

North Salem Schools

**DEDICATED TOGETHER**



Parents ♦ PTO



Teachers ♦ NSTA



Kids ♦ PQ MS/HS

# Our Schools of Excellence

*Excellence* doesn't happen by chance. It's a product of hard work and dedication by teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents who work **collaboratively** and value education.

PQ Positive Message of the Day . . .

*“Coming together is a beginning.*

*Keeping together is progress.*

*Working together is success.”*

**COLLABORATION + SUCCESS = NORTH SALEM**

A Partnered Publication  
NSTA—PQ PTO—MS/HS PTO  
2009-2010  
Final Edition

## **NORTH SALEM HONORS OUR RETIREES**

This year North Salem will bid a fond farewell to several of our educators who will be retiring. We extend our gratitude, respect, and best wishes to each of them.

Our teachers and staff are the building blocks to our District's and children's success.

They are the **pride** of North Salem.

*“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.” — Vince Lombardi, Coach*

We all have our own personal memories of each of these fine educators, and we are so honored to share with you the reflections from our Retirees as they look back on their North Salem careers.

**MRS. JOSEPHINE COVIELLO**

**MR. WILLIAM DAHL**

**MRS. MEGHAN DeVITO**

**MRS. BARBARA GROSS**

**MRS. CAROLE LANZARONE**

**MR. JOHN LAURO**

**MRS. BARBARA LAVRAKAS**

**MS. JULIA SCALLERO**

**MRS. B.J. TOMPKINS**

**MR. JOHN URGOLA**



**Josephine Coviello**—89-years-young and a dedicated employee for 26 years, retired from the District in October 2009. A long-time resident of Brewster, Jo with her husband raised four children who attended the North Salem School District. At that time, the school was located where The Westchester Exceptional Children’s School now stands. A very involved mother, Jo was a member of the National PTA and served two years as its president. In 1966, she was elected to the North Salem Board of Education and served for 13 years, one year as president. During her term, she was involved in the construction of the North Salem High School. She recalls that in order for the project to be successful, the Board of Education was proposing a 17% raise in taxes. Through everyone’s efforts the budget was passed and the high school was built.

In 1983, Jo was hired by the District as a special education Para-professional. In her last three years here, she was assigned to the front desk at the Middle/High School where she greeted all with her warm and welcoming smile. Jo enjoyed her years working here and feels very fortunate to have met so many people, students as well as staff, several who have since retired. Jo has a passion for life. She enjoys dancing and is enrolled in the Wellness Program at Putnam Hospital where she exercises every week!



**William Dahl**—When I began teaching, my motto I lived by was “Planting the Seeds of Knowledge for a Lifetime of Harvesting.” For you see, as teachers, we are one part of the development process, with parents and society the other. I always felt my job was to try to give my students information that will help them make good decisions about their wellness knowing full well that there are many factors facing young people when they have to make difficult choices. Besides knowledge, I have tried to be a good role model for my students as well as a good listener in their times of need. Throughout my career, my goal was to help each of my students look at their lives and empower them to explore their potential as well as change behavior to become a more productive person in society. Although this all sounds vague, I keep remembering what my first professor of education told me. Education is all about changing behavior and learning about the choices we have in life. We cannot become the people we are meant to be without doing this.

So when I look back on my career here at North Salem, as a teacher, coach, and union leader, I hope, in some small way I have accomplished this. Beginning as a young, newlywed 25-year-old teacher, I have become, after 35 years, an “experienced (whatever that means) teacher” who now has two grandsons that I’m looking forward to watch grow. I hope I have touched as many lives during these past 35 years as have touched me. I have grown as a teacher, coach, and person by my interactions with my colleagues, students, administrators, parents and board members. I never would have become the person I am without the experiences I had at North Salem. A special thanks to

## NORTH SALEM HONORS OUR RETIREES

Suzan, my greatest supporter, who has been with me all these years giving me all the help I needed during those difficult times. I have always felt honored to be a teacher; but it was a greater privilege to be a teacher and coach in the North Salem Central School District.



**Meghan DeVito**—What an incredible journey it has been from 1970 to the present! It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of the North Salem School community. Things have certainly changed over the years yet some things have remained constant. North Salem has always been a school district dedicated to providing every student with an outstanding education. It has also encouraged every teacher to be their best and strive to explore what's new in education. I have so enjoyed the challenges and rewards that teaching has to offer.

It has been a true pleasure to arrive at PQ each and every morning. While it has been my goal to enable each student to reach their potential—it has been my students who have taught me so many valuable lessons. Compassion, kindness, a sense of humor and acceptance— just to name a few! Who could ask for more!

May you all find the sense of satisfaction in your endeavors that I have found during my time in North Salem!



**Barbara Gross**—As I reflect on my 29 years as a K-12 reading teacher, (yes, I even taught kindergartners when they were located in the Middle/High School), they were some of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. I started my career here as a part time high school reading teacher and never having worked with high school students, I was terrified! But

the kids recognized that they had a reading problem, and I taught them practical ways of handling it so they enjoyed coming to the Reading Lab.

Having been a feature writer for the now defunct *Patent Trader* newspaper, I was inspired to write articles about the North Salem Schools and was appointed publicity director by former Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Stanley Toll. So not only were my stories appearing regularly in local newspapers, I also wrote and photographed good things that were happening at PQ and Middle/High School though quarterly District newsletters. One of my favorite articles was about how in North Salem, school is a 14-hour operation. It earned a banner headline, and they even sent a photographer to capture the images.

I was a curriculum coordinator, a writing instructor... I spent six beautiful part time years with 1st through 5th graders at PQ, taught 8th grade inclusion/enrichment, developmental reading 6, and an alphabet soup of courses called AIS and ELA prep! My point is that no two years were ever the same and that gave me interesting challenges to create curricula and read and recommend

fabulous books like *Walk Two Moons* and most recently, *The Hunger Games* to provoke interest for struggling and superior readers.

I will dearly miss all of the elements that go into the profession of teaching... creation and implementation of interesting activities that stimulate and encourage the development of vocabulary, comprehension, speaking and writing for every student; parents, colleagues and Administrators who supported me intellectually and emotionally and most importantly, energy and enthusiasm of my students at every level... they brought me joy, wonder and inspiration during each of the 29 spectacular years here.

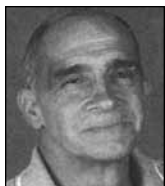
Thanks go to all of you for a climate that fosters creativity and allows teachers the freedom to dream big.



**Carole Lanzarone**—The most difficult thing about teaching is also the best thing. Every student in need is always on your mind. You work hard during the day to help them through the academics and you work hard outside of the classroom to create new strategies to boost them to their fullest potential.

The students share themselves with you emotionally and intellectually and you never get them off your mind. This is the best thing also. You know at the end of every day that you have energized a student who couldn't be motivated, that you have lifted their emotional weight and contributed to their intellectual development.

The most difficult and the best thing about teaching are the students. They are in your heart and soul. Without this connection, you cannot be a teacher.



**John Lauro**—For the past 21 years I have been employed in the North Salem School District. I have had many great opportunities. Now, that I am closing out my teaching career, I can look back and see how fortunate I am.

