

**North Adams Public Schools  
Service-Learning Project Narratives  
July 2010-June 2011**

\* indicates project connection with Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)

~ indicates connection to the Garden Mosaic Project in collaboration with the community Target: Hunger Initiative that strives to increase awareness of food security issues, increase access, provide relief and develop sustainable solutions. Harvested food is donated to the Berkshire Food Project (community free meal program). Additional community partners include the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, REACH for Community Health (a program of North Adams Regional Hospital) and MCLA.

+ indicates participation in the Senior Service-Learning grade-wide project

### **DRURY HIGH SCHOOL**

~+Boillat, Cheryl – “Garden Planning/Bag Drive”

Ten students in Basic English worked with community members to plan the community gardens in the back of Drury High School. In addition, students conducted a school-wide bag drive to assist local gardener Jen Munoz to help with the transporting of garden vegetables.

Boulger, Patrick – “Be Our Guest”

Thirty-nine students in two senior sociology courses assisted the local American Legion with the “Be Our Guest” annual holiday dinner serving over 750 people. The dinner is provided free to any community member with outreach to those in financial need or without local family. Students collect and wrap toys for the children. Students also decorate the hall and help with general preparation.

Boulger, Patrick – “Senior Citizen’s Prom”

The Senior Citizen’s Prom involved 39 students in two senior classes in a year-end, culminating project for the sociology course. The prom is designed to help break down stereotypes and barriers between elders and teenagers in a fun and safe atmosphere. Students research relationships between groups and identify gaps. Students conduct outreach to elder residences and organizations, manage publicity, solicit donations, plan and decorate around a theme, organize music and food, interact with prom-goers and select a prom king, queen and court. The Senior Citizen’s Prom has become a tradition in the community with this year’s being the 17<sup>th</sup> annual serving approximately 75 elders.

Carpenter, Nancy; Pious, Emily – “Pennies for Patients”

Seventeen high school students in Basic Math and Life Skills classes used math, science, social and problem solving skills to organize a fundraising campaign for Pennies for Patients, a program through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society that allows students to collect spare change for the cause. Students were responsible for organizing the fundraising and money collections, made announcements over the intercom and Drury TV as well as make presentations to individual classes.

~Davis, Keith – “Hoosic River Revival Demonstration Project- Community Garden”  
Fourteen students in CAD- Computer Animated Design course are applying their skills by designing raised beds for two new community gardens. One of the beds is being designed to be wheelchair accessible. The beds will be constructed and installed next fall alongside the Hoosic River flood control chutes on downtown, city-owned property. Goals for this garden project include bringing city residents close to the river, raising awareness about the vision of the Hoosic River Revival Coalition to re-design the flood chutes, building and strengthening neighborhoods and providing healthy garden produce to residents. Partners include the city of North Adams, the Hoosic River revival Coalition, REACH for Community Health and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition.

Davis, Keith – “Reducing Energy Consumption Awareness Campaign”  
Ten students in the Engineering the Future course partnered with 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Digital Media Arts courses to research the environmental impacts of energy use and greener solutions, and to create video Public Service Announcements, logos and posters to educate others. The posters were displayed around the school. The PSA’s are being broadcast on Drury TV and will be submitted to the local community television station.

\*~Davis, Keith – “Garden Shed”, “Repair of School Gardens” and “Berkshire Food Project”  
Twenty (grades 9-12) students in the Construction Technology courses participated in three, related service-learning projects. They completed the construction of a tool storage shed used to contain the supplies for the Drury school gardens. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in the fall to commemorate the completion of this multi-year project. The students also studied the issue of food insecurity and volunteered at Berkshire Food Project, allowing them to see first-hand the connection between the garden shed, the school gardens and the people who benefit from the harvested food. Volunteer work at Berkshire Food Project included reorganizing the pantry, breaking down recycling materials, moving items in storage, food preparation, serving lunch and clean up. Students also repaired the garden beds at Drury in order to prepare them for spring planting.

~Davis, Keith – “Green Thinkers”  
Twelve students, (8 were 8<sup>th</sup> graders) in the STEM Academy 21<sup>st</sup> Century after-school program collaborated with service-learning projects in the entire district by serving as Green Thinking consultants. Students, teachers, and community partners presented project plans and posed questions to the Green Thinkers about service-learning projects connected a green theme. The students researched the questions and plans and then provided guidance for the projects. The Green Thinkers participated in an Unveiling Ceremony of beautiful garden signs created by after school students using re-purposed doors and bed frames. The signs will be installed at each of the school garden sites.

