

'When you give, you get back'

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COVENTRY — Jan Sullivan was quite shaken last Thursday.

The principal at Western Coventry Elementary School stumbled over her own feet and was at a loss for words after a special visitor left the school.

Well-known philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein dropped by the school last Thursday to drop off a check, but not just any check, a check for \$29,117.46.

"This is astounding," Sullivan said. "I am looking at it, I have it in my hand, and I just can't believe it still."

The school received the check for their participation in a challenge set forth by the Feinstein Foundation, in which Feinstein offered to match every dollar raised by Rhode Island schools and students by Nov. 1. When the end of the campaign approached, Feinstein announced he would actually triple the amount raised in Rhode Island schools, so Sullivan said her school was shocked to learn that they would be getting three times the amount they had raised.

The PTA had raised \$5,000 from the school's annual Santa Sale and Bazaar and the school community as a whole raised an additional



Jessica Selby • Daily Times

Alan Shawn Feinstein stands with Western Coventry Elementary School second-graders Arthur Lavallee and Elizabeth Lahoud during his presentation of the Feinstein Foundation's \$29,117.46 contribution to the school.

\$4,705.82 through various fundraisers such as "Hat Day," canned food drives, and donation requests at several school events.

As a result, Western Coventry Schools sent a check to the Feinstein Foundation for \$9,705.82.

Then, just weeks later, they got the call from Feinstein that he would be dropping by the school to deliver their check. All of the students and teachers from the school filed into the school's gymnasium to greet Feinstein and hear what he had to say about all of their hard work.

"You and your teachers have done a wonderful job of helping me with my hunger campaign," Feinstein said to the audience. "And I want you to realize that when you do good things for people, you are making the world a better place and you all deserve a big applaud for what you have done to help."

Sullivan also told the students, "when you give, you get back" and sincerely thanked Feinstein for his triple match campaign.

Sullivan said it has not yet been determined exactly just how the school would be spending the money, but she said she planned to discuss the priorities of the school and the students with the school's improvement team.

Feinstein triples school's donation

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"Schools in general have a never-ending wish list so I am sure we will find something to spend the money on, but it will definitely be put to great use for the kids in this school, I can assure you of that," Sullivan said.

She did say that the original \$5,000 raised by the PTA would, however, be gifted back to them for their own use. Deana Joyal, the PTA president for the school, said that money had not yet been delegated for a specific purpose either, but said the PTA

would definitely use it to support something for the kids in the school.

"Although we haven't decided how we will spend the money yet, I would like to invest it in something that could be used by students in the school for years to come," Joyal said. "Maybe some sort of technology that could aid in their learning capabilities."

Sullivan said for now, the school will just place the money into their general funds and hold onto it until the school improvement team can make a final decision.