Since becoming a P.E. teacher in 1972, I have enjoyed coming to work everyday. Not many people can say they “play” for a living. When starting in North Salem in 1989, we had a brand new gym, and I had a great teaching partner, Joe McGee. New ideas and programs were started and still continue with another partner, Rob Gilchrist. Having good people that communicate with each other makes a job easy.

For the past four years I have taught at the Middle School in the morning; and PQ, in the afternoon. This has given me an opportunity to share time with Neil Broderick and to reconnect with students from PQ, as they are maturing and becoming young adults. During the past years, our population has grown and given me more contact with so many young people. It's wonderful to watch them grown up to become young adults.

The community should be very proud of their students', teachers', and administrators' professionalism. I would like to thank the North Salem Schools for the opportunity they have given me to be part of this School District.

## NORTH SALEM HONORS OUR RETIREES



### **Barbara Lavrakas—**

*A tribute to Mrs. Lavrakas in our own words...*

If you think of someone who always greets you at PQ with a warm smile and kind words, Mrs. Lavrakas comes to mind. Whether you visit PQ, are a PQ teacher or student – think of how often you happen to see Mrs. Lavrakas authoritatively walking through the halls ensuring safety and order. Working quietly in the classroom, it's no surprise to look up and see Mrs. Lavrakas sitting at the table or observing the work of the students. Walk past her office, and you will see a child's swinging legs in a chair (just about touching the floor), as Mrs. Lavrakas takes the time to share her professionalism and nurturing nature to help our PQ children think about making the right choices. PQ Pride and Mrs. Lavrakas—with our gratitude.



### **Julia Scallero—** *Tribute from a colleague*

Julia Scallero, the epitome of class and dedication to the teaching profession and to her students.

- Collaborates with teachers in Special Education, Music, English and media specialists to provide connections between subject areas and make learning more meaningful.

- Advocates for important issues with Amnesty International – rain or shine!
- Shares her compassion for volunteering by serving on the Holocaust Commission and bringing in survivors to the school to share their experiences.
- Leads the Social Studies department, and organizes all of the paperwork that goes along with the job!
- Goes beyond the norm of a committed teacher – arriving at school by 6:15 sharp and often staying until dark.
- Serves her students by spending late nights reviewing for exams and feeding them lasagna to boot!
- Takes on more “preps,” to continue her lifelong love of learning.
- Maintains her sense of humor and her sense of sanity when most of us would throw in the towel!
- Embraces change, from technology to best practices, she leads us through it all!

Julia Scallero is a teacher at heart, who has impacted so many of her colleagues and students. We will hold on to the memories that she has given us for much longer than the years she has served at North Salem School District.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

*(If you take Ms. Scallero's Human Rights elective course, expect to eat cake. Ms. Scallero makes it a point to celebrate all students' birthdays as part of their basic human rights.)*



**B.J. Tompkins**—How can I possibly say thank you to all of you who have shared your families and your careers with me? You have touched my life in so many extraordinary ways throughout these 36 years. Thank you for the privilege of meeting you and working with you. The North Salem teachers and staff are truly extraordinary; when I go to a conference or to work with educators, I am always so happy to return to my colleagues and administrators at North Salem.

You have allowed me to put my theory into practice: from the university classrooms to the classrooms of NS as a teacher; to the NS stage and drama club as Director of Drama; to the self-study, budget meetings, BOE presentations, and professional development as World Language Department Chairperson. I have taught a dozen different classes—from Spanish IVH to Creative Dramatics and so many others in between. It has been so much work and so much fun, and I wouldn't change one week of it.

I am so grateful to have had so many opportunities to work and interact with you: in Spanish and English classes, during parents' night and conferences, at class reunions, on the playing fields, in the stands, at the plays, after school, at extra help, during IMPRESSIONS' meetings, at the prom, at department meetings, during safety drills, in the halls, at faculty meetings... I recall how many times we have laughed and enjoyed a wonderful PTO dinner in our honor. We have cheered our section champs together, and we have stood together solemnly to pay our respects, to mourn, and to share a moment of silence. When people ask, "Where were you when...?" my response has been for these 36 years: "... at North Salem."

There may new opportunities in the years to come, but there will never be another North Salem; you have had such a profound impact on my life, my family and my dreams. My best wishes to you, the North Salem community, for continued health and happiness.



**John Urgola**—Looking back at my teaching career of 36 years as a special education teacher, I consider myself fortunate to have spent the last 34 years in the North Salem School District. It is my belief that one really cannot appreciate the North Salem schools unless they have taught elsewhere. Being a teacher for over three decades, I have seen many changes in education and have learned that in order to be successful, one must embrace those changes and adapt to them. Working with youngsters has been a rich and rewarding experience, one that will be treasured for the rest of my life. Making a difference in their lives has always been a fulfilling goal that hopefully, I have achieved. I also feel privileged to have been part of an outstanding and cohesive faculty led by an administration that has provided positive direction and ample support. Although teaching can be a challenging experience, I am grateful that I chose this extraordinary profession.

### MS/HS Library Wins County Recognition

Congratulations to the Mary I. Keefe Library and The Ruth Keeler Memorial Library for winning the 2010 Westchester Library System School/Public Library Cooperation Award for exemplifying “excellence, creativity, and effectiveness in a cooperative program.” Our two libraries have had a long-standing collaborative relationship; however, one of the newest initiatives involves our Student Liaison program. Two high school students, both avid library-goers, meet regularly with the Friends of RKML to share their experiences and work together to present relevant and appropriate programs and activities to meet students’ needs. WLS will publicly recognize our success at an awards luncheon in May.

### LEARNING TOGETHER

The PQ staff received staff development training this year with Dr. Bob Pauker. The kindergarten classes and teachers had the opportunity to work with him this spring. Dr. Pauker created a structure to follow when writing to encourage coherent language development through speaking and writing. The prompts are: **WHO, WHERE, WHAT, WHY, LIKE, HOW, FEEL.** In Mrs. Mittelstadt’s class, after a “quick picture,” each student dictated responses to the above prompts, ending up with a short story. These stories were typed up and sent home in a packet with each student in the class. The students enjoyed listening to each other’s stories and sharing them with their families.

### CREATING TOGETHER

#### High School Students Create Internet/Television Channel

High School students have teamed up with the MSG Varsity network to share our school’s stories “through a combination of school-generated and professionally produced video content.” A new program spreading fast throughout the tri-state area, MSG Varsity has donated professional video and editing equipment, trained teachers and students and is hosting our school page on their MSG website. While MSG Varsity is best recognized for sports coverage, and sporting events, highlights and interviews will certainly be included. This program seeks to celebrate all facets of high school life including music, drama, student government, community service activities, class projects, festivals, clubs and more. NSHS content will be available 24/7 on MSGVarsity.com and MSG Varsity Interactive (iO TV 614).

## NORTH SALEM AND PRIDE

### North Salem Middle School re-designated as a *School To Watch*

North Salem Middle School has for the second time been designated as an Essential Elements School to Watch. This year, the middle school is *one of only seventeen middle schools in New York State* to receive this designation and will serve as a model on both the state and national levels for school districts that wish to either move to a middle school model or improve a middle school program already in existence. This award reflects the middle school’s excellence in academic programming, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and structural organization.

