

# Connections

A Community Working Together

Holyoke Public Schools

Volume 10, Issue 4  
Summer 2012

## An Open Letter to the Holyoke School Community

### Seeking Representative Parent/Guardian Involvement and Support

By David Dupont, Superintendent of Schools

Parents and guardians should play an essential role in the education of their children, therefore, their involvement with their schools should go well beyond visits to deal with disciplinary matters or to attend student performances. They should also have input in the operation of the schools. The state mandated School Improvement Councils are supposed to provide for parent involvement in the school operation. I believe that a district-wide body of parent/guardian representatives from each of the schools would be an effective entity for the superintendent to work with in dealing with issues that might relate to all of the schools.

It might be of no surprise (and it is not in many other districts and states) how difficult it is to recruit parents to become actively involved in school life. For whatever reasons, aside from the common small group of always active individuals that you will find in most schools, parents/guardians tend to shy away from the schools. Whether it is because they are called there only for negative reasons, or they feel disaffected somehow when they visit the schools, I have to do a much better job in reaching out to them and demonstrating to them that their participation in their children's education and in their schools is meaningful and legitimate.

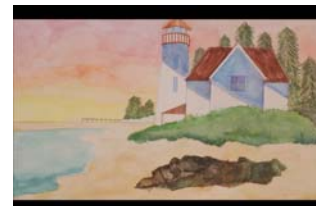
Since last August, with the assistance of a small group of interested individuals inside and outside of the school community, I have established a district-wide representative parent organization to deal with issues affecting the district (topics vary and could include uniforms, discipline and suspensions, nutrition, career

readiness, attendance, etc.). The idea is to create what we will call 'H' Ambassadors ('H' for Holyoke) from each of the schools who will act in a representative capacity. Encouragement for participation from any school staff member who deals with parents would be greatly appreciated. Parents and guardians are an essential entity in the school community and we want them to know that their input and participation are not only important, but also welcomed. This is another way to keep our school district moving in the right direction. There is no question that together we can make a huge difference for our schools and our children.

#### "H" Ambassadors Scheduled Meeting Dates

Wednesday, June 6, 2012  
 Wednesday, August 1, 2012  
 Wednesday, September 26, 2012  
 Wednesday, November 7, 2012  
 Wednesday, January 9, 2013  
 Wednesday, March 6, 2013  
 Wednesday, May 1, 2013

All meetings will be held at 6:00 PM in the Holyoke High School cafeteria unless otherwise scheduled.



Artist: Laura Ernst, McMahon School

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#### Edition Highlights:

- Summer Offerings
- Rising Stars
- Arbor Day Celebrations
- Family Literacy



DiMarie Cartegena, a teacher at Sullivan School, is having fun reading aloud with families during Sullivan's Family Literacy Night. See page 10 for more information regarding this event.





### Mission Statement

*The mission of the Holyoke Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities for all students to reach their full potential in a safe, secure, healthy learning environment while valuing diversity and promoting responsible citizenship.*

### Holyoke School Committee

Mayor Alex Morse  
Dennis Birks  
Margaret Boulais  
William Collamore  
Joshua Garcia  
Yvonne Garcia  
Howard Greaney  
Cesar Lopez  
Michael Moriarty  
Devin Sheehan

**For FREE summer offerings for middle school students, see page 11.**

# Attention!

## Kindergarten Registration

### Register Now!

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012.

### Registration by Appointment Only

Applications available at the:  
STUDENT ASSIGNMENT OFFICE  
57 Suffolk Street 413-534-2007

## For Parents/Guardians of Current Sixth Graders

In order for a student to enter 7th grade in September 2012, documentation of the following requirements will need to be submitted to the school nurse by August 29th:

1. Physical exam (copy of exam or appointment date)
2. Two doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine (MMR)
3. Three doses of Hepatitis B Vaccine
4. One dose of Tetanus (Tdap) Booster Vaccine (unless last tetanus booster was within the last 5 years)
5. Two doses of Varicella Vaccine (or physician documented case)

Any student not providing proof of the listed requirements to the school nurse will be excluded from entering/attending 7th grade in September 2012, until requirements are met.

## Summer School-Based Family Literacy Programs

### Parents and Children Learning Together!

Starting in July, the Kelly and E.N. White Schools will have new family literacy programs! Parents, look for the surveys and fliers with information about the programs that the schools will be sending home soon. These family literacy programs will incorporate theater and art and other fun activities that parents/caregivers can do with children over the summer and the school year to reinforce and strengthen reading skills. Families will go on field trips and get free books to build their home libraries. Please call the schools or Jody Spitz at 413-552-2913 for more information.

There will also be a summer family literacy program at the Morgan School. Theater, art, free books and fun activities will be part of this program as well. For more information about the schedule of classes that will start in July, please contact Glenda Morales at 413-534-2083.

## Summer Learning Opportunities

For Holyoke Public Schools' Students

July 9th - August 9th  
8:00AM - 1:00PM

Visit the district website for more information:

<http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us>

**“Learn everything you can, anytime you can, from anyone you can; there will always come a time when you will be grateful you did.”** –Sarah Caldwell





# Rising Stars 2012



SUPERINTENDENT'S SELECTION

KEISHABELL IBARRA  
DAISHA SERRANO

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

BRANELI GONZALEZ  
CATIRIA TORRES

DEAN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

JOHN CONNON  
RAQUEL GARCIA  
DESEREE GONZALEZ  
ANFERNEE HERNANDEZ

DONAHUE SCHOOL

ANGELEE DIAZ  
RACHAEL M. EMERSON  
NATALIE PEDRAZA

HOLYOKE HIGH SCHOOL

FRANCISCO ALVARADO  
JESSICA L. CANATA  
KARLIE COLON  
RYAN DEAN

BROOKE HEISLER-LEARY

JOSEPH MASPO  
ANDREW MERCADO  
CHRISTOPHER POU  
GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ  
GARBRIELLE VARGAS  
AMELIA VEGA

KELLY SCHOOL

MARIAN RIVERA  
JANITZA SANTIAGO  
DAMARIS VELAZQUEZ

MCMAHON SCHOOL

CHELSEA M. CORREIA  
EMMA HOBERT  
EMILY PEREZ

MORGAN SCHOOL

ANTHONY CASTILLO  
ALONDRA ORTIZ REYES  
MELANIE TORRES

PECK SCHOOL

DEVONNY A. CASTELLANO  
GIOVANNI ORTIZ  
MARGARITA VELAZCO

SULLIVAN SCHOOL

JOSEPH D'ADDARIO  
MOHAMMAD BAGHDADI  
ANAILI LOPEZ

E.N. WHITE SCHOOL

NEISHALIZ CORTEZ  
JEYNELIZ ORTIZ  
HANNA SMITH



The Holyoke Public Schools and the Celebrate Holyoke Public Schools/ Rising Stars Committee extend a heartfelt thank you to our kind benefactors—

- Peoples Bank
- The Holyoke Credit Union
- Holyoke Community College
- The Holyoke Merry-Go-Round
- The Springfield Republican
- Peggy Woods
- Ken LePage, Director of Food Services
- Mark Todd
- The Student Services Department

Thank you to our wonderful staff who work with our students every day.



