

West Middle Kids Corps

Modeled after President Roosevelt's Work Corps, West Middle student volunteers will meet after school throughout the year to tackle school improvement projects. Students will brainstorm ways they can improve their school environment and initiate projects that lead to a cleaner, fresher and better looking school. Project ideas may be painting murals to brighten hallways or cover graffiti, building benches for the area near the bus stop or planting potted plants or flower gardens near building entrance and courtyards. Program leaders will incorporate lessons on environmental impact, science and math at program meetings.



Lab Tables before and after



Good Hand Washing Habits - Good Health!

5th grade students at Genesee Elementary will learn about the scientific method by conducting a hand washing experiment that uses black light technology and a liquid which shows up under the light if hands are not thoroughly washed off. Students will explore several websites in the computer lab. They will collect and record data, create graphs based on the data and draw conclusions about the importance of proper hand washing and prevalence of germs based on their data. Students will create and hang posters which will highlight the results of their experiment and offer advice on the importance of hand washing.



Writing Feedback and Revision with Digital Voice Recorders

50 Digital voice recorders will be purchased for a senior writing class to help students better understand the writing revision process. Teachers rarely have enough time to conference with each student during class time, so it is difficult for them to give personalized or detailed instruction on how a student can improve their writing. Digital voice recorders would allow the teacher to give more detailed feedback on each student paper than writing or in class conferencing would allow.



Casey's Character Café

This project will transform the school breakfast program into "Casey's Character Café. Students will be greeted each morning by a "hostess" who seats them in a café style atmosphere where each table is neatly decorated with a tablecloth and flowers and labeled with a character education trait such as self-discipline, responsibility, honesty. Classical background music and daily menu board with character inspired menu items such as friendship cereal or friendship pancakes will top off the café atmosphere. This project will allow the 220 students who participate in the daily breakfast program to start their day in a calming and relaxed manor that will allow them to focus on their schoolwork.



Winter 2009 Grants

Reach For A Read Sturdy chair pockets were purchased for First Graders at Genesee Elementary School to encourage and assist them in their Daily Five literacy tasks program. These pockets provide easy access to the “good fit” books the children choose. The Daily Five program is designed to fully engage students in reading and writing and will help the students become successful and life-long readers.

Summer Books Approximately 60 Seward Elementary students will choose five free books to be mailed to their homes every two weeks throughout the summer. This project promotes reading for low-income students whose families cannot afford to purchase supplemental books that will keep their children reading during the summer months. Parents will be sent a letter at the beginning of the program explaining the importance in maintaining the reading skills the students have mastered during the school year. The children will look forward to receiving their books in the mail and to building their own personal libraries at home.

Body Order Systems Videoconference Fifth graders at Seward Elementary participate in a hands-on presentation of the five major body systems, part of their science curriculum, via two videoconferences presented with the help of Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES. The children are able to experiment alongside their virtual presenters, engaging in activities and asking questions to reinforce their understanding.



Acquiring Leadership and Life Skills Through Outdoor Physical Experiences “Classroom in the Woods” at Orenda Springs Experiential Learning Center in Marcellus provides 70 fifth-graders at Owasco School a chance to learn valuable leadership and life skills. For two days the students will engage in cooperative interactions in a natural environment that stimulates their curiosity for learning. Outdoor rope activities help the students become more self-motivated and to value the diversity of others along with experiencing and appreciating the wonders of nature.



Special Project: We Can Make A Difference Banners

Awarded to the Auburn School Board of Education to promote unity and community awareness to their WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE public awareness campaign

Special Project: Teacher Recognition

Conference fees awarded for Shelly Connors, winner of the NASPE (National Association for Sports and Physical) award for Educational Excellence. Shelly will attend a national conference in Tampa FL. During the summer break.

Special Project -Grant K.O'Malley Author Visit



Visiting Author, Kevin O'Malley will present three evening programs that are free and open to the public. How to get a book published, Silly Poetry Contest Reception and Book signing at Seymour Library. This project was made possible through a \$ 500 grant from the Wyckoff Family Foundation.