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS



### A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS **Project Reaches Across Curriculum Areas in PQ Related Arts Departments**

This past April, the Second Graders at PQ participated in their Annual Spring Concert. The theme of their concert entitled “Yo, Leonardo! A Musical Celebration of the Visual Arts” is a collection of songs about famous artists and their works. Students learned each song through musical, dramatic or movement activities designed to strengthen the connection between the performing and visual arts. Students learned biographical information about the artists, as well as an overview of their artistic contributions to the medium.

The music and art programs at PQ collaborated, and had students present their artwork that reflected the styles and techniques of these famous artists. Parents were able to view the artwork displayed in the hallways after listening and enjoying the concert. Several of the students portrayed the following artists during the concert: **Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Leonardo da Vinci, Mary Cassatt, Georgia O’Keefe, Frida Kahlo, Georges Seurat, Henri Matisse, Piet Mondrian, and Jackson Pollock.**

The students really enjoyed this project and were able to use critical and creative thinking skills to figure out the differences and similarities that exist between artistic disciplines. Cross-curricular activities help students make real and lasting connections!

### **Life’s Lessons**

The “**Process**” of “**Empowering Young People**” to “**Think**” through situations and “**Problem-Solve**” and then watching them, as they develop their plans and bring these plans to conclusion is the greatest joy of working in education for me. I have the privilege and honor of teaching “**Life**” to the students of North Salem and truly enjoy my profession.

— *Chris Latterner, LCSW*

## **Students helping Students**

During this school year, Mrs. Tait’s fifth grade students have been serving as daily mentors for Mrs. Paproski’s second grade students. Each morning, two fifth graders head down to work in the second grade class for about thirty minutes. During the time they are with the second graders, these student helpers listen to the second graders read with fluency, prompting them to use expression and to read for comprehension. The fifth grade students also help with other literacy tasks such as writing, spelling and editing. The one-on-one support that the fifth grade students give to the second grade students is invaluable. Second grader Kristian says, “The fifth graders help to make me feel more confident in my reading.” Megan, also in second grade, says, “The fifth graders help us learn new words, not just how to say them, but what they mean too.”

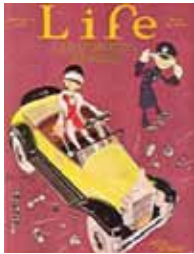
The opportunity to work with younger students gives the fifth grade students a lot of pride and boosts their self-esteem. Fifth grader Nicole, reports, “I enjoy working in the second grade class because I know I am helping the second grade students.”

## NORTH SALEM AND THE ARTS



Art students participated in the General Federation of Women's Clubs Art Contest, sponsored by Karen Amann, member of the Somers Women's Club. Artwork was submitted in several media categories, including charcoal, ink, pencil, color pencils, crayon, mixed media, sculpture, computer art, and photography. North Salem art students placed First at the District level in the media categories of Charcoal, Ink, and Mixed Media. North Salem students also placed Second at the District level in the media categories of Crayons and Photography. The artwork of First place winners went on to the State level for competition, and the Mixed Media piece was awarded First place, while the Ink piece was awarded Second place.

One of our eighth grade art classes participated in a poster design contest about friendship. First and Second prizes were awarded to two students from our school. The award ceremony was held at the Mahopac Library and the students received \$200 and \$150 for their winning entries.



*Learning Together through  
experience, education,  
music, art, and reflection*

### **Madrigal 1920's Musical Event**

## **"Joe Sent Me"**

**Reflection by Ms. Scallero,  
Social Studies Teacher  
and Mr. Coates, Musical Director**

The program gives us an opportunity to develop an interdisciplinary approach including elements of musical, social, and political history bridging the artistic and social gap of a particular era. This year's creative project began last July when we started collaboration on the era, the characters students would research, and the popular music of the time. In the fall, before students received their characters, the Madrigal group participated in a field study to New York City, which was a guided walking tour of Manhattan in the 1920s. We toured Greenwich Village, the Chrysler Building, and Grand Central Station. This was a learning experience for both the students and teachers.

In November, students began the process of researching their character including their field of expertise. They were required to prepare a presentation on each of these. They also did a writing project comparing the themes and musical style of a song from the 1920s to a popular song of today. Students were required to meet regularly with their teachers about their character study until the time of the performance. Throughout this period, students were learning and rehearsing their musical roles.

During the final week before the performance, students had costume fittings, rehearsals for their musical selections, discussions on hair and makeup appropriate for the 1920s, and a final run through on their characters.

As we reflect on this educational endeavor, both of us realize what a phenomenal learning experience this has been for the students and their teachers!

## **THE ROARING TWENTIES**

**Mr. Valenti's U.S. History and Government classes completed a 1920's Radio Broadcast for their third marking period project.**

**Groups were assigned a two-year period during the decade known as the "Roaring Twenties."**

**The broadcasts included news highlights, sporting events, music, movies, book reviews, fads, obituaries, and the lingo of the time.**

**This project was created in collaboration with our school librarian, Mrs. Sandler.**

**PQ Fine Arts Night** May 18, 2010 is a very special night for students at PQ, because it is a night where their hard work and talents throughout the year are showcased at the Pequenakonck Fine Arts Night; an experience in every "sense."

Step through the doors of PQ at 6:30 p.m. and you will see the halls transformed into an art gallery exploding with color, excitement on the faces of children as they find their artwork, and children armed with pencils ready for the scavenger hunt. Come to PQ that night and hear song fill the air as the fourth and fifth grade chorus sing about our planet Earth. Enter to feel the joy and pride that light up these students as they admire their work and the work of others.

A couple days prior to Fine Arts Night, you will find art teachers, music teacher, administration, custodial staff, parents and students all generously giving their time to make this a truly special event. This collaboration (which can be seen regularly throughout the school year) between students, parents, and teachers is the transformation that turns the ordinary into extraordinary here in North Salem!

## STRIKE UP THE BAND

The High School Concert Band has two more performances this year. The Band will be marching in the annual Memorial Day Parade. They will be performing the service songs for each branch of the Armed Forces. The Concert Band will be performing their final concert of the year on June 8.

Music from the Classical era composed by Haydn and Mozart will be featured.

# YOUR TICKET TO THE BEST SHOWS IN TOWN !!

**MONDAY, MAY 10**

## MS INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

featuring full band and small group performances  
8:00 P.M.

MS/HS AUDITORIUM

**THURSDAY, MAY 13**

## RAINFOREST NIGHT

6:30 P.M. — PQ

**FRIDAY, MAY 14**

## SPRING FEST

Games, Food, Fun,  
Dodge Ball, Clubs

*Proceeds to benefit the  
Elizabeth Butler Foundation*  
AFTER SCHOOL — MS/HS

**TUESDAY, MAY 18**

## PQ FINE ARTS NIGHT

Art Showcase, Music  
6:30 P.M. — PQ

**TUESDAY, MAY 18**

## 8TH GRADE WASHINGTON, DC PROJECT PROPOSALS

7:00-8:00 P.M.

MS QUAD, 2ND FLOOR

**MONDAY, MAY 24**

## MS VOCAL CONCERT

featuring 6th, 7th and  
8th grade choruses  
8:00 P.M.