## Morgan

Submitted by Julie Winberg,

### Kindergarten Students Visit the Eric Carle Museum

In April, students from Adair Rivest and Ann Scagel's kindergarten classes visited the Eric Carle Museum in Amherst. Students enjoyed the bus trip, where they spotted fields, horses, cows, trees, gardens and other evidence of farm life. At the museum they visited a gallery full of paintings by Eric Carle, participated in a scavenger hunt for shapes, and made their own books. They returned to school excited about their learning day.

### Butterflies and Insect Poems

A second grade science/ELA project on insects in Ellen Moriarty's class had students researching an insect of their choice and writing poems about their findings. The results were beautifully illustrated and were displayed on the bulletin board outside their room for the whole school to admire.



### Students Perform at Carlos Vega Park Dedication

The May 10th dedication of the park on Roberto Clemente Drive in honor of the late Carlos Vega was an enormous success, and Morgan students played a huge part in that success. Performances by the Morgan School Choir under the direction of Emily Temple almost brought the audience to tears with their rendition of "You Raised Me up". Jenifer Gelineau's violin students also added to the festivities. In addition, students from Ellen Moriarty's second grade class read butterfly/insect poems created during science lessons investigating the lives of insects.

### Traditional Literature is not Dead!

Students in Jim Sharpe's sixth grade ELA class demonstrated enthusiasm in their studies of traditional literature. They studied myths and fairy tales (*Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *The King's Equal*). Additionally MCAS practice excerpts of Prometheus, *Robin Hood* and the *Odyssey* were studied. Students were able to retell the works and created a play. After reading the epic poem, "Beowulf" students wrote letters to the characters. These were displayed in the hallway outside the classroom. Characters fortunate enough to be addressed were Unferth, Grendel and Grendel's mother.

### Eighth Grade Students Wrap Up Five-College Awareness Visits

The last in a series of visits to colleges by eighth graders organized by counselor Emily Temple took place on May 2nd, when the students travelled to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. They were able to visit classes, eat lunch with college students and visit dormitory rooms. They came back brimming with enthusiasm for a college career, and felt eager and focused to get on with their education. Throughout the year, they were able to visit HCC, STCC, Springfield College and Westfield State University giving them a taste of the educational variety available to them, and encouraging them to work hard at high school next year.

### Bullying is Not Cool

This was the message of Peace Night on Thursday, April 27th which attracted over 260 family and staff members, resulting in a standing room only crowd. Organized by counselors Emily Temple and Lauren Paret, Peace Night was designed to celebrate diversity and emphasize the importance of respecting differences. The program focused on creating a positive atmosphere in the school, which would in turn help stamp out bullying. Informational tables were available with messages on how to create safe schools and why this is important. The Morgan School Choir sang songs about self respect, respect for others and world peace. Program events were announced by various fourth grade students.

### Morgan Community Resources Breakfast

As part of Morgan's Full Service Community School status, a breakfast was held on Friday, April 27th in the cafeteria. Morgan families were invited to attend, have breakfast, and obtain useful information from our Holyoke Community Partners. Information about services available to parents was provided by Snap, Providence Ministries, Homework House, Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council, Career Point, Job Corps, and WIC. Raffles for prize baskets added to the interest and a good deal of enthusiasm was shown by the families who participated.

### Sweet Mangoes Play Performed in Third Grade

Students in Becky LaLiberte and Jessica Giroux's third grade classes worked hard practicing for their presentation of their class play, *Sweet Mangoes*, based on a folktale from India. Invitations were sent home to parents for May 15th (LaLiberte's class) and May 16th (Giroux's class) to come to the school and see their children perform. Costumes were made by Mrs. LaLiberte, and mangoes were provided as refreshment after each performance.



Students from left to right, beginning with first row, going to 2nd: Leython Hernandez, Nochali Arroyo, Julissa Rivera, Kaizer Lopez, Nichelle DeLeon, Brian Diaz, Antonio Sanchez, Hector Cora, Jasmin Reyes, Tatiana Gomez, Maria Caraballo, Idalis Caballero, Nasir Davis, Jose Colon, Estevan Rodriguez.

(Morgan School continued on page 9).



## Dean Technical

### Massachusetts Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Award

Congratulations to Gary Charlton, the recipient of the Massachusetts Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Award. Gary was honored at a banquet in Mechanics Hall in Worcester on April 25, 2012. Gary is a student who has excelled in the Graphic Arts Program maintaining honor roll status for all four years along with perfect attendance. He has demonstrated great discipline in the classroom and is enrolled in a dual-enrollment program with Springfield Technical Community College studying psychology. Gary is a recipient of a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and received the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award. He took part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference and also worked on the Holyoke Youth Commission.



Gary, an outstanding athlete, has played football and volleyball for two years and was captain his senior year. He also is an exceptional wrestler, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state competition this year and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Western Mass competition. Gary will be attending Becker College in Worcester where he plans to study Computer Science and Game Programming.

### Teens Increasing Awareness of Teen Pregnancy

Dean Tech students showed real teamwork in their health education leadership for "The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy" on May 2nd. Dean's principal, Jonathan Carter, praised his students' involvement and commitment to increasing awareness and education of teen pregnancy. "Our students are providing a clear message to their peers that they have choices, and that they should think carefully about their relationships and behavior." According to a recent survey by the National Campaign, 55% of sexually experienced teens ages 15-19 (67% of girls 15-19) say they wished they had waited longer, and had postponed becoming sexually active. Teens went on to say that parents most influence their decisions about sex and 87% say it would be much easier to say "No" and avoid teen pregnancy if they were more able to have open and honest talks with their parents.

River Valley Health Center's School-based Teen Clinic nurse practitioner, Patti Mertes, FNP, joined forces with Dean students and health teacher Cynthia Carbone, RN, MSN, to provide educational materials, buttons, wrist-bands and a multi-item raffle throughout all lunches. Ashley Frazier was the big raffle winner!

Ninth grade Health students participated in a poster contest sponsored by Youth First. Winners Analucy Perez and Jeremy Roman each won \$25 and certificates of recognition from Youth First, as did Cathryne Kennedy and Jorge Diaz Vargas who earned the Principal's Health Educator awards and \$25 gift certificates.

The Graphic Arts shop students,



Students stand with Principal Jonathan Carter (center). Students holding posters are (left to right) Analucy Perez, Cathryne Kennedy, Jorge Diaz-Vargas, and Jeremy Roman.

guided by instructor Mark Grasso, created a poster for every classroom reminding students that "You Have Choices", "Tienes Opciones" and the posters suggested a visit to [www.StayTeen.org](http://www.StayTeen.org) for more information, interactive games, and the chance to win an ipod.

### Prom Dress Party at Dean

Dean's Tea Room was the site of the first "Prom Dress Party", where senior girls enjoyed punch, cookies, and a dynamic presentation by Dr. Sara McAdoo, local physician and Director of the YEAH Network. Dr. McAdoo talked with the girls about how to value themselves. She discussed their abilities to plan, set goals, and make positive things happen in their lives. The girls felt empowered by her positive words. Afterwards, the seniors browsed over 75 beautiful prom dresses. The dresses were donated by Westfield State University's Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. This event was a cooperative effort between WSU, Patti Mertes, FNP of the Teen Clinic, Chefs Marty Fullwood and Normand Leblanc of Dean's Culinary Arts program, and Cynthia Carbone, Dean Tech Health teacher. All participants enjoyed favor bags, and many found their perfect prom dress!

