

SERVICE-LEARNING / COMMUNITY SERVICE CELEBRATION



BEVERLY HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT / PTA
ADVISORY BOARD
EDITOR: PATRICIA T. TANENBAUM



JUNE 2004

Community involvement is important to our schools and is one of our greatest strengths! Working together, we accomplish wonders and help thousands of children and adults who are less fortunate. Please read and marvel at the variety of Service-Learning: homelessness; literacy, environment; disease; children; elderly; and the war on terrorism (to name a few).

The 2003-04 school year has been a banner year for Service-Learning in the Beverly Hills Unifies School District. Major accomplishments include the following:

- The successful completion of the Coordinated Compliance Review from the California Department of Education. The review resulted in zero non-compliance items with the final report including accolades for Beverly Hills Unified School District including, "Service-Learning is a primary instructional program within the District and it is to be commended for its sustaining support of the Service-Learning program."
- The first Service-Learning/Community Service Website. Not only was the website up and running but it was created through the cooperative efforts of senior student (and now BHHS graduate) Kamron Farrokh and Service-Learning Advocate Sarah Utley. The site includes the mission and vision of Service-Learning in Beverly Hills, but on-going updates of the program's success stories, curriculum guides, and links to our community partners.
- The UES Recycling Grant was fully implemented and was a very successful endeavor as part of the 6th grade science program. Under the guidance of coordinator Kimberlie Wick, the grant, even with its challenges, proved to create the foundation for a sustaining program that once again demonstrates the commitment of the students and staff of Beverly Hills to continuing support of their community.
- While the R.E.A.L. guide has served as the foundation of the program since its inception, over the past two years, Service-Learning has evolved so that it is no longer a separate entity but an integral part of the total instructional program and the lessons, goals, beliefs, and mission have been included in the District curriculum guides that are received by all new employees to the District.

In alignment with the goals of the CALServe grant, BHUSD had reached out to the private and faith-based schools within the District. New partnerships have been created with Good Shepherd Catholic School and Hillel Harkham Hebrew Academy. These two schools will be part of the summer lesson development workshop by including seven new members in the writing team. A new augmentation grant was received from CALServe to support this writing endeavor. We are pleased at this new expansion and looking forward to the continuing partnership.

Throughout the upcoming year, the vision of the Service-Learning program will continue to flourish as the exemplary program that it has grown into. Thank you to the teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community members who have made the Service-Learning program the "flagship" for others who strive for excellence.

Rex Comer

**SERVICE-LEARNING CHALLENGES US TO ANALYZE WHAT'S
HAPPENING AROUND US.**

***ASK* HARD QUESTIONS.**
***ACTIVELY* PARTICIPATE IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS.**

LEARN AND SERVE

WHAT IMPRESSED ME MOST ABOUT THE NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CONFERENCE...

THE KIDS!

By Maria Bennett, Advisory Board Co-Chair

Orlando, Florida... April 2004

Everywhere you looked, there were teenagers actively involved and energized about what they were doing. They were volunteering in the Convention Hall, out in the hallways between sessions trying to get people to come to their workshops, running service-learning activities, and all the while, truly enjoying themselves. They were doing something good and it was doing something good for them! Isn't that what service-learning is all about? I hope that next year Beverly Hills can do a presentation when the Conference comes to Long Beach. We have a great service-learning program, passionate teacher advocates, involved students and such a caring community. I look forward to our participation. **IT IS TIME FOR US TO CELEBRATE**, one of the steps in the service-learning process. Let's **CELEBRATE** what service-learning has done for Beverly Hills!

COMMUNITY SERVICE-LEARNING ADVISORY BOARD

BY ELIZABETH CHAIT

Our Board is particularly proud of one of its accomplishments... the addition of two new partners in our effort to reach out to faith-based organizations: Good Shepherd (represented by Suzi Bhakta and Hillel Academy (Traci Reuben and Karen Wasserman)). Our wonderful Assistant Superintendent Rex Comer lead the effort with his usual determination and gusto. The outcome... a relationship of mutual sharing of ideas, experience and inspiration.

Again, I want to thank the entire Board for the endless hours of community service. It is their incredible dedication that sustains annual year-around projects and now we are sharing our experience with our good neighbors. Community/Service-Learning is truly blossoming in Beverly Hills!

MANY THANKS TO THESE EXCEPTIONALLY ACTIVE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS...