MS/HS AUDITORIUM

**MONDAY, MAY 31**

## HIGH SCHOOL BAND

performs at the  
North Salem  
Memorial Day Parade  
Oakridge Road,  
North Salem  
9:30 A.M.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 1**

## SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT SYMPOSIUM

7:00 P.M. — HS

**THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

## MS/HS ART SHOW

7:00 P.M.  
MS/HS MAIN HALL

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**

## HS BAND SPRING CONCERT

8:00 P.M.  
MS/HS AUDITORIUM

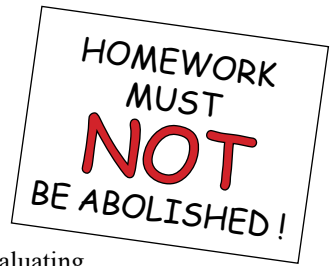
**THURSDAY, JUNE 17**

## CULTURAL MUSEUM OPENING GALA

6:30-8:30 P.M. — PQ

## 7th Graders Go “Virtually” International

English teacher Teri McCleary and LMS Cynthia Sandler have spent the last several weeks helping students prepare for a live videoconference debate with a middle school in Winnipeg, Canada. While perhaps not the more popular 7th grade stance, students will oppose the position that “Homework must be abolished,” putting their locating, evaluating, organizing and speaking skills to the test against a very authentic audience.



**Year of the Tiger**

### Gung Hay Fay Choy!

In February, the third grade marked the Chinese New Year. It is an annual highlight of the grade's detailed study of the Chinese culture. Parents offered their assistance with serving lunch.

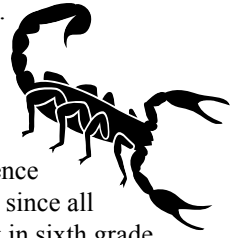
The Year of the Tiger was recognized with tasty treats from a local restaurant. Food samples included: vegetable lo mein, chicken with broccoli, beef and vegetables, egg rolls and rice.

The lunch would not have been complete without chopsticks and fortune cookies. The Togetherness Tray featured sweet delights.

Following the luncheon, classes participated in a variety of games originating from China; including, dominoes, Chinese checkers and pick-up sticks. The students had a wonderful afternoon filled with fun, food, and learning.

### Middle School Assemblies

The middle school has long had a great tradition of bringing assemblies to students that educate on subject matter as well as help further their cultural experiences. This year has been no exception. Two assemblies particularly stand out. *Animals of Ancient Egypt*, brought to the middle school through The Bureau of Lectures, taught students about the culture and geography of Egypt through the use of animals native to that land. Students saw, learned about and even got to hold reptiles, scorpions, jungle cats, fox and many other animals. The experience was particularly beneficial since all students learn about Egypt in sixth grade.



Another wonderful assembly was a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. This assembly was particularly successful since many of our middle school students performed the play in fifth grade at PQ. The show was particularly appealing to our audience because of the troupe's great physical humor and interaction with the audience. The play was very accessible while maintaining the integrity of the language and plotline that Shakespeare wrote so very long ago.

# First Annual Cultural Museum Coming to Fifth Grade

The North Wing of Pequenakonck will soon be magically transformed into a Cultural Museum exhibiting art, music, and history of the Western Hemisphere. Fifth grade students have been studying the geography, history, culture, economic systems, and governments of Canada, the United States, and Latin America. Working with the fifth grade team of teachers Nicole Federici, Marissa Oddo, Deborah Oswald, Michelle Sands, Dawn Schmitt, and Virginia Tait, students have created travel brochures, posters comparing economic and governments, power point presentations, and dioramas describing geographical features and historic turning points of countries located within the Western Hemisphere.

In addition to studying units on the Western Hemisphere in Social Studies classes, fifth grade students have been learning about and creating art with teachers Tara Carl and Jane Silverblade from the ancient Mayan and Incan civilizations of Latin America, as well as music with teacher Sheri Dee from these cultures. Students have studied the music of Mexico and Brazil in class to correlate with the cultural museum project. Performances of a Mexican stick dance “Los Machetes” from Jalisco and a Mexican hand-clapping game to the beat of “La Bamba” can be viewed at the Cultural Museum as well as a Brazilian folk song dance called “I Came to Try this Game”.

## LEARNING THE FOUNDATIONS OF RESEARCH THROUGH COLLABORATION

Every year, sophomores learn the foundations of research during their third quarter Global History class and English class. It all starts with topics ranging from the European Union, The Rape of Nanking, Benito Mussolini to the Six-Day War, The Treaty of Versailles and The Ukrainian Famine. Students spend hours researching their topics, differentiating between valid and invalid sources, and essentially discovering how these events and people in history connect to students current lives. Students develop a thesis on their topic and use this argument to develop a research paper in which they develop their thesis statement. What preparation for college! Finally, the entire paper is presented in their Global class and the entire project is graded by both the English Department and Global Department.

As a culminating activity for Social Studies, art, and music, fifth graders will become museum curators, docents, greeters, technology experts, and living historians for visitors to the Cultural Museum. Students will become historical re-enactors, portraying people such as Inuits, Aztecs, Mayans, Sacajawea, Lewis and Clark, Francisco Pizarro, Hernan Cortes, and Thomas Jefferson.

Each classroom will be devoted to a unit covered in the Fifth grade Social Studies Curriculum. A museum souvenir shop will represent the economy unit, where student crafts native to the cultures of Latin America will be displayed.

Third and fourth grade students will be invited to tour the museum on Thursday, June 17, from 10:30 until 12:00. The museum will open to families of fifth graders in the evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.. Please stop by on June 17 to take a tour of the rich culture and history of the Western Hemisphere.

## GOING GREEN AND



**Ornithology Club News**—Members of the Ornithology Club have set up a humming bird feeder in the High School Garden Courtyard and planted bee-balm (*Monarda fistulosa*) perennials to help attract them.

Third graders are busy preparing for Rainforest Night on May 13, 2010. They will be presenting a play called “A Rumpus in the Rainforest.” The play takes place in the Amazon rainforest. The children have been learning new songs with Music Instructor, Mrs. Nicita, as part of the play. The play starts off with Frog who desperately wants to get off the jungle floor and see the sky. Frog tries to get help to climb to the canopy. The play is fun and supports the third graders’ study of the tropical rainforest.

The classes received wood frog eggs which quickly became tadpoles. Students are observing them as they become froglets and tiny frogs. They will record their observations in their science notebooks.



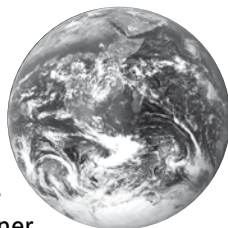
### **Bob Ritchie’s 50 Years of Service at PQ on Earth Day**

April 22nd, Earth Day, was a very special day at PQ. The students and staff began the day with a tree planting ceremony honoring Bob Ritchie, PQ custodian, for 50 years of service. The PQ Staff selected a plum tree with beautiful burgundy leaves and dedicated the tree in Bob’s name. A plaque will be displayed by the tree, which reads “Robert Ritchie – Our Master Gardener - Celebrating 50 Years of Service to the North Salem School District.”