### National Kick Butts Day

Young people from Dean Technical High School joined forces with thousands of children across the country who took part in Kick Butts Day, a nationwide initiative that makes children leaders in the effort to stop youth tobacco use. As part of the Kick Butts Day celebration, Dean Tech 9th grade health students took part in a poster contest sponsored by the Holyoke Mall. Winner of a \$50 Holyoke Mall gift certificate for her award-winning first place poster was Arielle Santana. "The tobacco companies make smoking look cool in their ads, but that's nothing but a lie," explains 9th grader Arielle Santana. "There's nothing cool about cigarette breath and smelly clothes."

"Children are a powerful part of the solution to reducing youth tobacco use," said Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which coordinates Kick Butts Day. "For Kick Butts Day 2012, children are sending two important messages: they want the tobacco industry to stop targeting them with advertising and they want elected leaders at all levels to do more to protect them from tobacco."

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing more than 400,000 people every year. Every day, more than 4,000 children try their first cigarettes; another 1,000 children become addicted smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result explains health teacher Cynthia Carbone, RN, MSN. For more information about stopping smoking contact the American Lung Association at [www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org) or the American Cancer Society at

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).



**Peck****Unconditional Positive Regard****By Cathy Foley**

Unconditional Positive Regard (UPR) was designated at the beginning of the school year as one of Peck Full Service Community School's core values. Eighth grade science teacher Tina Siniscalchi along with Hampshire College students developed and implemented a new elective course for seventh graders devoted to the study of Unconditional Positive Regard. The course is designed to give students a chance to educate the student population about the meaning of UPR. They are working to create a community within the building that is geared toward the focus of UPR. The class made posters, identified behaviors in the building that hinder learning and diminish our sense of community and are working toward bringing about awareness and a change in the environment of the building. Their goal is to see a mutually respectful learning facility for everyone. The class is putting together an assembly for middle school and fifth graders where they plan to reveal who they are and what they are trying to do through video. They hope to create many student body committees for different venues for next year – for example anti-bullying, teacher's bill of rights, and student bill of rights.

**Literary Happenings at Peck****By Joan Holloway**

The spring air is filled with anticipation of new and exciting happenings in our literacy work, here at Peck Full Service Community School. We have planned one day in celebration of our writers, on June 8th, called "Our Writers' Tea." The day will mimic the ritual of writing societies that come together in celebration and collaboration around their work. We plan to showcase writers from Kindergarten to grade eight, as families and friends visit to hear the work read aloud by our student-authors. The work will include pieces from a variety of genres: a reader's notebook, book talks, book reviews, responses to literature, a writer's notebook, memoirs, reports, proposals for change, and some journalistic feature articles. One class is actually writing a Readers Theatre Script and planning to perform for guests!

We have been recently reading the nonfiction genre and learning the many ways authors present their information. We are delighted with the reports, on topics too numerous to mention, written by our primary students. If you want to know about butterflies, and why one should never hold a butterfly by the wings, we have the answer. If you ever wondered if The White House is haunted, and if so by whom, we have the answer to that too! If you've noticed an injustice in your life, perhaps we can help you to build a case for change. Samples of these works will be represented in our collection.

As the flowers bloom, our readers and writers will analyze and critique the works of published authors and write responses to literature in a variety of forms. Perhaps we will write additional Readers Theatre Scripts in response. We will tryout original pieces in the style of the authors. We will surely write booktalk scripts, reviews, literary letters, and formal responses to literature in essay form. It's a great season for readers and writers at Peck and in our Holyoke Public Schools.

**Reclaiming The Dingle****By Stacey Funston and Cathy Foley**

Organized by Stacey Funston, Massachusetts Promise Fellow, **Reclaiming the Dingle** is a service project prompted by the need to make major changes to the path, known as the "dingle," that runs between Peck Full Service Community School and Holyoke High School. This path is used every day by students and families, as well as community members on their way to work, yet it was unimproved and in need of repairs. As a path that is used regularly, community members wanted to reclaim it as a space that is well-maintained, safe, and beautiful. With help from many community partners, students and family members of Peck and Holyoke High School came together on April 21st for a day of service to reclaim the dingle.

Leading up to this day, Holyoke Public Schools maintenance crew led the effort to reshape the path to make it less steep and cut down dead



trees and branches. They also installed a new light for the path and created a new system to divert water in order to decrease erosion. On the day of service, volunteers cleaned up trash, cleared away dead branches and brush, planted new trees and shrubs, and created wish flags for the path. Students will also be creating signs to identify the new plants and trees. Over 150 trees and shrubs were planted, 66 people volunteered and 58% were students and families of the schools. There was a follow up day of service on May 5<sup>th</sup> where volunteers finished planting all the trees and cleaned up more trash. The path will be maintained by student and family volunteers. It will be used as a community service location as well as a place to learn about the local environment. This project was made possible by the Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council, the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship; and donations from the Root for your Radio Pledge Drive of NEPR, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, Mount Holyoke College Community Based Learning Program, Holyoke Parks and Recreation, and David Bartley, Ward 3 City Councilor.

**Peck Talking Points**

- Librarian Fiona Creed reports that Peck kindergarten classes are working hard on their reports about butterflies while third grade students have become proficient using the card catalog and can search the shelves independently!
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sullivan/ Peck Charity Basketball Tournament was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds were donated to Kate's Kitchen.
- The annual "Honoring Educators Luncheon" was held at Peck Full Service Community School on April 13<sup>th</sup>. This delicious Puerto Rican lunch was planned by Maria Luisa Arroyo, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Garcia and Peck family leaders and volunteers to show appreciation for the teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff of Peck students and to recognize their dedication.



## E.N. White

### Emily Dickinson Museum Visit

By Astrid Lindstrom

On April 5th, nineteen middle school students went with ELA teacher Astrid Lindstrom to the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst. A suggestion of seventh-grader Lianna Moore, this field trip included staff of the literary magazine *Interlude*, this year's contributing writers, and a few other sixth, seventh, and eighth graders recommended by their ELA teachers because of their interest in poetry.

Participating students prepared for the trip by coming to two after-school meetings, the first to learn about Dickinson's life and times, the second to read and discuss some of her poetry. During the second session, several students voiced wonderful creative insight, identifying details and interpretations Ms. Lindstrom had not thought of.

At the museum, students admired the lovely Dickinson home and its furnishings; portraits of Emily, her family, and friends; and Emily's white dress with its pocket (unusual for women of her time) for her scraps of paper and a pen. Students learned about the Civil War, Emily's grandfather founding Amherst College, and Emily attending Mount Holyoke. They heard stories about Emily's love of flowers and birds, her pampering her niece and nephews, and her strong, rebellious spirit. They listened to, read aloud, and discussed several of Dickinson's poems.

Like Emily Dickinson in her poem describing poetry, each of the students could say, "I dwell in possibility." Each thought about his or her own talents and about who he or she might someday become.

