

July 2015

By Erich Thurow, Chairman D200 Education Foundation

For nearly two decades, Woodstock High School has annually produced and distributed a literary magazine called "Carpe Diem." Through annual contributions from the District 200 Education Foundation, students in the WHS Creative Writing classes have produced and published the magazine containing original work submitted by WHS students.

The 2015 edition of "Carpe Diem" continued the tradition of publishing poems, paintings and short stories from 26 student contributors. Nearly 100 pieces of work were submitted and Creative Writing students evaluated, selected and edited the submissions. With the help of the WHS Graphic Arts students, they turned out another outstanding magazine this year and made it available to all WHS students free of charge. Students and family members were also able to access an Internet version of the magazine this year, which has expanded the readership of the work.

WHS English teacher Theresa Sistrunk was the faculty advisor of the project this year. Ms. Sistrunk pointed out that this is "the only print media of student-submitted short stories, poetry and artwork for the school. It is entirely student-run and student-created," she added. Months of work go into the production of the magazine which is published in the spring and distributed through WHS English classes.

Ms. Sistrunk told the Education Foundation that "Creative Writing students are authors of many of the pieces in 'Carpe Diem,' but all high school students are eligible to submit to the magazine. " Again this year Graphic Arts students worked to lay out, print and collate the magazine. "The publication showcases a variety of imaginative abilities from the students," said Ms. Sistrunk.

I am delighted that the Education Foundation was able to fund this and 80 other requests in whole or in part this year. I would like to thank the Foundation Board members who helped us with the ice cream social last month at the City Band Concert, and to all the concertgoers who purchased our ice cream and cookies. The proceeds from this event support our program.

We are always looking for individuals and businesses to add to the funds we can use to "make things happen that ordinarily would not." Donations can also be sent to the District 200 Education Foundation, P.O. Box 172, Woodstock, IL, 60098 any time of the year. The Foundation is looking for a couple of people to join us on the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. Please consider becoming a part of our organization. You can contact me at the above address for more information.