We thank Bob for his dedicated years of service and for the beautiful bushes and flowers all around PQ that Bob has planted.

### *Earth Day celebrated with a nature walk, senses, writing, and technology !*

In celebration of Earth Day, Mrs. Martz and Mrs. Hester’s reading support groups enjoyed a five senses nature walk. Each student completed a graphic organizer of things they saw, felt, smelled, touched and tasted. In a subsequent class, students use their graphic organizers to write a paragraph describing their findings. Both groups came together to share their writing. The process was enhanced through the use of a document camera which projects students’ work onto a white board. The use of this technology provides a platform for displaying students’ work in a more effective manner.



## Fifth Grade's Earth Day Celebration

On Thursday, April 22, 2010, the fifth grade classes celebrated Earth Day. The students went on a nature hike with a local naturalist. During the hour long hike along the PQ trail, students learned new facts about the trees and other vegetation found along the trail. They also stopped at the stream to observe aquatic creatures and even got to go to a pond filled with tadpoles. The students enjoyed seeing nature through the eyes of a naturalist. Funding for the hike was generously provided by the PQ PTO.

The students also planted lettuce seedlings in the garden beds. The seedlings were started in the classroom from seed in March. They grew under grow lights for about a month. Now, they will grow in the garden until late May. They will then be harvested for our school's Salad Day.

Finally, students did a clean-up of school grounds, gathering up trash and recycling from the parking areas, the field areas and the playground areas. All in all, Earth Day was a fun and educational day for the fifth grade students.

## It's Time to Grow!

The Middle School / High School Garden Project is off to a great start. This collaborative venture between students, teachers, staff, administrators, community members and local businesses was organized by Assistant Principal Dr. George Bovino.

Located in the High School courtyard, the enclosed area provides excellent protection from deer. Untreated 2" x 12" lumber and weatherproof hardware were donated by Lakeland Lumber. The boards were cut and assembled into six 3' x 8' raised bed boxes.

Under the supervision of local horticultural expert Jack McGrath, participating students and teachers were instructed in the Science of blending natural materials into a premium growing mixture. Topsoil, leaf compost, peat moss, manure and plant tone were carefully measured out and blended using an electric cement mixer on loan from the Town of North Salem Highway Department. The components were generously donated to our garden project by Clearwater Excavating, Hardscrabble Farms and Mr. Peter Kammenstein,

The finished product was loaded by hand into wheel barrows and transported through the hallways to the newly constructed raised beds in the Garden courtyard. It took 43 wheel barrow trips to complete this task!

Despite the cold weather, several of the raised beds have been planted with early season crops such as snow peas, lettuce, spinach, broccoli and cauliflower. Fresh, organic produce harvested from our new garden initiative will be served in both cafeterias. The Garden Project has been so successful thus far that plans have been made to construct two additional raised beds to meet the demand for growing space.

### SAVING OUR SYMBOL

As part of the fourth grade science unit on the Hudson River students watched a PBS video on the bald eagle. Saving our national symbol from near extinction has been a real success story. As part of their class work, students reviewed the video's content and presentation. Their comments are included on the PBS eagle video page.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/american-eagle/video-full-episode/4349/>



***The Garden Project Team welcomes the donation of flower pots, flats, hand tools, gloves and wheel barrows in good condition suitable for student use.***

### A Reflection on the Science Research Program

By Mr. F.T. Di Gaetano, Teacher

*Science hidden is not science ... it must be seen by a public light  
and that role is invaluable to us.*

Few people would confuse this teacher with Thurber's hero, Erwin Martin, but working with the Science Research Program has placed me solidly in the catbird's seat. And as we head towards our symposium on 1 June 2010, this realization crystallizes, beautifully.

The seniors are wrapping up their long-term research projects. This year the Science Research Program continued to encourage student-based research in tidal power, pain management in canines via acupuncture, ACL tear prevention in female athletes, weather pattern analysis, issues of sense and mood, and apiary conservation (that's the fancy term for beehive studies).

Five different scientists and engineers from the wider community have stepped up and are now associated officially with the three student-researchers of the junior class. With the help of their mentor(s), each student is somewhere along the road to actualizing their own research.

These projects are just as varied as any in the past. One project is designed to shed light on the socio-emotional attitudes of people who *witness* bullying and their reactions. A second project has picked up a theme of environmental conservation and will compare variables for the hydroponic cultivation of herbs. A third student researcher has a plan to study the effects of pH and temperature on the growth of crystals used in a process known as x-ray diffraction.

The newest members of this three-year course are finishing their own small science fair projects. This year's projects include a study regarding a connection between memory and odor, a study of the interference of wireless signals, testing for qualities and content in natural bodies of water and in home systems, fruit flies, plant growth,

energy content of gasoline mixtures, vitamin retention in food, wave frequencies, long lasting chewing gum, and patterns associated with socio-economic factors of national gubernatorial elections.

If you think the course sounds like the old one room schoolhouse with all levels represented ... you've landed on an effective metaphor – but I would not trade it. The

excitement of students when they tell you that they have begun to critique situations outside of the classroom with a different eye, is not to be missed. When you hear these young, bright minds offering opinions as to the positive points of a research project (professional or student-driven) or how one could be improved is so rewarding. When I hear a student say that they have “learned more science by what has gone wrong with their project, then anything else”, I glimpse the future.

Few courses get the students to blend science, language arts, history, critical thinking, statistics, research skills, and interpersonal skills like the SR Program... talk about “real life” applications!

The course is in constant need of professionals to act as mentors for the upcoming group of students. Any help or insight is more than appreciated. If any reader feels that they may wish to help, just contact the school.

Here's what I know ... In line with Harold Hodgkinson's work, *What's Right With Education*, I know I get to work with students interested in the mysteries of their world. I know that I was not where these students are, when I was 16 years old. And I certainly and happily know that my place right now is in that catbird seat.

## FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE MENTORS

Earlier this year Mr. Fuller's fourth grade students shared their electricity projects with each second grade class. Besides reviewing some of their science content, students practiced with oral presentation skills. The positive excitement within the classroom was wonderful to behold.

***You are invited...Tuesday, June 1st, at 7:00 p.m.  
to see what some of the projects look like,  
please come to the Middle/High School.***

# NORTH SALEM – SUCCESS IN SCIENCE

SPRING INTO SCIENCE with STATIC ELECTRICITY  
TO mini EXPLOSIONS !!

Mrs. Busch's 3rd graders prepared simple science experiments to demonstrate to their classmates.  
Everyone was well educated and entertained!

## PHYSICS NEWS

The A.P. Physics class successfully completed the A.P. Exam in May, and now the class has turned its attention to some of the more exciting topics and lab investigations above and beyond the AP-B curriculum. Students will be working on alternative energy projects as well as developing interactive Physics labs and demonstrations for our younger students at PQ and the Middle School. We also plan to design, construct and install a small solar array in the High School Garden courtyard. Rumor has it that pneumatic confetti cannons may be making a return to North Salem High School. Blizzard warnings have been issued for A.P. Chemistry class!