### E.N. White/Donahue Car Wash Benefits Holyoke Public Library!

By Tammy Lawrence/Hilary Russell

Several E.N.White and Donahue School students and staff volunteered their time and washed cars to benefit the Holyoke Public Library on May 12th. Together, the group raised \$245 by washing cars, accepting donations and selling raffle tickets to the patrons. Each student who volunteered their time that afternoon has earned a field trip, funded by the *Tiger Pride Community Organization*, to the Holyoke Library. While visiting the library, the students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves in the temporary location at City Hall, activate their library card, check out books and sign-up for the library's summer reading program: *Dream Big, READ!* Holyoke Public Library Director, Maria G. Pagan was present at the car wash and able to communicate the programs the

Holyoke Library offers families throughout the entire summer.

### Rock Wall and Chinning Bars

By Laurie Maspo and Hilary Russell

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the E.N. White PTO (TPCO) as well as community members and families, the traverse wall and chinning bars are outstanding additions to the physical education program at the school. Both units will eventually be part of the Holyoke Schools' Wellness Council morning exercise program which will allow students to build muscle strength, self-esteem and just simply have a great time all while developing a life-time healthy exercise routine.

Climbing and moving laterally across the wall will provide every student with an exciting physical challenge. The wall will also contain a 'StartFit System' which will create a workout center to increase cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength and flexibility. Students can perform lateral raises and bicep curls from a standing or sitting position. The chinning bars along with the 'pull your own weight straps' might just be the solution that will help most children do pull-ups. They will build both upper-body and core strength as well as build their endurance. Whitney Anderson, the Holyoke Public School's Maintenance Administrator, along with the Central and E.N. White's Custodial staff successfully overcame all obstacles and demonstrated their skills and efficiently installed the equipment within ten days of its arrival.

At the close of the half days on April 12th and April 13th, under the supervision of physical education teacher Ann Schmidt, any student and their families who visited the fair had the opportunity to test their strength and traverse the rock wall. Fun was had by everyone!

The traversing rock wall and suspension bar program will continue periodically throughout their gym classes for the balance of the school year. Thank you to all involved in this effort. When a community works together anything can be accomplished!

### Holyoke Fire Department Visits

Representatives from the Holyoke Fire Department visited E.N.White School in order to reward each middle school student who chose to create a Fire Prevention Poster for the Arson Watch Reward Contest. The group was addressed first by Principal Hilary Russell, as she wanted to share her happiness with them and let them know she was proud of their participation. Next, Firefighter Maria Pelchar introduced the HFD's Mascot, Sparky. Everyone was given "high-fives and a thumbs-up" for participating as well as a backpack filled with items such as key chains, notepads, pencils, etc. all listing information, tips and phone numbers relating to fire safety and prevention. The Tiger Pride Commu-

nity Organization also presented each student with a copy of his/her poster.

Last, the students were able to explore the fire engine where they had the opportunity to view and with the firemen's help, handle the tools, see the ladder and hoses and view the seating areas. They learned firefighters not only respond to fires but medical emergencies and at times special rescues as well. They had a chance to ask the firefighters questions, sit in the driver's seat, sound the horn and ring the bell!



Sixth grade student Juan Cruz enjoys his turn in the driver's seat.

### New Middle School Chorus

On a Monday morning in April, twenty-two students kicked off the inaugural rehearsal of the E.N. White Middle School Chorus under the direction of Mr. Daniel Rose. With summer quickly approaching, members of the new chorus have been eagerly driven to make an impact on their school and community. Their vision began with being a model community within the school community. Halia Pamayalon, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade member, stated: "We're a bunch of enthusiastic people, coming together a couple times a week, and all just having fun."

With only two rehearsals to pull it together, students set off with determination to successfully prepare a piece for the school's Arbor Day Celebration. On a gusty morning and with town officials and peers looking on, they made their debut with a timely arrangement of Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind." The chorus has performed at Open House, a June 13<sup>th</sup> concert, and June 14<sup>th</sup> workshop. They also performed at graduation, a particularly special event, because the piece they performed is an original composition written by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

"There really cannot be a better group of students to set the precedent for this chorus, for the continued growth of the music program and the esteem with which it is held," said Mr. Rose. "They are determined to set the bar high. These singers are working hard, stepping out and learning how to be leaders and take initiative in their education. That's exactly the kind of culture-building student we are aiming to cultivate in this school."

(See page 12 for more E.N. White news).



## Donahue



2<sup>nd</sup> Grader K-la Vazquez reaches out to the newest addition to the Donahue Community, a baby chick, freshly hatched in Ms. Perks' 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Classroom.

### Transition to High School Night

On Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the Title I program and the district guidance initiative a transition night was held for eighth grade students and parents. Students enjoyed a dance prior to the event and a delicious indoor picnic created by Dean Technical Culinary Arts Department. Featured speakers at the event included Director of Pupil Services, Mr. Douglas Arnold, Guidance Counselors of Dean and Holyoke High respectively, Ms. Andrea Bryla and Ms. Kim Izquierdo. After the presentations, technology teacher Mr. Cates and eighth grade students treated parents to a special video production. Over one hundred people were in attendance for the event. Parents and students alike became better prepared for the challenges and excitement of transitioning to high school. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event special.

### Donahue's Green Team

The Donahue School Green team is an after school student centered environmental club of thirty students grades 5-8 that focuses on improving the school environment and conservation education. Our group was created in 2010 by 7th grade students who noticed our school only recycled paper. Through communication between the City of Holyoke and school administration, those students successfully brought a plastic and metal recycling program to our school! From this stemmed a can and bottle redemption program to support our student activities fund.

The students were already primed when the Go Green and Save Green initiative through the MA Treasury Department was announced earlier this year. The students collected \$330 worth of cans and bottles, the highest amount in the state! All proceeds went to benefit our local food bank and food kitchen, Providence Ministries. To make this happen, students went beyond our four walls and collected cans during

the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race as well as at their own homes. The Green Team president and other student leaders will be attending an award reception in Boston to receive a banner to display in our school, provided we find the funds to pay for transportation to Boston.

This year the Green Team student leaders met with Secretary of Energy and Conservation, Richard Sullivan, to discuss their local efforts and concerns for the environment. He commended their work and promised future support. We knew we were going in the right direction!

To make our school more green, literally, the students held an "adopt a bulb" program in the fall to invite parents, teachers, students and any member of the Donahue school community to donate so that a bulb could be planted in the front of the school. Students even pick up trash regularly to keep our grounds looking nice.

During our open house, students ran several tables inviting and educating parents and siblings to create and learn new ways to reuse items in their homes.

"Green Teamers" as they refer to themselves, have been holding car washes, bake sales, and a tag sale to fund a trip to Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut to learn about our oceans.

Our current mission is to expand our education of the school community on environmental matters, especially concerns of ocean habitats, and to procure proper recycling containers to sort waste more effectively throughout the school.

The students of the Green Team are an amazing group of young leaders and are an inspiration in their dedication and commitment. We are proud of what they do.



