

North Adams Public Schools

Service-Learning Narratives

July 2016-June 2017

~ 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 – “Fun with Nursery Rhymes”

PreKindergarten students hosted parents, family members and others at a fun family night designed to support parents in strengthening their children’s literacy skills. The students practiced a variety of ways to interact with literature prior to the event and served as helpers as they led their families through a series of interactive, fun activities. Local childcare and other preschool providers were invited to participate.

BRAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Forty one 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 inexpensive 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. Connected to a unit on immigration, students learn about Afghan culture and the different rights that people have in various parts of the world. 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.

~Cellana, Karen – “Improving the School Gardens”

Connected to science standards, Grade four students raised praying mantises and released them near the schools gardens in order to aid in natural control of bugs that damage crops. They also raised worms and released them into the garden beds to aerate the soil and to enrich it with nutrients.

Holmes, James - “Running with the Law”

A group of sixth and seventh grade students studied forensic science with local police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical responders. The students benefitted from the positive relationships with the police officers and the community saw the police working well with the youth and providing them positive adult role models. The students plan and hold a community road race “Running With the Law” to benefit PopCares, a local organization that supports families in the area who are affected by cancer.

Holmes, James – “Greeting Cards for Meals on Wheels”

Connected to their health curriculum, sixth and seventh grade students created Thanksgiving cards for recipients of Meals on Wheels to bring cheer and to ease loneliness.

~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.

McCarron, Marie – “Memorial Day Celebration”

Fourth grade students apply “Leader in Me” skills as they plan the program, invite guests, practice lines, write speeches and decorate the cafeteria for a Memorial Day celebration. Students partner with local veterans organizations and host this school wide and community celebration that helps teach their peers about the meaning of Memorial Day and to honor those who sacrificed their life to serve our country.

McCarron, Marie – “The Giving Back Club”

Students in an after school program learn about the needs of others in the community and the needs of the environment. They plan and implement a number of service experiences including creating cards of cheer for recipients of Meals on Wheels, creating cards for children residing in the Louison House Family Shelter, making pillows for the public area of the Louison House, and cleaning up litter around the school.

McCarron, Marie – “Kids Helping Kids in Perfect Harmony”

Through the after school program, fourth grade students decided to help kindergarteners who are just beginning to learn to read. Many of the kindergarteners do not have books at home so the fourth graders enhanced their writing as well as social emotional skills by creating books for kindergarteners to bring home and keep.

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

Thirty-three students in grades 1-2 take the time to make cards, read, have a parade, and 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 – “7th Grade Breakfast Helpers”

Throughout the school year, eighteen students in grade six and seven assist the students in grades K-2 with the breakfast in the classroom program, funded by a Fuel Up grant. The older students help the younger students get their breakfast, sit and talk with them while they eat, and become their buddies.

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

Forty-six students in grades 6 and 7 collaborate with The Shriner’s to promote, collect and weigh can tabs and track the classroom donations of such. The students deliver presentations to younger students in the fall to enlist their support in the program. Students learn about the cost free care provided by the Shriners Hospital to local children. Students use speaking, listening and writing skills to promote the program and math skills to weigh and track the donations. Thousands of tabs have been collected and students are excited to see the final number at the end of the school year.

Sherman, Dan - “The Assist Program”

Williams College student athletes are the servers in this program providing long-term mentoring to Brayton students age 9 through 13. Fifty Williams students were matched one on one with Brayton students and met with them weekly. The mentors strive to provide hope and direction to their mentees and to encourage them to seek achievement beyond high school.

COLGROVE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Atwood, Kathy – “Pay it Forward”

Third grade students identified a need in the community that they felt passionate about. Students were given \$10 to “Pay it Forward” by developing their own project to address their identified need. Class lessons focused on empathy and optimism and students applied ELA and SEL skills during the project. Students used their money to raise additional money or to otherwise benefit the community. Beneficiaries of the service included the Berkshire Food Project, the Louison House, Toys for Tots, the Berkshire Humane Society, local families in need during the holidays

and the city workers. The teacher reported that the students went above and beyond her expectations and that the positive emotion expressed by the students was remarkable.

Bator, Beth – “Boxes of Love”

Fourth graders met with the founder of a local organization, Boxes of Love, that mails care packages to military members who are serving overseas. They ran a collection drive in their school and collected four boxes full of supplies as well as monetary donations.

