

## NYS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## NYS LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA



<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/LEARNANDSERVE/>

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Office of K-16 Initiatives and Access Programs  
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Coordinator  
Pre-Collegiate Preparation Programs and  
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Lewis Hall, Unit Supervisor

Learn and Serve America program

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST :

**2010 National Conference  
on Volunteering and Ser-  
vice will be hosted in New  
York City JUNE 27TH-30TH**

**See page 13**

**Service-Learning Insti-  
tutes  
Summer 2010  
July 13-16: Albany, New  
York**

**See page 14**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

<b>LSA Regional networks</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LSA Projects</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Albion Central School District</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Elmira City School District</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Syracuse City School District</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Averill Park Central</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Getting to Know the NYS Ed. Department</b>	<b>15</b>

### RICH'S NOTES

With the retirement of Mr. Fran Hollon, who has been a key member of the staff in the NYS Education Department for many years and a partner with many of you in developing service learning in New York State, I have taken over the administrative end of the Learn and Serve America program. I am pleased that Fran took the time to familiarize me with several key aspects of the program, and am indebted to him for being just an email or phone call away in navigating my way through the mechanics of the program's various requirements.

Will I do some things differently than Fran? Yes, undoubtedly, sometimes because I may have a different perspective than his, and other times because I simply don't know how he would have done it. I want our [LSA website](#) at SED to be a true "real time" resource for each of you, and for you to have access to information and collaborative opportunities throughout NYS, and for those who find it possible, with teachers and students in other states and Canada. Through it all, together we will try to not only sustain the excellent service learning work being done in your schools and others, but also to expand the number of teachers, the number of schools, and the variety of opportunities offered.



### LISA'S NOTES

Well here we are again almost to the close of another successful service learning school year. Time goes so quickly. I would like to thank each of you for working with us through the transition of leadership as Fran Hollon retired. The dedication and effort that our Learn and Serve America Directors and Coordinators put into our school programs may often seem to go unrecognized or noticed. Without you, our programs would not be as strong and successful as they currently are. Understand that you are appreciated by your schools, your students and by Rich and I as well. It is through your efforts that we are able to have

strongly valued service learn-

ing programs. Soon all Learn and Serve Program Directors and Coordinators will be receiving information regarding the end of year teacher and grantee surveys and project reapplications.

The teacher and grantee surveys must be completed by July 10, 2010. The links will be available shortly.

The re-application materials which will come to project directors via email and hard-copy need to be postmarked no later than July 16, 2010.

Information regarding the LASSIE end of the year surveys and reports from the Corpora-

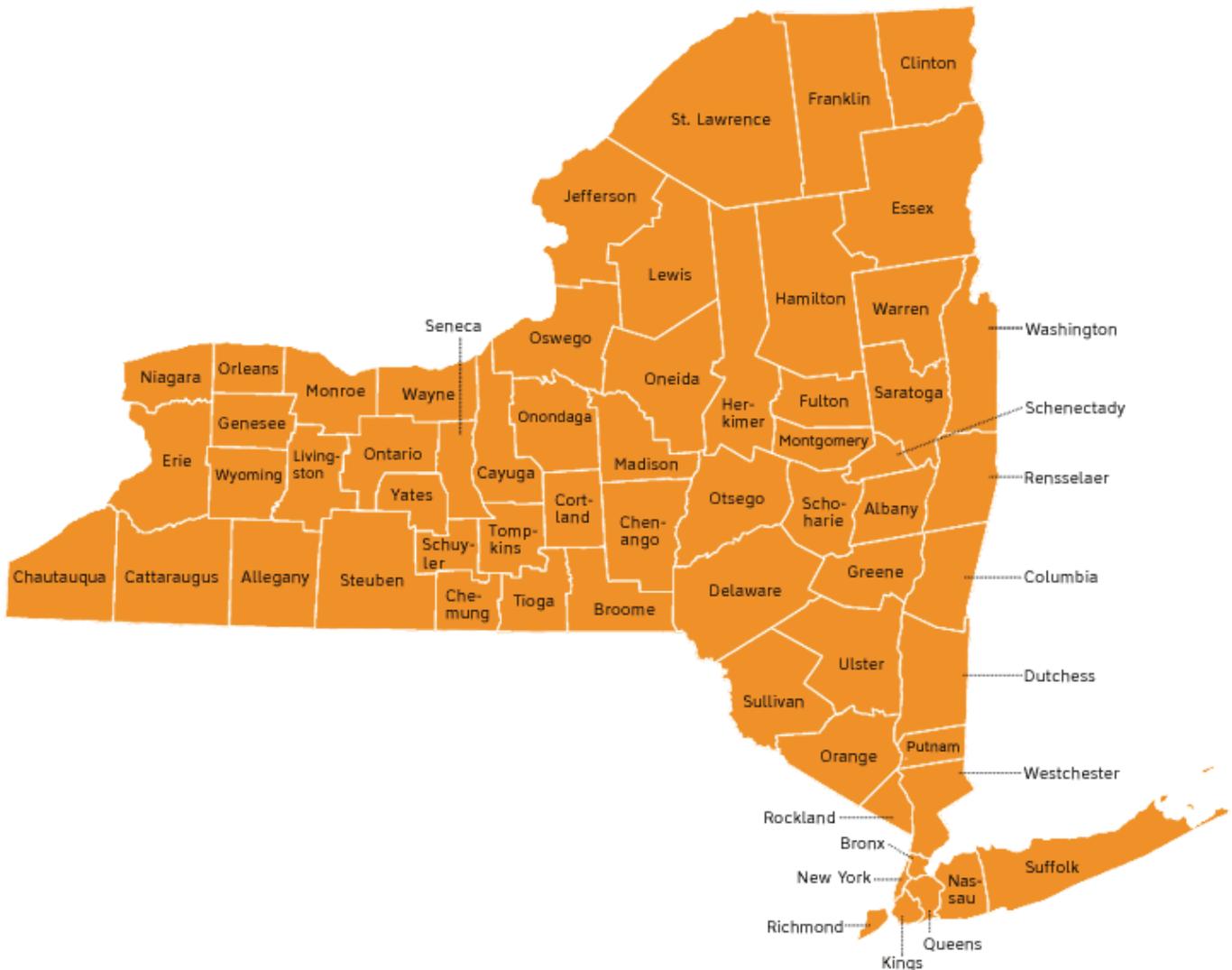
tion for National Service. Please be aware that the [LASSIE documentation](#) must be completed by June 30, 2010. [please contact David and Emily at the LASSIE help desk at [support@lsareports.org](mailto:support@lsareports.org) or at 1-866-337-8751]