~French, Anne – “SLAC”  
Seven students in an extra-curricular Service-Learning Action Council help to support the sustainability of service-learning by providing introductory classroom lessons about service-learning, by consulting with teachers and students about projects, and by implementing their own

projects. SLAC members learned about local hunger issues and volunteered at Berkshire Food Project. They also presented a workshop “Calling All Youth Leaders” at the annual state service-learning conference at the College of the Holy Cross.

**\*Girouard, Aldonna- “Bullying Prevention Music Project”**

Thirty students in high school Chorus class partnered with elementary chorus students in a district-wide program to increase awareness of the issue of bullying to parents and students. Multiple connections to the frameworks were applied including singing; reading and notation; the purposes and meanings in the Arts; the roles of artists in the community and interdisciplinary connections. Together, elementary and high school students performed relevantly themed songs at the Bullying Prevention Parent Presentation in February. As part of the new Massachusetts Bullying Prevention legislation, school districts are required to educate parents about the issue yet typically schools face poor attendance by parents. Chorus students helped solve this problem-their involvement served to attract a large number of parents to this important presentation. An MCLA student assisted with the event and promotion.

**Girouard, Aldonna; Caproni, Christopher- “Memorial Day Celebration”**

Chorus (35) and Band (50) students researched the origins of Memorial Day and current and historical musical connections. Students learned and performed related musical selections at a school-wide ceremonial event to which local veterans and dignitaries were invited. Band students also marched and performed in the city parade on Memorial Day.

**Hartmann, Kevin – “Forest Stewardship”**

Fifteen Grade 8 Honors Science students volunteered at Kenneth Dubuque State Forest where they worked on clearing and maintaining trails. Students studied the impact of humans on habitat, forests, forest stewardship and silviculture. This group partnered with AmeriCorps members of the Student Conservation Association stationed at Kenneth Dubuque State Forest.

**Hitchcock, Donna – “Animal Shelter”**

Fourteen students in Grade 8 Digital Media Arts and TV Production courses learned new technology skills while educating the community about the problems the Berkshire Humane Society faces on a daily basis. Digital Media Arts students used graphic arts to design and produce decorated boxes to bring organic dog treats to the shelter that were made by students in foods class. They visited the shelter run by the Berkshire Humane Society where they presented the dog treats, interviewed coordinators, volunteered by performing some of the daily tasks, and filmed scenes. They turned the film over to TV Production students who created a Public Service Announcement about the shelter for the local community.

**Hitchcock, Donna; Choquette, Jamie – “Reducing Energy Consumption Awareness Campaign”**

Students in the Computer Applications (14), Digital Media Arts (18), TV Production (19) and TV Media Studies (6) courses researched the environmental impacts of energy use and greener solutions and created video Public Service Announcements, logos and posters to educate others. The posters were displayed around the school. The PSA’s are being broadcast on Drury TV and will be submitted to the local community television station. Students in Keith Davis’ Engineering the Future course also contributed to this project.

Hitchcock, Donna – “Memorial Day Celebration”

Computer Applications (14) and Digital Media Arts (15) students created a graphic collage for display at the school-wide Memorial Day Celebration organized by history students. Local veterans and dignitaries were honored at the event.

Hitchcock, Donna; Choquette, Jamie- “Walking Tour of the Hoosic River Flood Chutes”

TV Media Studies students (6) learned about the goal of the Hoosic River Revival (HRR) Coalition to revitalize downtown North Adams by re-designing the flood control chutes on the Hoosic River. The students filmed a replication of a trolley and guided walking tour that the HRR had conducted for the Army Corps of Engineers, government officials including US Congressman John Olver and city residents. The film will be shared via community television and YouTube in order to raise community awareness.

~Hitchcock, Donna; Choquette, Jamie – “Garden Shed Video”

Nineteen students in Television Production class created a video about the construction of the Garden Shed and its connection to Berkshire Food Project. The film was broadcast to the student body via DTV (Drury Television).

Hitchcock, Donna; Choquette, Jamie – “SLAC Video”

Twenty students in Television Production created a film about the student Service-Learning Action Council (SLAC). The film was broadcast on Drury TV with the goal of educating students and faculty about SLAC’s service of providing classroom lessons on service-learning and consultation about project development. The SLAC video was also presented at a workshop about youth action councils facilitated by SLAC members at the state service-learning conference at the College of the Holy Cross.

Hitchcock, Donna; Choquette, Jamie- “Blood Drive Video”

Twenty students in Television Production course created a Public Service Announcement to promote the blood drive organized by 9<sup>th</sup> grade English students on behalf of the American Red Cross.

\*Hitchcock, Donna; Choquette, Jamie-“Berkshire County Goes to College Video”

Six students in TV Media Studies class collaborated with the Aspirations Sub-Committee of the Berkshire Compact for Higher Education. The Compact organizes annual county-wide college visits for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders with the goals of improving access and raising aspirations for higher education. Students filmed college visits at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and edited into a film that will be shown at Compact events.

