

North Adams Public Schools

Service-Learning Narratives

July 2015-June 2016

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

~ indicates connection to the Garden Mosaic Project in collaboration with the Growing Healthy Gardening Program, a community 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).

JOHNSON PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Dzierga, Rosemarie – “School Bus Pins”

Students collaborate with Kathy Arabia and the Northern Berkshire Relay for Life to create foam pins in the shape of school buses and stop signs to distribute at the Relay to participants. Community members joined the students to read stories about people dealing with illness and to create the pins. This project followed last year’s collaboration with Pop Cares, a local organization that supports cancer patients.

BRAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cellana, Karen; McCarron, Marie – “Brayton Holiday Gift Shop”

Thirty-six students in grade 4 collect, sort, set up and sell donated items in a Holiday Gift shop where all students at Brayton are able to buy gifts for their families during the Holiday season. In addition to serving their own school community, the proceeds are donated to the Peter Goodrich Foundation to support a school in Afghanistan built in his honor. The son of the late and esteemed NAPS educator Sally Goodrich, Peter was a victim of the terrorism on September 11, 2001. Curricular connections include: Math, Language Arts and Social Studies.

Franzoni, John (& Brayton Staff) – “Toys for Tots”

The entire school community collects toys for the Toys for Tots program and donates them to Senator Downey’s project, culminating in December. This is a project both students and faculty participate in.

~Lawson, Robyn; Mutka, Jaana – ‘ Healthy Harvesters’

Students in grade 3 learn about the need for food assistance in the local community and use Math, Science, Health, Reading and Speaking/Listening skills throughout this project. They partner with community members Jen Munoz from the Growing Healthy Garden Program and Val Schwarz from the Berkshire Food Project. Students plan, plant and maintain their own school garden. All food is donated to the Berkshire Food Project. Students served at Berkshire food project working in their onsite garden and stocking the food pantry.

Manville, Erica; Mutka, Jaana – “Local History of North Adams: QR Code Locator System designed by Brayton School Students in 3rd Grade”

Throughout the year, students learn about the history of the mills in North Adams. Using research, interview and tour important people and places in the city to create QR codes and a web site to help residents and visitors understand North Adams and its history and culture. Text connections include *Brick by Brick: A History of a New England Mill Town for Students* written by Brayton teacher Deb Sala. Collaborations include Joe Manning, local historian and Glen Maloney, North Adams City Council.

Oliveri, Sue; Morris – “7th Grade Breakfast Helpers”

Fourteen students in grade 7 assist the students in grades K-2 with the breakfast program, funded by Fuel Up. Seventh Grade Students meet the younger students, get their breakfast, sit with them while they eat and become their buddies.

Oliveri, Sue; Morris, Jim – “7th Grade Tutors”

From January to June, seventh grade students provide kindergarten students with extra help in Math and Science. The seventh grade students assist 3 times per week to help them understand the concepts in Grade k. The kindergarteners look up their older buddies and form lasting relationships with them.

Penna, Ashley; Beauchemin, Sherry – “Help Our Furry Friends”

There are many animals that are housed at the Berkshire Humane Society while waiting to be adopted and with that wait is a need for supplies. The group of students in this after-school program, hold a bottle drive and can drive to raise money to purchase the necessary items that are on the wish list from the Berkshire Humane Society.

Piekos, Tracy; Thomas, Jackie – “Senior Buddies with Williamstown Commons”

Thirty-five students in grades 1-2 take the time to make cards, read, have a parade to bring joy to seniors who are in the nursing home and are not able to be home. Students saw a need for seniors to have visitors and a connection with the youth and vice versa. Students visit the nursing home

and the seniors visit the school. This project is a year-long project and both groups enjoy their time together.

Sawyer, Rebecca – “Shriner’s Children’s Hospital Can Tab Recycling Partnership”

Forty-eight students in grades 6 and 7 collaborate with The Shriner’s to promote, collect and weigh the can tabs and track the classroom donations of such. Students also promote the hospital and send a letter to all families enlisting their help in collecting the tabs. A secondary outcome is promoting conservation.