Maria Bennett, Co-Chair, Beverly Vista
Elizabeth Chait, Co-Chair, Hawthorne
Debbie Allen, El Rodeo
Hildy Hill, El Rodeo
Franny Rennie, El Rodeo

Caroline Schkolnick, El Rodeo
Kyle Blumberg, Horace Mann
Colleen Stemshein, Horace Mann
Danielle Fischhoff, Student Coordinator, High School

Amy Rothner, Student Representative, High School
Patti Tanenbaum, Community Consultant
Kathi Rothner, PTA Council Rep
Traci Reuben, Hillel Harkham Hebrew Academy
Suzy Bhakta, Good Shepherd Catholic School

UNTIL HE EXTENDS THE CIRCLE OF HIS COMPASSION

PEACE. DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER

"BEVERLY HILLS IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF A SMALL DISTRICT COMMITTED TO QUALITY SERVICE-LEARNING!"

MIKE BRUGH, STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dear Teachers,

Again, after reading all the descriptions of the many and varied activities across the District, I am uplifted! How phenomenal is your commitment to helping our students understand that they can do something to positively affect their bigger world. Thank you to the strong leadership of the Teacher Advocates who shouldered an even greater responsibility this year in preparing the District for the State Department of Education Service-Learning Review and creating quality curriculum during the Summer Workshops. They are evolving more and more creative lessons that powerfully support curriculum standards by tying them to real world issues. This year more teachers at different grade levels took advantage of the District projects and tweaked them to expand their lessons. Again and again, teachers remarked that the students are so much more invested when they understand that the lessons have REAL impact.

Our Service-Learning Website is growing! How pleased we are to be able to share our progress and lead in this national movement. We passed our CCR with totally glowing remarks, and due to a new recycling grant, our educational community is providing leadership in this critical area as well... Kudos to Rex Comer! To watch him is to witness a virtuoso performance! Miraculously, he creates beautiful harmony with his vast and disparate responsibilities. His idea to include faith-based organizations, Good Shepherd and Hillel Academy, as part of the Advisory Board was sooo inspired! Thank you! Board of Education and Jeff Hubbard for **strong** commitment; Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board Elizabeth Chait and Maria Bennett; Advisory Board for indispensable support; Scott and Patricia, our outside evaluators, for keeping us focused; and the Courier and Beverly Hills Weekly for endlessly allowing our educational community to shine!

Yours truly,
Patti Tanenbaum
Editor

Enormous credit goes to Sarah Utley and senior Kamron Farrokh at Beverly Hills High School who helped create the long-awaited Website!

We look forward to ever-expanding the site to help others develop their programs, as there is a national push to develop this powerful teaching strategy with real-life application and students actively involved.

Please check it out at <http://webs.bhusd.k12.ca.us/calserve>. This Newsletter seeks to present an overview and to **CELEBRATE** the teachers' creativity with service-learning that goes beyond the District's focus.

"THE HAPPIEST
HEART IS THE
ONE THAT BEATS
FOR OTHERS."

COMMUNITY SERVICE CELEBRATION OCTOBER 26, 2003

The Community Service/Service-Learning Advisory Board joined the "BHEF Day In The Park" in sponsoring an assortment of giving opportunities at Beverly High's football field.

Veteran's Hospital... decorated athletic socks with toiletries.

Meals On Wheels... decorated place mats.

Children's Hospital... wrote get-well cards and decorated t-shirts.

People Assisting The Homeless... decorated and filled toiletry boxes.

Operation School Bell... stenciled design on athletic shorts.

SERVICE-LEARNING ACROSS THE DISTRICT

...WITH A DESIGNATED PROJECT (K-8) AT ALL THE SCHOOLS

Kindergarten

100TH DAY CELEBRATION (RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS VARIED)

The students brought 100 coins separated into baggies. Counting, sorting, and learning the value of 100 were some of the skills practiced.

Grade 1



OPERATION SCHOOL BELL®

"Imagine two small brothers sharing one pair of pants, each attending school when it's his turn. Thousands of young people in Los Angeles are in such a situation. Just going to school becomes a daily trial, affects absenteeism and eventually drop out rates."



Our District's 1st graders are helping! They counted all of the donated socks and put them into pairs. Then they graphed their results. Some schools created Crazy Sock Day to punctuate this project.

Grade 2



This wonderful organization was established in 1984 to help the homeless find work, save money, secure housing and empower them as much as possible. Our second graders, in conjunction with their studies of the Food Pyramid and the Power of Nutrition, filled bags lovingly decorated for Valentine's Day, with well-balanced lunches and then they visited the PATH facility in West Los Angeles.