\*Kopala, Stephanie – “Peace Posters”

Drury High School’s 1960’s class made up of 18 seniors participated in the school’s ‘Lip Dub’ project by learning about activism of the era and applying the components of the peace movement to make anti-bullying posters. These posters were displayed in the school and showcased during the lip-dub video.

Lyden-Fortier, Beth- “School Beautification”

Eleven students in grade 12 AP Biology planted lilac trees and flowers around the Drury High School entrance road sign as a means of creating a more welcoming approach to the high school. As part of this process, students researched the choice, planting and the care of plants selected to be planted. Students created a site map for future maintenance. Thirty-six additional students from sophomore biology classes cleaned, re-planted and mapped a garden bed at the entrance to the building.

\*Meczywor, Molly – “Blood Drive”

Sixteen students in freshmen Honors English worked with The American Red Cross to address the critical blood shortage in Massachusetts by organizing a blood drive at the high school. Students set goals for the number of units collected and exceeded the goal by ten units. Students used writing, research and public speaking ELA skills and connected the project to themes in *Frankenstein*.

\*Meczywor, Molly- “Bullying Awareness and Prevention”

Twenty-four freshmen addressed the issue of bullying by organizing and hosting mini booths at the district-wide Bullying Prevention Parent Program. Some of the booths involved games; several students created a video; and several students had interactive activities. Connected to the alienation theme in *Frankenstein*, students also applied writing, research and non-fiction reading skills.

Meczywor, Molly; Uliasz, Nicole – “Day of Play”

Thirty-eight soccer players, in grades 8-12, organized a day of play activities for a local elementary school as part of First Lady Michele Obama’s ‘Let’s Move’ campaign. Players also provided healthy snacks as part of the school’s expectation ‘Students demonstrate safe and healthy choices’.

~Meczywor, Molly – “Gardening”

Eleven students in grade 10 addressed the need of local hunger by planting in the school gardens after reading *The Secret Life of Bees*. Food from this garden is sent to The Berkshire Food Project. Students worked with a local organization in planning and planting.

Meczywor, Molly – “Lemonade Stand”

Forty students in two different Freshmen Honors English held a Lemonade Stand at lunch for four days to raise money to support another Freshmen project, “Give and Golf”, benefiting The Louison House. Students used the novel *Night* as a premise to talk about protecting others and giving back to those who need help.

\*~Meczywor, Molly; Pious, Brian – “Summer 2010 STEPS”

Integrated into the transition to high school program, twenty two students applied ELA, math, science, social studies, health, and technology skills in several service-learning experiences. Students cultivated and harvested food from the school garden; harvested produce was donated to Berkshire Food Project. Students also prepared and served lunch at Berkshire Food Project.

~+Meczywor, Molly; Callahan, Tim; Bergeron, Allison – “Senior Service Learning Project”  
Students in Grade 12 participated in a grade-wide service project to benefit their communities. Students were given selections and asked to choose a service experience based on career interest, personal interest or hobbies. Throughout the project, seniors were asked to keep a journal, complete several writing assignments and make connections to literature thematically – family, relationships, social class, home and education. Novels included *How To Build A House*, *The Kite Runner* and *The Life of Pi*. At the end of the program, a celebration was held so all students could showcase their work to the school and local dignitaries. Sites were:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Programs
- Berkshire Food Project
- Berkshire Natural Resources
- Habitat For Humanity
- Youth Health Service Corps

Moitozo, Judi – “Puppy Treats”

Thirty Foods I students researched recipes for healthy animal treats and then made them. Puppy treats included ‘Peanut Butter Puppy Poppers’, ‘Puppy Pretzels’, ‘Buddy Boy Biscuits’, ‘Cat Crackers’ and ‘Kitty Treats’. Students prepared them in large batches and froze in order for another class to deliver to the local animal shelter.

~Moitozo, Judi – “School Gardens”

Students in Introduction to Foods classes applied nutrition knowledge to assisting with planting and maintaining the school gardens. Produce from the garden is donated to the Berkshire Food Project.

Moitozo, Judi – “Week of the Young Child”

Child Development students (12) in grades 11-12 joined a countywide effort to promote early literacy. Students traveled to the Adams and North Adams Head Start programs to read to children ages 3-5. Students in this class selected the books with themes connected to social emotional development and bullying prevention and planned age appropriate activities that coincided with the readings.

Pepper, Phoebe- “Paintings for Veterans”

A Drury graduate, currently serving in the military, requested help for veterans living in housing facilities with blank walls and lacking personal touches. Art students produced oil paintings and photographs to bring comfort and beauty to the veterans.