Tanner, Lisa – “Books To Read for Kids in Need”

Throughout the second semester, students in grade 5 promote and collect new or gently used books to replace or provide books to children sick or hospitalized. The purpose is to provide children with some needed enjoyment while sick or hospitalized.

COLGROVE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Casey, Michele & Nelson, Wendy “Big/Little Buddies”

Mrs. Nelson’s 7th grade class has worked with Ms. Casey’s Kindergarten class all year once a week in a cooperative learning experience to teach empathy to the 7th grade. The Kindergarteners learned sight words, academic games, literacy skills, and public speaking skills.

Holmes, James “ Running with the Law”

A group of 15 sixth and seventh grade students studied Forensics in the Colegrove Park College & Career Readiness Academy After School Program for the fall and spring sessions.

Throughout the year, the students studied forensic science with local police officers, the local fire department, and local emergency responders in after school. This program created a relationship organically between the police officers and the students, and they started running together as a group on the weekends. The students benefitted from the positive relationships with the police officers and the community saw the police working well with the youth, giving them positive adult role models with overall fitness and health in mind. On June 12, Jim and his students started the first annual “Running With the Law” road race to benefit Popcares to aid families in the area who are affected by cancer.

Holmes, James & Gilman, Kristin “7th grade visits 1st Grade” for Math and Book Buddies

During the year Mr. Holmes 7th grade class visited Mrs. Gilman’s first grade class to work on math problems and for “Book Buddies” for the 7th graders to read to the 1st graders. The 7th grade learned socio-emotional skills in this partnership for their Second Step program.

School Wide, “ Can Tabs for Shriners”

Colegrove Park Elementary students collected 44 pounds of can tabs for the Shriner’s Childrens Hospital from January 2016-March 2016. The hospital trades in the Aluminum from the tabs for market value on the metal, and then uses the money to buy medical equipment.

GREYLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pajama Party and Bedtime Stories”

Students in grades K-7 collected children’s pajamas to donate to the Louison House Homeless Shelter. The drive concludes with a school-wide pajama party called Family Fun Night where families were asked to donate a new pair of pajamas. Students in grades 6 and 7 organized the drive and created promotional posters, counted items, and made flyers. One hundred and seven pairs of pajamas were collected and donated.

Gwozdz, Kathy – “Pennies for Pop Cares” and “Penny Palooza”

After sixteen years of collecting funds for a national cancer charity, the decision was made to instead help the local organization Pop Cares that provides support to people with cancer. Students collected coins for Pop Cares throughout April and May and held a “Penny Palooza” fundraiser at the school where they created simple games to play throughout the fun evening. The project was able to generate \$645.00 for local families.

Kelly-Whitney, Marie – “Greylock Beautification”

Fourth grade students work with members of the school’s Student Council to plant perennials in the Greylock Elementary surroundings. Students continue to develop the working relationship with the residents of Holy Family Terrace by planting sustainable seasonal flowers in their window boxes and planters surrounding their property. This year, the project expanded to the aesthetics of the immediate building area and connected to life science curriculum..

King, Christina – “Greylock Community Garden”

Students in K and grade 1 will sow seeds and cultivate the soil for the school’s community garden to increase the harvest of produce. Students also repair existing raised garden beds.

Throughout the project, students learn about healthy eating and research companion planting and the effects of utilizing different plants to help projected certain varieties and prevent insects with others. Produce from the garden is shared with neighborhood residents including Holy Family Terrace Senior Housing.

King, Christina – “Greylock Safety”

Approximately 8, Sixth grade students will work to repaint and expand the crosswalks that reach the school’s walker doors. Students collaborate with Phil Sellers/Art About Town, to repaint the crosswalks after realizing the need of crosswalk safety and visibility. While painting the crosswalks, students see a need to also paint hopscotch to provide something productive for students to do while waiting outside in the morning.

King, Christina – “Lending Library”

Twelve 7th grade members of the Greylock Student council helped to design a mounted and covered box to hold books and the box is mounted at the Appalachian Trail Kiosk to be used as a lending library. In addition, students facilitate the collection and creation of a small lending library for the community and AT hikers. They collaborated with Drury High School students in Keith Davis’ classes who designed and constructed the box.