Should you have questions please feel free to contact me at [ldrzy-mal@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:ldrzy-mal@mail.nysed.gov).

I hope you all have a wonderful end to your school year and a well deserved restful summer. We will be looking forward to working with all of you next year. Be sure to watch your email over the summer for information and updates as we receive them.

## New York State LSA Regional Networks

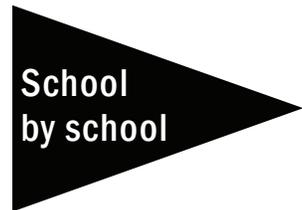
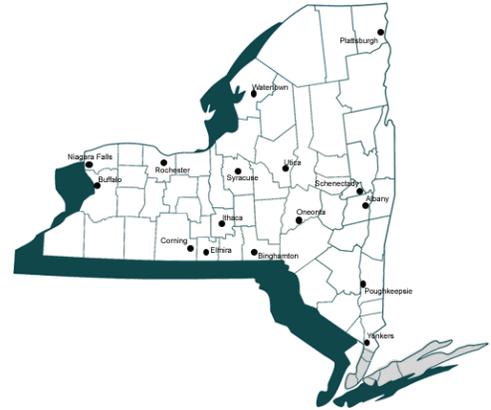
Finger Lakes	Albion Central School District	324 East Avenue	Albion	NY	14411	Susan Starkweather	<a href="mailto:ssstarkweather@albion.k12.org">ssstarkweather@albion.k12.org</a>	585-589-2087
Southern Tier	DCMO BOCES	6678 County Road 32	Norwich	NY	13814	Stacie Haynes	<a href="mailto:hayness@dcmoboces.com">hayness@dcmoboces.com</a>	607-335-1292
Mohawk Valley	Utica City School District	1115 Mohawk Street	Utica	NY	13051	Carla Perica	<a href="mailto:cpercia@uticacityschools.org">cpercia@uticacityschools.org</a>	315-7922215
Capital Region	Scotia Glenville School District	1 Tartan Way	Scotia	NY	12302	Bruce Kohout	<a href="mailto:bkohout@sgcsd.net">bkohout@sgcsd.net</a>	518-386-4357
Hudson Valley	Kingston City School District	61 Crown Street	Kingston	NY	12401	Mary-Stephanie Corsones	<a href="mailto:mcorsones@kingstoncityschools.org">mcorsones@kingstoncityschools.org</a>	845-943-3003
Long Island	Mineola UFSD	10 Armstrong Road	Mineola	NY	11040	Eileen Burke	<a href="mailto:eiburke@mineola.k12.ny.us">eiburke@mineola.k12.ny.us</a>	516-237-2614



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

### Project Listing

- Fredonia Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Wellsville Central School Learn and Serve Program
- West Valley Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Yorkshire Pioneer Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Albion Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Pittsford Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Syracuse City School District Learn and Serve Program
- DCMO BOCES Learn and Serve Program
- Elmira City School District Learn and Serve Program
- Plattsburg City School District Learn and Serve Program
- Utica City School District Learn and Serve Program
- Averill Park Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Brunswick Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Guilderland Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Questar III BOCES Learn and Serve Program
- Scotia Glenville Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Kingston City School District Learn and Serve Program
- White Plains Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Yonkers Public Schools Learn and Serve Program
- East Meadow Union Free School District Learn and Serve Program
- Mineola Union Free School District Learn and Serve Program
- Three Villages Central School District Learn and Serve Program