Grade 3



UNICEF pledges that their funds provide supplies, health kits, clean water and vaccines to needy children. This year's 3rd grade project grabbed other grade levels, too, as it was expanded upon Social Studies and Math standards. Bar graphs and Math skills were some of the activities. Lynn Crawford (Haw) stated, "It has made the children helpful for less fortunate children." Roz Fleishman (HM) stated, "UNICEF is one way kids can really help kids." "I just think about the look in the children's faces when UNICEF comes," remarked Niki (student).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GIVING DISTRICT. THIS YEAR \$6,200 WAS RAISED TO BENEFIT UNICEF.

Grade 4



BOOKENDS is the District's 4th grade Service-Learning project. BOOKENDS has proudly distributed over 550,000 books, in the five years since its inception, to fill bookshelves at schools, juvenile detention facility, recreational centers, and other centers around Los Angeles County. Wonderfully, all the books have been collected, sorted and distributed by kids!



In this way, BOOKENDS addresses a critical issue, literacy, and empowers our children to become responsible, caring citizens through the student-run book drives. At each of our schools there was a flyer contest to advertise the Annual Book Drive, then students duplicated the best ones and stapled them to brown bags for the collection. They made speeches at the different grade levels, collected the books curbside, sorted and prepared them for delivery.



Grade 5

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



Coach Mike Lambert has been leading the "jump-roping" for 11 years at Hawthorne. Now all the schools are enjoying this fantastic program. Wendy Zito, speaking at the different schools, representing the American Heart Association reinforced the 5th grade heart healthy curriculum: "Exercise; eat healthy foods; stay away from drugs and alcohol." Students jumped rope, and took their pulse to practice heart healthy awareness. They solicited donations and this year Beverly Hills came in 2nd in the "Western States" for its fundraising!

Grade 6

Recycling and Whale Adoption are the areas of emphasis at this level. At all the schools, the students were adopting whales and learning about renewable/non-renewable trash and landfills. They collected trash and categorized it. Essays, letter writing, and reflections were written.

Grade 7

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

The students organized the recorded date for Jump Rope and practiced their graphing skills.



Grade 8
CAMP
HEARTLAND

This is a camp for students affected with HIV/AIDS, and this has been the District's 8th grade Service-Learning for 9 years, thanks to the generous support of PTA Council, and the Neil Konheim Foundation. This year's peer speakers were Tia Morgan, 14 years old; Joseph Gomez, and Christina Pena. They had the 8th graders mesmerized by their honest, personal stories as they spoke to a full audience at Beverly Hills High School.

"The speakers were speaking positively. They weren't ashamed that they were HIV positive. They were trying to live normal lives."

"I learned that the best 'cure' for HIV/AIDS is friendship and caring."

"I believe it made kids realize how serious the problem HIV/AIDS is. The speakers were very courageous."

"This presentation was very important for us to hear as it was extremely helpful in clearing up some of the ideas that I didn't understand."

"I really liked the speakers and how they made it alive by sharing their own personal stories."

WE HAVE RAISED \$25,000 TO PROVIDE CAMPERSHIPS DURING OUR 9 YEAR PARTNERSHIP!

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS SOME ELABORATION ON THE DISTRICT-WIDE PROJECTS, BUT MOSTLY IT DETAILS LESSONS THAT HAVE GONE BEYOND. BEST OF ALL, THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS REFLECT STRONG ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES. (APOLOGIES FOR LESSONS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN OMITTED.)

BEVERLY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Marian Strauss' students at the Moreno Continuation School actively practiced solid recycling habits by collecting plastic bottles, aluminum cans, paper, and newspapers. They separate each and deliver them to recycling centers. The money raised helps support class birthday parties and extra treats throughout the year.

Marian's students enjoyed positive interaction with the elderly, by their regular service to the Roxbury Park Senior Lunch Program. Helping the seniors with lunch service and clean-up, they began to form bonds with the elderly citizens. Written reflections tied beautifully with basic curriculum goals.

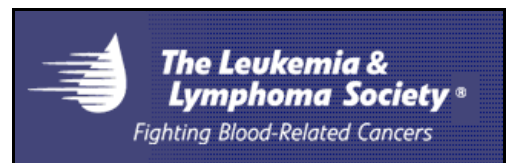
THANKYOU, DEAR VETERANS!

Marian's Moreno students also collected and wrote season's greeting cards to the Veteran Hospital and to servicemen in Afghanistan, Iraq and other Middle East assignments. They were intended to generate a feeling of home and camaraderie for our troops. Basic geography and persuasive writing were some of the curriculum areas.

Moreno Students go to City Hall! The students were placed in various departments to fulfill City needs. They had the opportunity to satisfy one hundred hours of service and gain real-life experience and organizational skills. Examples: Taking care of City vehicles; record-keeping at the Fire Station; supporting Greystone events; and Farmer's Market special events. Learning was enhanced as each activity was discussed as to its impact on the community, and personally reflected upon.