Pepper, Phoebe- “Peace Pavilion Design Challenge”

Students (25) in Digital Photography classes created models of a peace pavilion and hosted an exhibit during the Learning Gallery at the Bullying Prevention Parent Presentation. Students provided materials and instructions, and encouraged viewers to design and build models of structures that promote inner peace.

Pepper, Phoebe – “United By The Light”

Students in grades 11 and 12 in Advanced and Studio Art created a banner with an anti-bullying message as its premise. In conjunction with Student Council, students designed a logo and a positive theme to attach to it.

Pinsonneault, Krista- The Drury High School Student Council (12 students) led several projects

- “Recycling”- Student Council members collaborated with 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Students to revitalize recycling efforts at Drury. They researched options, assessed feasibility and collected plastics and paper from classrooms.
- “Relay for Life” In order to honor family and friends who have suffered with cancer, Council members created baskets, set up an onsite fundraiser and fulfilled a walking schedule at the Relay. Over \$700 was raised for the American Cancer Society.
- “Drury High School Lip Dub” – Student council leaders organized a school-wide filming of a lip dub with the goals of promoting school spirit, respect and bullying prevention. They promoted the idea to the administration and student body, selected music, organized rehearsal schedules, mapped out a filming route and filmed several takes. Multiple classrooms and student groups prepared posters and signs to depict the positive message in the film. The process drew the school community together and contributed to positive school climate. The Lip Dub premiered at the district Bullying Prevention Parent Night and was instrumental in attracting a large attendance to the event. It was then uploaded to YouTube where it has had nearly 14,000 viewings. The Lip dub producers and director also presented their project and the film to over 300 attendees as part of the keynote at the state service-learning conference.

Pinsonneault, Krista – “Give and Golf”

Eighteen students in Honors Freshmen United States History I organized a golf tournament to benefit The Louison House, a local shelter for families and individuals struggling with homelessness. The students connected historical reform to the need for reform today in their local communities. Students partnered with the Lousion House coordinator and members of the Stamford Golf Course.

Pinsonneault, Krista – “Memorial Day Celebration”

Twenty-Five students in Honors Freshmen United States History I saw a need to honor troops who have served in various branches of the military and to generate a sense of patriotism that translated to school pride. Students created a historical exhibit for the Memorial Day Celebration at the school, created videos and worked with Band and Chorus to organize the event. Students invited veterans and local dignitaries to join the school body in the celebration.

Pious, Emily – “Bullying Prevention Lip-Dub”

Nine students in Life Skills class participated in the school’s Lip-Dub project in an effort to promote an anti-bullying message and encourage positive school climate. Students created posters and became very active in the filming of the project.

\*~Pious, Emily- “Drury Garden and Berkshire Food Project”

Nine students in Life Skills class planted vegetables in Drury’s garden to provide food for the Berkshire Food Project. Students used life skills and Biology over a seven-week period to make connections between their project and the garden. Overall, the students found the project worthwhile and very enjoyable.

Quirk, Melissa – “A Place To Stand”

Twenty grade 11 students in a College Prep English class tackled the topic of alienation and bullying after reading the novel *A Place To Stand* by Jimmy Santiago Bacca. Bacca, a nationally recognized poet and novelist who was alienated while in prison, was the inspiration for this class to get involved with the school’s bullying projects.

Radin, Len – “Bullying Prevention Project: *Living With Lady MacBeth*”

Drama students raised awareness of bullying through the play *Living with Lady MacBeth*. An excerpt was presented during the Bullying Prevention Parent Night that succinctly demonstrated the ‘mean girls’ dynamic.

Wildermuth, Cheryl – “Peace Posters”

Sixty students in Intro To Art Class raised awareness of bullying and prevention practices by making posters regarding bullying and respect. The posters were exhibited during the filming of the Drury Lip Dub and during the Bullying Prevention Parent Night.

### **OFF-CAMPUS ‘GREENHOUSE’ PROGRAM (Grades 8-12)**

Baran, Jerome- Plant Maintenance Course – Students applied construction, math, engineering and technology skills during multiple projects. They:

- ~Built six raised beds for the new Community Transition Program/Headstart garden where alternative and preschool children will learn about and grow vegetables that will be harvested for Berkshire Food Project
- ~Built a raised bed for the grounds of the Berkshire Food Project

Lewis, Molly; Wojciek, Julie- Horticulture and Recreational Art Courses- Horticulture students applied math, science, horticulture skills during multiple projects. Recreational Art students applied art, math and technology skills. They:

- Created the centerpieces for the tables by planting flowers in pots that they hand-decorated for the “Beach”-themed Senior/Senior Prom hosted by Sociology students at Drury High School
- Grew, transplanted and cultivated flowers to beautify downtown North Adams for tourists and locals
- Planted and maintained containers of flowers for entrances of school district buildings
- Assisted preschool children from Family Net of the Berkshires, Head Start, Home-based Head Start, and Northern Berkshire Daycares with a pot decorating and

planting project. Over one hundred preschool children planted seeds for spring sales and got to take home a plant in their own decorated pot.