Donahue's Green Team knows the values of the Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

### Eric Carle Partnership Yields Student Art Show and Visit from Renowned Illustrator

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, as part of the ongoing collaboration between the Eric Carle Museum and Donahue School, author/illustrator Jerry Pinkney visited with the second grade students. Mr. Pinkney, whose career in illustration began in 1964, has illustrated over 100 books, received five Caldecott Honor Medals, a Caldecott Award, and many other accolades. Mr. Pinkney was kind enough to allow his illustrations for *The Lion and the Mouse* to be used by the students to create their own version of the story using visual thinking strategies. Jerry Pinkney came in person to help the students design their own covers for their versions of the story. As one could imagine, this was an ideal capstone to the author study of Pinkney that the second grade recently completed. The Donahue community would like to extend our deepest thanks to Mr. Pinkney, and Rosemary Agoglia, the Education Curator of the Carle Museum.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the exhibition of our students' work opened with a special celebration. The art on display represented a year of fantastic studies with the Eric Carle museum and a host of visiting illustrators.



Jerry Pinkney looks over 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade student Julius Rivera's cover design.

## Holyoke High

The new Athletic Training Center at Holyoke High School was recently dedicated to Mr.

William R. Collamore, Ward 6 School Committee Member and longtime dedicated servant of the Holyoke Public Schools. The William R.

Collamore Athletic Training Center at Holyoke High School is a welcome addition to the Athletic Department. Congratulations Mr. Collamore!





## McMahon



### Cheetahs at McMahon

By Noreen Ewick

What do cheetahs and baseball players have in common? The students at McMahon School know! Have you heard...there is a cheetah at McMahon School! No, it's not the school's mascot and no, the cheetah does not live at the school. The students in Ms. Ewick's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science and Social Studies classes chipped in to "adopt" a cheetah through the World Wildlife Federation. Through the WWF, the classes \$50 symbolic gift was used to protect endangered species and their habitats.

"Masamba" the name given to their cheetah, lives on a natural reserve grassland area in sub-Saharan Africa. In Hindi, the name Masamba means, "quick-footed", which is appropriate for the cheetah as it is the fastest land animal, accelerating from zero to 40 mph in three strides and to a full speed of 70 mph in seconds. Since our adoption, the students researched interesting facts about the cheetah and every morning when Mr. Mazza, our principal, makes his daily announcements, a sixth grade student shares a "Cheetah Fact of the Day". Here is just a small sample of our cheetah knowledge, shared with students and staff at McMahon.

Did you know...

- that a cheetah's tail can grow up to 30 inches
- that you can tell cheetahs apart by looking at the stripes on their tails. Every cheetah's tail is unique, just like people's fingerprints
- that when a cheetah is running, only one foot at a time touches the ground
- that cheetahs are the only cats unable to roar, they do purr, hiss, growl, whine and make chirping sounds
- that when running a cheetah uses its tail as a balance. It allows the cheetah to zigzag when it runs after its prey. The tail works like a rudder in a boat.

And for those of you trying to answer the first question, here's the answer: Cheetahs have a distinct black line running from each eye to the corners of their mouths. This helps them see across the grasslands in the glare of the hot sun. Ball players often place a black line under their eyes on their cheeks to reduce the glare of the sun.

**(Morgan School continued from page 4).**

## Metcalf

### Japanese Maple Tree Gifted to Metcalf

Mr. Edward Daly, one of the members of the "100 Year Old Metcalf" Celebration Committee, brought a beautiful Japanese Maple Tree to Metcalf School for the children to plant in the front yard of the school, in honor of the commemoration of the opening of the new Joseph Metcalf School back in 1912. Also, present for the ceremony was Mayor Alex Morse and School Committee Member, Dennis Birks.

Ms. Jackson welcomed the guests, children and staff in the school's gymnasium and told the children that Metcalf School was "100 Years Old". She introduced Mr. Daly and told the children that he had brought them a birthday gift for their school, a new Japanese Maple Tree, that he would plant for us in the front of the school.

The planting of the tree then took place in the front yard with Mr. Daly directing several students, who also helped. Mayor Morse presented a Certificate of Congratulations on behalf of the citizens thanking Metcalf School for its "100 years of Service" in educating the children in the City of Holyoke. The special "tree planting ceremony" ended with the crowd joining in a special version of "Happy Birthday to Joseph Metcalf School".



### Music and Art Collaboration for Drum Circle Performance in June

Music Teacher Doreen Veazie's drum circle has been a huge hit with fourth and sixth grade students. Working throughout the year, students have been learning to sing and dance in the African style for a performance on May 31st in the cafeteria at Morgan. Students had studied the rhythms of Africa, that were played on the Djembe and Ashiko drums, as well as the Axatse (gourd rattle) and Gankogui (double bell). They sang and danced "Gahu" which is a recreational piece of the Ewe people who live in Ghana.

With the collaboration of art teacher Eduardo Melendez, students made traditional Kente cloths, which are a reflection of one's heritage through the various patterns depicted on the cloths. These, prepared by the drum circle students, were worn during the performance. They have also made African masks, which were on display.



## Sullivan

### Recycling the Seemingly Unrecyclable

By Kelly Doktor and Sally Imbimbo

Earth Day is every day for the first and second grade students at Sullivan Elementary School. During the past eight months, students have been collecting, sorting and counting the typically unrecyclable silver-backed "Capri Sun" juice pouches that many students bring to school as a part of their daily snack. So far, 1,500 juice pouches have been collected and shipped to *TERRACYCLE*, a recycling company that re-purposes the juice pouches into items like shopping bags, pencil cases, pens, chip bags and playground equipment.

First-grade students used scientific-inquiry to experiment with juice pouches and other plastics in the garbage to watch the decomposition process. Students created a model landfill and added plastics and food items like an apple core and orange rind. Over the past few months students have observed the food items turning into soil while plastic items still have not decomposed at all.

Recycling the pouches also pays! *TERRACYCLE* also donates .2 cents for every 9 ounces of juice pouches sent to them and the money raised will be donated to Sullivan School's Family Literacy Program by Pathways for Literacy.

In the classrooms, students keep track of how many juice pouches are collected which reinforces skip counting while promoting a sense of community and an on-going awareness of how to help the Earth.

Joseph Scott-Maille, a second-grade student, noticed a juice pouch outside on the ground during recess and was eager to pick it up and include it in his classroom's count. "Someone was not a good citizen and littered, so I am helping to clean up and recycle at the same time," said Scott-Maille. *TERRACYCLE* is starting a new project to collect flip-flops. To see how to get started in your school, visit the website at: <http://www.honesttea.com/community/sustainability/terracycle/>



Second-grade student Joseph Scott-Maille sorts the collected juice pouches into groups of five for bundles of 25.

### Pen Pal Excitement

By Andrea Enright

The students in Miss Enright's third grade class at Sullivan School have been practicing writing friendly letters to their pen pals who go to school at Juniper Park in Westfield. Miss Enright's mother, Ms. Chouinard is a third grade teacher at Juniper and the two classes have been corresponding throughout the year.

