

Avon Education Foundation adds school music chairs

ALEXA CARINI
THE COAST STAR

SEA GIRL — The Avon-By-The-Sea Education Foundation, a 501(c)3 private non-profit organization, recently completed a project to provide the Avon-By-The-Sea Elementary School [AES] music room with special equipment.

Dr. Tess Nielsen, president of the education foundation, said, "We seek grants and funding to promote educational projects for the betterment of the residents of the borough."

According to Ms. Nielsen, a professor at Rowan University, the foundation promotes education throughout the borough of Avon, not only through the elementary school, but through private schools, preschools and adult schools.

"It's not limited at all," she said.

A project was started last school year in which the education foundation held a middle school car wash, bake sale and dinner fundraiser in efforts to provide music chairs to the Avon Elementary School band room.

"These chairs serve a dual purpose. They are designed to give student musicians the proper posture when they're playing their instruments, but they also have a removable desk," said Ms. Nielsen.

The car wash, bake sale and dinner raised \$2,000 toward the project. The education foundation used an additional \$2,750 from proceeds collected through their annual appeal and received \$1,500 from the Avon Home and School Association.

"We were fortunate to be able to partner with the Home and School in support of the band program," said Ms. Nielsen.

The 25 music chairs were purchased and installed over the summer, prior to the start of the recent school year.

According to Ms. Nielsen, school music appreciation teacher Catherine Kusters needs flexible seating for the different types of classes and different students she teaches.

The Avon School Music Program received the 2016 prestigious "SupportMusic" Merit Award from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation [NAMM].

"This honor is only given to schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music edu-

cation to all students," said Ms. Nielsen. "With the new band chairs, Avon School hopes to keep their status as 'SupportMusic' Merit School by continuing to build on the program."

Currently there are 12 adults serving on the Avon-By-The-Sea Education Foundation board. In addition, the foundation is planning to create a student branch.

"We also have a scholarship program for high school students and we will be announcing that right after the new year," said Ms. Nielsen.

This is the fifth year the foundation will sponsor a scholarship program for high school students. Students interested in applying should expect a posting on the foundation website with details to apply early next year,

www.avonbytheseafoundation.org.

The first Avon School Winter Concert will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Avon Municipal Building on Main Street. Thirty students are expected to perform.

Alexa Carini can be reached at acarini@thecoaststar.com or 732-223-0076 Ext 49.

AVON EVENTS

To submit a calendar listing or Avon news story, e-mail acarini@thecoaststar.com

WOMENS CLUB MEETING
Date: Monday, Nov. 6
Time: noon
Location: Avon Marina, 1 Main St.
The Women's Club meets the first Monday of each month. Speakers attend the meetings and members enjoy lunch together. New members are welcome. Gene, 732-774-8040.

AVON CRAFT FAIR
Date: Saturday, Nov. 25
Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Avon Municipal Building, 301 Main St.
Contact: 732-859-3394 or kannitto@gmail.com
Cost: \$40 for 8 by 4-foot space
Pre-registration for vendors is required and space is limited. If you are unable to attend after registration, please call ahead as there is a waiting list.

Location: Avon Municipal gym, 301 Main St.
Contact: Michelle, 732-682-1701

AVON PUBLIC LIBRARY STORY HOUR
Date: Wednesdays at 10 a.m., 3 p.m.
Location: Fifth and Garfield avenues
Story hour for children 2-3-years-old is at 10 a.m. and story hour for children 4-6-years-old begins at 3 p.m.

JOINT CHRISTMAS CAROL FESTIVAL, ASCENSION AND ST. ELIZABETH PARISHES
Date: Sunday, Dec. 10
Time: 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Location: 501 Brinley Avenue, Bradley Beach

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA
Date: Wednesdays
Time: 9 a.m.

LEISURE CITIZENS GROUP
Date: Wednesdays
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Avon Municipal Gym, 301 Main St.
The group will play games including bingo, bridge, rummikub, poker and many others. All area residents are welcome to join. For more information, email avonrec@optonline.net.



COURTESY OF DANIELLE ORFANIDIS

STORIES, SNACKS AND MORE AT THE LIBRARY

The Avon Elementary School kindergarten class walked over to the Avon Firehouse for school safety week. The firemen talked to them about how to be safe at home, showed them the gear that they wear to fight fires and let them go in the ladder truck.



COURTESY OF TESS NIELSEN

Students [left to right] Davis Dugan, Kathryn Gioia, Kellyann Peter and Lily Buerck enjoy band practice in their new chairs under the guidance of music appreciation teacher Catherine Kusters.

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