Pecor, Annie; King, Christina – “Holy Family Breakfast”

Fifteen students in Grade 7 collaborated with senior residents at Holy Family Terrace senior Housing through writing and interviews and enjoyed breakfast together. This will be the 4th year that Christmas and Valentine’s Day cards were made for residents. We hope to find more opportunities to expand the program next year.

DRURY HIGH SCHOOL

Boulger, Patrick – Senior Citizen’s Prom

Thirty students in Contemporary Issues carried on the 23 year old tradition of the year-end, culminating project of the Senior Citizen’s Prom. This event is designed to cultivate a connection between youth and seniors in the community as well as break down stereotypes between elders and teenagers in a fun manner. Throughout the year, students research stereotypes and relationships between groups and identify gaps. They then connect with local elder residences to plan a theme relevant to all participants. During the evening, Drury students interact with prom-goers, choose a king and queen and share snacks. This year’s theme was “Through the Decades”.

Choquette, Jaime – “DTV Supporting School and Service Learning”

Throughout the school year, students in television production courses, learn and authentically apply technology and writing skills to tell important news stories, raise awareness about important issues, and promote involvement with school activities, college and career readiness initiatives and service-learning projects. Specific projects include: 8th and 12th grade Service Learning, Goal setting for all homerooms and the School Store.

Choquette, Jamie “Video and Music Preservation and Promotion”

Students in grades 8-12 – as part of TV Production, Music Production and DPAM – learn and authentically apply technology and writing skills to tell important news stories, raise awareness about important issues and promote involvement with school activities, service and service-learning initiatives. There are many outcomes of this project, but some include the transfer of VCR recordings to DVD to preserve learning resources and specific music preservation to digital format.

Davis, Keith – “Bird Houses for Habitat”

Students in CAD class designed, built and donated birdhouses to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat used the birdhouses as centerpieces at a major fundraising event and guests had the opportunity to win a prize of a birdhouses.

Davis, Keith – “ID Badges – School Safety”

CAD Cam and Construction students use real world applications to organize digital photo shoots of faculty and staff as well as design and produce ID badges in an effort to increase school safety. This year, the twenty-eight students collaborated with Dufour Bus Company to ensure they also possess the necessary ID badge.

Davis, Keith – “Lending Library”

Greylock Elementary School students design a mounted and covered box to hold books and the box is mounted at the Appalachian Trail Kiosk to be used as a lending library. In addition, Greylock students facilitate the collection and creation of a small lending library for the community and AT hikers. They collaborated with Drury High School students in Keith Davis’ classes who refined the design and constructed the box.

Davis, Keith – “Shed for Habitat”

Students in CAD/CAM Engineering, Engineering for the Future and Construction Technology (a total of 57 students) design a shed, purchase necessary materials and build a shed for Habitat for Humanity. Students learn the difference between nominal and dressed sizes as well as complete a structural analysis of their designs. The outcome of this project is to build the shed for the on-site storage of tools and equipment during the construction process of the current house.

Desnoyers, David – “Drury Food Pantry”

Students in 12 CP English realized that many students at Drury High School do not have access to supplies necessary for success at school and at home. Twenty students researched hunger – in school and in the community – and worked on inventory, cleaning, and maintenance of the pantry. In addition, students surveyed the student body in an effort to decide which items will best support the students. Upon completion, students purchased items for the pantry as well as collected outside donations.

~Desnoyers, David – “Year Long Senior Service Learning”

Students throughout AP and CP English Courses personally identified local or global needs, collaborated with community partners to explore the need, and created projects to address the need. Using research as an entry point, students perform over 600 hours of service. Projects include:

- Providing food, attire and necessary items for Drury students through the Drury Pantry
- Working with Boston Children’s Hospital to create build-a-bears
- Teach elementary students the importance of dental hygiene and correct hygiene skills
- Collaborate with DCF to create Grab and Go Kits for kids
- Create a brochure for young girls to survive high school
- Organize and implement the 2016 Drury Lip Dub to improve school culture
- Raise awareness, money and goods for local animal shelters
- Vocal performances for a benefit for local animal shelters
- Build a shed for Habitat for Humanity
- Create a PSA for mental health awareness
- Teach jazz to elementary students
- Create logos, posters and brochures for events, the environment, anxiety and drug abuse
- Create a handbook for Drury students who may be interested in volunteerism
- Create safe care packages for Chemotherapy patients
- Work in the school gardens to benefit Berkshire Food Project

Fairweather, Judith – “Letters for Lives”

Thirty-nine students in World History II study current world genocides and write letters to advocate for those lives at risk in the various areas of the world. Using History standards, the students also write letters to the President of The United States, United States Representatives and The United Nations to urge intervention.