**COMMUNITY TRANSITION PROGRAM (grades 9-12) and STEEPLES (grades 6-8)**

Levin, Marty; Carrier, John,; Richter, Austen & Yinger, Leanne – “Cooking for Our Neighbors – Baking for the Food Pantry”

Twenty-nine students at the CTP Alternative Program and the Steeples Program, a self contained, therapeutic program for special needs students, planned and prepared to deliver baked goods like breads, rolls, cookies and other baked snacks to the local food pantry. Students budgeted and shopped for ingredients as well as collaborated with the chef at the food pantry. Finally, students focused on nutrition and social influences as guiding factors throughout the project.

~Wooster-Cote, Shelby; Reifsnyder, Abby; Kalisz, Andy; Sondrini, Mary Ellen; Levin, Marty; Carrier, John; Yinger, Leanne – “Community Garden for our Neighbors – Gardens for the Food Pantry”

Forty-one students worked together with preschool children from Head Start to plan, build and plant a new community garden. Students designed, built and installed raised beds, studied plant identification and science, grew small quantities of vegetable and herb plants indoors for Science class, and along with the preschoolers assisted in planting the garden. Harvested food will be donated to the free meal program at Berkshire Food Project. Students from CTP also regularly volunteer at Berkshire Food Project.

Wooster-Cote, Shelby; Reifsnyder, Abby; Carrier, John’ Kalisz, Ady & Yinger, Leanne – “Recycling”

Twenty-seven students in grades 7-12 participated in a weekly recycling program for the North Adams community. Students traveled to the local elementary schools, Drury High School and the local library and gathered all recyclable papers and brought them to the local recycling center. Students connected curriculum from science class to the project.

Reifsnyder, Abby; Levin, Marty; Yinger, Leanne; Richter, Austin – “1000 Paper Cranes”  
Students in Social Skills class learned about Hospice services and acknowledged local people living with cancer by gifting 1000 paper cranes of hope.

Reifsnyder, Abby; Kalisz, Andy; Levin, Marty; Yinger, Leanne – “Tame the Tiger Book Project”

Using English and social skills, students created books for preschoolers with a bullying prevention theme.

Sondrini, Mary Ellen; Carrier, John – “Local Foods Information Brochure”

Students are researching and writing a brochure to educate the community about options for obtaining food from local sources.

## **POSITIVE OPTIONS PROGRAM (POP)**

(An alternative high school completion/early college program sited at Berkshire Community College)

\*Rancourt, Melanie – “Finding a Cure: Carnival Style”

POP students joined with other students at Berkshire Community College, Williams College and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in the The Relay for Life of Berkshire County All College 2011. Their goals included raising money for the American Cancer Society and awareness about cancer. Connecting this project to *Death Be Not Proud* by John Gunther, students held a bake sale prior to Relay. They organized and hosted a concession stand during Relay and participated in the events as a team.

Rancourt, Melanie – “Santa for Soldiers”

Eighteen students worked with members of the Berkshire Community College Student Veterans Alliance to help veterans and their families during the holiday season. Students held a bake sale to raise funds and purchased presents for three local veterans.

## **BRAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Burdick, Jessica – “Bullying Prevention Music Project”

Third and fourth grade music students partnered with high school chorus students in a district-wide program to increase awareness of the issue of bullying to parents and students. Multiple connections to the frameworks were applied including singing; reading and notation; the purposes and meanings in the Arts; the roles of artists in the community and interdisciplinary connections. Together, elementary and high school students performed relevantly themed songs at the Bullying Prevention Parent Presentation in February. As part of the new Massachusetts Bullying Prevention legislation, school districts are required to educate parents about the issue yet typically schools face poor attendance by parents. Chorus students helped solve this problem- their involvement served to attract a large number of parents to this important presentation.

\*De Laurentiis, Paula – “The Green Team”

Through the 21<sup>st</sup> century after school programs, fifteen students learned about carbon impact on the environment, conducted an electrical energy audit in a section of the school and reported the results, and cleaned up trash in the school yard. Staff from the Center for EcoTechnology and Housatonic Valley Association partnered with the project and an MCLA student assisted.