This year, we have four sections of Regents Physics, the largest number of students taking Physics in the School District's history. These students just completed the annual circuit challenge in which lab groups design and construct a DC electrical circuit capable of controlling a four-way traffic light. The four classes now move on to the fascinating topic of Magnetism and the most brilliant person you probably have never heard of: Nikola Tesla. Tesla developed the system of Alternating Current and was Thomas Edison's main rival.



### Disruptive Eruptions, Major Earthquakes... What's next, a super eruption at Yellowstone?

**Students in Mrs. Valenti's Earth Science 8 classes recently completed a unit of study on the Dynamic Crust. Students learned about Plate Tectonics, subduction zones, sea floor spreading and hot spots. Acting as amateur geologists, the students can now calculate and locate the epicenters of earthquakes and predict the likelihood of an earthquake or volcanic eruption in various regions of the world. They've even determined the possibility of a super eruption at Yellowstone National Park, which, like its distant cousin, Eyjafjallajökull Volcano in Iceland, would disrupt worldwide airline travel for months!**

**Students also determined that this year, 2010, has been no more seismically active than previous years. The earth is on target for an average number of earthquakes and eruptions. Even though it seems like it's the end of the world as we know it, any 8th grader will tell you, "it's just Earth reminding us that we exist on a tectonically living planet."**

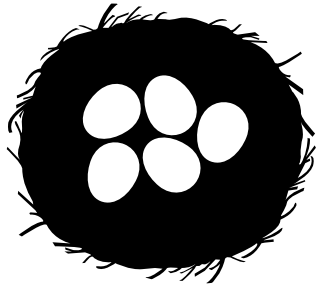
# Regents Biology

One of our school goals is to develop authentic problem solving tasks that engage students in creative thinking skills. Mrs. McDonough has been developing these tasks for years! This year she is working collaboratively with Mrs. Sharpe. In addition to all of the co-teaching lessons and activities they have produced, they have refined some of these problem-solving tasks to meet the needs of the current tenth graders.

During the first quarter, students became environmentalists. They needed to research and present possible solutions to an environmental problem. Topics involving global warming, acid rain and ocean dumping were of particular interest. During the second quarter, they became researchers who carried out the scientific method to solve an everyday problem of their choice. They became “Federal Agents” third quarter with their job to convince a study group to provide funding for Genetic research. Areas to research included stem cells, cloning, genetically modified food, DNA fingerprinting, mapping the Human Genome, and gene therapy. For the fourth quarter, students will become specialists in an area of the human body, whose job is to teach a group of interns the common disorders associated with this system and how it impacts other areas of the body.

Unlike *Grey’s Anatomy*, the conversations will center around the biological aspects of the medical field rather than the social interactions among the interns. The overall goal of these projects is to enable students to see the relevance of Biology in our world as well as teach them useful problem solving skills that will benefit them in everyday life.

## A GLIMPSE INTO A FIRST GRADE CLASSROOM



First graders explored a science unit on the differences between living and non-living things. They experienced many activities based on the life cycle of a chick, the differences between living and non-living objects, and identifying and discussing the parts of chick eggs. First Graders also explore oviparous creatures and viviparous creatures. They follow the life cycle of a chick through the use of our Science 21 program, science journals, literature, hands-on experiences of chick eggs in the classrooms, and a field trip to Teatown Lake Reservation.

The first graders are also using all their newly acquired writing skills to become authors of fiction and non-fiction. The children will explore and discover the differences and similarities between fiction and non-fiction texts. Some children will choose an animal to study and conduct research on. Some children will write about an event, a trip or even try their hand at making a how-to book. Some students will be creating photo essays. Students will be using photos, diagrams and illustrations to help develop their writing projects.

The students' hard work and accomplishments are celebrated when the books are completed.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math – The answer to the age-old question,

### “When Will I Ever Use This?”

Many days in math class a student asks “When will I ever use this?” In Mrs. Taylor’s 8th grade math class, students strive to answer this question.

Sometimes, math students take on the roll of scientists when they use motion detectors and graphing calculators to explore how different movements create different graphs, much like a police officer uses radar detectors. On other days, students might be creating simplified blueprints of indoor ski slopes using linear functions, much like the engineers created the indoor ski slopes in Dubai.

Math class is also student-led when algebra students create and teach their own review sessions, which helps make them better at communication. Math is also real-world problem-based as students compare hybrid versus standard vehicles, calculate associated costs, and make a final decision as to which model to purchase based on costs and family need. As we all know, this is a life skill.

We will ALWAYS use math!

### MATH GARDEN

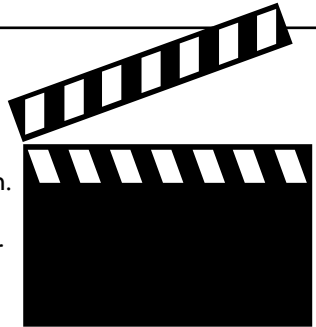
Mr. Fuller’s fourth grade class planted a math garden following the spring vacation. Snap peas, leaf lettuce, and radish are up. Some of the math activities include mapping with area and perimeter, making predictions, recording/graphing plant growth, and working to develop statements based on contrasting and comparing statistics.

## Lights...Camera...Action... Book Trailers!

English teacher Kyle McCarron and LMS Cynthia Sandler may have glimpsed the next James Cameron. After considering themes, conflicts and characterization, 10th graders showcased and promoted their independent reading books through the creation of “book trailers,” short films resembling movie trailers.

Replete with popcorn, the class “Academy” watched and voted on the “Best Book Trailer” and came away with some great peer-reviewed reading recommendations.

**More Reading Suggestions**—*The Hunger Games, Twilight, Paper Towns, Identical* and *13 Reasons Why*. **Classics**—*Alice in Wonderland, Don Quixote, Catcher in the Rye* and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

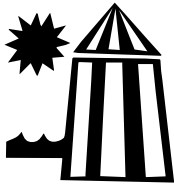


## WE CAN'T WAIT FOR JUNE!

When all the preparation for and taking of the state tests is over, Mrs. Busch's third grade class will have the annual "Camp Wannaread" Day.

Tents will be erected in the classroom, lights will be turned out, and sounds of nature will be playing in the background as students spend an entire day involved in language arts activities. It's a wonderful day of fun and learning.

## Suggestions for your beach reading:



A book I enjoyed reading recently is *Teach like Your Hair is On Fire*. The author, Rafe Esquith who has taught high school English in some tough Los Angeles neighborhoods, describes the challenges and joys of teaching in the classroom (Room 56). I wanted to share one of his thoughts on reading or literacy that I feel is worth reflecting upon.

***"This I believe: If young people develop a love of reading, they will have better lives. That objective is not listed in our state curriculum standards. Our assessment of reading may begin with standardized test scores, but in the end we must measure a child's reading ability by the amount of laughter exhaled and tears shed as the written word is devoured. Laughter and tears may not be listed in the state curriculum of reading objectives, but they are the standard in Room 56. These kids (his students) read for life."***

—Mr. Noel MacCarry

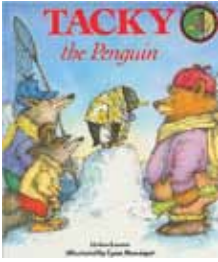


## UNDER THE BIG BLUE TENT

Mark your calendars for the 10 year anniversary celebration of the PQ Tall Tree Award. On May 18, the PQ Library Media Center will present the award to an outstanding fiction book chosen over a two year period by 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in North Salem. All students in those grades will receive an invitation to attend the award. Students who have read one or more of the finalists (about 99% in those grades participating) have cast their votes, so come to see whether *City of Ember*, *Clementine*, or *The Lightning Thief* will be honored by the 2010 Tall Tree Award. Adults are all invited as well! Refreshments will be served.