Lenhoff, Suzanne – “Cookies for the Empty Bowl”

Twelve students from English Basic and five students in ADL Science make cookies to be served at the Empty Bowl event, an event to help educate the public about the problem of food

insecurity and hunger in Northern Berkshire, at The Berkshire Food Project. While preparing the food, students learn about the pervasiveness of food insecurity in Northern Berkshire; recipients receive homemade treats to enjoy at the event.

Lenhoff, Suzanne – “Holiday Cookies”

Every year, The Berkshire Food Project hosts a Holiday Meal for Northern Berkshire members who are in need of food during the holidays. Students in Developing Reading class make sugar cookies to donate to this event. Students use academic skills such as writing, reading, and organization to ensure the proper procedures for cooking.

~ Luczynski, Sara; Callahan, Tim; Pious, Brian; Shafer, Morgan– “STEPS 2015”

The STEPS 2015 summer transition to high school program continued its focus on the theme of problem solving. The theme provided an identity to the students as “problem solvers” and was connected to everything the students explored, from academic challenges, real world problems, hypothetical situations, social emotional issues, and how to address a need within the community through Service Learning. After brainstorming areas of interest and need within the community, students selected one of three projects. Students applied ELA, math, science, social studies, health, and technology skills in service-learning experiences:

- Growing Healthy Garden Program - After identifying the need for raised awareness about the community gardening program and hunger issues in Berkshire County, students designed a Facebook page with the assistance of Jennifer Munoz who facilitates school and community gardens in 13-15 locations around North Adams and Adams. This programming is free and open to people of all ages and abilities and helps community members learn to grow your organic vegetables and herbs, and build community within their neighbors. Students also received direct instruction in life sciences through an exploration of the Drury High School Gardens and donated all harvested produce to the Berkshire Food Project.
- The Family Place "Backpacked for Success" Program - The STEPS program was approached by The Family Place, part of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, and asked for assistance with their "Backpacked for Success" program. The Family Place hosts this back-to-school event for students entering kindergarten through sixth grade at local northern Berkshire elementary schools. Students and their parents receive a free backpack filled with school supplies. Students contacted local businesses and explained the project and the need it was based on. They then created and distributed collection boxes for donations of school supplies and books for use in the backpacks. This advocacy work enabled the STEPS program to donate more than 200 books and almost \$300 to the Family Place for their program.
- Hunger in the Berkshires - Responding to the need to build awareness about hunger issues in Berkshire County, students attempted to create a food drive in collaboration

with a local movie theater. Students came up with the idea to offer patrons a discounted price on their movie tickets in exchange for a donation to the local food bank.

Unfortunately, students were not able to make contact with the movie theater director in enough time for this project to come to fruition. As a second option, students created infographics highlighting information about hunger in North Adams. These infographics were donated to the local food bank, as a tool for them to use.

Lyden-Fortier, Beth – “Biology Murals”

During the month of May, students in Advanced Placement Biology courses use the four main concepts of Biology – Evolution, Ecology, Biological Systems, and Living Systems – to create visually stimulating images of the concepts. These visuals increase STEM awareness as well as add interest to the surrounding corridors.

Lyden-Fortier, Beth – “School Beautification”

Forty-One students in Honors and Advanced Placement Biology research plants, planting strategies and maintenance of plants so they can make the school look more inviting for spring events and all visitors to the school. Students collaborate with Matt Neville and North Adams Public Schools Maintenance staff to gain insight and knowledge of appropriate plants. The outcome of the project is beautiful garden beds in the front of the school.