## Albion Central School District

Four businesses in historic downtown Albion will receive assistance with façade improvements thanks to a new mini-grant created by Albion Main Street Alliance (AMSA) in conjunction with Albion High School students, announced AMSA program manager Katelin Olson. Albion High School chorus and band students held a historic ghost walk at Mount Albion Cemetery in October and raised money to assist building and business owners with façade improvements. This idea came about after students learned about the history of their community, participated in the “This Place Matters” campaign sponsored by National Trust for Historic Preservation, and toured buildings in the downtown area. They were intrigued by the past and wanted to do something that might help improve the look of the historic downtown area for the future.

A team of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in the Ghost Walk thoughtfully reviewed the applications that were available to all downtown building and business owners and determined funding for the projects. The students awarded façade grants to Fischer’s Newsroom, Orleans Travel Bureau Inc., Elsewhere Coffee House and Purpose of Heart Inc. The grant requests were for exterior painting, wooden replacement window on Main Street, West Bank Street, and facing the

canal, and exterior lighting. This grant requires an equal match by the recipient. All work must be approved by the Historic Preservation Commission before it is undertaken and the finished work must match the description provided in the original application. Olson is thrilled with the results of the first Downtown Façade Improvement Grant program.

“Downtown Albion is a treasure-trove of historic buildings. I’m pleased to have the opportunity to work with the students at Albion Central School to help improve them. I was impressed with their professionalism and careful review of the applications, and their excitement about making a visual difference in Downtown Albion.

AMSA is proud to be a part of helping owners make appropriate decisions and preserve their historic buildings for future generations to enjoy.”

“This service-learning project was a very good fit for our students,” said Susan Starkweather, Albion Central School District Grants Manager.

“This is a great way to visually show students that they can use their talents to make a difference in their community, wherever they choose to live.”

“The façade improvement program is going to be an on-going project for AMSA,” Olson

noted. “On May 29<sup>th</sup>, we will host a dinner cruise and other events on the Erie Canal to raise more funds for this program in order to help more building owners. More information is available at the AMSA office at 102 N. Main Street in Albion.”

AMSA’s mission is to revitalize the greater Albion community by investing in and promoting the unique assets of our downtown, and to encourage economic development within the context of historic preservation in ways appropriate to today’s marketplace. It is one of only three communities in New York State that is a designated Main Street Community through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. AMSA and its two sister programs in Lyons and Lockport are coordinated by the Western Erie Canal Alliance.

***“This service-learning project was a very good fit for our students,” said Susan Starkweather, Albion Central School District Grants Manager***

For more information about AMSA or the façade mini-grant project, contact Katelin Olson at [amsa@albionnymainstreet.org](mailto:amsa@albionnymainstreet.org) or call her at 585-283-4550.



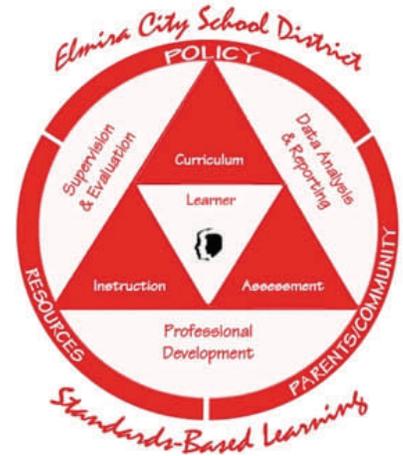
*Pictured (l-r): Albion High School students Mary E. Martin, Samantha Kirby, Gregg Albertson, Joe Condoluci, Molly Church and Abby Thaine review façade mini-grant applications with Katelin Olson, AMSA program manager.*

## Elmira City School District

### **Beecher Elementary:**

Beecher is still on course, but not much has changed from our last update. The fifth grade continues to work on their project photographing the historical buildings and sites of Elmira. Second and third graders are working on their projects for the residents of the St Joseph's skilled nursing facility during a monthly club time. Students are making blankets, cards, letters and healthy snack recipe cards to be shared with residents.

**LeAnne Becker**



### **Broadway Elementary:**

Our “Kindergarten Club” completed their service portion of their project as they worked collaboratively to design and create toy fans for the kittens and cats at the Chemung County SPCA. They are awaiting another informational session from the SPCA representative to learn more about pet care.

“Circle of Friends” mentors and students have continued their positive partnership and recently invited family to one of their recent lunches. Students and mentors both greatly enjoyed having family members present to share their learning and relationship-building.

Three of our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes are in the process of learning and practicing poems, Reader’s Theater scripts and songs based on fluency. When they are done with the learning portion of the project, they will be traveling to Woodbrook to perform for the residents.