"PENNIES FOR PATIENTS" ...BENEFITTING LEUKEMIA/LYMPHOMA

Sarah Utley, Britta Muff and Marla Weiss combined their efforts this year and raised \$2,100. This culminated a lesson on blood diseases; namely, leukemia and lymphoma, with a speaker personally affected by the diseases.



Sarah's Life Science students seized upon their studies of Immunology, especially polio, to raise money for UNICEF's Halloween Campaign.

Debra Joseph's Advanced Computer Graphics Class created a new masthead for Highlights which involved research and much discussion... Her students then designed the new P.E. uniforms. *"It is very exciting to be part of something that involves school and graphic design,"* Michael Cho, student.

commemorative, reflective, meditative garden. They were actively involved in applying a multitude of scientific concepts. In the end, they celebrated with a barbecue and the surplus was donated to homeless shelters. They are discovering "*science behind success*", states Mr. Herbold.

HANDLE WITH CARE... OUR PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT

Sarah Utlely's AP Environmental students descended upon Ballona Wetlands in Playa del Rey, and thoroughly enjoyed their experience digging out invading castorbeans to cap off their lab work on invasive species. Students also wrote to their Councilwomen on behalf of Wetlands' Preservation.



Sarah's Environmental Science Class (10-12) participated in the California Coastal Clean-up, organized by Heal The Bay. They learned firsthand the curricular concepts of pollution and storm water run-off. Indeed, they came to better understand that prevention is so much easier than pollution clean-up!



Jen Wehner's 11th grade English students followed up the reading of Tennessee William's Street Car Named Desire with letter writing to elected officials advocating on behalf of victims of violence (a big theme in Street Car). They were proud of their real-world application. One of their letters even resulted in a school-wide student assembly.

BEVERLY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE

BEN MASLIN, WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED HUNDREDS OF HOURS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE, STATES:

"I'VE BEEN HAPPY FOR WHAT I HAVE AND I WANT TO GIVE BACK TO MY COMMUNITY. IT GIVES ME A SENSE OF FULFILLMENT. ALSO, IT IS MY WAY OF RELIEVING STRESS. IT GIVES ME OPTIMISM THAT THE WORLD IS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER."

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

This year 83 students were honored and received certificates for more than 100 hours of service over the last 12 months. The certificates were signed by President George W. Bush and awarded to the students for their distinguished voluntary contributions! (That is up from 30 students last year.)

Albion Street has been Beverly High's sister school for 75 years! Record-breaking fundraising this year! \$4000 was raised for new toys to benefit Albion's 300 students.

ALBION STREET ELEMENTARY

WESTSIDE FOOD BANK

One of the most rewarding projects was the partnership between Beverly and the Westside Food Bank. Every Thursday, 200-400 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were prepared for the homeless! Enormous thanks go to the donors who consistently came to our rescue with supplies...Canter's Deli for the bread; Tropical Fruits for the jelly, and the teachers, administrators, and parents for the peanut butter. From time to time we followed the path of the sandwiches and have seen them distributed to the grateful recipients in the Venice Beach area.

Special thanks to Kathi Rothner for this article.

Beverly traditionally reaches at least one dozen agencies with its giving programs, but one particularly stands out. Nearly 300 students participated in the AIDS Project Los Angeles, currently helping more than 10,000 men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

were only a few public high schools represented." Amy Rothner, Community Service Commissioner.



BEVERLY VISTA

Audra Stout, Joyc  Medway, and Sarah Kaber (K) prepared their students for weeks for their Christmas/Chanukah songfest at the Beverly Hills Senior Center (276-5209). They also practiced their conversational skills. The seniors and the students had so much fun!

Ms. Palazzo's fifth graders were grateful to have the opportunity to write to a soldier in Iraq and they loved receiving letters in return. The letters were heartfelt as they addressed their "heroes". This activity worked perfectly with the Revolutionary War curriculum.

Ms. Rouss's and Ms. Magasin's 4th graders, for School On Wheels, enjoyed making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless. The students were excited to be taking a bigger role in their community as they applied creative multiple paragraph skills.

SO MANY DOGS BUT NOT ENOUGH MONEY!

Helping dogs by donating collars, leashes, blankets, and money to the Bill Foundation 310-861-0171 has become a passion of fifth grade student, Oliver Bogner. He became aware of the Foundation and felt compelled to help. He created a dramatic poster using computer technology and presented his ideas to his class. Oliver's enthusiasm and creativity has truly been inspiring and he is receiving donations for this organization that is trying earnestly to save the lives of as many dogs as possible.