***Meczywor, Molly; Boyer-Vivori, Michele; Hamilton, Jaime; Morgan, Kathy – “College and Career Readiness through Naviance”**

Throughout the school year, ten members of The Student Ambassador program travel to the three elementary schools to raise awareness of the College and Career Readiness Skills. Students use the Naviance program as the online platform to teach these skills. Students collaborate with Josh Mendel, Admissions Director at MCLA for information as well as talking tips.

~Melito, Tracy – “Garden Mosaics”

Students in My Earth work with Jennifer Munoz and the Growing Healthy Gardening Program to plant and grow food to provide fresh produce to the Berkshire Food Project. Students learn about organic gardening, plant various vegetables and discuss trellises and fencing.

O’Brien, Audra – “Drury’s Wellness Challenge”

Students in grades 8-12 in Physical Education classes create a survey and research high school wellness statistics and advocate to the rest of Drury the components of living a healthy lifestyle. Students create tri-fold table toppers to place on cafeteria tables containing the aspects of a healthy lifestyle – including sleep, nutrition, exercise and mental well-being as well as host a two week ‘wellness challenge’ where all members of the Drury community can improve their own health. Students who participate track their daily progress at lunch.

Pepper, Phoebe – “Cascade School Supply Building Public Display”

Students in Advanced Art and Studio art classes create oversize paintings from famous painters, install the art work at the Cascade Building and present their art to community members in an effort to beautify a run-down area as well as add to the identity of the city as an arts-centered community. This year, the forty-one students collaborate with Art About Town and the management of Cascade to gain insight and feedback about the displays. In turn, Cascade makes a financial donation to the Arts Department at Drury.

Pepper, Phoebe – “Destination Drury – Achieve. Create. Empower”

Destination Drury is a showcase of all the positive and College and Career activities taking place at Drury High School. Students in Ms. Pepper’s Intro and Advanced Art plan and create ways to positively promote Drury through visually stimulating words and phrases for this community showcase. Students use the art standards as the basis for this project. The outcomes are the beautiful and motivating visuals in hallways and on entrance doors.

Pepper, Phoebe – “Holiday Cheer”

Students in various art classes create images of holiday themes and decorate the halls of Drury to increase goodwill and holiday cheer at Drury High School and various local establishments, including the North Adams Greylock Club and housing for seniors and people with disabilities. Fifty students participated in this project this year.

Pious, Emily – “Career Fair”

Students in Academic Success use Naviance to research and understand College and Career Readiness skills and plan a Career Fair at lunch in order to raise awareness of the many career options. Students in this class contact participants, organize activities, set up the event in the cafeteria and help their peers engage in the event. In addition, the fourteen students collaborate with members of The College and Career Team to further their knowledge of these skills to apply them to the Fair.

~Pious, Emily – “Drury Community Gardens”

The eight students in ADL Science class research hunger in the Northern Berkshires collaborate with Jen Munoz and The Berkshire Food Project, and plant vegetables in the school garden to be used by The Berkshire Food Project.

~Rancourt, Melanie; Darling, Michelle – “Cultivating The Courtyard”

After seeing the courtyard in disarray – and realizing it is an unused space - students in ADL Math class purchase flowers and plants, a birdhouse and other student-made beautification items to improve the overall appearance of the space. They clean out the courtyard, lay mulch and crushed stone, plant beds and decorate borders. Students connect with Molly Lewis at the Off-

Campus Greenhouse and Jennifer Munoz from Growing Healthy to select and plant the flowers and vegetables. Inspired by their peers, students from Michele darling's class join in with the clean up and beautification.

Shea, Mary – “Real World Math”

Students in Real World math class explore and create activities that help students learn math skills in a fun and engaging way. They shared the activities for use in middle grade math classes.

E3 ACADEMY

(Drury High School Alternative Educational Program)

*~**Reifsnnyder, Abby; King, Cathleen; Egan-Poirier, Jesse**- Students at E3 learn through interdisciplinary units in a competency-based program. Service-Learning is a teaching method that is used throughout the academic year. An intern and a volunteer from MCLA worked with the E3 program and collaborated with the service-learning experiences. Community partners include Bona Marketing; Berkshire Emporium; Hoosic River Revival; local historian Joe Manning; Press Publishing; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Greylock Federal Credit Union; and the North Adams Chamber of Commerce.