~Davis, Keith “Davis’ Daredevils”

Participating students were enrolled in the College and Career Academy, a summer program of 21st Century Community Learning Center where learning objectives were focused on STEM and college and career readiness skills. Students engaged in a number of service experiences including building a raised bed for the River St. Community Garden, preparing food at Berkshire Food Project’s free meal program, and packing bags and stocking shelves at the Friendship Center Food Pantry.

Gorten, Meg; Marceau, Lisa; Nelson, Wendy; Corrigan, Craig; Elder, Jake; Lucier, Mary Evelyn – “Hearts for Heroes”

Students in 5th, 6th and 7th grade learned about the responsibilities of first responders including police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Using ELA skills, students wrote notes and created cards for local first responders to express their appreciation on Valentine’s Day.

GREYLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gwozdz, Katherine – “Pajama Night”

Students in grades 6 and 7 hosted an evening fun night for students and families on behalf of the Louison House Family Homeless Shelter. The need was greater than normal this year because the shelter had suffered a fire and the residence was moved to a temporary location. Participants in Family Fun night made ornaments for the holiday tree at the Louison House and donated pajamas and money. Nearly \$600 was raised as well as ten new sets of pajamas and 48 ornaments.

~Kelly-Whitney, Marie; Casey, Michele – “Sunflowers and Cucumbers”

Fourth graders mentored and worked with kindergarteners to begin seedlings for planting in the lower raised bed of the garden in the school courtyard. Students reworked the soil, repaired the bed, and planted sunflowers, cucumbers and squash. Students volunteer during the summer to harvest the food for their senior neighbors at Holly Family Terrace and for migratory birds.

King, Christina – “Perennial Garden Animals”

Extending life cycle lessons from science, third grade students researched the need for perennials for birds that visit the outdoor classroom in the school’s courtyard. They replenished the soil and added perennials to enrich the ecological environment. Students then used the plant life for drawing in the outdoor classroom as well as for still-life artwork in the classroom.

King, Christina – “Holy Family Terrace Holiday Cards”

Sixth and seventh grade art students created holiday cards for the senior residents of Holy Family Terrace with whom the school maintains an ongoing partnership.

~Ropelewski, Mary Ellen – “Outdoor Classroom”

Seventh grade students took responsibility for one of the raised beds in the courtyard at Greylock School. Students planted seeds, transferred seedlings, weeded and maintained the garden. The produce is shared with the senior residents at Holy Family Terrace. Students have maintained a partnership with Holy Family residents with numerous interactions over many years- this continued activity strengthens those relationships while teaching the importance of healthy eating.

DRURY HIGH SCHOOL

~Bedard, Karen; Vrabel, Matthew – “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
- Organize and implement the 2017 Drury Lip Dub to improve school culture
- Assisting with the letter carrier food drive
- Leading a school wide recycling effort
- Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity
- Leading Restorative Practices community building circles in classrooms
- Cleaning and maintaining the shed for the school gardens
- Collecting goods for soldiers serving overseas
- Volunteering with the Friendship Food Pantry
- Making biscuits for dogs in shelter
- Making care packages for hospital children with cancer
- Collecting books for local children
- Work in the school gardens to benefit Berkshire Food Project

Boulger, Patrick – Senior Citizen’s Prom

Students in Contemporary Issues carried on the 24 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. 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.

Cairns, Melissa – “Art and Poetry”

After studying how to analyze art and poetry, students in grade 9 English traveled to the Clark Art Museum where they selected a piece of art, wrote a poem from the point of view of a character in the piece and wrote an analytical essay. The poems are being compiled into a book with a plan for a book launch and sharing with other students.

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 promoting Senior Service Learning, a Holiday Gift Collection for local children, the annual Lip Dub, 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 – “Dirt Storage Box”

Production Technology and CAD/CAM students designed and installed a storage box for enhanced soil for the River St. Community Garden. In previous years, Mr. Davis’ students built garden beds and a sign to promote the gardens. The gardens are a collaborative project with Hoosic River Revival and are designed to raise awareness about their vision of revitalizing the river that currently flows through outdated concrete flood chutes.