In response to the devastating fires last Fall, Mrs. Landau's 5th graders began a school-wide community service effort with each grade bringing in different items. Some classes made this into service-learning by writing letters to families. Others contacted companies to urge their help (book and clothing stores, food chains, etc.)

LIFE'S GREATEST GIFT...HEALTH

Elaine Palazzo's fifth graders applied persuasive letter-writing skills as they scripted letters to themselves on Why They Should Remain Drug-Free (Red Ribbon Week). Particularly appealing was the idea that they would have the letters mailed to them when they reached the eighth grade!

In December, the 5th grade spearheaded a Candy Cane Reindeer and Pop-Up Card activity. The delicious creations went to Children's Hospital, United Methodist Church, and Temple Israel's Feed the Hungry and the Homeless at Christmas.

Molly Peterson's student council practiced persuasive writing and public speaking skills when they spoke at a staff meeting on behalf of the annual Talent Show benefiting Camp Heartland. The students felt proud of the opportunity to appeal to the teachers.

Students in Amanda Shultz's 6th grade responded eagerly to the District's recycling project. *"They loved the real-life applications."*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY KATHY BRONIE

Beverly Vista was proud to support the annual Community Service drives, but we were particularly excited about the School On Wheels effort in September. The students filled a 55 gallon drum with school supplies! We entitled the project "Write Start".

Anna Stevens, founder of School On Wheels remarked, "For the children when they received the supplies it

they are homeless, they had the things that the child next to them had."

EL RODEO

El Rodeo's Kindergarten had their Annual 100 Day celebration and the children brought in 100 coins, which they counted, sorted, and donated to PATH. They read Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen, about the plight of the homeless, and illustrating that literature is a great tie-in to Service-Learning.

March 5, 2004, was Read Across America Day and Angie Moore's 2nd graders celebrated Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday. Each child chose a chore to do at home and earned \$1. With our funds, we purchased a book for the library and everyone signed it...a biography of Theodore Geisel – Dr. Seuss!



Laura Revness' 3rd graders came to the Rescue of the Lost and Found. On a monthly basis, they sorted the clothing and returned the articles with names indicated. They were a **BIG** help to the school community. Organizational skills were practiced as this activity connected to local environment Social Studies standards.

Karen Novoseller's 1st grade teamed with 6th graders every Friday to help the young students learn their basic Math facts and to enjoy a reading buddy. The 6th graders earned service points and developed meaningful relationships with the younger children. Karen found this most beneficial for both grade levels!

For Thanksgiving, Novoseller's students prepared delicious breads which they donated to People Assisting The Homeless (PATH). What a way to practice measurement skills!



Lightner, Ziskind and Hoffman (4th grade) took their classes to the Ballona Creek Wetlands to learn the ecosystem, bird migration, native plants and animals, and the invasion of non-native species. Enthusiastically, they wrote formal 'thank you' notes to their guide, Abby.

Ms. Garratt's 6th and 8th graders held a Bake Sale and raised \$414 to provide support to three animal rescue organizations: The Humane Society, SPCA, and ASPCA. Money will go towards the rescue and support of abused animals, spaying and neutering. The students compared and contrasted how animals were treated in ancient society and today. With so many animals displaced during the wildfires last Fall, these efforts were especially meaningful.

THINKING GLOBALLY, WORKING LOCALLY

Ms. Mazor's Science class (6-8) were enthralled by speakers from the Sustainable Caravan who drove from San Francisco, on route to Costa Rica, where they have established a sustainable organic farm using only solar energy. They are driving buses converted to run on vegetable oil! Money was raised from an empty inkjet cartridge collection to benefit the Caravan.



Regarding Recycling and Storm Drain Pollution Prevention, Ms. Mazor's classes collected used six Pack Rings and sent them back to the manufacturer (ITWHI-Cone... 1-800-965-Ring) to make new rings and reduce the need to use new fossil fuel that is running out. Two students, Chelsea and Rosie, reflected, *"We feel that we help the world because every little bit helps."*

Kerry's 6th graders were quite impressed by her Halloween costume this year... That of the famous scientist "Birute Galdikas" who lives in Borneo and has dedicated her life to the preservation of orangutans. The students "adopted" two orangutans through Orangutan Foundation International 323-938-6046. How interesting is it that orangutans are 96% the same DNA as humans! They also adopted a "chimpanzee" and contributed to the Jane Goodall Institute (www.janegoodall.com). What a surprise to Ms. Mazor to then meet Dr. Galdikas, a famous female scientist, in person!