**Aimee Garrett/Margaret Thurber**

### **Broadway Middle:**

The Mentoring programs have been busy this month. Scrapbook supplies have been ordered for the students with staff mentors, who will create personal scrapbooks with an emphasis on writing personal narratives. The mentees will work with their mentors to start to create brochures to give to new students who enter BMS as transfers that provide information for students to know that may not necessarily be a part of the introduction they receive from school counselors. Mentees will serve as pals to new students, as well. Students with staff and student mentors will also research healthy snacking options and select snack recipes that are healthy choices and will create them together. Students will decorate bags to deliver the snacks with recipes attached to the food bank at the Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church along with a flyer detailing healthy snacking tips. Ms. Sue Dunlap will provide containers for the snacks prepared.

Mrs. Smith is working with her students on the Courtyard project. She submitted the following

notes: The unit will begin with a field trip to the courtyard to discuss the various projects. (Environmentally friendly/all natural weed killer, Fix leak in water feature, Sign Design, Plants for the trellis, or Mounting a ceramic mural.) Students will choose which project they will be involved in by interest level. Students will utilize the following throughout the duration of the unit:

- ✦ Research
  - ✦ Use of Computer Applications
  - ✦ Creating a budget
- Hands on experience

Students will be responsible for a weekly reflective writing assignment about their specific project.

**Cheryl Miller**

**Coburn Elementary:**

Student Council: has continued to run our recycling collection and children are taking turns. There has been a wonderful increase in awareness in our building of what needs to be collected and where it needs to go. Maintenance has noticed the increase in the amount of recycled materials and has provided us with additional bins to collect the materials in.

Second grade empathy project: students continue to practice their fluency with the consumers from the UCP House in Horseheads. The children look forward to the bi weekly visits and are improving their reading skills and the consumers look forward to their visits with the children.

**Joy Casciotti**

**Cohen Elementary:**

Lunch Buddies continues to meet monthly with our volunteers. At our session, we write in our journals to our friends at the Villa Serene. Once we finish, we play games and talk with our volunteers. Next month, our pen pals from the Villa Serene might come visit us.

**Dawn Carling**

**Cohen Middle:**

We plan to visit food pantry in mid May and produce pamphlets on using food pantry item.. Have confirmed resources of Southern Tier Food Bank and Cooperative Extension. Representative from the food bank will meet us at the pantry and come speak to classes about hunger in the US. Cooperative Extension providing instruction on using foods in the food pantry.

See note that I have not been able to speak with the Minister at Oakwood. If we are not able to provide food for "soup kitchen" dinner we will put together food kits with recipes and perishable items not regularly available at a food pantry.

**Marcie Robinson/Jeff Lawrence**

**Diven Elementary:**

Three third grade classes participated in a joint project with EFA (Mrs. Cunningham's class) in March. The high school students came to Diven and helped the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders make fleece blankets for CIDS. The high school students also presented and discussed "families" with the students and how families can be made up of all kinds of different groups of people. After the blankets were completed, CIDS talked with all of the students on how the blankets are shared with families and what families use the blankets for. We finished our time together by sharing a snack that the high school students had prepared. It was a great learning experience for all involved.

**Jo Legare**

**Hendy Elementary:**

Kerry Lippincott (Chemung Valley History Museum) has been coming to Hendy each week for the last several weeks to help our fourth grade classes to create their Mark Twain exhibit at the museum. The kids have learned all about the jobs in a museum and the responsibilities of putting together an exhibit. Next week they will be working on their labels for the exhibit.

This has been an excellent "real world" experience paired along with our study of Mark Twain for our students. The Hendy students are eager to share all they have learned with our community about this fascinating person. Our students will soon be headed to the museum to install their exhibit and show off all they have learned!

Hendy also continues to have Circle of Friends twice a month where students have been able to meet with their partners and work with them.

**Joe Brucie**

**Edison High:**

The media class continues to construct and implement spots for public service announcements. The student council is currently collecting pennies to fight leukemia and other cancers.

**Al Turshman**

**Elmira Alternative School:**

Our students successfully completed the Pennies for Patients campaign, raising over \$600 for people with Leukemia and Lymphoma. Because the students raised these funds, Mr. Kohena, school principal, grew his hair out and Ms. Smith, our school counselor, died her hair pink!

The students are now actively engaged in a similar campaign for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The students designed jars for each classroom to raise money, wrote announcements and are reading them over the PA system every week, created posters around the school, and will be creating brochures about the program. Our school plans on sending people to walk for JDRF on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The middle school is still assisting in serving at the Elmira Free Community Kitchen once a month.

**Christine Welch / John Kohena**

**EFA:** On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the family studies class from Elmira Free Academy visited the third grade classes at Diven Elementary to work on the annual tie blanket project. Together, the students made approximately 30 tie blankets that will be donated to CIDS/Healthy Families of Chemung County. The Academy students prepared interactive lesson that were presented to the third graders on the meaning of family, types of families, and family functions.