DeMarco, Maryann – “Internet Safety Survey ”

Seventh grade technology students created a survey for students in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, asking about their Internet use, including items regarding cyber bullying. Through discussions while creating the survey and reviewing the results, it was decided that student-created brochures and newsletters could help students use the Internet more safely and address the problem of cyber bullying. The project holds curriculum ties in the areas of Language Arts with research and

writing, and Technology with the creation of the online survey, Internet research, and investigating many topics of Internet use, safety and ethics.

Fruscio, Joyce; Dodig, Michelle; Willette, Pat; Farinon, Marcia – “Read To Me Please”  
Fifteen 4<sup>th</sup> grade students worked with Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders to promote environmental awareness and reading both at school and at home by organizing a Read Aloud program. Books were used as discussion and comprehension as well as building background knowledge. Students began with a short survey and used that information to inform other regarding decisions. Students collected gently used books, made books, and selected books with ecology themes such as recycling, gardening, and other ‘green’ topics to put into the collection.

Gallagher, Nancy – Bullying Prevention”

Supporting a previous project where the students had written a bullying prevention pledge, slogan and song, nine 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade student leaders reached out to third and fourth graders. They explained the pledge and had the students take it. They went to the high school where they filmed the chanting of the pledge for a PSA. They also made a Respect Rap song and a PSA about rumors and what the results can be. The curriculum connections were language arts, media, music, and performing arts. The PSA’s were showcased at the district Bullying Prevention Parent Night and were played on local television.

Gilman, Susan – “Holiday Traditions Around The World”

Eighteen students supported orphans and students in Afghanistan and foreign exchange students by holding a coin drive. Using Literature and math, students raised \$110 to be donated to The Peter Goodrich Memorial Fund.

\*Gilman, Susan; Piekos, Tracy; Johnson, Linda; Patenaude, Ebbie; Thomas, Jackie; Gallagher, Nancy – “Brayton Cares – Japan”

Eighty-one students in grades 1 and 2 collected money to send to Japan for orphaned children after the disaster. Students talked about diversity as part of classroom discussion and were able to raise \$737 and, at the same time, increase empathy throughout the school.

Hall, Bob; Walden, Michelle – “Turn The Page for Twisters”

Four students in grades 3-7 helped victims from tornadoes by holding a book sale. Students worked with The Red Cross and raised \$186 for the organization.

Johnson, Linda; Hayden, Lynn – “Hats for a Cure/Tape Mr. Sherman”

Thirty three students raised money for cancer research by hosting two fundraisers. The first was a hat day where students paid one dollar to wear a hat for the day. The other fundraiser allowed students to buy tickets to tape their Dean of Students to a wall. Both fundraisers raised a combined \$491.06. Throughout this project, students learned about cancer and how money raised is used to fight it.

\*~Johnson, Linda; Lawson, Robyn; Siracusa, Margaret – “Healthy Harvesters”

Students in grades 2 and 3 learned about the need for food assistance in the local community due to the depressed economy from community partners from Berkshire Food Project and the REACH Foundation. Students plan, plant and maintain their own school garden where the food

harvested will be donated to the Berkshire Food Project. In order to see how the garden produce is used, they volunteered at Berkshire Food Project, preparing and serving lunch. Students applied academic skills in science, math, ELA, visual arts and health/nutrition.

Johnson, Linda; Hayden, Lynn; Urban, Liz – “Brayton Kids for Kindness”

Second grade students witnessed first hand about the struggles of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student with cancer. Through discussion, students became more aware that money needs to be raised for cancer research. Students designed and made holiday cards to be sold and money was donated to The American Cancer Society. In addition, students organized and participated as a team at the local Relay for Life awareness and fundraising event. Sixth and seventh graders assisted the younger students with the inventory of materials old, calculations of earnings and with maintaining the Relay savings account.

~Lawson, Robyn – “Garden Greens”

Through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students work after school and during the summer to support the garden projects at Brayton Elementary School and at Berkshire Food Project. They created additional beds at both sites and plan, plant, maintain and harvest the gardens for food to be donated to the free meal program at Berkshire Food Project.

Manville, Erica - Peter Max Peace Posters

7<sup>th</sup> grade art students at Brayton Elementary completed an integrated art history and art making unit on the Big Idea of PEACE, with several meaningful questions asked about how people find peace. They study the art of Peter Max for inspiration of art work that promotes peace, love and understanding. We then discuss current events, such as the revolution in Egypt, and how these big ideas still prevail in our current time of history being made, as well as how to incorporate these ideas into the common practice of being good to each other and to our selves, and being aware of the world around us. The students then created first drafts of poster designs that incorporate these ideals and use complimentary color pairs (red with green, purple with yellow, blue with orange) as an eye catching design technique, the same way Peter Max did. The students work on a larger final draft of their poster. The students then use the same idea to create a Batik design using wax resist on fabric. Students exhibited their posters at school to promote nonviolence and at the district Bullying Prevention Parent Presentation, serving to attract parent participation at the event.

