



Greenwich Education Group's School Foundation

The GEG'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

June 2015

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Letter from the Chairman
- GEG Changemaker
- A Look To The Fall
- GEG 2015 Graduates
- Spring Fundraiser

OUR MISSION:

To offer financial aid for qualified students to Beacon, Spire and Pinnacle, the Greenwich Education Group Schools. Scholarships are awarded annually to students regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin or disability. By awarding financial aid to deserving candidates, the Greenwich Education Group's School Foundation seeks to extend the promise of engaged, student-centered, individualized education to children and young adults from all backgrounds.

FOLLOW US:

The Greenwich Education Group and Beacon are on Facebook and Twitter! Be sure to follow us to keep up with all we are doing.



Greenwich Education Group
The Beacon School



@GreenwichEdGrp
@BeaconHead

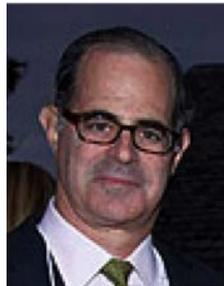
www.gegfoundation.org

www.beacon-ct.org

www.spire-school.org

www.pinnacle-ct.org

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN:



Dear Friends,

It is hard to imagine that we have so quickly reached the mid-point of the calendar year and the end-point of another school year. Once again, the Greenwich Education Group Schools had an outstanding year, the result of having such an incredibly dedicated and talented team of educators and counselors. It is most gratifying to see the looks of pride on the faces of this year's ten graduates of Beacon, Pinnacle, Spire and Links. Their successes and bright futures ahead exemplify how the GEG Schools empower students to reach their full potential for academic growth, enrichment and life-long learning.

I also want to thank all of you for your ongoing support of the GEG's School Foundation. As I hope you all know, we had an outstanding fund-raising event at Tudor Investment's corporate headquarters in Greenwich. With over 120 guests in attendance, we raised more than \$40,000 for the foundation. Knowing that this generosity will enable us to change the lives of so many children should bring a smile to everyone involved with the GEG Schools.

Since the foundation's inception four years ago, we have raised over \$250,000! It isn't often that you can directly see how your charitable giving has such incredible impact, but just stop by GEG and you can share in the feelings of gratitude and joy expressed by the children that we have been able to support.

All of us who have had the pleasure of being involved with the GEG Schools owe a big thanks to the teachers, counselors and staff of GEG. All of you, individually and as a group, have such a profound and positive impact on the lives of so many children. Saying thank you doesn't seem to capture the gratitude that we, the parents and, most importantly, the students have for your efforts, your support, your passion and your incredible capability to enable each child to blossom. You are an incredible group.

I hope all of you have a joyful and restful summer. I look forward to seeing you again in a few months with the start of another exciting and successful school year.

With gratitude,

Eric Kaye
Chairman

The Greenwich Education Group's School Foundation

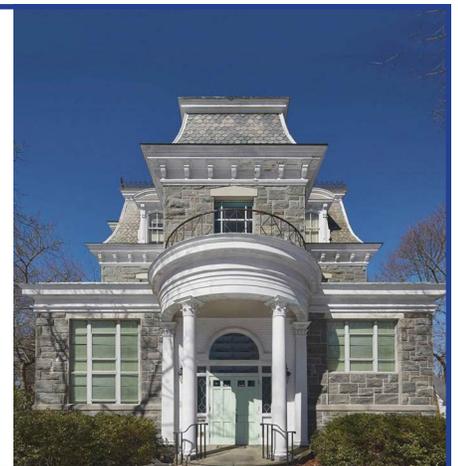


BEACON SCHOOL IS
MOVING
TO A NEW LOCATION
FALL 2015

We are planning an
OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

in October.

Details to follow over the summer!



Meet GEG Change Maker Kate Picco!

Kate Picco views the Greenwich Education Group School's Foundation as a conduit for action and as a valuable opportunity to develop and support the vibrant schools of GEG. We are pleased to recognize Kate as our 2015 GEG Change Maker for her meaningful commitment to support the needs of our schools.