Representatives from CIDS spoke to the entire group about the purpose of the agency and the clients who will receive the blankets. The third graders also composed letters to include with the tie blankets explaining how they made them and how they hoped the clients enjoyed the blankets

Academy students also prepared a snack of cookies, cupcakes, and brownies that was enjoyed by all.

This is the fourth year of this project, and it gets better every year!

**Lois Cunningham**

For February and March the new semester of service learning kids presented ideas to one another to identify upcoming spring awareness's they wanted to be involved in. Groups split up, one learning about HIV/AIDS and distributing informational flyers and baskets of buttons to the local high school nurses offices and the YWCA telling women and girls about their risks, statistics, and where they can received confidential free testing in Elmira. Another group worked on Kick Butts Day and in an effort to get their fellow smoking peers to quit and others to never start flyers were distributed to smokers about information on how to quit and to raise awareness, 52 kids (representing the 52 New Yorkers that die from smoking related causes everyday) wore black t-shirts with posters on their back saying they were "one less" because of smoking. It stirred conversation, awareness, and education throughout the halls and kids explained the message. The third group is preparing for diabetes awareness and the walk at Elmira College in May. They are peer teaching at local elementary schools, having created lessons, a "dimes for diabetes campaign," and a service project for those they teach to be involved in. They have been preparing to host a "dance for diabetes" in April.



**Laura Davis**

**Fassett Elementary:**

In February we held an assembly to honor the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We decided to use his birthday as a great time to launch our "Pennies for Patients" campaign. Pennies for Patients teach students caring, sharing, and respect for others, as well as the value of community service for an important cause. Students donated their spare change to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help children with cancer. Our motto at Fassett is "When we all do a little, we all do a lot and no one can do everything, but we can all do something."

As a building we collected and donated \$300.00 to this cause.

**Karen Buck**

**Holy Family Elementary:**

We completed our project with the SPCA-Puppy/Kitty “Baby” Shower in February. We collected items from the SPCA wish list during the month of February and delivered them to the shelter in the first week of March. We collected 5 large totes of supplies for the animals. A representative came and spoke to our children on February 12<sup>th</sup> about what the shelter does for our community. She brought a dog with her to meet the children. The students were very inspired by this visit.

Our other two projects-Flowers for Seniors- working with St. Joseph’s Skilled Nursing & Tie Blanket Project- working with AOMC are in the beginning stages. Both will be taking place in April. We are just beginning to make plans for these projects. They are on hold until we receive approval to purchase materials.

**Bernadette McClelland**

**Pine City Elementary:**

Compeer Circle of Friends continues.

The annual 1<sup>st</sup> grade SPCA benefit collection was completed. SPCA volunteer, Julie Albertalli, made presentations to classes. Items and donations were collected, presented, and accepted. The SPCA noted that the collection was one of the largest ever from a school community.

Summer work for planting, maintenance, and care of living things is scheduled for school grounds. Students for leader/volunteer work are identified/planned for outside agencies (Tanglewood).

White Pine trees have been ordered from the Saratoga Tree Nursery via the Department of Environmental Conservation. May and/or June activities for planting trees as a vehicle for environmental awareness and conservation education have been identified.

Emergency List for the Home items are continue to be compiled/planned for education and preparation of student community.

**Kevin Vecellio**

**Riverside Elementary:**

Our Green Team has met twice. The students are very enthusiastic about our water projects and designing the rain barrels. Each grade has a different design pertaining to a water theme. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have met with Diane Fiorentino from the Soil & Water Conservation District twice. They will begin their survey of the neighborhood for storm drain related information at our next meeting.

Students in grades 3 through 5 have signed up via our student council to work at our breakfast composting station. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Green Team members will begin using our compost in preparing the raised garden beds for our community gardens.

**Jenny Supple/ Martha Benedict**

**Southside High:**

Service learning students have been working on creating materials for kick butts day on March 24th They will be holding a carnival in the cafeteria to try to get their peers to quit smoking, or have them pledge to get a loved one to quit this year.

Student will then begin learning about suicide/teen depression and breast cancer for the “Walk a Mile Walk” and “Race for the Cure” in May. We will also be participating in relay for life, which should take us right until the end of the school year.

**Sarah Jones**

\*Human Development class went to Woodbrook with refreshments and interviewed the residents about what life was like when they were teenagers. My students came back to Southside and answered the same questions. The students then compared the responses and created a booklet with the answers for Woodbrook.

\*Foods students made banana bread. The students then, created gift bags with the bread and pamphlets made by the students about nutritional facts. Put together about 200 bags. One class then went to Meals on Wheels to deliver the gift bags.

