

# West End WEEKLY

## Signal Hill Education Foundation Grants Bring More Tech to Signal Hill School

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Mark Johnson  
Contributing Writer

When your district's school is located at the entrance to its namesake neighborhood, it's not surprising that it enjoys a considerable amount of support from local parents. Such is the case with Signal Hill School, District 181. That parental support comes in a number of ways, but the most unique is through the Signal Hill Education Foundation, a non-profit group that bolsters the school's funding through their own supplementary fundraising efforts.

While you might have heard of different fundraising events SHEF hosts throughout the year, you don't always hear about how those funds help the school - let's change that.

The latest batch of grants they've given to the school have gone towards the 5-year technology plan the school has implemented to update their computers for students and teachers. It's an impressive plan that seeks to give one-to-one access to the school's students across their grade range to appropriate technology resources. For students K-2 that means tablets, and for students 3-8 that means Chromebooks. Since the plan is a long-term implementation, they're currently working through the one of the final phases of the plan, just shy of that one-to-one ratio of students to tech, in their respective grade ranges.

SHEF's recent donations combine for a total of \$24,000 towards the purchase of 41 Chromebooks, 20 desktop computers for teachers, and 2 mobile charging carts for the Chromebooks, spread out over 3 individual grants of varying amounts. The carts are an important resource for a school with so many Chromebooks; each holds 20 Chromebooks and can be moved between classrooms quickly.

For the time being students K-3 have access to tablets and students 4-8 have access to Chromebooks, but not quite at the one-to-one ratio yet. They've moved along through their phases quickly, and this current intermediate step is somewhere around phase 4.5. The plan was set forth by the school's



**Cocktails for a Cause**  
A NIGHT AT THE SPEAKEASY WITH SHEF



new technology director, Katie Monroe. Since SHEF is independent it has its own board of directors. The superintendent of Signal Hill School and the president of the school's Board of Education both serve as ex officio members on SHEF's board. That cooperation allows the foundation to contribute effectively to bolster the school's efforts and implementations, like this one.

To support their, well, support, SHEF hosts various fundraisers throughout the year, many of which are known for attracting considerable support from local businesses across the west end. One of their big annual fundraisers is the Cocktails for a Cause event, which is coming up soon on November 14.

This year's Cocktails for a Cause is being hosted at SHEF Board Chair Paul Sforza's house and will have a speakeasy theme, with a super-secret whiskey tasting room in the basement. The Cocktails for a Cause event in particular enjoys a lot of donations and support from west end eateries, which means that the night will not only have plenty of adult drinks (if the theme didn't give it away) but the drinks will also come with a great assortment of foods from your favorite west end restaurants.

You can read more about the Signal Hill Education Foundation on their website at [www.shefinfo.org](http://www.shefinfo.org). You'll find more details about Cocktails for a Cause there as well, and that's also where you can buy tickets for the event.

You can read more about Signal Hill School at [www.signalhill181.org](http://www.signalhill181.org), or call their office at 618-397-0325.

For more information about the West Belleville Promotional Committee, visit [www.westbelleville.org](http://www.westbelleville.org).

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