

***So You Think You Can Spell?
Answers Await on April 8
At the NEF's 19th Annual Spelling Bee***

Needham, Mass. – March 11, 2010 - The Needham Education Foundation (NEF) would like to invite the community to match wits with friends, neighbors, students, teachers, and local businesses at the 19th Annual Spelling Bee. A rite of spring in Needham, the Bee will take place on Thursday, April 8, at the Newman Elementary School Gymnasium beginning at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.

“The Spelling Bee is certainly one of the most high-profile social events of the season,” said NEF Co-President Pamela Rosin. “Younger students enjoy watching their teachers and principals sit on the hot seat for a change while older students, parents and business folks compete for another year of bragging rights.”

Each year you never know who might be sitting on the dais. It could be your next door neighbor, your banker, or your local school superintendent who has been known to go a few rounds. They might be sitting on it, but could they spell *dais*? Join us at this year's Bee to test your skills with theirs.

While some faces change, others stay the same. The NEF is pleased to welcome back WHDH-TV Alumnus and Veteran Sports Reporter **Gary Gillis** for his 14th year as a guest pronouncer for the Bee. Two new faces will join him this year. NECN Weekend Anchor **Latoyia Edwards** and the host of WHDH-TV's public affairs show, *Higher Ground*, Journalist **Carmen Fields** will bring new voices to the 50-plus teams who will hang on their every word.

The NEF would like to extend a special thank you to Needham Bank and Kaplan Tutoring as this year's *Head of the Class* sponsors for their leading roles in making this event possible.

“The Bee is the NEF's largest fundraiser of the year and the Needham community continues to come through in its generous support,” said NEF Co-President Frank Fortin. “It is this support that has enabled every public school in the district to implement at least one NEF grant in the 2009-2010 school year.”

About the Needham Education Foundation

The Needham Education Foundation was founded in 1990 by the Needham High School Class of 1939, to enhance and enrich the education of children in the Needham Public Schools. The NEF funds programs that promote innovation and excellence from pre-kindergarten through high school, for projects that are outside normal and expected public funding. Since 1990, the NEF has supported more than 250 grants worth more than \$1 million. For more information, visit www.nefneedham.org

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