They also practiced writing business letters to President Bush as a culmination of research on energy related problems (pros and cons of fossil fuels), which resulted in a letter of appreciation from President Bush. The students will always remember a lesson that is personalized.

For Mazor's Super Science Recycling Elective, her students began the semester with brief reflections regarding the topic "Recycling In My Life". After their semester campaign to improve awareness around the school community, they wrote reflections. There were guest speakers representing the Department of Public Works in Beverly Hills -- 285-2472, and the American Waste Company -- 818-768-1592.

HANDLE WITH CARE... OUR PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT

FROM THE STUDENTS:

"PICKING UP A PLASTIC BAG CAN SAVE A LIFE."

**"RECYCLING HELPS SAVE OUR WORLD NOW
AND IN THE FUTURE."**

**"JUST BY SEPARATING PAPER, CANS AND
BOTTLERS INTO RECYCLING BIN, I AM HELPING
TO SAVE THE EARTH."**

Kerry Mazor's 7th and 8th grade students enjoyed their "Campus Waste Audit" on Annual Recycle Day. First they developed a hypothesis and then evaluated it as they collected and tallied recyclables and trash. They made recommendations to the Principal.

More trash cans on Wilshire Playground! By being so actively involved, the students are proving again the old adage, *"We learn best by doing"*.

Kerry's 6th graders experimented with "recycled turpentine" for a Science Fair Project and one student, Ashley, is spreading the word. Her art class is now trying to recycle their own turpentine!

"Landfills Become Landfills"... Reusable lunch boxes and containers do not add to the solid waste stream. For one day, students analyzed lunches as to reusable and recyclable components for Annual Recycle Day, November 15th each year. Remarkd one student, *"You can help the environment by just changing the way you eat lunch."*

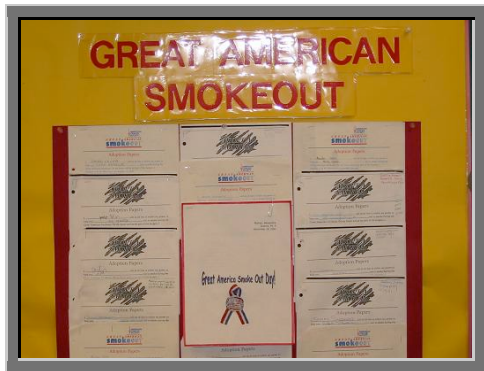
Kudos to Kerry Mazor's Super Science Elective Class! They led El Rodeo to win the First Place Award in Generation Earth's Solid Waste Reduction Project in the School of 2003. They were written up in the Generation Earth's Annual Report. Amazingly, the class led the way to the diversion of 12,431 lbs. of waste collected around the school!



LIFE'S GREATEST GIFT...HEALTH

Kerry Mazor's 6th graders, after reading Health Book Chapter 6, coordinated with Red Ribbon Week and interpreted graphs on smoking statistics, wrote business letters pledging to their parents to be drug free and entered DARE's Bookmark Contest. The parents were so proud of their children's letter pledge and the bookmarks creatively expressed knowledge of Health, vocabulary and content skills.

Her 6th graders enhanced the nutrition unit with Dairy Council Of America booklets (888-868-3133) and coordinated it with the Annual PTA Westside Food Bank Thanksgiving Collection. They examined the canned goods using the food pyramid, had productive discussions about recommended daily food servings with their parents, and wrote reflections connecting their experience to the curriculum.



Connecting with the National Great American Smoke Out Day, November 3rd, for extra credit, after studying the harmful effects of smoking, Ms. Mazor's 6th graders could "sponsor a smoker" for 24 hours. They kept a log of their hour by hour encouragement. The students learned how they could make a difference affecting someone else's health and how hard it is to quit smoking.

Interested in determining how their eating habits were proportional to the daily suggested requirement, Suzanne Nemiroff's 6th graders practiced fractions by comparing their real food intake with the recommended values... a "mathematical twist" to the food pyramid to complement the Food Drive.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Through conjunction with Earthquake and Earth Science Studies, Kerry Mazor's 6th graders participated in a project called E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Doors in the Home). They designed escape routes plans with alternate routes... a service to the family and neighborhood community. The parents were very pleased with the efficacy of this assignment (the ravaging local fires last Fall occurred right after this project!)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY HILDY HILL

In addition to the District projects, El Rodeo's 2nd graders made nonperishable lunches for People Assisting The Homeless (PATH) for Valentine's Day. They loved decorating tissue boxes for the lunch delivery and then they hand-delivered them. The tour enlightens the students as to the plight of the homeless. Ms. Hoffman's 4th grade and Ms. Arebalo (5th) collected valentines throughout the school to support the Elementary Student Council's Annual Valentine Drive. The young students hand-delivered them to the grateful vets at Veteran's Hospital. Participation was especially strong this year. At Thanksgiving, we traditionally collect raw turkeys for the local food banks, i.e., Extra Helpings. For the Christmas holiday, we again supported Jen Chadorch's Project Feed by students soliciting donations for \$5 dinner tickets to support the West Hollywood Food Coalition's Christmas Dinner. Importantly, the students know where the food is going, what it is buying, and that the Food



Mrs. Moore's 2nd graders showing off their wonderful Valentine lunches for P.A.T.H.