**Donna Herrington**

## Syracuse City School District

### Frazer School LSA-

Frazer School has over 900 PreK through 8th grade students representing more than 17 different language groups in the southwestern area in the Syracuse City School District. As we enter our 13th year with Service Learning as an important component of our school program, we feel it helps us provide our students with unique and challenging learning activities to help students meet their full intellectual, social, emotional and physical potential and become productive, responsible citizens, which is our school and District mission.

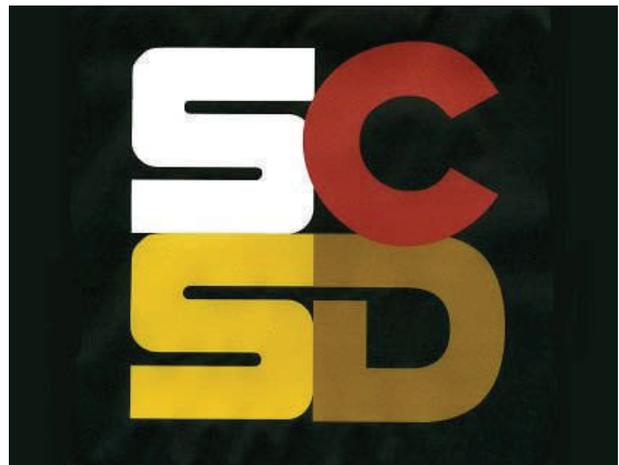
Each Frazer student is involved with service learning projects at the homeroom and grade level, as well as school-wide. The LSA

program allows us to serve our community and apply our academic skills to real-life situations. We are very pleased to announce that we have a SAY YES program that also integrates service learning as part of their after-school program for our K-3 students.

In 2009-10, our school-wide projects include 2 food drives, a clothing drive for Haiti, Acts of Kindness Week, creating care packages for soldiers overseas, Earth day observances, and our annual Suskin Run to raise funds to help fight cancer. Our annual Service Learning Overnight is also held where middle school students in our Building Men group mentor small groups of younger students through an afternoon and evening of leadership and life skill development activities.

At the homeroom and grade level, smaller groups of students will make placemats for Meals on Wheels, create and sell crafts to raise funds for the Suskin Run, collect supplies for our local SPCA, send crafts and letters to patients at the VA Hospital, learn about good nutrition from older students, tutor younger students, decorate cookies and make pies for the needy with RSVP volunteers, collaborate with SUNY ESF students to clean up and plant for Earth Day, create scrapbooks and play chess with elders, make welcome baskets for newly arrived refugee families, clean up and beautify our school grounds, clean up Veteran's cemetery, make sandwiches for the homeless, raise funds to buy a cow for an underdeveloped nation, write letters and posters to encourage our community to vote and participate in the census and more,

At Frazer School, we are committed to educating our students to be academically proficient and to see being involved in helping our community is a very important part of life.



### Nottingham High School LSA-

Nottingham High School has had a busy year so far with service learning initiatives, some long-term and others short-term. An example of a long-term initiative is our school's Teen AIDS Task Force, a group of students who receive education and training on the prevention of STD's and HIV/AIDS and the use of safe sex practices. Those students then provide peer education to promote healthy lifestyle choices for overall wellness. The students distribute literature, have panel discussions, make public address announcements, and display posters in school. The TATF also sponsored a World AIDS day event December 1 by bringing a display of some panels of the famous World AIDS Quilt to the school library. Each panel recognizes a person whose life was lost as a result of AIDS. The event was open to the community

as well as the school and was well attended.

Another long-term initiative is the Nottingham Syracuse as School internship program. This year 45 interns were placed at worksites in the Syracuse community. This unique service-learning program places students in real-life work situations that provide the opportunity to acquire job readiness skills while building positive relationships with members of the community. An example of a worksite this year included Jowonio Early Childcare, where Joshua and Initra both interned for 4 hours a week. They spent time learning about early childhood development and provided extra help in the classrooms. Other worksites included The Salvation Army, The Community-Wide Dialogue to End Racism, and the Boys and Girls Club just to name a few. Asha interned at the local newspaper, The Post-Standard, and wrote about her experience in the Community-Wide Dialogue Program.

The Nottingham Leadership Class sponsored two food drives, the Salvation Army Holiday Drive and the St. Patrick's Hunger Prevention Drive. In addition to enticing the school community to fill 5 barrels each time, the students raised \$200.00 through lunch time bake sales and went shopping after school for the much needed food items to fill another few barrels for each food drive.

The Nottingham students are wrapping up their latest service learning initiative, the Vera House White Ribbon Campaign to end dating and domestic abuse. Sponsored by the Nottingham Leadership Class, on March 30, a representative from Vera House visited Nottingham and gave a presentation to the students on healthy relationships and recognizing and identifying verbal, emotional, and physical abuse in dating and domestic relationships. Also included was information on the history of Vera House and the services the agency provides for the community. The students of Nottingham have been selling the white ribbons and wrist bands in record numbers in support of healthy relationships.