This past April Miss Enright's class was able to travel to Westfield to meet their pen pals. The

two classes

spent part of the day at Juniper Park and part of the day at Westfield State University. While at WSU the pen pals worked on creating an original poem with the help of the English Honors class taught by Dr. Brewster. Together they wrote a two voice poem showing the similarities and differences between the partners. Each pair had the opportunity to share their poem with the group. After joining their pen pals for

### Family Literacy Night

By Mary McAndrew

A fun time was had by all at the Sullivan School Family Literacy Night in May. The kindergarten, first and second grade teachers and staff planned a night focused on reading as a family for enjoyment. Each grade level offered a picture book read aloud for the families either in English or Spanish. The Reebok Company donated 225 shoeboxes for the event. Children each worked with their family to assemble a shoebox to be used as a book box in their home. Families had fun decorating boxes together. Each child had the opportunity to choose three books at their instructional reading level to take home in their new "book box". Families were also introduced to our new Family Literacy Center in the entry way of Sullivan School. Thank you to Conklin's furniture on Canal Street in Holyoke who donated furniture to fill this special area for families to enjoy reading together in our school. It was a "full house" with reading, fun and snacks enjoyed by all.



Families enjoy reading together after decorating their book boxes.

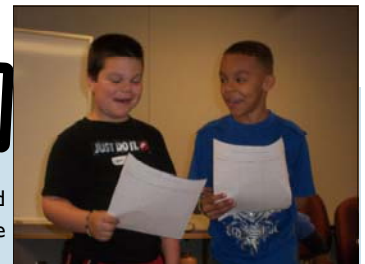
### Family Literacy Field Trips - Aprendizaje Familiar

By Jody Spitz

During April vacation, parents and children from the Family Literacy Program went on two field trips. One was to the Lupa Zoo, where we saw lots of cool animals and birds, big and small, that we had never seen before. The second trip was to the Springfield Quadrangle Museums. We saw fossils (a giant dinosaur!) and stuffed animals from all over the world. The weather was great, so we ate outside and then visited the Dr. Seuss sculpture garden. The coolest part of the trip was watching and then hanging out with a Hip Hop dance troupe. Some of the Sullivan children showed them their moves too!

Attention adult family members of Sullivan School students! Are you interested in learning English next school year? If so, please contact Aida Gomez at 413-534-2321 or Maria Correa at 413-552-2937.

Vincent Quinones on the right and his Juniper Park pen pal share a smile.



lunch and recess the two

classes spent the afternoon rotating through math centers as a review for the upcoming MCAS test. The students will continue to write to one another until the end of the school year.



## CONNECTIONS Program

### Summer Offerings for Middle School Students!

By Jessica Daly

The CONNECTIONS Program is excited to announce that they have big plans for Summer 2012! This year, CONNECTIONS will be offering three different programs, all taking place at Peck Community School. These programs will each offer hands-on learning opportunities, and chances to engage with other students in an inclusive, supportive learning environment. There will be a particular focus on providing opportunities for ELL students to improve their English language skills to make the school year ahead a breeze! Let's not forget the field trips! Students will be taking part in amazing weekly field trips including high ropes courses, rock climbing, kayaking, a water adventure park, roller skating, and the Connecticut Science Museum! Here is a little more information about the programs CONNECTIONS will be offering this summer.



### An Adventure in Learning

This program is for students in grades six and seven. It is the ultimate combination of learning and fun. Last year's students said that "going to this program was the best decision" and that "this program is a place for people to make lots of friends and to learn new things". Students will take part in four clubs daily, including Mad Science, Real World Math Skills, Empowerment Club, and Hip Hop and Poetry. In these clubs, students will have the chance to conduct spectacular science experiments, practice real-life math and business skills, and express themselves through hip hop and poetry. Students will also go on exciting field trips each week that will connect to the club curriculum, enhance team-building and self confidence, and most of all give students the chance to have new, amazing adventures in learning this summer!

### Students Aspiring for School Success

Heading to high school this year? Then this is the program for you! The SASS program is designed to help transitioning 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they prepare for the year ahead. Students will learn study skills, shore up on math and science, practice English language skills, and create their own videos. Additionally, they will learn all about what to expect in high school from current high school students! Everyone in the SASS program will also have the opportunity to take part in amazing weekly field trips to high-ropes courses, a water adventure park, and more! To really start high school one step ahead, students who complete the SASS program will gain 2.5 enrichment credits for high school!

### ECT Acting Shakespeare

For students in grades 5-8 who love to act or who have a flair for the dramatic, the Acting Shakespeare program is a unique and exciting opportunity. Students in the program will have the opportunity to learn and explore Shakespearean language, practice hand-to-hand stage combat and develop public speaking skills. Along the way, they will build a cohesive community and discover that they can rise to great heights. As one student last year stated, "Having a lot of people involved in one thing is actually pretty cool and fun too! I learned how to act which is really fun. They taught me how to turn being nervous into excitement". Students in the Acting Shakespeare program will read, write, and perform their own vignette from a Shakespearean play and will have the opportunity to perform it for family and friends on the beautiful outdoor performance space located on the grounds of The Center for Renaissance Studies at UMass, Amherst. Students in the Acting Shakespeare program will take part in exciting field trips each week— high ropes course, water adventure park, roller-skating rink, Mt. Holyoke College, and be able to work with a stage combat instructor from Hampshire Shakespeare!

If you know a student from the Holyoke Public Schools who would benefit from these programs, please don't hesitate to email [sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us) to recommend them. Each program will be first come, first served.

We can't wait to work with the Holyoke middle-school students this summer!

### For more information , please contact:

Jorge L. Castellanos: (413) 313-7710 ([jcastellano@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:jcastellano@hps.holyoke.ma.us))  
Sarah Spence: (413) 478-6132 ([sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us))

**Kelly**

### Grade 4 Hitchcock Center Field Trip

By Ms. Descoteau

On April 25th students in Ms. Descoteau's Art Class took to the trails of the Larch Hill Conservation area in Amherst to observe and interact with the natural environment. Students had studied the work of John James Audubon in their art classes during the fall and were eager to see birds that had migrated back to the region. Treetop nests, flying birds, native vegetation, and landscape color provided authentic connections to the Audubon paintings they had seen in class.

Students began their visit in the Hitchcock Center with an informational session led by staff members. Live animals and taxidermy models were on view to initiate a discussion related to habitat and animal adaptation. After the viewing, students hiked outside to investigate four different habitat locations. They collected water samples from the pond, looked for insects in the field, listened for birds and natural sounds in the forest, carefully maneuvered their way on the boardwalk over the

wetlands and felt the fresh air of a cool April day.



A follow up lesson to the field trip was created by Brittany Gyllenhammer, a student art teacher from UMASS/Amherst, to capitalize on the field trip excursion. Students constructed pop-up dimensional models of the boardwalk areas of the hike. They interpreted the natural environment and developed representational dimensional landscapes that reinforced their learning experience.



(E.N. White news continued from page 7).

### Tree of Life

Under the guidance of Terry Shephard from the Holyoke Parks and Recreation and John Twohig, the City Forester, E.N. White School celebrated Arbor Day on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> with a school-wide planting of a London Plain tree along the first base line of the baseball field. This was particularly poignant as the school lost

more than 60 trees along the property during the October storm. Student Council President Faizul Sibdhanny, representatives Sam Texidor, and Jack Maspo, opened the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance and the E.N. White Strings played "The Star Spangled Banner." Faizul informed his fellow students of the importance of trees and why they are so critical to the Earth's environment.



Left to right: Jack Maspo, Marc Nieves, Eddie Vargas, Jennifer Lebevre, and Jovannie Comacho.

