

# Hanson Town Crier

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## **Bash for books and beyond**

Whitman - For the second year, they'll be raising funds and helping students.

The Whitman-Hanson Education Foundation's second-annual "Making Dreams Come True" dinner dance will be held Saturday from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Halifax Country Club.

Organizers are hoping this year's event will be even more successful than last year's that helped fund a total of 14 grants. Officials would not disclose a monetary amount they raised.

"The night looks to be a definite good time for anyone in attendance," foundation president Paul Nicol said.

The foundation, started by school committee members in 2005, covers all the schools in the Whitman-Hanson school district. It has funded grants in all of the schools. Items include music programs, the "Baby Think it Over" program, and busing to hear Holocaust survivor Sonya Wiess. There also have been innovative reading programs and software, a coastal ecology program and the purchase of library audio books for slow readers.

Funds also have gone toward a testing anxiety stress program used for reducing stress during tests, web page design software, graphing calculators, a classic music program and a unit on butterfly science that included purchasing larvae and food to help caterpillars turn into butterflies.

"We are looking to build ourselves a strong base of support from the people and businesses in the area," Kemmett said.

There was a problem the schools were having with writing the grants so the foundation also will fund "a new branch of the foundation for grant writing for the schools," Nicol said.

Foundation Committee member Laura Kemmett described the event as "starting off with some smooth jazz music from the Harry Fix Quartet. This leads into hors d'oeuvres and drinks with a silent auction and raffle.

"After all this, dinner will be served and accompanied by a DJ and some dancing. The night will finally cap off after the unveiling of a video on the foundation and its sponsors as well as a final live auction."

The auctions and raffle will be filled with a plethora of items donated by people and businesses from all around the area, including eight front row high school graduation tickets and two premium parking spots for that event.

Kemmett described those as "the hot item for parents of high school seniors."

There will also be autographed items from sports figures and celebrities like Daisuke Matsuzaka, Teddy Bruschi, Taylor Hicks, Johnny Depp and the Desperate Housewives.