Thirty-two students participated in Community-Wide Dialogue, an exchange program that pairs an urban and suburban school to engage in activity and discussions to explore issues of stereotyping and breaking down racial and socioeconomic barriers to building community. We participated with a neighboring suburban school and our students expanded their horizons by partaking in discussions on sensitive issues and dismantling perceptions about each other's school, thereby building strong bridges between the communities.



Levy K-8 School LSA-

This is the fourth year of Service Learning at Levy, and the second year that Levy has participated in the Service Learning Program as a Kindergarten through eighth grade school. It is an exciting time, because many of the projects are incorporating a mix of both elementary and middle level students. Although the students have been in the same building with one another all year, it is a new and refreshing experience for them to participate in service learning together.

Recently, a small group of students traveled to the SPCA to bring donations and volunteer with general cleaning responsibilities. The group included 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and both middle and elementary level teachers. Students returned reporting that they felt good about the work they did for the SPCA organization, but also feeling a sense of community with fellow students that they spend little time with, despite seeing them every day.

Danforth Middle School LSA-

This is the fourth year that Danforth Middle School has been awarded the Learn and Serve Grant and it just keeps getting better! From holiday placemats for local food service agencies to community gardening, the Danforth Eagles continue to soar! Our middle school students have gained so much from their service opportunities, both personally and academically. They have strengthened literacy, math and science skills; developed healthy social skills; learned the significance of consuming and producing local produce and the foundations of healthy nutrition; and, best of all, have channeled these skills through the proactive intention of helping others and making a difference in their world!

Our most significant project this year is, without a doubt, our Community Garden. Our students want to dramatically reconstruct our school landscape by creating a place where students and community members can feel welcome and

Over the holiday season, students in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the Holiday Mail for Heroes program, sending letters, projects and care packages to soldiers deployed overseas. Middle level students mentored and assisted elementary level students with the project, working not only on skills associated with service learning, but also literacy skills and cooperative learning, again enhancing a sense of community here at Levy,

There have been several other projects performed at Levy thus far this school year. The list includes but is not limited to: traveling to Menorah Park Senior Living Community for a Valentine's Day event, hosting a Community Health Fair to educate the public on different healthy initiatives, Holiday Helpers at the Rescue Mission, and Jump Rope for Heart, Spring Clean-Up with the RSVP Program in Mattydale, and Baking for Benefits (a bake sale held by elementary students to raise money for relief efforts in Haiti). Students look forward to continuing their efforts on their own time, and advocating for service learning initiatives in the schools that they attend next school year.

find peace. Collaboration between the Earth Science and Art teachers has led to planning a mural, flower and vegetable garden! We are working closely with local agencies and community groups to ensure that our kids learn all the steps in considering, planning and executing a garden. Furthermore, we are strategizing how we can develop lessons of entrepreneurship by selling the produce that we grow in the local farmer's market!

We really are *planting seeds* of greatness here at Danforth!

*"We really are planting seeds of greatness here at Danforth!"*



## Averill Park Central School District

Writer Maya Angelou once said, “When you learn, teach; when you get, give.” Averill Park teachers and staff take these words to heart by learning about service learning and then spreading the word to others in their district by using a variety of methods and materials.

For example, after attending numerous workshops and share fairs and using service learning as a teaching tool themselves, Algonquin Middle School teachers, Sharon Johnson and Carol Winkley decided to teach others in their district about service learning by implementing an in-service for faculty this winter. The in-service consisted of seven sessions which covered such topics as how to identify the needs of the community, build community partnerships, develop partnerships between grade levels and buildings, using reflection, and more. Attending teachers appreciated the time made available to talk to other staff across grade levels, share ideas, and finally develop their own service learning projects. Participants were also able to

study the new service learning curriculum kits that were developed last year by district coordinators, Sara Schuman (also an elementary reading teacher) and Liz Finn (a former middle school teacher).

Coordinators created the kits using the extensive service learning materials collected and developed over ten years of implementing the district-wide program. The kits take the form of individual bins each one containing materials on a separate service learning theme- such as the basics of service learning, inter-generational projects, the environment, diversity, immigration and refugees, rescuing animals, mentoring and tutoring across grade levels, gardening and nutrition (currently the “Learn and Serve America” grant theme), and more! Each kit contains reflection ideas, project suggestions for that theme, information about organizations with which to partner (local, national, and global), theme-related books and videos, and even puppets and other fun hands-on supplies- all suitable for a variety of grade levels.

The kits have been borrowed by teachers and staff and are easily transported to any of the district’s schools. They can be used at staff development events or by individuals. This kit idea can be replicated by other school districts and makes it easier for staff to plan and implement quality service learning projects.

This year the Averill Park School District also instituted an online method for teachers to propose their service learning projects. The online form requires teachers to clarify their the goals of their project as well as to explain reflection methods, ties to curriculum and district service learning goals, numbers of students involved, evaluation plans, materials and field trip needs, and more. There is also an extensive “Service Learning Corner” on the district website with updated photographs and information for both the community and staff.

