

Scholarship and Education Fund Committees

Keith Rauseo, Chairman
Gail Tressler, Clerk
Thomas Churchill
Dr. Christine McGrath

The Tewksbury Scholarship and Education Funds came into being when the October 2003 Special Town Meeting voted to accept Mass. General Law Chapter 60, Section 3C. In early 2004, the Selectmen created the Scholarship and Education Fund Committees, which determine the criteria and distribution of awards from the funds. School Superintendent Dr. Christine McGrath is a member of the Committees per state law, and the Selectmen have appointed the other members.

In 2008, the Board of Selectmen appointed Thomas Churchill to both Committees.

The Committees met periodically in 2008. In May 2008, donation forms were included in property owners' tax bills. At the end of 2008, the balances in the funds were:

Scholarship Fund:	\$1,879.08
Education Fund:	\$1,354.03

Thank you to all the donors who have contributed to these funds even in this difficult economy.

The Scholarship Fund Committee awarded five \$250 scholarships at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, its highest number of awards since it began making awards in 2005. The Committee received 43 applications for these awards, and after a thorough review chose five worthy recipients. Because the awards exist through the generosity of the community, the Committee considered community service activities of foremost importance when making its selections, along with strong academic achievement. The 2008 winners were all honors students with exemplary participation in extracurricular activities.

The 2008 Tewksbury Scholarship Fund recipients were:

- o Christopher Damp, 3 Marie Street, Shawsheen Tech Class of 2008, studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Lowell
- o Juliann Igo, 85 Briarwood Road, TMHS Class of 2008, studying Marketing at Pennsylvania State University
- o Julie MacDonald, 30 Wellington Circle, TMHS Class of 2008, studying Biology/Pre-Med at Vassar College
- o Anastasia Pappas, 49 Chuckies Way, TMHS Class of 2008, studying Biology at the University of New Hampshire
- o Samir Shah, 40 Andrea Drive, Malden Catholic Class of 2008, studying Pre-Med at Boston College

In honor of former Superintendent of Schools John W. Wynn, a charter member of the Scholarship and Education Fund Committees who passed away in September 2007, the Scholarship Fund Committee created a special award designation in 2008 – the John W. Wynn Memorial Leadership Award. The Committee will attach this designation to one of its scholarship award recipients each year, in recognition of that student's achievements in the area of school leadership in academics, school life, and extracurricular activities. For 2008, the Committee named Julie MacDonald the inaugural recipient of the Wynn Memorial Leadership Award.

The Education Fund Committee made its first award in 2008. In recent years, the Tewksbury Public Schools have strived to improve classroom technology capabilities throughout the district. The primary method for accomplishing this has been through the introduction of Smart Technology SmartBoard interactive whiteboards. SmartBoards greatly expand the classroom teacher's instructional tool set by allowing computer-based interaction between teacher and student, retention of class and lecture notes within a lesson presentation, and sharing of lessons and notes between teachers and classrooms. The district has been able to purchase SmartBoards for many classrooms throughout all schools, usually through

the generosity of grant funding from school PACs and private donors in these tight economic times. In 2008, in honor of John W. Wynn's service to the Tewksbury Public Schools and Education Fund Committee, and in acknowledgement of his lifelong passion for science, the Education Fund Committee awarded a grant of up to \$3,000 to Tewksbury Memorial High School for the purpose of purchasing a SmartBoard unit for the TMHS Science Department. This unit is marked with a commemorative plate acknowledging that it was a gift of the Tewksbury Education Fund in memory of Mr. Wynn.

In 2009, the Committee will make scholarship applications available on-line and at various locations throughout town. Any resident attending an accredited institution beyond the high school level is eligible to apply. The Committee is excited about making more awards at the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

The Committee members would like to again acknowledge and extend their gratitude to Finance Director Donna Walsh, Treasurer Janet Smith, and Collector Dorothy Lightfoot for their help during the year.

Finally, the Committee members are hopeful that our residents and business owners will continue to donate to the funds so we will be able to help our students with scholarships and help our educational system with program grants. Look for those donation forms in the May 2009 tax bills!

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Rauseo, Chairman