- **“E3 Cooks”** – Students researched the food system in general (visiting local farms in addition to traditional research and presentations) and food insecurity in particular (working at the Berkshire Food Project, meeting with a representative of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and visiting The Friendship Center Food Pantry). The students inventoried the types of food available to users of the food pantry and decided to develop a cookbook using as many of those ingredients as possible to create dishes that were both nutritious and delicious to encourage people with limited resources to eat healthy food. The result was a run of 100 cookbooks named “E3 Cooks,” which they donated to the Friendship Center. The people at the Center liked it so much they requested that E3 print more. They donated funds and the students raised more funds in order to print another 125 copies. The copies are to be distributed June 1, at which time the students will offer Pantry clients samples of some of the dishes in the cookbook.
- **“Find It Love It North Adams”** - Identifying needs connected to city pride and local economy, students surveyed residents and visitors about their impressions of the city as well as their interest in purchasing clothing that promoted pride. Two years ago, students developed the tag line of “Find It, Love It: North Adams” and designed a logo for the city. They created a line of t-shirts and sweatshirts called NAMApparel in order to promote pride and tourism. Last year, students continued the venture. Along with the help of multiple business and city partners, they learned how to develop and implement a business plan. They learned to use social media to market the clothing line. This year,

students added a second tagline “It’s gonna be a great day!” and expanded the business to include travel mugs. This year the students surveyed people in North Adams and determined that caps and beanies would be an effective way to get the Find It Love It message out to the public. They created short (25-30 second) videos to promote the gear. The videos are being shown on Northern Berkshire Community Television, Drury TV and NAMApparel’s Facebook page. Proceeds from the sales support the continuation of their enterprise.

- **“Garden Mosaics”** - E3 is housed at a former mill building along with business tenants. In order to foster a sense of community, E3 students designed, constructed, and installed a raised bed garden in the courtyard. During the spring and fall, E3 students plant and maintain the garden and share the produce with other tenants. During the summer, the other tenants maintain and harvest the produce.
- **“Who Am I and How Do I Fit in North Adams”** - E3 students developed an exhibit called “Who Am I and How Do I Fit in North Adams” with the goal of increasing understanding between people of different ages and backgrounds. In collaboration with local artists, E3 students photographed local places with special meaning and wrote and published short books telling their personal perspectives and stories. For the covers of their books, the students used pages from “The Celestials,” a novel about the Chinese immigrants to North Adams, to create “found” poems, further connecting them with the City’s past. In addition, they research aspects of the Hoosic River and its connection to the life of the City. They created a mural and tiles to represent the river along with short descriptions of their research. Students presented their work during an opening reception at MCLA’s Gallery 51, scheduled to coincide with multiple gallery openings on Main Street.
- **“How to Volunteer Effectively”** – Two E3 students began volunteering at BFAIR, running small group activities. They reflected on what they learned each week and synthesized the information into a report to the Center for Learning in Action at Williams College, which is looking for ways to connect their students with volunteer opportunities.

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

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

- Performed a variety of services on behalf of the off-campus building and grounds including building display racks, repairing tables, mowing, weeding, and ice removal
- Painted areas of the exterior of Johnson School
- Built boxes for the greenhouse
- Built dividers, bookshelves and wall shelves for elementary schools
- Tilled several of the plots for our community garden
- Created plant markers for sale in the store.

Lewis, Molly- 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:

- Grew, transplanted and cultivated flowers to beautify downtown North Adams for tourists and locals
- Grew and donated flowers for the Veterans Wall in downtown North Adams
- Provided flowers for retiring teachers
- Provided flowers the annual Fall Foliage Parade
- Created and provided center pieces for the Senior Citizen's Prom
- Grew seedlings for community gardens in North Adams
- Cultivated, maintained, and planted flats of annual flowers for donation to the city-run Historic Valley campground
- Donated plants for appreciation gifts to Williams College student volunteers
- Grew and donated plants for the Visitors Information Booth on Union Street