1. What first brought you to the Greenwich Education Group Schools?

I first learned about GEG when my son was in second grade and struggling in a school with a traditional special education model. We knew it wasn't the right setting for him to learn and thrive, but found - through a painful process of touring every school in the area - that there weren't any viable alternatives. I was anxious and distraught. Then a friend suggested I contact Vicky Newman who had just hired Nancy Grejtak to build out GEG's special education group. Vicky, Nancy and their amazingly talented colleagues quite literally changed our lives. We started tutoring before the Pinnacle School was even established and stayed when they developed their full-time program. I'm happy to say that we were the first Pinnacle family and consider ourselves very fortunate to come back every year since.



I believe the Foundation is a critical component of the long-term growth and success of GEG. There are legions of students who could benefit from the GEG approach to learning and are great candidates. If we can help alleviate financial obstacles, I believe that will be a game changer for all of the schools. And I believe it's our single most important mission. These children will change our world for the better. We need to support them with everything we have.

3. What would you like someone who is not familiar with the GEG Schools to know?

I often refer to the "magic" of GEG. It's hard to describe - it's real, yet ephemeral. I feel it every day when I walk through the lounge and see students playing instruments, speaking different languages and interacting in an easy and happy way. My son

never wanted to go to school before, but now it's not drop off that's the issue...it's pick up! Just today I found him in a classroom with several teachers having an impromptu dance party and he didn't want to leave! I marvel at the way everyone at GEG leverages the concept of learning into a fun, teachable moment. I now have an inherently happy and confident boy. It's nothing short of amazing. I would strongly encourage potential students and parents to visit the school, hang out in the lounge and talk to the staff. I guarantee the GEG magic is palpable... and contagious!

"Kate's tireless efforts on behalf of our schools have had a tremendous impact on our faculty, parent and student communities. She leaves an indelible mark on everything she touches with her boundless energy, grace, compassion and goodwill. I feel blessed to know her and grateful to have her in our corner."

- Meredith Hafer
Head of the Beacon School

2. What "change" have you seen in the schools and Foundation since you became involved?

Here's one of the many extraordinary things about GEG - their pace of change has been meteoric, but the fundamental mission of the schools has remained unwavering. Every single day, they deliver on their promise to educate all students by meeting their individual needs and developing their unique talents and self esteems. And each school has steadfastly accomplished this through massive growth. Enrollment has increased markedly, which necessitates increased faculty and infrastructure. Just when I think these growing pains might alter the quality of their "product," they manage to attract remarkably qualified teachers and staff while being amazingly creative with their space and resources.

4. Where would you like to see growth in the schools and how do you think we can get there?

One of the biggest challenges of the schools is to manage the burgeoning growth of GEG wisely. That's a massive job. But I am beyond confident that the GEG leadership will achieve this goal. They will continue to create a diverse, creative, smart, kind and caring student body. They will do what they do so well: they will continue to make magic for all of our kids. We're so lucky GEG exists. We're so lucky for the opportunity to support their "magic." Please join me in that effort.

A Look to the Fall

Excellence abounds as the Greenwich Education Group Schools, as the busy and phenomenally productive 2014-15 school year attests. For starters, the Beacon and Spire Schools embarked on their accreditation process through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., (NEASC). This is the nation's oldest accrediting association, serving more than 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities through the New England states, as well as American/International schools in more than sixty nations worldwide.

The accreditation includes a voluntary peer review process, engaging educators in the region in the performance of hundreds of such reviews each year. This is in addition to lengthy self-studies that are done. The NEASC accreditation team that assessed Beacon and Spire validated the mission, structure, and exceptional staff of our schools with descriptors such as "life-changing" and "transformative" in their report. We anticipate notification of the schools' accreditation this summer.

In addition, the Spire School also has gone through the Connecticut state approval process and is awaiting official notification. This is extremely exciting for Spire as Dr. Tammy Moscrip explains, "State approval provides an opportunity for eligible students to attend Spire while being supported by their districts." Spire has increased its admissions and it had its largest enrollment this past year. "We're looking forward to slow, controlled growth in the years ahead," said Moscrip.

Pinnacle School has also had a busy and successful year and has begun the NEASC process now in the self-study phase as an approved candidate. On a more local level, following a one-year initial approval by the state of Connecticut, Pinnacle has now received re-approval as a state-approved special education program. For the 2014-15 school year, Pinnacle was at its highest ever enrollment with 27 students, and anticipates an even higher level of 35 for the 2015-16 school year.