Hills.

HAWTHORNE

"Reading is Fun" and Scholastic Books announced that it would donate 100 books to needy schools for each class that read 100 books. Ms. Schaffer's second grade students kept track of their 100 books on the chart that was provided.

Beverly Mense's 4th grade created a woven artwork interpreting the theme "Weave Yourself Into Fitness: Jump For Heart Health" with District 5th grade service-learning lesson. Beverly commented that she loved being able to have her students artistically collaborate with Coach Lambert's meaningful P.E. program.

Rachel Braddell, Linda DiNoble, and Laura Schepps decided to make place mats for an old age home based on the themes of Respect for Elders and Selflessness honoring our Thanksgiving holiday.

HANDLE WITH CARE... OUR PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT

Kimberlie Wick's 6th grade students were so excited to sponsor one humpback whale in conjunction with District 6th grade service-learning... Oceanography. Their Whale Adoption Project was very helpful. *"This has been an amazing way to get a connection with the kids because they have a place to hang their information,"* stated Ms. Wick.

For extra credit, some of Ms. Wick's students participated in either a beach clean-up or Ballona Wetlands Clean-up. This was excellent background for discussions about human impact on our ecosystem. Zoe Chait stated, *"While we were cleaning at the Wetlands, we saw a baby snake egg. It cracked and we saw a baby water snake being born. It was amazing."*

LIFE'S GREATEST GIFT...HEALTH



Charles Kertesz (6-8) Math students separated, organized and recorded data for the Jump Rope For Heart Project. They practiced their graphing skills as they recorded the data.

Kelly Kertesz incorporated the District's fifth grade Jump Rope For Heart activity into HER curriculum. To extend knowledge of the heart, nutrition and exercise, they created a brochure! Some of the titles... "The Stronger The Heart, The Better The Life" and "Don't Break Your Heart!"

KIDS HELPING KIDS

Kimberlie Wick's 6th grade Science students helped as lab assistants for 4th graders as the two grades have complementary standards. Kimberlie stated, *"This was tremendously reinforcing for the older students and after reading students Reflections they all wanted a second rotation."*

Janet Lambert's 8th graders, in conjunction with their studies of the US Military and the USO, planned a fundraiser, created care packages and sent e-mails. Then they identified needs of the service men and

operation Dear Abby that night.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY ELIZABETH CHAIT

Community Service Clubs at Hawthorne enjoyed activities that have been varied, active and exciting. There were new programs at the different school levels which were very successful. For example, 3rd grade... Veteran's Hospital (cards); Children's Hospital (place mats and cards); Bake Sales -- the goods were given to various organizations agreed upon by the Community Service Club.

4th Grade... School On Wheels; One Voice (picture frames for Christmas); Children's Hospital (cards) Both grades, with a steady 30 children per grade, prepared bags for Extra Lunch Day (Westside Food Coalition) and bags for the BOOKENDS book drive.

One new project for the 4th grade was the "adoption" of a Head Start Preschool through One Voice. The children were so excited about this project because there was wonderful interaction between the children. Hawthorne students went to the Preschool for Valentine's Day and did a fun project. At the end the preschoolers came to Hawthorne where they walked together, played games, had lunch and ended the day with an Easter Egg hunt. Additionally, most of the fundraising went towards fulfilling a wish list for their adopted school.

The 5th grade embarked on something new, too! Once a month, during lunch, each 5th grade classroom participated in simple art projects donated to the Jonathan Jacques Cancer Center at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. Once a month each child at the Center looked forward to a little gift! Finally, they organized and presented a talent show to grades 3-5. This money was contributed to Friends Of Hawthorne.



HORACE MANN

Ms. Kuedhle's kindergarten students partnered with the January North Internet Project for the preservation of the Monarch Butterfly which integrated science, art, technology, and writing standards.

Roz Fleishman's 3rd graders created a spin-off to the UNICEF activity. In addition to the District Drive, they gave half of their Halloween candy to another organization, the Frontline Foundation -- 818-363-1367 that feeds the homeless.

