore's sons joined in the festivities as well. The Foundation pulled out all stops for them, including a memorabilia table, created by BHS Athletic Director, Steve Jenkins. A DVD that chronicled the Streak with newspaper clippings and actual game footage, and was set to music of the times. A delicious dinner followed the cocktail hour and was highlighted by a Proclamation presentation by Mayor Raymond McCarthy. There was a gift of an engraved, commemorative watch and a 64 Game Streak pin for each player. Entertaining comments and 'trips down memory lane' were made by each team captain, and a keynote speech was given by basketball great, Bill Raftery.

Proceeds from this event will fund upcoming projects, funded by the Bloomfield Educational Foundation. Due to the overwhelming success of this event, next year's event is planned for Friday, April 17, 2009, at Forest Hill Field Club. If you would like an invite, email us at info1@bloomfieldeducationalfoundation.org.

Annual Sunset Classic A Huge Success Over 700 Participants Help Raise Funds For Special Education



Joe Kliminski the CEO of American Bank, with starter pistol in hand, fired the shot that initiated the 21st running of one of New Jersey's most popular road races. Runners from all over the tri-state area ran through the streets of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge in hopes of crossing the finish line at Foley Field where crowds of hundreds cheered each runner on. For less experienced runners there were "kids sprints" and a one mile fun run. When the races ended, the fun was just beginning. Brookdale Shoprite donated plenty of food, drinks, and ice for everyone to enjoy while music played in the background.

This annual event, presented by the Bloomfield Educational Foundation, is organized to help the Vocational Educational Special Training (VEST) program. The VEST program is housed in Bloomfield High School and is comprised of challenged adolescent boys and girls in Essex County from 15 to 21 years old. Proceeds from this event are donated directly to the VEST program to provided educational and recreational opportunities for our special needs population. The BEF would like to thank this year's sponsors and supporters: American Bank of NJ, Brookdale Shoprite, Lummus Technology, Pharma Chem Lab, Decker Tape, Essex BMW, Mountainside Health Foundation, St. Valentine's Athletic Club, Fleet Feet Sports of Montclair, Isbre Water, Vinnie's Pizzeria, JT Murdoch Shoes, Glen Ridge Rotary, O'bals Inn, Seniorita's Mexican Restaurant, Grand Rental Station, McCarthy Appraisal, Town Pub, Atlantic Track & Turnout Co., Brookdale Dental Group, Johanna Foods Inc., Bloomfield Rotary, Norton Travel, Generazio Associates Inc., Key Club, Women's Club of Bloomfield, Cub Scout Troop 23, and all the Township departments from Bloomfield & Glen Ridge.

The Bloomfield Educational Foundation is proud to host such a worthwhile event that helps support the Bloomfield Public school system. If you are interested in participating or supporting next year's race, please mark Thursday, June 25, 2009 on your calendar or email us at info1@bloomfieldeducationfoundation.org.

Mini Grant Spotlight

Many rockets were launched into the sky on Thursday, May 29th due to funding provided by the BEF. Over 110 students and faculty gathered at Foley Field to participate in BHS's 2nd Annual Rocket Launch. BEF members hope their contribution will help propel these students' careers in aerospace technology!

Donor of the Quarter

Pat Pontoriero
of
Vinnie's Pizzeria
414 Broad St.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Thank you for your
generous support!



BEF Grant to ‘CATS’ Production Yields Rising Star Awards



When the new BHS auditorium was scheduled to open, only one production fit the bill for this special occasion - CATS. But the budget didn't include extras. So Director Cormac McGowan turned to the BEF for help. And help they did, by making up the shortfall to purchase MEHRON makeup (used in the original Broadway production of CATS) and to send the actors and actresses to special classes to hone their makeup application and hair style skills.

The results were truly outstanding. Before each show, the cast spent more than 40 minutes applying their makeup to perfection. The students performed in their new venue to packed houses. "I was so proud of the students' accomplishments" said McGowan. "They bought into the concept from day one. I have never seen a group work harder or be more dedicated. They gave me all the extra time I needed."

Unlike most of the previous high school musicals, CATS began over a year before its opening, with students going into rehearsals and attending dance workshops to learn original choreography. The workshops were run by Chelsea Cicci, a Bloomfield High School alum, and Derek Hansen, who along with Chelsea was in the national tour of CATS. "It is totally different from anything I've done," said HS junior, Jack Cummins, who played Old Deuteronomy.

Perhaps the greatest thrill occurred after the show was over, when the producer, cast, and crew learned they had been nominated for eight Papermill Playhouse Rising Star Awards, including Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical, and Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role. Ultimately, the production won two awards. First, Outstanding Hair and Makeup Achievement for its use of the MEHRON make up provided by the BEF was awarded to Chelsea Cicci, Derek Hansen, and Jessica Barton, a teacher at Bloomfield's Demarest School. Furthermore, directors Cormac McGowan and Chelsea Cicci were honored with an award for Outstanding Achievement by a Teacher or Outside Director. Congratulations to all!

BLOOMFIELD Educational ★ Foundation

365 Broad Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

*Here is the inaugural issue of our newsletter!
See inside for the latest news about Bloomfield
Schools and alums!*

Soaring to Success Improves Upon Last Year's Achievements

If the BEF Board was wowed by the accomplishments of last year's Soaring to Success after-school program at the Middle School, this year's report **really** delivered. Over 90% of responding teachers reported this program met or exceeded the needs of the targeted middle school students.

The brainchild of Middle School Principal, Patricia Pelikan, Soaring to Success began last year as a pilot program for students with average grades whom she believed, with some extra help, could achieve above average scores. Every report issued to the BEF by program coordinator, Suzanne Johnson, confirmed those beliefs. These reports have shown that reading and math scores have improved on standardized testing as well as grades on report cards. In addition to the academic portion, this unique and innovative program also incorporates a recreational athletic component that helps to keep their bodies fit!

In a recent survey taken at the end of the school year, 92% of the students involved said they enjoyed the program and would return the following school year! Based on these positive indicators, the Middle School has plans to increase the number of students participating and as a result of this increase will require additional teachers and staffing. The Foundation has again been asked to fund the wonderful program. If you would like to receive more information or assist in funding this extraordinary project or any of our other worthy programs please contact our Executive Director, Ann Dassing at info1@bloomfielddeducationalfoundation.org.

Interested in learning more about the BEF and finding ways you can help?

Visit our website at:

www.Bloomfielddeducationalfoundation.org