



“I believe strongly that arts education is essential for building innovative thinkers who will be our nation’s leaders of tomorrow.” *Michelle Obama*

Dear Scarsdale Parents,

RE: **2009-10 Membership Appeal: Join Now!**

For 25 years, Friends of Music & the Arts has helped to make Scarsdale the special community it is. Your children benefit by our support, enrichment, equipment, scholarships, awards and new initiatives, for all the music and arts programs in every school in the district. We are your student’s tireless advocates for these programs and their bridge to the community.

This year, with trimmed budgets, your support for FMA is more vital than ever. Every penny we receive is re-invested into the school community. As Michelle Obama says, “The arts are not just a nice thing to have.” They “define who we are as a people.”

2008-09 was a very busy year for FMA:

- If you have **elementary children**, they benefited by our support of their school’s instrument purchases, the 3rd grade music program, the brand new permanent art display cases in the hallways, sheet music, art supplies and with our publication of the first annual *Scarsdale Young Writer’s Review*.
- Your **middle-schoolers** were treated to a wonderful, inter-disciplinary hyperbolic reef project, which we helped launch, supply and promote, plus scores of musical equipment and art supplies that we purchased.
- **Scarsdale High School** received brand new permanent art display cases, primary support for all their arts-related clubs, hospitality at concerts and events, Academic Awards and Scholarship programs, a brand new digital slide converter, and much more.
- We were the voice of your students at district budget planning meetings, helping to preserve strong arts funding. We also kept an ongoing, open dialogue with school arts faculty and administration to make certain they are serving the needs of our students, and we kept the community at large informed about music and performing arts, drama and art productions throughout the year.
- Finally, we launched an informative website, available to the entire community, which features art, music, and creative writing from our students at all levels, and is a valuable repository of local art and music resources, summer camps, enrichment programs, scholarship and award programs. Check it out: www.scarsdalearts.org

Please take this moment to re-confirm your commitment to your student’s enrichment. Your support - whether at a \$25 member level or at an additional level up to our \$500 philanthropist level - will help ensure that Scarsdale’s focus on arts education remains robust. Join now at www.scarsdalearts.org or mail to: FMA, Box 171H, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

Let’s keep Scarsdale special.

Thank you,

Ann Fraser, President - Friends of Music & the Arts