Davis, Keith – “Dog Park Sign”

The committee for a recently constructed dog park asked Production Technology students to help by designing and building a sign that would inform local citizens about the facility. Students prepared an application and won approval from the city planning board for installation of the sign. They built models to test the design, constructed the sign, computer engraved it, painted it and installed it on site.

Davis, Keith – “Bird Houses for Habitat”

Students in CAD/CAM, Production Technology, and Engineering the Future classes learned about the need for affordable housing and designed and built birdhouses for Northern Berkshire 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 birdhouse.

Davis, Keith – “Cemetery Planters”

Production Technology students researched local cemetery regulations and plant container specifications. They designed and build planters for distribution to the North Adams Cemetery Commission to beautify public cemeteries.

Davis, Keith; Choquette, Jamie; Caton, Kate – “It’s a Mystery”

Drury Performing Arts Management, Drama, Production Technology and CAD/CAM students worked together to put on a Murder Mystery Dinner to benefit the Northern Berkshire habitat for Humanity. Students built set materials, promoted the show, and performed a spoof based on “*I Love Lucy*” called “*Trouble at the Tropicabana!*”

Fairweather, Judith – “Community Building Circles”

Students in Social justice course learned about restorative practices including community-building and harm repair circles. Students did a series of visits to Colegrove Park Elementary School where they facilitated circles and taught their younger peers and their teachers about community building and harm repair circles.

Hamilton, Jaime – “Holiday Gift Drive”

Drury Student Ambassadors planned and conducted a holiday gift drive to benefit local children in need. Toys, books, and winter clothing were donated to the Family Center of Child Care of the Berkshires.

~ Luczynski, Sara; Pious, Brian; Shafer, Morgan; Moore, John– “STEPS 2016”

The STEPS 2016 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 two projects. Students applied ELA, math, science, social studies, health, and technology skills in service-learning experiences:

- 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 collected locks for school lockers and school supplies for use in the backpacks.
- Humans of the Berkshires- Students collaborated with Nataly Garzon from Berkshire United Way with creating content for their social media campaign designed to recognize youth in the community as a protective health factor. Students took photographs and interviewed youth to be featured on the “Humans of the Berkshires Facebook page.
- School Gardens- Students worked in the school gardens to maintain them and harvest food for donation to Berkshire Food Project.

Meczywor, Molly; Boyer-Vivori, Michele; Hamilton, Jaime; Morgan, Kathy – “Brayton Leadership Program”

Twenty Drury students, members of the Drury Ambassadors program, spent time over the summer planning, creating and implementing a leadership training program with 17 Brayton Elementary students. The two day training program transitioned into monthly leadership sessions, including goal setting, positivity, gratitude, respect and kindness. Drury students planned lessons and taught them and students collaborated to begin the planning process for a Brayton Community Center.

~Melito, Tracy – “Garden Mosaics”

With consultation from Jennifer Munoz and the Growing Healthy Gardening Program, Health Physiology students studied nutrition and gardening. They researched food insecurity in the community and its effects on health. They cleaned garden beds, raised seeds to seedlings (in their classroom greenhouse) and planted crops in garden. The crops will be donated to The Berkshire Food Project.

O'Brien, Audra – “Drury Food Exchange”

Students in Physical Education classes originally planned a staff versus student volleyball game to raise funds for the student food exchange. The game was not able to go forward so the students instead hosted a “Hat Day” and collected donations of nonperishable food and money to replenish the food exchange.

Pepper, Phoebe – “Paint and Chat”

Parent engagement at Drury High School has been identified as a area of need in order to improve student attendance and achievement. Working with the College and Career Center and The Family Place, art students hosted a “Paint and Chat” event at a subsidized housing area where many of our students reside. Art students taught participants how to paint, dinner was provided and school staff were on hand to discuss programs, services and opportunities available at Drury High School.

Pepper, Phoebe – “Lip Dub Banners”

Art students were asked to create public images for the annual Drury Lipdub to represent the theme of school unity and celebration using contemporary media. The students researched the theme and images and developed banners using emojis that they hung in the school halls. The lipdub is a school wide project that strives to build community and unity.

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

Students in Advanced Art researched famous work of art and the process of art reproduction. They created large-scale reproductions that were installed in former windows at the Cascade Building. The art serves to beautify a run-down area as well as contributes to the Creative Economy Movement/Cultural Corridor Initiative of North Adams. In turn, Cascade makes a financial donation to the Arts Department at Drury.

