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Friends of Music and the Arts to give \$12K donation to schools

By CARRIE GILPIN

This fall, during what still appears to be economic hard times, the Scarsdale Friends of Music and the Arts will hand over the largest donation yet to the Scarsdale schools, more than \$12,000, all from local families. The amount will be divided among the district's seven schools for specific music and arts items identified by the principals, art teachers, department heads and club faculty advisers, according to FMA president Margo Kornfeld.

Kornfeld said she feels that the increased giving from Scarsdale families is due to more FMA visibility, more people benefiting from its services, more of a sense in Scarsdale that children need the outlet that the arts provide, and even a response to the recent suicides in town — that children turn to art in times of stress, be it during competitive pressures at school or stress at home.

The booster organization is giving a total of \$4,725 to Scarsdale High School for the following items: a glass case for sculpture display for the art department; five hand-held digital recorders and six Har-

vard Music dictionaries for the music department; paints, brushes and supplies for the art club; scripts, books and materials for the drama club; vocal arrangements for For Good Measure, the a cappella singing group; money for publishing Jabberwocky, the school literary magazine; paints, brushes, pipe cleaners and other supplies for the National Art Honor Society; color glazes for a ceramic mural and two large planters for the Club Clay; and money to reimburse the Tri-M Music Honors Society for its induction ceremony.

At Scarsdale Middle School, a total of \$2,310 purchased the following items: two clay vessels to hold campus sculptures and one tack board for the art department; six Yamaha C40 acoustic guitar packs and four saxophone straps for the music department; a Marshall M650 FX amp for the guitar club; and sheet music for the seventh- and eighth-grade jazz band, chamber wind ensemble and district jazz band.

Each elementary school received \$1,000, up from \$500 per school last year, said Kornfeld. Greenacres School was able to buy table

easels, an art history timeline, drums and rolling storage racks. Fox Meadow received money for cowbells, bells, gankogui, streamers, streamer-ribbons and speakers for the gym. Edgewood received money for a Suzuki HB25 chromatic tone chimes for choral and music classes. At Quaker Ridge, a glass display case, resonator bells and case, a metallophone and recorder programs were funded by FMA. Heathcote received money for an assembly program featuring a professional jazz group to play with its fifth-grade band students and a performance by a professional bass player for the orchestra and the third-grade music program and a guest jazz violinist.

Kornfeld said further donations can be made by visiting the FMA website at www. scardalearts.org. "This is the new normal, since budgetary cuts have become a way of life. Our district is very good at preserving support for the arts, and every little bit counts," said Kornfeld.

The Scarsdale Board of Education is expected to approve the gifts at its next business meeting Jan. 10.