



2015 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

FOUNDATION FOR WALLINGFORD-SWARTHMORE SCHOOLS

November 2015



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Wallingford-Swarthmore Community Supporters,

Thank you for believing in strong public education. Your generous gifts to the Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools gave our students an edge. You have supported educators throughout our district who bring our children music, hands-on science, and reading fundamentals. Our children have classroom libraries, a middle school robotics program, and many more opportunities to learn and develop their skills and interests. Our educators devote countless hours to provide additional programs, technologies, and materials for our children. These types of opportunities take more than money, they take dedication, enthusiasm, and cooperation on the part of parents, community members, teachers, administrators, and the school board. And, they take careful planning.

In the Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools' five-year history, we have always looked to the future and planned for it. This planning brought stability to our schools in spite of inherently unstable funding, which, in turn, brought continuous improvement. We strive to continue to introduce and support innovative programs throughout our school district.

You can see success in our award-winning high school music program that is comprised of students who have studied music since elementary school; with our award-winning high school robotics program that will soon have students who have studied robotics since elementary school; with young students whose love of reading further develops through literature circles; and with the college acceptances our seniors receive.

Few Pennsylvania school districts offer students the chance to participate and excel at the highest level in academics, the arts, and athletics like ours does. Some have one or the other, but few have all three.

In this Report to our Community we provide an overview of accomplishments to date and hope to share with you the valuable impact we are having on our schools.

Sincerely,
Frannie Reilly

It is the mission of the Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools to support innovation and excellence in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District and to enhance the quality of public education by engaging the support and energies of educators, parents, students, alumni, and the greater community.

\$480,000 to Support Innovation & Excellence in WSSD Public Schools

Since its inception in 2010, the Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools has managed \$480,000; funds that support special projects and teaching tools in the arts, music, science, reading, math, environmental science, physical education, and technology.

Foundation Primer

We are an independent non-profit organization run by a volunteer board of parents. Raising money from parents and local businesses, we grant this money to our school district to pay for special projects and teaching tools across our five schools. We work closely with district and school leadership to identify funding priorities and then issue grant funds to support needs.

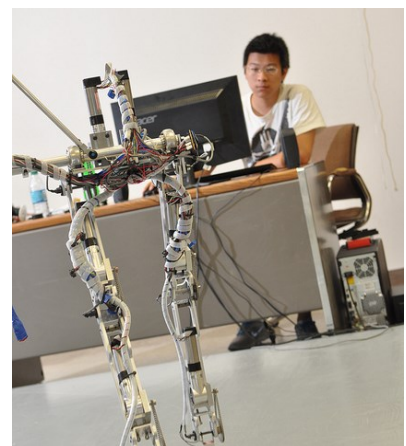
Teachers apply for grant funding each year for support of innovative efforts that enhance educational opportunities for our children. In addition, the Foundation and the school district identify innovative programs for the Foundation to support. Two major fundraising efforts are conducted each year: the Panther Pajama Run and Pancake Breakfast in the fall and Arts4Smarts, a silent auction in the spring. Last, the Foundation serves as an umbrella 501(c)(3) organization for other fundraising efforts in the district.

Robotics

In 2013, the Foundation voted to fund a comprehensive Middle School Robotics Program, which built on the success of the Strath Haven High School Robotics Team.

The total cost to fund the Middle School Robotics Program was \$30,000 and the Foundation provided the initial funding of \$10,000 in June 2013. Following the success of Arts4Smarts, the Board voted to fund the remaining \$20,000 to complete the funding of this program.

In the same year, through teacher grants, the Foundation supported the development of a new Fifth Grade Robotics Program along with a pilot robotics program which will serve to engage 4th graders in the fundamentals of robotics. These programs have benefitted over 100 students to date.



GRANTMAKING

New & Expanded School Programs

Did You Know?

Last year, the Foundation provided \$15,000 for teacher projects which encompassed every school and grade in the district. Projects come in a variety of forms including:

“Tchoukball” Encourages Competition Without Aggression: The WSSD Health and Physical Education Department is now utilizing Tchoukball, an approach developed by Dr. Hermann Brandt which aims to remove from athletic competition military and confrontational mindsets and instead encourages competition without aggression, rewards problem-solving as well as physical ability, promotes teamwork, and teaches principles of physics. With the Foundation’s support of over \$2,000, this innovative program benefits children across all grade levels, beginning with the early elementary years.