Pepper, Phoebe – “Theater Stage Craft”

Art students researched stage craft and set design. Working with Ms. Pepper, they designed and created set pieces for the school musical in order to increase cultural opportunities for the community.

Pepper, Phoebe – “School Store Façade”

Studio Arts Students improved the physical beauty of the school store area by creating a trompe l’oeil façade on the school store of an old fashioned general store. This improvement is part of a school-wide effort to integrate the store into the school community.

Pepper, Phoebe – “Holiday Cheer”

Students in various art classes researched images of seasonal cultural celebrations with an eye to understanding the origins and meanings. They developed techniques of enlarging and transferring images and painted the images on public windows to increase goodwill and holiday cheer at Drury High School, the North Adams Greylock Club and housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

~Pious, Emily – “Drury Community Gardens”

With consultation from Jennifer Munoz and the Growing Healthy Gardening Program, students in ADL science class studied plant physiology and gardening. They cleaned garden beds and planted crops in garden. The harvest from the garden will be donated to The Berkshire Food Project, which provides free community lunches and supplemental food to the community.

Rancourt, Melanie; Darling, Michelle – “Spring Fling”

As part of their senior service-learning project, two senior students collaborated with students in developmental reading and Academic Success to host a free dance for all Drury students. The dance included music, food, games and prizes and was designed to build community and school pride.

Rancourt, Melanie; Darling, Michelle – “Sprucing up the Courtyard”

Applying measurement and computational skills, students in ADL Math class worked to beautify a school courtyard. They cleaned out the courtyard, laid mulch and crushed stone, and planted flower beds and perennial flowering shrubs.

Rancourt, Melanie; Darling, Michelle – “Thanksgiving Celebration on the Hill”

Students from Humanities, Math and the Learning Center worked together to host a Thanksgiving meal on the half-day before break and to prepare care packages for fellow students. The meal and packages were open to any students and parents were encouraged to participate with their child.

Rancourt, Melanie – “Election 2016”

Humanities and Math students learned about the election process and the candidates for President of the United States. They promoted and hosted a mock election during lunch periods. Student voter turnout was 57% and Hilary Clinton won the mock election vote.

E3 ACADEMY

(Drury High School Alternative Educational Program)

~**Reifsnyder, Abby; King, Cathleen; Betti, Ross**- 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 the Friendship Food Pantry, Berkshire Food Project, the UNO Community Center, Viet Nam Veterans Association; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; the Girl Scouts of Western Mass.; and the Roots Teen Center,

- **“The Food Box”** Connected to their study of food systems and food insecurity, students designed, built and installed a little free food pantry located at the site of the Viet Nam Veterans Association. Anyone is welcome to give or take from the Food Box. Students compiled a brochure that lists all of the available assistance for food support in North Adams. They created a FaceBook page and flyers to promote the The Food Box. Students collaborated with several community organizations who pledged to help supply the Food Box including the Girl Scouts, the Dream Center and the Friendship center.
- **“Corn Hole for Roots”** Students visited the new Roots Youth Center and discovered that they did not have computers, television or modern technologies. They devised a fundraising campaign to raise money for Roots. They designed and built corn hole sets, hosted a fun community event where participants played corn hole, raffled off a corn hole game, and donated a corn hole game and the proceeds from the raffle to Roots. When students delivered their donations they noticed that Roots did not have an adequate sign. Students were inspired and made a sign for the youth center.
- **“Indoor City Playground Corn Hole”** After their successful construction and promotion of corn hole sets for the youth center, students were asked by a city councilor to build sets and contribute them to an indoor playground in the downtown area.
- **“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.

OFF-CAMPUS 'GREENHOUSE' PROGRAM (Grades 8-12)

Davignon, Jason - Plant Maintenance Course – Students applied construction, math, engineering and technology skills during multiple projects. Students built room dividers and a bookcase for an elementary school.

Lewis, Molly- Horticulture and Recreational Art Courses- Horticulture students applied math, science, horticulture skills during multiple projects. Students:

- Grew, transplanted and cultivated flowers to beautify downtown North Adams for tourists and locals and for City Hall and City Parks
- Created and provided center pieces for the Senior Citizen's Prom
- Hosted home day care providers and their children for painting of pots and planting seeds and a flower