All of these initiatives have improved the quality of the district’s program and enable everyone in the district to communicate about service learning.

**Maya Angelou once said,  
“When you learn, teach;  
when you get, give.”**



**AVERILL PARK**  
**Central School District**



National Conference on Volunteering and Service  
New York City, June 28-30, 2010



Convened by:



people power change

## National Conference on Volunteering and Service

THE 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE WILL BE HOSTED IN NEW YORK CITY JUNE 27TH-30TH !

This year's Conference is themed It's Up To You! as a tribute to the legendary Frank Sinatra song New York, New York – and a call to action for each of us! As the host state, this year's conference will provide an amazing opportunity to showcase the incredible work AmeriCorps and all national service members in New York achieve every day!

In addition, you will have the largest network at your fingertips to share innovative ideals, learn new skills, practical tools, creative solutions, best practices and cutting-edge technology, and be exposed to inspirational models from around the country! If you have never attended a national conference, I strongly encourage you to attend this years' and help New York State host the national service community!

As the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors, the 2010 National Conference on Volunteering and Service is an event you do not want to miss!

Many thanks to our sponsors and dynamic New York Host Committee!

Information on the Conference can be found at:

<http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/>

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# Service-Learning Institutes Summer 2010 JULY 13-16: ALBANY, NEW YORK

Rejuvenate your practice and commitment to education

Join a network of passionate educators – connect with peers who care about creating the next generation of active and involved citizens  
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For complete details and registration information please visit:  
[www.kidsconsortium.org](http://www.kidsconsortium.org)

During the Summer Institute, you will:

Explore service-learning – an innovative teaching strategy that:

- Engages students in real-life problem-solving – across all grade levels and content areas/interdisciplinary units
- Supports different learning styles
- Builds 21<sup>st</sup> century skills – teamwork, communication, critical thinking, decision-making

Learn “how to” implement a quality service-learning project

Explore a step-by-step process using the KIDS as Planners Guidebook – take home adaptable project planning tools and templates  
Learn and practice classroom activities that encourage student voice

Create standards-based units with assessments

Develop a deeper understanding of the role of reflection

Discover information and financial resources that support student projects

Leave with strategies to develop authentic school/community partnerships

Explore ways to use service-learning as a strategy to implement your school and district goals (e.g. drop-out prevention, literacy, STEM, civic engagement)

**Registration fee includes: 4 days of instruction with KIDS Consortium’s nationally recognized service-learning trainers; KIDS as Planners Guidebook; a notebook full of service-learning resources; and meals**

**Earn up to 3 Graduate Credits at affordable rates while you create a unit plan to use with your students!**

**Scholarships and project implementation mini-grants are available.**



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*Join a network of passionate educators – connect with peers who care about creating the next generation of active and involved citizens*

# Getting to Know the NYS Education Department

## The New York State Board of Regents

The Regents are responsible for the general supervision of all educational activities within the State, presiding over The University and the New York State Education Department. The Regents are organized into standing committees and subcommittees whose members and chairs are appointed by the Chancellor.

The Board comprises 17 members elected by the State Legislature for 5 year terms: 1 from each of the State's 13 judicial districts and 4 members who serve at large. Regents are unsalaried and are reimbursed only for travel and related expenses in connection with their official duties.

The Regents have identified six goals for lifelong education, encompassing infancy through senior years:

1. Every child will get a good start.
2. Every child will read by the second grade.
3. Every student will complete middle level education ready for high school.
4. Every student will graduate from high school ready for work, higher education and citizenship.
5. People who begin higher education will complete their programs.
6. People of all ages who seek more knowledge and skill will have the fullest opportunity to continue their education.

Mission of the NYS Education Department:

To raise the knowledge, skill, and opportunity of all the people in New York.

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**SED is on the web!!**

<http://www.nysed.gov/home.html>

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The Office of K-16 Initiatives and Access Programs, within the Office of Higher Education, administers over 130 million dollars in grants, contracts and scholarships to colleges and universities; schools, school districts and BOCES; community based and non-profit organizations; and students.

The Office provides technical assistance on innovative strategies to:

1. Improve college graduation rates for ethnic, cultural and other underrepresented and or disadvantaged students; and
2. Close the gap for students in need of academic intervention services to meet the Regents graduation requirements.

*Stanley S. Hansen Jr., Executive Coordinator*

## Pre-Collegiate Preparation & Scholarships Unit

The Unit's mission is to foster the development and implementation of collaborative partnerships among and between colleges, schools, community-based organizations, parents, students, business, industry and government to ensure that all students in New York State, especially those in programs administered by the Unit, have every opportunity to be successful learners in an environment that honors the uniqueness of each individual.

*Lewis Hall, Unit Supervisor*