Supporting High School Environmental Science: Carolina STEM Challenge kits serve to increase students’ awareness of environmental science. These kits are used by the Ninth Grade environmental science classes, which includes approximately 150 students. Student teams design, build, test, and compete in a cooperative-learning environment.

Middle School Anti-Bullying Program: In collaboration with CHOP and Dr. Stephen Leff, the guidance office at the middle school will be working with an expert in the field of violence prevention and anti-bullying to offer new resources for students in grades seven and eight (600 students total).

Elementary Learning Support iPad Writing Project: Puts iPads into the hands of students in three learning support classes for a total funding of \$1,149. The technology allows students to speak, write and support similar approaches to capture students thoughts and ideas and produce a copy that is ready for the editing process.

“It is especially important when school district budgets are tight to have resources for teachers to support innovative efforts”

*- Mary Gay Scanlon
School Board Member*

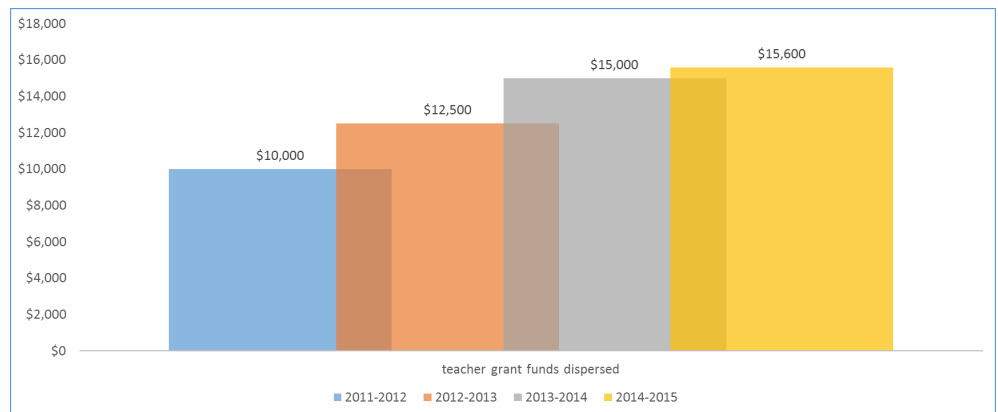


Establishing a High School Garden:

In 2014, the Foundation funded \$4,466 to begin work on the first phase of a multi-teacher effort at Strath Haven High School to plan, build, and manage a large school garden. The undertaking will incorporate Environmental Science, Math, Applied and Visual Arts, Health and Physical Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Computer Science, Graphic Design, and other disciplines. The garden is located near the entrance of the Middle School and is expected to benefit more than 850 students.