The program has been sponsored by the PTO and the after school PQ Library Club since 2000 after an initial grant provided by Reader's Digest in 1999. Special thanks to past PQ parents Alison Hershman and Nancy Brown for their continued artistic work behind the creation of the beautiful award banners hanging in the PQ Library Hallway. Also, thank you to all the teachers in the upper PQ grades who enthusiastically read many of the nominees to their classes and to Mrs. Tait's class who read and wrote wonderful reviews of the many books nominated.

## LANGUAGE ARTS



The Kindergarten Classes completed an author study of Helen Lester. Helen Lester has written many well-known children's books with the main character of Tacky the Penguin, as well as numerous other picture books with assorted animals as main characters. Her books always provide a moral, or learning event, in the story. The kindergarten students participated in many activities including using her story, *Author, A True Story* to inspire real authors in the kindergarten students. Other activities included: Letter writing to Helen Lester, compare/contrast Lester books, making connections, graphing, voting for favorite Helen Lester book.

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Would you like to learn how to write a small moment story?  
Do you want to find out about focusing on juicy details and zooming in like a camera lens on one small moment in time?

**M**rs. Kugel's Second Grade English Language Arts class could teach you a thing or two! The Second Grade authors had a Writers' Celebration, and they read their fabulous stories to teachers, parents, Mrs. Reiner and Mrs. Lavrakas!

The Celebration commenced with the wonderful writers singing a song about the importance of details in stories (accompanied by Mrs. Kugel on guitar). "Don't just write I got a bike! Details, details! Tell exactly what it's like with details all around!" were just some of the wise advice imparted by the second grade writers as they sang their opening song. Next, the writers were introduced by their teacher as they came up one by one to read their stories into a microphone (public speaking that most people don't do until they get to college!). The small moments that were read were about: opening the best Christmas present ever (Barbie Going Camping), seeing Santa Claus in the backyard, seeing the Easter Bunny's pink and white hand (was it a dream or did it really happen?!), a bumpy plane ride to visit Grandma, a very exciting Holiday party, riding a stinky camel at the zoo, wiping out on a surfboard in Hawaii, and decorating the Christmas Tree with loved ones. The Second Grade writers did such a fabulous job with their stories! They celebrated more by sharing illustrations with their audience and munching on the delicious fruit salad made by one wonderful writer's mom!

A great time was had by all. Mrs. Kugel and Mrs. Healey are looking forward to May when their two English Language Arts classes will celebrate their poetry at the Healey-Kugel's Poetry Palooza Picnic!

### **7th Grade Honorary Author**

A 7th grade student in Mrs. Lesley Hoagg's English class recently had her poem selected to be published in the prestigious annual student anthology, ***Award-Winning Young Writers of America-2010!*** The publication received thousands of submissions for the 2010 Northeast Regional Young Writers of America Student Poetry Contest, but less than 20 percent were actually chosen for publication. This is quite an honor!

### **POETRY IDOL SECOND GRADERS**

Everyone has heard of the show, American Idol. But have you ever heard of "Poetry Idol?" Each week the second graders practice poetry, and perform the poem for their classmates. Students work in groups, with a buddy, or independently on the poem of the week. This fun activity promotes reading fluency and expression. Students give positive feedback to help their classmates become great poetry performers.

## **High School Students Attend Annual Young Authors' Writing Conferences**

**F**or the fifteenth year, North Salem students attended two Young Authors' conferences, sponsored through BOCES division of Curriculum and Instructional Services. In December, two North Salem High School students spent a full day writing through a variety of styles and genres while meeting with professional editors to produce exemplary pieces of literature which appeared in an anthology distributed to over 500 fellow high school students.

Then, on a sunny day in March, English teacher Kit Vilkas, MS/HS Library/Media Specialist Cynthia Sandler, and 14 high school students spent the day with 500 fellow student writers from nearly twenty different high schools at the 15th annual Young Author's Conference at Westchester Community College. Recommended by their English teachers for having demonstrated talent and interest in writing, the students attended hands-on workshops led by professional authors and editors, in a wide range of topics such as "Just Burn, Shoot, Stab, or Strangle Me" and "How to Write Children's Picture Books."

The emphasis of the conference was not only to provide students with guidance and advice, but to help students explore the many diverse careers open to writers in today's world. One junior, who has attended the conference for two years, commented that while the sessions always prove fun and inspiring, this year she also took away memoir-writing strategies for her upcoming college essays.

## Social Studies HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

Rembrandt, Abe Lincoln, Juliette Low, Pocahontas, Cynthia Rylant, Jackie Robinson – just some of the history giants who came to life by Mrs. Busch’s third grade students. Students made timelines and presentations to parents and administrators by transforming themselves in character and costume.

### TIME TRAVEL

**H**ave you ever wanted to travel back in time to the Middle Ages? Sixth graders in Lynn Colwell’s English and Jim Savarese’s Social Studies classes have become our resident experts. At their great Medieval Exhibition, students presented everything from miniature cast and the Great Wall of China, to battle axes and Samurai helmets, to 3D maps of the spread of the Black Death, to replicas of the Mona Lisa, to sewing a 15th century townswoman dress. Some students opted to act in a Medieval play and all participate in writing projects.



As they prepared for this culminating event, students worked with Ms. Colwell and LMS Cynthia Sandler to share their research among all five classes using a collaborative wiki. In addition, students joined together to share insights on *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* on a class blog. The response to these 21st century tools was overwhelming, with students even asking for more homework so they could add to their wiki and blog.

## Shakespeare goes 21st Century

Act II Scene I and II



*“There never was a story of such woe as that of Juliet and her Romeo.”*

Jennifer Molloy’s 9th grade English classes and MS/HS Library Media Specialist, Cynthia Sandler

collaborated to put a new spin on Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Students translated and analyzed the Elizabethan language into modern day English and then used the cartoon generator Bitstrips for Schools to compile the cartoon strips into class books. The most successful *Romeo and Juliet* graphic novel will be published and housed in the Mary I. Keefe Library for all to enjoy.

# NORTH SALEM AND THE LAW

Starting in January 2010 the North Salem History Department revived the very popular Law Studies Elective. This is a half-year elective, that this year includes students from all four grade levels. Mr. Bob Mittelstadt, with the aid of Fillippo Simone, North Salem graduate of the class of 2001, created a student-centered curriculum that emphasizes current law related issues and topics. The curriculum includes coverage of Crimes and its Victims, Police-Methods, Investigation Techniques, and Limits on Police Authority, the Criminal Case process and an in depth study of Juvenile Law-Crimes and Corrections.

Course highlights to date include guest visits by State Troopers Merritt and Libretti from the Somers Barracks and a planned special visit by Mr. Mike Keese, a local attorney and coach for our successful Mock Trial team.

