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Avon Education Foundation announces 2017 scholarships

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By *George Woolston*

AVON-BY-THE-SEA – The Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation is preparing to add some new initiatives to its existing programs for the upcoming spring season.

The foundation recently announced that it will begin accepting applications for its High School Senior Scholarship. The scholarship awards \$1,000 to a graduating high school senior from any school who lives in Avon. Applications will be accepted from Feb. 6 until April 7. Winners of the scholarship will be announced on May 5.

According to the foundation’s website, the scholarship winners are determined by the following factors: community service, peer leadership, academic performance, work history, an essay and acceptance into a higher institution of learning.

Applications for the scholarship can be found and downloaded from the foundation’s website. Students can also get the application from their high school guidance counselors.

The foundation is also planning a new transitions program for parents of students who are making a change in their educational tenure.

“When students make a change in the educational tenure – middle school to high school, high school to college, and also students with learning disabilities who are transitioning into adult life – we’re going to have speakers for the parents of these students,” said Dr.

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Tess Nielsen, president of the Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation.

“It’s going to be an intimate setting where the parents can ask questions and foster a discussion about what it’s really like and how to help kids through these transition times,” she added.

“It’s a very intimidating time, especially in a town like this where a student can go to upwards of seven different high schools.... we’re going to try to give people at least some guidance on how to approach those topics,” said the foundation’s vice president Michele Gioia.

There are three planned speakers for each transitional period – middle school to high school, high school to college, and also students with learning disabilities who are transitioning into adult life. The event is planned to take place at the end of May.

Another new initiative is the creation of a student advisory board. The board will consist of students from Avon Elementary School, the area high schools, the parochial schools and the college alums from Avon.

“We are forming the student advisory board to work with us in an advisory capacity so that we can hear what the students like from our program,” said Dr. Nielsen.

According to Dr. Nielsen, the foundation will work with the school leaders to find the students for its advisory board.

The Avon-by-the-Sea foundation is a private non profit, incorporated in 2011. It supports the education initiatives at Avon Elementary School and throughout the borough of Avon.

Photos

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[Left to right] Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation Vice President Michele Gioia, President Dr. Tess Nielsen and new board member Treasurer Megan Ferber. The foundation recently opened up their annual scholarship for Avon high school seniors. *Photo courtesy DR. TESS NIELSEN*

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Along with programs for Avon students, the foundation also offers Adult Summer Learning Programs. More information can be found at avonbytheseafoundation.org.

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