

DESTINATION: NEW MEXICO

A ten-day art trip to New Mexico is planned for August 2014. The focus of the trip is on a custom-designed wheel-throwing workshop that ten students will attend at Santa Fe Clay Gallery and Studio in downtown Santa Fe. The students will be working with a professional educator who will guide them through an intensive study of pottery making, something we can only touch upon at Keene Central. The workshop will take place during the mornings, leaving the afternoons free for museums, hiking, events, a college visit, and other side trips. Opportunities for the students will include visits to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the International Museum of Folk Art, the Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Bandelier National Monument, and Taos. Our trip coincides with the world famous Santa Fe Indian Market. Thanks to HPEF for their continued support of our multi-age educational trips.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM@KCS

The International Student Program again has six students from around the globe staying with families in Keene and Keene Valley. The three girls and three boys this year come from Denmark, Spain, Brazil, Serbia, Korea and Thailand.

Three are here as seniors, two are juniors and one is a sophomore. They will be sharing their cultures in the classroom and later at an international event for the community. They are also giving their host families an opportunity to have the global experience in their homes.

The Hough family is not only experiencing the culinary delights of Thailand, they are also experiencing a son for the year. They are already involved in the school community. All six participated on the soccer teams. Two are in the band and two are in the chorus. They are all eager to experience life and the change of seasons in the Adirondacks.

Sara from Brazil said that she had "never seen the leaves turn colors and fall off." Once again, Keene Central School is excited about the cultural enrichment possibilities of the International Student Program.



Thanks to a grant from the HPEF we were able to purchase a fence for the school garden which meets fire and health department regulations. Each class in K-6 has two garden plots; one for growing vegetables this year and the other for growing a cover crop to feed the soil for next year. This year's garden produced garlic, onions, broccoli, herbs, carrots, brussels sprouts, tomatoes, strawberries, and lots of rhubarb for the school cafeteria. Over half of the elementary school participates in an "After School Garden Club" once a week. Activities include planting seeds, composting food and garden waste, harvesting vegetables and herbs, raking leaves and pine needles for mulch, and painting garden signs, as well as making pesto, herb butter, pizza sauce, and tea bags with garden herbs.



High Peaks Education
Foundation



SAFE HARVEST

Not all high-impact projects are expensive.

LANGUAGE STUDY: SPAIN

Our Spanish Department designed and led a high-impact twelve day language study trip to Spain in the summer of 2013.

HPEF & BOARD OF EDUCATION LOOK TO THE FUTURE

A brief of the highly successful joint strategic planning session that generated several new and exciting directions.

DESTINATION: NEW MEXICO

ISP 2013/2014

Six new and eager students join our ranks



LANGUAGE STUDY: SPAIN

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

We here at KCS feel we have a responsibility to our students to provide a meaningful education that prepares them for what lies ahead.

One way we are fulfilling this responsibility is by breaking the “trip abroad” mold. Instead of a package deal, our Spanish Department designed and led a high-impact twelve day language study trip to Spain in the summer of 2013. Thanks to the support of HPEF, the CADAHEMARK Foundation and the Adirondack Community Trust, we had a fabulous life-changing, educational and fun experience.

Ten high school Spanish students lived with local families and took Spanish grammar and conversation classes in the UNESCO- declared “Heritage of Mankind” city of Salamanca. Additionally they visited the capital city of Madrid and the medieval walled city of Ávila.

Justin Haverlick, sophomore, commented “It was a great experience all around. It was everything I was hoping for and more....I highly recommend [it]...it is a unique experience that you might only get once in your lifetime.”

¡Viva España! ¡Viva KCS! ¡Viva HPEF!

This summer the High Peaks Education Foundation (HPEF) Board and the Keene Central School Board of Education participated in a joint strategic planning session facilitated by former HPEF Treasurer Dave Mason. The two boards strategized about how HPEF can support future programs for KCS. Many great ideas were generated and after much discussion and prioritizing, the HPEF decided it would pursue these major new directions:

- **Community Connections** is an effort to create a database of (both seasonal and full-time) people connected to the North Country who are willing to be a resource for the Keene Central School community. We are looking for people who are willing to share their professional experience and/or hobbies and/or areas of interest. This sharing could take place in any of the following possible formats: in the classroom, one-on-one, via Skype or other on-line format, job shadowing, or any other way that suits the volunteer. The Community Connections Committee of the HPEF Board will act as a “conciierge service” for teachers and counselors to match their needs with community volunteers. This effort is not about funds, but about volunteer time. Contact Betsy Thomas-Train (betsythomastrain@gmail.com) or Julia Loomis (juloomis@aol.com) to participate.

- **Innovations in the classroom** such as learning with a purpose, learning expeditions, more creative uses of the Internet, and projects like science fairs in math and science.

- **Improving sound quality in the auditorium** through better speakers and microphones, sound-deadening baffles and other modest measures to make performances easier to hear and lectures easier to understand. This will be a major effort requiring at least \$20,000.

- **Green projects to reduce use of fossil fuels and lower energy costs for KCS.** The school roof needs replacement soon, so now is the time to figure out how to make strides in energy conservation in the process. We are considering a “green living roof” as well as solar panels and possibly an alternative heating approach using geothermal or biomass. The effort will include a strong educational component. The project(s) will definitely need outside grants as well as HPEF seed money.

Stay tuned as HPEF develops proposals in these areas and works with the faculty and administration to implement them.