Theresa Vincent, assistant to Mayor Morse, Mr. Twohig, and the E.N. White Garden Club completed the planting with ceremonial shovels of dirt. Representatives from Representative Michael Knapik and Senator Michael Kane's offices along with School Committee members, Mike Moriarty and Dennis Birks, were present for the ceremony.

The kindergarten students sang "America," followed by "Simple Seed" from the second grade chorus. The middle school chorus closed with "Blowin' In the Wind," appropriate for the sunny, but very windy morning. Ms. Vincent and Mr. Twohig both informed the more than 500 students, parents and guests of the importance of trees and how they provide necessary life sustaining aspects to the environment.

Mrs. VanderGheynst's middle school Garden Club prepared the plants they have been growing during the late winter for a garden sale to benefit the community garden that will soon take root in the E.N. White Courtyard. On May Day, our newest tree was festooned with May Day decorations. Students are keeping a watchful eye on this young tree to make sure it is well cared for.

## Connections Newsletter

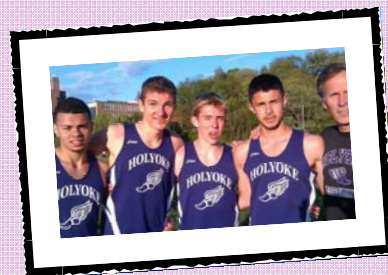
Edited by Judy Taylor [jtaylor@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:jtaylor@hps.holyoke.ma.us)

Editors Emeritus: Kelly Doktor and Laura DuPont

Translated by: Luz Aguillar

## Athletics

- Delyann Lasanta from Dean Technical High School Girls Volleyball and Softball teams was awarded the Marine Corps Athletic Excellence Award.
- Dave Reinhart was named the Massachusetts Track Coaches Association Coach of the Year for Cross Country and Joe Dutsar was named the Massachusetts Track Coaches Association Coach of the Year in Boys Track. Congratulations to both coaches who were recognized at a banquet on Sunday, May 20th at The Lantana in Randolph, MA.
- The Holyoke High School girls and boys track teams participated in the Penn Relays for the first time in school history. The girls competed on Thursday April 26th in the 4x100 meter relay. They placed 3rd in their heat with a time of 52.93 seconds which was close to beating the school record of 52.1 seconds. The boys participated on Saturday April 28th and they beat their seed time by 2 seconds in the 4x400 meter relay. Both the girls and boys teams represented the city of Holyoke very well at the largest track meet in the world.
- The Holyoke High School Girls Track Team has broken four records this season. Rachel Brochu set the school record in the 100 Meter Hurdles with a time of 16.5 seconds and she broke the shot put record with a throw of 35'5". Ashley Morsen broke the 400 Meter Hurdles record with a time of 1:22.5. The 4 x 100 Meter Relay team of Rachel Brochu, Grace Hamel, Carley Costello, and Selena Yates set the school record with a time of 52.1 seconds.
- The Holyoke High School Boys Track 4 x 800 relay team of Cody Hodgins, Tyler Brunelle, Eugene De La Rosa, and RJ Landry broke the school record by 17 seconds with a time of 8:16.10, which now ranks them in the top 3% of all 4 x 800 United States high school teams this season according to the website, Milesplit.com. Milesplit.com, also has cut offs for all times and this effort also put the relay team on 2nd team All America status out of 30,000 high schools nationwide. The Western Massachusetts record in the 4 x 800 relay is 8:16.60 set by an Amherst team at the W. Mass meet in 2001 and the Purple Knights have their sights set on that record.
- At the Massachusetts State Coaches Invitational in Somerville, MA Cody Hodgins broke the school two mile record set in 1974 by a half second and ran 9:37.97 finishing 4th out of 82 runners.



Athletic Director Aaron Patterson received the Ted Damko State Award at the 37<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors' Association Conference which was held in March. Congratulations Aaron!



# Estos son los puntos mas sobresalientes del Boletin

Holyoke Public Schools

Volume 10 Issue 4

Verano 2012

## Una Carta Abierta a la Comunidad de la Escuela Holyoke Buscando Representante de Padres / Guardián para Participación y Apoyo



Artista: Laura Ernst, Escuela McMahon

Por David Dupont, Superintendente de Escuelas

Los padres y tutores deben desempeñar un papel esencial en la educación de sus hijos, por lo tanto, su participación en las escuelas debe ir mucho más allá de las visitas a para tratar con los procedimientos disciplinarios o para asistir a presentaciones de los estudiantes. También deben tener información en la operación de las escuelas. Los Consejos de Mejoramiento Escolar están supuestos a proporcionar la participación de los padres en el funcionamiento de la escuela. Yo creo que un cuerpo de representantes en todo el distrito de padres / tutores de cada una de las escuelas sería una entidad eficaz para el superintendente de trabajar para tratar con cuestiones que podrían relacionarse con todas las escuelas.

No podría ser ninguna sorpresa (y no en muchos otros distritos y estados) lo difícil que es contratar a los padres a participar activamente en la vida escolar. Por las razones que sean, además del grupo pequeño común de individuos siempre activos que usted encontrará en la mayoría de las escuelas, los padres o tutores tienden a alejarse de las escuelas. Ya sea porque se les llama no sólo por razones negativas, o que se sienten descontentos de alguna manera cuando visitan las escuelas, que tengo que hacer un trabajo mucho mejor para llegar a ellos y

demostrarles que su participación en la educación de sus hijos y en sus escuelas es significativo y legítimo.

Desde el pasado mes de agosto, con la ayuda de un pequeño grupo de personas interesadas dentro y fuera de la comunidad escolar, he establecido una organización representativa de padres de todo el distrito para hacer frente a cuestiones que afectan al distrito (los temas varían y pueden incluir los uniformes, la disciplina y suspensiones, la nutrición, la preparación profesional, la asistencia, etc.) La idea es crear lo que llamaremos 'H' Embajadores ('H' para Holyoke) de cada una de las escuelas que actuarán en calidad de representante. Animo la participación de cualquier miembro del personal de la escuela que trate con los padres sería muy agradecida. Los padres y tutores son una entidad esencial en la comunidad escolar y queremos que sepan que sus aportes y participación no sólo son importantes, pero también bienvenida. Esta es otra manera de mantener nuestro distrito escolar moverse en la dirección correcta. No hay duda de que juntos podemos hacer una gran diferencia para nuestras escuelas y nuestros niños.

### "H" Embajadores Fechas de las reuniones programadas

Miércoles, 6 de junio 2012  
Miércoles, 1 de agosto 2012  
Miércoles, 26 de septiembre 2012  
Miércoles, 7 de noviembre 2012  
Miércoles, 9 de enero 2013  
Miércoles, 6 de marzo 2013  
Miércoles, 1 de mayo 2013

Todas las reuniones tendrán lugar en la cafetería de la Escuela Superior de Holyoke a menos que sean programadas a las 6:00PM.



DiMarie Cartegena, una maestra en la Escuela Sullivan está Leyendo en voz alta con las familias.



