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November 7, 2013

For Immediate Release

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### **Annual NEF Lighthouse Auction Kicks off Online 11/8 to Benefit Newburyport Public Schools**

Newburyport – The Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) announced the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthouse Auction will kick off on November 8 with an online auction. Registration for online bidding is at [www.newburyportef.org/auction](http://www.newburyportef.org/auction).

“This is a very convenient way buy gifts and support the Newburyport Public Schools at the same time,” said Jeff Gray, NEF president. “Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family out of town can do holiday shopping online and directly benefit their child’s school.”

The Lighthouse Auction is the NEF’s largest fundraiser of the year. Over the past five years, the auction has raised more than \$250,000 for the Newburyport Public Schools. Founded in 2004, the NEF is a nonprofit organization that functions as the development office for the Newburyport Public Schools and brings in philanthropy to and works with the school administration to strategically fund projects and needs outside the city school budget. Over the past 10 years, NEF donors have contributed more than \$2.2 million to the Newburyport Public Schools. The NEF is currently finishing up its 2011-2013 campaign, which raises funds to build classroom libraries and enhance reading materials for kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, invests in technology renewal and enhancement throughout the district. And the goal of the new “Lights, Camera, Action!” campaign will bring much needed technology and performance resources to the Nock/Molin auditorium.

“The community has been incredibly generous in support of this event,” said Rosemary Turgeon, the NEF volunteer coordinating the donations. “All of items for the auction have been given to us by businesses, families, students and teachers, and staff. The winning bids for these donations will translate into much needed funds for Newburyport Public Schools. We have some amazing items, so we are hoping for a great turnout!”

Organizers hope that this year will again be a success with even more valuable and unique items to win. New items this year include golf foursomes to three of the top local courses — Turner Hill, Ipswich Country Club and Renaissance, a wine and jazz evening with BlakeLee Greene and Danny Harrington, a personalized singing telegram delivered by John Budzyna, all new vacation homes in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire, pizza making at Oregano's with Mrs. Davis, a chance to own a piece of Bresnahan history — the Frances T. Bresnahan School sign, personalized Brown School Class of 2026 photos by each kindergarten class — marking the end of the Brown School era, a must-see oversized Puma sneaker signed by Olympian Usain Bolt, and baseballs signed by World Series Champions David Ortiz and Manager John Farrell, and much more. The auction is also very popular for the opportunity to win “experiences” that involve teachers and staff such as surfing lessons from a 7th grade science teacher, ice-cream with each of the Brown School teachers, Principal for A Day at the Bresnahan School, and many more.

continued

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The live and silent auction will be held Saturday, November 16 at 5:30 at the Masonic Hall, 31 Green Street, Newburyport. Rob Ouellette, well-known local education supporter and businessman, will be the master of ceremonies for the evening. Admission price includes complimentary hors' d'oeuvres and a cash bar (with all profits benefiting the NEF). Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$30 purchased at the door) and can be purchased at [www.newburyportef.org/auction](http://www.newburyportef.org/auction).

Raffle tickets are now on sale for a chance to win a custom Sapphire and Diamond pendant designed by Matt Khatib of M.K. Benatti Jewelers especially for the NEF. Valued at \$3,500, it could be yours with the purchase of a \$20 Diamond Drawing ticket. This absolutely stunning pendant is currently on display at M.K. Benatti Jewelers at 11 State Street, and will also be at the Auction on November 16th before the winner is drawn during the Live Auction.

There is also a second raffle for chances to win a grand prize of a \$250 Amazon gift card AND a \$150 Target gift card and \$100 Newburyport Chamber of Commerce Gift Card. Tickets will also be on sale at the Live Auction on 11/16. The drawing will be held the night of 11/16 and winner need not be present.

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