Neville, Linda – “Bullying Prevention”

Sixth and seventh ELA students applied reading, writing, communication, presentation, and media skills during multiple bullying prevention awareness activities. Connected to the book *The Misfits*, students wrote and presented an audio PSA to the school for No Name-Calling Week. Students wrote an anti-bullying pledge and distributed wrist bans. Students wrote scripts and filmed bullying prevention PSA's to enter in the contest through Northern Berkshire Community Television. The PSA's were showcased at the district Bullying Prevention Parent Night and broadcast on local television. Students discussed respect and positive school climate and continued to connect the themes in literature to bullying in real life.

~Toye, Shannon - “School Garden Signs”

Through a 21<sup>st</sup> Century after school program at KidSpace at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA), students in grades 4-6, created beautiful signs by salvaging and re-purposing old doors and bed frames into signs for the school gardens. Some of the garden sites had been vandalized. The garden partners requested signs that would convey the student involvement and the purpose of the gardens in an effort to dissuade further vandalism. The school garden harvests benefit the Berkshire Food Project.

## **GREYLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pajama Party and Bedtime Stories”

Students in grades K-7 collected pajamas and story books to donate to the Louison House Homeless Shelter. The drive concluded with a school-wide pajama party where families were asked to donate a new pair of pajamas. Students used ELA, Math and Technology to create promotional posters, count items, create graphs and make flyers. Over 200 people attended the party and 129 pairs of pajamas and 339 books were collected and donated.

Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pennies for Patients”

Seventh grade students and their teachers learned about Leukemia and worked to collect money to donate to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Students held a ‘Penny Palooza’ where they created simple games to play throughout the evening. In addition, containers were placed in each classroom and the students graphed progress throughout. Overall, students raised \$1932.57.

Kelly-Whitney, Marie – “Button It to Bullying”

As part of a school-wide focus on bullying prevention, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students made anti-bullying buttons in technology class to spread the message. A table was hosted during the district Bullying Prevention Parent Night where all students and families were invited to create buttons. Students used creativity to create slogans for their buttons as well as while assisting families and community members to create their buttons.

King, Christina – “Peace Flags/Bullying Prevention”

Over 250 students raised awareness for bullying prevention by creating beautiful peace-themed flags during art classes. In addition, community members and officials from local police, city government, and the district attorney’s office contributed flags. The flags were hung in an impressive display at the elementary school and at the high school for the district-wide Bullying Prevention Parent Night.

Jones, Kerri – “Bullying Prevention Music Project”

Third and fourth grade music students partnered with high school chorus students in a district-wide program to increase awareness of the issue of bullying to parents and students. Multiple connections to the frameworks were applied including singing; reading and notation; the purposes and meanings in the Arts; the roles of artists in the community and interdisciplinary connections. Together, elementary and high school students performed relevantly themed songs at the Bullying Prevention Parent Presentation in February. As part of the new Massachusetts Bullying Prevention legislation, school districts are required to educate parents about the issue yet typically schools face poor attendance by parents. Chorus students helped solve this problem- their involvement served to attract a large number of parents to this important presentation.

## **SULLIVAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Atwood, Kathy- “Pennies for Patients”

Thirty-one 5<sup>th</sup> grade students used math and technology skills while conducting a coin drive for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to support research needs. Students entered collection data into Microsoft Excel and created charts. \$889 was raised and donated.

Beauchemin, Karen – “Hats on for Meghan Day”

Thirty four students in grade 7 organized a project for the entire school in which students where students could wear a hat to school if they donated 50 cents to help a student in need of heart surgery. The school, led by this class, raised \$285.42.

Downey, Staci – “Sweetbrook Nursing Home Choral Performance”

Twenty-five 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade choral students presented a concert to the residents at Sweetbrook Nursing Home in Williamstown, MA. Selections included classic music from the 1930’s and 40’s. Technology standards were applied as students videotaped the performance and edited the film. The film was then presented to the nursing home.

Downey, Staci – “Bullying Prevention Music Project”

Third and fourth grade music students partnered with high school chorus students in a district-wide program to increase awareness of the issue of bullying to parents and students. Multiple connections to the frameworks were applied including singing; reading and notation; the purposes and meanings in the Arts; the roles of artists in the community and interdisciplinary connections. Together, elementary and high school students performed relevantly themed songs at the Bullying Prevention Parent Presentation in February. As part of the new Massachusetts Bullying Prevention legislation, school districts are required to educate parents about the issue yet typically schools face poor attendance by parents. Chorus students helped solve this problem-their involvement served to attract a large number of parents to this important presentation.