Admissions for Beacon are also on the rise as it will have its highest enrollment ever for the 2015-16 school year with a retention rate close to 100%. With Beacon's move to Hubbard Heights, both Spire and Pinnacle plan on expanding at the 44 Commerce site. The additional physical space, which allows for an increase in resources, and receipt of state approval will better position us to meet the needs of even more students.

Accreditation, state approvals, physical expansion; through consistent and focused effort toward achieving these goals, the GEG Schools are making major strides to improve their

already strong instruction, to review and refine our already rich curriculum and to increase our already high levels of student engagement. It has been a hectic year but one, that has been full of accomplishments and a recognition of the impact we are having on our greatest assets, our students.

2015 Graduation

We congratulate the following students on their outstanding educational achievements as they graduate from the Greenwich Education Group Schools of Beacon, Spire, Pinnacle and Links Academy.



Beacon: Andrew Day

Links: Sydney Feder, Dylan Feldman, Dan Hackworth

Spire: Charlotte Ferguson, Chris Francisco, Emma Saidenberg, Riley Slusarz

Pinnacle: Alex Lein-McDonough, Eddie Shulte

This outstanding group of individuals now joins a distinguished alumni body that is making a difference in our world. We look forward to their future accomplishments, and invite them to come back to our schools often to engage and motivate the young people who will pass through our doors after them.

Eight-time Emmy Award winning news producer, Alan Weiss, was the graduation speaker at the GEG Schools' commencement ceremony on Friday, June 5, at the Innis Arden Golf Club. Currently the executive producer of ARISE News, a 24-hour news and entertainment channel, Mr. Weiss headed up Eyewitness News for WABC, one of the most watched news programs in the nation. He was the first journalist to capture footage at Ground Zero just hours after the World Trade Center buildings collapsed on 9/11, and also broke the story to the world that John Lennon had been assassinated in New York City.



Tudor Investment's FUNDRAISING EVENT

The GEG's School Foundation fundraiser at Tudor Investments raises scholarship funds

The Greenwich Education Group's School Foundation hosted a benefit on May 8 at Tudor Investment's corporate headquarters to raise scholarships for its Beacon, Spire and Pinnacle schools. More than 120 guests were welcomed by student ambassadors and treated to a relaxed evening of cocktails, conversation, presentations and a silent auction that raised more than \$40,000 for GEG's unique schools.

The GEG's School Foundation offers financial aid for qualified students regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin or disability. The schools apply an individualized, strengths-based academic model in three distinct settings: at Beacon, for gifted and twice exceptional students; at Spire, for highly capable students who need emotional support; and at Pinnacle, for students with learning differences, especially students on the autism spectrum.

According to Eric Kaye, Chairman of the GEG's School Foundation, the Foundation has raised close to \$250,000 for scholarships since its inception. "For those of us whose children have attended the schools, we understand the incredible sense of relief and gratitude we feel once our children are in nurturing environments in the care of wonderful, committed and caring teachers. The contributions we received allow other less fortunate families to experience the same joy when they see their children thrive."

Victoria Newman, founder and executive director of the Greenwich Education Group, thanked everyone who attended the event for their support. "The mission of The Foundation is to provide opportunities for worthy students to excel in our highly supportive and innovative programs."

To support the Greenwich Education Group's School Foundation, please visit:

<http://gegfoundation.org/about-us/donate/>



Left to Right: Heather Fargis, Andy Fox, Ann Lockyer, John Fargis



Left to Right: Dr. Alisa Dror, Allison Tables, Dr. Keara Conway

The Tudor Fundraiser Event Picture Gallery can be found on the GEG Foundation website.

The GEG's School Foundation is a key part of our mission to bring high quality and individualized education to students, resulting in the best academic experience possible. We are grateful for the support of our past donors who have enabled us to give some very worthy students opportunities to excel in our highly supportive and innovative programs.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

BOB DWYER
MARLENE GILBERT
MEREDITH HAFER, PUBLIC RELATIONS
ERIC A. KAYE, CHAIRMAN
SPENCER LAMPERT, TREASURER

ANN LOCKYER
MIA MITCHELL-CORTELLESI
DIANE MATT OHL, CORPORATE SECRETARY
KATE COONEY PICCO
VICTORIA NEWMAN, EX-OFFICIO



The Greenwich Education Group's School Foundation