Student contributions to the course include weekly current event presentations to our Newsbreak day journals where students share and record information presented on current legal issues. We have also included a variety of film classics to our course—*12 Angry Men*, *The Star Chamber* and *Runaway Jury*; to name just a few.

It is Mr. Mittelstadt's hope to expand the course next year to include visits to Forensic labs and possibly local Prisons and Police Academies. The students seem eager and willing to experience these many facets of our legal system.

## TOURING HISTORY

**U.S. History and Government (Grade 11) students recently visited the home of former president Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park, New York. While there, students toured the home of FDR as well as the Presidential Library and Museum.**

**They also worked with educators and analyzed documents relating to all aspects of FDR's time in office.**

**The trip was planned by Special Education teacher, Mrs. Considine.**

## The 8th Grade Goes to Washington



For over thirty years, eighth grade students have been making a three-day, two-night trip to Washington, DC. This year, students traveled to DC in April. Over the years, the trip has evolved from a history-based field trip to a cross-curricular experience. Some highlights of this year's packed itinerary included a tour of the Capital Building Visitor's Center, a play at the Kennedy Center, a tour at the Newseum, visits to the National Archives and the Library of Congress, time to explore the Smithsonian Museums, tours of the monuments, and a presentation of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Upon their return to North Salem, students are expected to complete a cross-curricular Social Studies and English project, "What's Missing in DC?" After studying not just the subjects of the memorials and monuments in Washington, but also the form and symbolism of those monuments, students will propose a new monument that represents something or someone from American History that is not currently represented. Students research the subject, create a model of their memorial or monument and write a letter to the National Parks Service proposing their idea.

The projects will be on display at this year's Eighth Grade Exhibition which will be held on May 18, from 7:00-8:00 PM in the 8th grade quad.

## Passing on Acts of Kindness TOGETHER



### **Have you filled someone's bucket today?**

Fifth grade science classes have been discussing the importance of peer relationships and positive decision making as part of our Drug and Alcohol Prevention unit. Upon the suggestion of Special Ed Teacher, Mrs. Castellano, we shared the book ***Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*** by Carol McCloud. All people have an imaginary bucket that they carry with them.

It can be filled with kindness and praise or dipped into with negative behavior. The book encourages positive behavior and suggests easy ways of impacting others by sharing kindness. The book also teaches children to acknowledge others by “filling their bucket” while at the same time filling their own.

The children discussed ways they could “fill someone’s bucket” and in small groups illustrated pictures of “bucket filling” scenarios. We have overheard the kids commenting on how to “fill a bucket” and they are making positive choices everyday. We hope the idea will catch on throughout the school as well as the community.

**Just before the holidays, Mrs. Busch's third grade class went on a field trip to Costco to purchase much needed supplies for The Dorothy Day Hospitality Center in Danbury. The class delivered the supplies to the Center and were given a tour of the facility and learned the fascinating history of its founder, Dorothy Day.**

**Prior to the trip, the students read many books on homelessness ensuring that they were prepared for what they would experience.**

**Special THANKS to: the parents and students who generously donated to the cause; Dr. Freeston, who authorized the use of a bus at no cost; and the bus drivers, Larry and Brian who were a HUGE help in the loading and unloading of some very heavy items!**

### **HELPING OTHERS**

**A collaborative effort by The Middle School student Forum, High School Student Council and Amnesty International Club, resulted in a donation to the American Red Cross for \$1,655. We know that this money will help the Red Cross' efforts to support and aide the people of Haiti.**

**A special thank you to the North Salem community who contributed to this worthy cause.**

In April, the students in Mrs. Donofrio's and Mrs. Lodewick's kindergarten classes made floral bouquets for the residents of the Waterview Hills Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Purdys. Each flower was made from the handprint of one of our students to show that little hands can bring a big smile. They worked hard at tracing, cutting and assembling the bouquets. Each of the thirty-eight bouquets contained a wish for a wonderful spring season.

## Middle School Physical Education on the Move

The birdies have been flying as the middle school P.E. classes have taken flight with badminton. Badminton is a great sport for leisure time activity or fierce competition. Playing without the vagaries of wind-blown shuttlecocks the volleys indoors have been long and excitingly played and most always followed with whoops of joy as the shuttlecock lands on the opposing side of the court for a point.



Moms and Dads be warned; be ready for a workout at your next backyard game.

Prior to Badminton the sixth grade classes embarked on the most challenging unit of the year: *Off the Floor*. The students were personally challenged to climb ropes and the cargo net, swing off the rings, jump rope, do a running long jump, balance on the balance board, climb the peg board and a rope swing. While engaged in these activities the students were improving upper body muscular endurance and developing confidence.

Oh yeah....they also had a boat-load of fun.

**Drop by and take a look at the photos of your children in action outside the middle school gym.**



While the sixth graders were off the floor, the seventh and eighth graders were planted firmly on the floor—in the gym and the weight room. The seventh grade, in two-week rotations, played European (Team) Handball and then spent two weeks in the weight room. European Handball is an internationally played sport and resembles water polo without the water. It is highly cardiovascular and is a transition game like basketball, soccer, hockey, etc. In the weight room our seventh and eighth graders were taught safety rules and the appropriate loading in regard to intensity and volume for their age. Each of the machine and some free weight exercises were demonstrated. The purpose of this unit is to encourage youngsters to engage in resistance strength training appropriate to their developmental needs. **Looking ahead:** Presentations will be made highlighting fitness criteria. That will be followed by the second round of the Fitnessgram Fitness Evaluation.

### TEERING OFF AND CLIMBING HIGH

The PQ physical education teachers and students are looking forward to an exciting month of May. Fifth grade students have been practicing their golf skills and are anticipating a sunny day to take a trip to Salem Golf Course in May. At the country club, students will be able to utilize the driving range, chipping area, and putting green.

The fourth grade class is completing their second week of our climbing unit. During this unit students have had the opportunity to utilize all of our climbing apparatus that includes a cargo net, six climbing ropes and a traverse climbing wall—all of which was generously purchased by our PTO last year. Many students have gained personal accomplishments climbing at various heights and have had positive experiences.

In May the physical education teachers will be taking the fourth grade classes to an indoor climbing facility in Valhalla.



Top two main reasons why people choose to live in North Salem\*:

1. Rural Character
2. Quality of Schools

The mission of the North Salem Teachers' Association and the Pequenakonck and Middle/High School PTO's together is to encourage our families, faculty, and staff to join us as we support the District's efforts to go green and do our part to maintain the beauty and rural character of our town and our world. Every bit does help.

Let's work together to become informed of the important issues, events, and triumphs in our quality schools. We value our partnership with our school organizations: Advocates for the Arts, Foundation for Learning, and CSEA staff members.

We will work together to ensure the continued success of our District as we move forward.

*\*Town of North Salem, NY, Comprehensive Plan Survey – July 2009*

**The NSTA and PQ and MS/HS PTO's  
wish our families, faculty, and staff  
a FUN and SAFE summer.  
Enjoy each and every Summer Day!**



*Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery.  
And today? Today is a gift.  
That's why we call it the present.*