



High Peaks Education Foundation has been an essential partner in the education of the children at Keene Central School. During the 2013-2014 school year, we were able to deepen that connection and relationship. HPEF board members embarked on an information gathering exercise where they met with KCS faculty, staff and administration either individually or in small groups. The purpose was to gather information about what we wanted, needed, or were excited about and how HPEF could help make those things happen. Following these meetings, HPEF processed the data and met with the entire staff for an end of the year brainstorming session to examine trends in the data. This collaboration has allowed us to prioritize the projects we will work on together. The real benefit though, has been the deeper connection in purpose for the relationship between HPEF and KCS. Further, our relationship has been strengthened to the benefit of students here at KCS. Thank you to the HPEF Board and all of the donors for their continued support.

- Daniel J. Mayberry / Superintendent

A copy of High Peaks Education Foundation's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from HPEF at High Peaks Education Foundation, PO Box 475, Keene Valley, NY 12943 or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau at 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10271.

KCSAUDITORIUM

One of HPEF's major projects over the past year has been a multi-pronged effort to improve the quality of sound (music, singing and speech) in the KCS auditorium. We started by bringing in an acoustic engineer to take some measurements and give us basic advice on how to proceed. The consultant from Boston was extremely helpful and explained that there are two main tasks. First, we need to control the reverberating echo in the room. The walls and old gym floor are hard surfaces that reflect sound waves creating echoes. This makes it hard to understand what you are hearing. The second task is to upgrade the sound amplification system in the room.

We have completed the first phase. With the volunteer assistance of Scott McClelland we bought and installed 1000 sq. ft. of sound absorbing panels on the side walls of the auditorium. Then we purchased and had installed a thick velour curtain exactly like the main stage curtain along the back wall at the top of the fixed seats. Together they have considerably damped the echoes in the room so that it's already easier to hear well in the room.

Now we are about to embark on specifying and installing a new sound system, which will include new speakers, amplifiers, mixers, microphones and cables. The school district has already purchased some major pieces of this including a new digital mixing board. We are now looking into new speakers and associated amplification, which we hope to demo soon. This will give us the next step up in clarity of sound. This effort has been made possible by generous contributions by Annette Merle-Smith & Wynant Vanderpoel.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM@KCS

The International Student Program is now in its third year at Keene Central School. This school year we welcome Stephano Aldeghi from Italy, Emma Forsberg from Sweden, Ko Seung Yeol (Paul) from South Korea, Jasmin Lutz from Germany, Shih Chih-Wen (Wayne) from Taiwan and Yoshino Yamanaka from Japan.

This amazing group, here on academic visas, is staying with six families in our community.



High Peaks Education
Foundation



DEEPERCONNECTION

Collaboration to prioritize the projects.

AFROCARIBBEANMUSIC

KCS students danced to the hot SALSA of Alex Torres y su Orquesta!

LIFETIMEFITNESS

HPEF's support of unique physical education initiatives at Keene Central School.

KCSAUDITORIUM

An effort to improve the quality of sound in the KCS auditorium.

ISP2014/2015

Six new and eager students join our ranks.

The logo for Keene Central School (KCS) is displayed in a stylized, white, serif font in the top left corner of the page.

¡ SALSA !

You should have seen all the KCS students dancing to the hot SALSA of Alex Torres y su Orquesta! The KCS auditorium was transformed into an AfroCaribbean music club when the 11 piece band performed two assemblies October 3rd. Students had been preparing for these visitors by studying the three primary islands from which their music originates: Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. They learned that the complicated rhythms are of African origin. Thanks to the Music Department and community member Bob Andrews, many students participated in rhythm workshops prior to the assemblies. Thanks to Maestra Wilson and Mr. DeWalt, nearly every class learned some basic salsa moves. In the cafeteria we enjoyed tasty tropical fruits from these regions: star fruit/carambola, papaya and fresh pineapple. The room was decorated with handmade maracas, created in the Art Room with elementary students, and colorful images of the Caribbean.

HPEF has a diverse history of enriching the KCS experience by supporting healthy living habits that foster lifetime fitness habits for our students. During this cycle we continued that theme by providing professional development to the KCS physical education department in the form of a CrossFit Kids course this past summer. Our lifetime fitness initiative also resulted in the addition of snowshoes for use by primary and secondary, exposing students to the outdoors unique to our region and campus trail system as part of their diverse physical challenges within the curriculum while continuing to foster "a sense of place." This will surely be a perennial wintertime favorite, particularly interesting to our international students. The National Standards for Physical Education push for the "enjoyment of physical activity for all students so that they can be physically active for a lifetime."

highpeaked.org



LIFETIME FITNESS

"I feel extremely blessed to be on top of some of the newest and most cutting edge information that is going to help change our physical education programs across the country in the near future. I know here at Keene we are doing "whatever it takes" to make sure our students are set up for success when they leave (graduate from) Keene Central School."

- Matt Mills / KCS Athletic Director & PE Teacher

The rollout of snowshoes through our lifetime fitness initiative is a great example of public, private and community partnership as HPEF was able to facilitate the project by using a combination of independent grants and earmarked donations from donors close to the cause and the generosity of the Mountaineer. HPEF encourages donors to seek out board members to learn more about areas of our mission that interest them.