Summary of Grant Funding By Year



Building Classroom Libraries

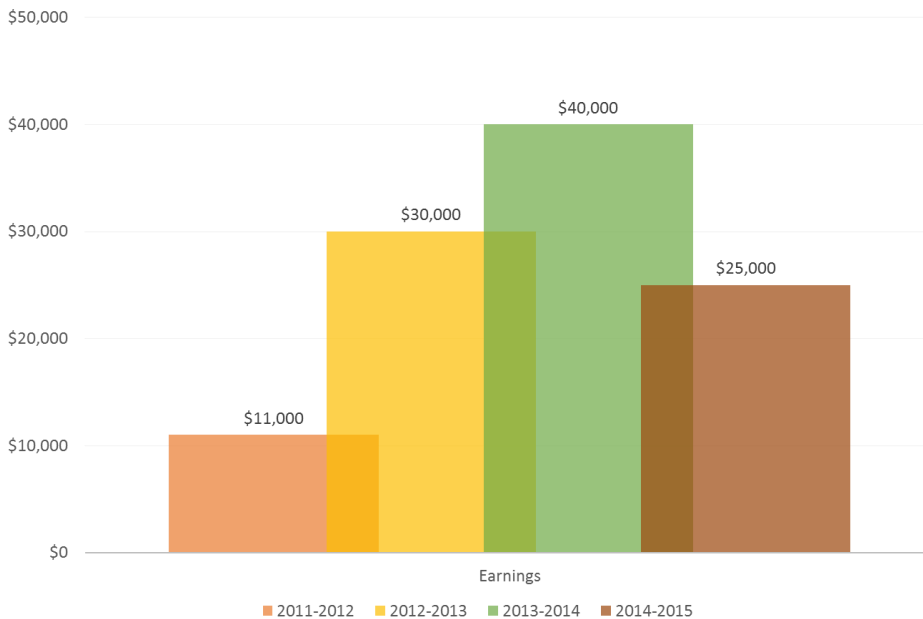
As approaches to teaching reading have shifted to careful alignment of the difficulty of texts with students' reading ability, it has become more important for classrooms to have multiple texts and multiple copies of texts for students. Collections of books in classrooms to allow for differentiation in the language arts classrooms ensures that every child has access to books appropriate for his or her reading level and interest. The Classroom Libraries Initiative helps teachers to successfully institute "book clubs," "reading workshops," and "literature circles" in classrooms. The total cost to fund the Classroom Libraries Initiative is \$46,000 and the Foundation has provided the funding through the success of Arts4Smarts.

FUNDRAISING

Community Support Making a Difference

Each year the Foundation undertakes two major fundraising efforts: Arts4Smarts and the Panther Pajama Run and Pancake Breakfast. In 2014, the events raised nearly \$50,000 while bringing together 500 school district supporters.

Summary of Arts4Smarts Income



Panther Pajama Run & Pancake Breakfast

No running gear is needed, just a pair of pajamas! Each year the Panther Pajama Run brings together 400 sleepy enthusiasts for a morning of fitness followed by a pancake breakfast. Events include a 5K, family fun walk, sprint races for kids and a contest for the best pajamas. In 2014, the event raised over \$8,000 for the Foundation.

Arts4Smarts

www.arts4smarts.org

Each spring over 250 local residents converge to celebrate our commitment to the schools. The 4th annual Arts4Smarts held in 2015 was a financial success raising over \$25,000. The auction included over 200 items donated by local restaurants, artists, teachers, students, and residents. The funds raised are used to fund the major initiatives supported by the Foundation such as the Middle School Robotics Program and the Classroom Libraries Initiative.



OUR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In the past five years, the Foundation has managed \$480,000 in funds. General funds income derived from individual donations, United Way contributions (our donor number: 49418) the Panther Pajama Run and Pancake Breakfast and Arts4Smarts. Other income sources include the Strath Haven High School Home and School (SHHS H&S), Team up for Turf, We the People, ASK, SHHS Seeds for Success, and the Silvertones. The Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools' financial statements are audited by the accounting firm William E. Howe & Co., CPAs and are maintained monthly by the Foundation treasurer.

Income	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	TOTAL
General	\$1,142.09	\$25,385.13	\$59,994.95	\$65,329.23	\$54,554.07	\$206,405.47
SHHS H&S	-	-	\$1,683.00	\$10,625.00	\$7,127.00	\$19,435.00
Turf	\$3,850.14	\$86,854.62	\$116,501.16	\$3,666.00	\$601.84	\$211,473.76
We the people	-	-	\$1,447.50	-	-	\$1,447.50
ASK	-	-	-	\$6,390.00	\$750.00	\$7,140.00
Silvertones	-	-	-	-	\$34,385.55	\$34,385.55
Total	\$4,992.23	\$112,239.75	\$179,626.61	\$86,010.23	\$97,418.46	\$480,287.28

The Foundation is providing a critical service—it gives various groups in the district conducting fundraising efforts access to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Serving as an Umbrella for Fundraising Efforts in the District

As part of its mission, the Foundation serves as a fiscal sponsor to various groups within the district for targeted fundraising efforts when those efforts align with the Foundation's mission. In serving as a fiscal sponsor, the Foundation helps short-term projects such as the Team Up for Turf efforts to install a turf field in the district. In another example, the Foundation supports the High School Home and School's fundraising efforts by providing a critical partnership. This partnership provides the fundraising benefits of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to the High School Home and School.



Contact Us

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