Fachini, Shelley – “Can Tabs for Shriners”

The principal leads all students in grades K-7 in collecting aluminum can tabs which are recycled with the proceeds donated to The Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield, MA.

Farnham, Jane – “Read-a-thon for Berkshire Humane Society and Eleanor Sonsini Center”

Connected to a reading unit with a theme about caring for community, seventeen students in grade 5 addressed the needs of animals at local animal shelters by organizing a Read-a-Thon. The students learned about the needs of the animals at the shelter and held the event that raised \$780. Proceeds were then donated to the two animal shelters.

Gilman, Kirstin; Singer, Lori; Grogran, Claire; DeMayo, Joy; Gorton, Meghan; Saldo-Burke, Anna; Wein, Sherry; Marceau, Lisa; Farnham, Jane; Holmes, James; Rice, Brooke; Corrigan, Craig; Nelson, Wendy – “Cards for Veterans”

Students in grades 1-7 recognized the need to reach out to hospitalized veterans and thank them for their service to our country on Veteran’s Day. Connected to ELA, students created hand-

made cards. Community partners included The American Legion Auxiliary Frank R. Stiles Unit 125.

Holmes, James; Gilman, Kirstin – “Reading Buddies”

Seventh grade students serve as buddies throughout the school year with a classroom of first graders as well as with several students in the transition room. The older students read with their buddies every Friday and help with before-school work. Additional activities included making cards together for various holidays, holiday celebrations, making hand-made cards for nursing home residents and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders hosting a microscope lesson.

Holmes, James; Gilman, Kirstin – “A Step in the Right Direction”

Seventeen grade 7 students created instructional books on how to tie shoes for their first grade reading buddy partners. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students read the how-to books with their partners and then taught them how to tie their shoes.

Holmes, James – “Good Nutrition”

Seventh graders researched nutrition information via the Internet and created Key 3 top down webs. Students presented the information to second graders with the goal of raising awareness about healthy food choices. Curricular connections included ELA, science, technology, art and health.

LaRocca, Joan – “All-Occasion Greeting Cards”

A project started last year by 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade technology classes, culminated this year with the artful packaging and sales of All-Occasion Greeting Cards that were designed by students. Proceeds were donated to The Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield where they provide free orthopedic and burn care.

LaRocca, Joan – “Handwashing and Germs”

Third grade students in technology class reached out to the school community to share the importance of proper hand washing to reduce the spread of infection. Students used research, ELA, health and technology skills while they created posters highlighting the 6 steps to proper hand washing. They then took these signs and posted them around the school.

LaRocca, Joan – “Letters for Literacy”

Working to promote literacy and enjoyment in reading, 128 students in grades 1-7, composed persuasive letters to author’s of their favorite books. The students invited the authors to participate in a community literacy festival to be held in October, 2011.

LaRocca, Joan; Fachino, Shelley – “Thanksgiving Dinner Raffle”

To assist families in need by providing Thanksgiving dinner baskets to 16 local families, seventeen students in a grade 7 Technology class created posters, wrote letters to solicit donations and collected items for the baskets.

~Marceau, Lisa – “Sullivan Garden”

Twelve students in grades 3-5 helped the community and the REACH foundation by planting, harvesting and delivering vegetables to the Berkshire Food Project.

Richards O'Donovan, Julie; LaRocca, Joan; Saldo-Burke, Anna; Gorton, Meg – Bullying Prevention Cartoon Scenarios

Using lessons learned from the third grade MARC curriculum presented in technology class by the school counselor and technology integration specialist, 3rd graders followed a story map graphic organizer to compose a bullying scenario. Using the events from the story map, students designed and illustrated cartoons that were then shared with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

Richards-O'Donovan, Julie; Sampson, Nate – “Bullying PSA Statistics and Facts”

Seventh grade students researched bullying topics, created a script and filmed a PSA. The video was showcased at the district-wide Bullying Prevention Parent Night and was broadcast on community television.

Richards O'Donovan, Julie; LaRocca, Joan: - “Sharing the Anti-Bullying Message”

Fifth graders applied lessons from the MARC bullying prevention curriculum to design a PowerPoint presentation. Kindergarteners drew pictures of positive and appropriate ways to interact with classmates. The drawings were scanned into the PowerPoint and the older students shared the presentation with the younger students.

Saldo-Burke, Anna; Gorton, Meg; Sampson, Nate; LaRocca, Joan – “Stop Bullying- Speak Up”

Third graders created an anti-bullying video public service announcement. They acted out bullying scenarios and positive responses and discussed ways to prevent bullying. The video was showcased at the district-wide Bullying Prevention Parent Night, was broadcast on community television and was uploaded on TeacherTube and linked to the school website.