## Conexiones

### Ofertas de Verano para Estudiantes de Escuela Secundaria!

Por Jessica Daly

El Programa CONEXIONES de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke se complace en anunciar que tienen grandes planes para el verano 2012! Este año, el Programa CONEXIONES está ofreciendo tres programas diferentes, todos se llevarán a cabo en la Comunidad de la Escuela Peck. Estos programas ofrecerán cada oferta en oportunidades de aprendizaje manual y posibilidades de interactuar con otros estudiantes en un ambiente de inclusión, de apoyo al aprendizaje. Habrá un enfoque especial en proporcionar oportunidades a los estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés para mejorar sus conocimientos del idioma inglés para el año escolar. No nos olvidemos de los viajes de campo! Los estudiantes participarán en increíbles excursiones semanales que incluyen cursos de cuerdas altas, escalada, kayak, un parque acuático de aventura, patinaje sobre ruedas, y el Museo de Ciencias de Connecticut! Aquí está la información un poco más acerca de los programas CONEXIONES que estará ofreciendo este verano.

#### Un Aventura en Aprendizaje

Este programa es para estudiantes en los grados 6 y 7. Es la mejor combinación de aprendizaje y diversión. Los estudiantes del año pasado, dijeron o que "asistir a este programa fue la mejor decisión" y que "este programa es un lugar para la gente hacer muchos amigos y de aprender cosas nuevas". Los estudiantes tomarán parte en cuatro clubes todos los días, incluyendo Mad Science, El Mundo Real en Habilidades de Matemáticas, el Club de empoderamiento, y el hip hop y la poesía. En estos clubes, los estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de realizar experimentos espectaculares de ciencia, practicar habilidades de la vida real, en matemáticas y las habilidades de negocios, y expresarse a través del hip hop y la poesía. Los estudiantes también realizan excursiones emocionantes cada semana que se conectará con el plan de estudios del club, para realzar mejor confianza del equipo y en sí mismo, y sobre todo dar a los estudiantes la oportunidad de tener nuevas aventuras, sorprendentes en el aprendizaje de este verano!

#### SASS: Estudiantes que Aspiran el Éxito Escolar

Partiendo a la escuela secundaria este año? Entonces este es el programa para usted! El programa SASS está diseñado para ayudar a la transición de estudiantes de octavo grado, mientras se preparan para el próximo año. Los estudiantes aprenderán destrezas de estudio, reforzarán la práctica para las matemáticas y la ciencia, y destrezas de lenguaje inglés, y crear sus propios videos. Además, aprenderán todo acerca de qué esperar en la Escuela secundaria de los estudiantes actuales! Todo el mundo en el programa SASS también tendrán la oportunidad de participar en increíbles excursiones semanales para los cursos de cuerdas altas, un parque acuático de aventuras, y mucho más! Para comenzar realmente un paso más alto de una escuela, los estudiantes que completan el programa SASS obtendrán 2.5 créditos de enriquecimiento para la escuela secundaria!

#### ECT Shakespeare Interino

Para los estudiantes en los grados 5-8 que les gusta actuar o que tienen un gusto por lo dramático, el programa de actuación de Shakespeare es una oportunidad única y emocionante. Los estudiantes del programa tendrán la oportunidad de aprender y explorar el idioma Shakespeare, practicar el escenario de mano-a-mano y desarrollar las habilidades de hablar en público. A lo largo del camino, ellos construirán una comunidad cohesionada y descubren que puede elevarse a grandes alturas. Como un estudiante de último año declaró: "Tener un gran volumen de personas involucradas en una cosa en realidad es bastante fresco y divertido también! He aprendido cómo actuar, que es muy divertido. Ellos me enseñaron cómo estar nervioso al entusiasmo". Los estudiantes en el programa de actuación de Shakespeare leerán, escribirán y realizarán su propia viñeta de una obra de Shakespeare y tendrá la oportunidad de llevarla a cabo para la familia y amigos en el espacio escénico al hermoso aire libre hermoso ubicado en los terrenos del Centro de Estudios del Renacimiento en la Universidad de Massachusetts, en Amherst. Los estudiantes en el programa de actuación de Shakespeare tomarán parte en las excursiones emocionantes cada semana a un curso de cuerdas, un parque acuático de aventura, y el patinaje sobre ruedas y también tendrán la oportunidad de visitar el Colegio de Mt. Holyoke y trabajar con un instructor de Hampshire Shakespeare!



Si conoces a un estudiante de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke que se beneficiarían de estos programas, por favor no dude en enviar un correo electrónico a: [sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us) para recomendarlos. Cada programa será el que llegue primero. No vemos la hora de trabajar con los estudiantes de la escuela secundaria de Holyoke este verano!

#### Para obtener más información, por favor póngase en contacto con:

Jorge L. Castellanos: (413) 313-7710 ([jcastellano@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:jcastellano@hps.holyoke.ma.us))

Sarah Spence: (413) 478-6132 ([sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:sspence@hps.holyoke.ma.us))



## Atención

### MATRÍCULA DE KINDERGARTEN

EMPEZANDO EL 9° DE ABRIL 2012

Los niños tienen que cumplir los 5 años en o antes del 1° de septiembre, 2012.

**Registration by Appointment Only**

Solicitudes disponibles en  
**LA OFICINA DE ASIGNACIÓN**

57 Suffolk Street Primer Piso

**Matricula por cita solamente**

Llame o visite: 413-534-2007

### Para Padres/Tutores de Estudiantes Actuales de Sexto Grado

Para que un estudiante entre al séptimo grado en septiembre de 2012, necesita someter documentación de los siguientes requisitos a la enfermera de la escuela:

1. Examen Físico (copia del examen o fecha de la cita)
2. Dos dosis de Vacunas contra la Sarampión, Papera, Rubéola (MMR)
3. Tres dosis de Vacuna contra la Hepatitis B
4. Una dosis de Vacuna contra el Tétano (Tdap) Vacuna de Refuerzo (a menos que no sea el último refuerzo del tétano en los últimos 5 años)
5. Dos dosis de Vacuna contra la Varicela (o caso medico documentado)

Cualquier estudiante que no presente pruebas de los requisitos indicados a la enfermera de la escuela será excluido de entrar al séptimo grado en septiembre de 2012, hasta que tenga los requisitos.

### Oportunidades de Aprendizaje durante el Verano

Ofrecido a los Estudiantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke

Comenzando el 9 de julio hasta el 9 de agosto de 8:00 AM a 1:00 PM

Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web:  
<http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us>

### Escuela en Verano – Basados en Programas de Alfabetización Familiar Padres e Hijos Aprendiendo Juntos!

A partir de julio, las Escuelas Kelly y E.N. White tendrán nuevos programas de alfabetización de familia! Padres, estén alertas con las encuestas y volantes con información sobre los programas que las escuelas enviarán a casa pronto. Estos programas de alfabetización familiar incorporarán el teatro y el arte y otras actividades divertidas que los padres o los cuidadores pueden hacer con los niños durante el verano y el año escolar para reforzar y fortalecer las habilidades de lectura. Las familias se van de excursión y obtienen libros gratis para construir sus propias bibliotecas. Por favor, llame a las escuelas o a Jody Spitz al 413-552-2913 para más información.

También habrá un programa de alfabetización familiar en el verano en la Escuela Morgan. Teatro, arte, libros gratuitos y actividades de diversión también serán parte de este programa. Para obtener más información sobre el horario de las clases que comenzarán en julio, por favor póngase en contacto con Glenda Morales al 413-534-2083.





*A community working together/  
Una Comunidad trabanjando juntos*



# Connections

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