Rachel Pearce and Helen Rogaway's 3rd and 4th graders wrote terrifically thoughtful responses to EE Hale's empowering quote regarding this year's Character Theme: Responsibility and related it to Language Arts and Social Studies... *"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do!"*

Christy Fuhrer's 4th grade began a new tradition this year... the first Wednesday of each month is to be "Louie Day". Louie was a new student this year and in the winter he was diagnosed with osteoporosis, so he began wearing a helmet during outside activity. Once the students realized how difficult it was for him to be so singled out, they decided to wear helmets, too, and quickly realized what it felt like for Louie. Now they are much more understanding of visible disabilities.

In December, Christy's students totally organized a clothing drive, making flyers for the entire school, posters, sorting the clothing and writing friendly letters to the recipients. The letter writing personalized the project and they began to realize that these children are exactly like themselves except for their economic situation. They worked with the Westside Children's Agency.

Lynn Gifford's (6-8 English) classes enhanced their reading, listening and speech skills by reading Thank You, Mam, to prepare for a visit to Bridgepoint 310-860-9234, a senior citizen facility near the school. The experience was eye-opening and totally positive as students interacted with the elderly with prepared questions to initiate conversation.

THANKYOU, DEAR VETERANS!

5th graders teachers (Ms. Maisterra and Kreshek) wrote a friendly letter to the veterans at Veteran's Hospital. They remarked that writing became so much more important when the students knew that they were writing to a real veteran and they loved hearing a first-hand account from a POW, Mel Feuer from the Maple Counseling Center.

As a Red Ribbon Week Kick-Off, Helen Rogaway's 6th grade students practiced "Power Paragraphs." They read Nancy Levinson's Getting High In Natural Ways and wrote easily about topics ranging from snow-boarding, basketball, swimming, roller-blading, riding horses... Helen stated, *"The students were very receptive to this project."*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY COLLEEN STERNSHEIN

In addition to the annual drives to benefit School On Wheels (literacy), Westside Food Coalition (hunger), and Camp Harmony (needy children), we did something new!.. a Middle School (after school) Community Service Club. They participated in projects which benefited New Directions (veteran's facility) and Tenth Street Elementary. In addition, we proudly hosted the Annual Christmas Eve Feed The Homeless (our 6th year!) and volunteers made over 1,000 sack lunch bags including a sandwich, drink, fruit, dessert, and chips. These were picked up and distributed by the West Hollywood Food Coalition on

with their creative ideas. This is an elderly assisted living establishment close to our school.

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW PARTNER, HILLEL HARKHAM HEBREW ACADEMY

Service-Learning has been a wonderful addition to our school. With the ongoing support of BHUSD, we have done some amazing things this year. Hillel had their first book drive, which was an enormous success, donating over 2000 books to Union Avenue Elementary. The student council ran the drive and the first graders sorted the books into piles of 2's, 5's, and 10's. What a great way for the 1st grade to learn to skip count!

Students participated in Public Works Day. What a wonderful and educational event hosted by the city. Students became aware of water conservation and wrote reflections after the field trip. Harkham Hillel Academy is following Horace Mann's lead and beginning to reach out to the elderly. Elementary students, practicing sentence structure and letter writing, mailed cards and letters to The Jewish Home of the Aging. Acrylic landscape and still-life drawings were donated by the middle school to brighten the rooms and hallways of the residents.

Thanksgiving baskets were provided by the students and parents of Hillel. Baskets contained everything from soup to nuts, including the turkey, and were received by needy families in our own community.

Seventh grade students just returned from the rainforest at Olympic National Park. The trip augmented the students' awareness of respecting and protecting the land through conservation. They learned the importance of protecting endangered species and respecting the rights of Native Americans. Afterwards, they wrote reflections about their experience.

Upcoming events for the 2004-05 school year include Jump Rope for Heart, Diabetes Foundation Walk-a-Thon, the sock drive for Operation School Bell, the used toy drive for P.A.T.H., 2nd annual book drive, and student-prepared Thanksgiving baskets using the food pyramid and nutritional guidelines.

I would like to thank the entire BHUSD Advisory Board for all of your support in this new and exciting endeavor.

Traci Reuben
First grade teacher

**THIS YEAR WE CONNECTED WITH
 OVER 40 DIFFERENT AGENCIES!
 WHAT INCREDIBLE ENRICHMENT
 FOR OUR TEACHERS AND
 STUDENTS! EACH YEAR WE ARE
 LEARNING BETTER AND BETTER
 HOW EASY IT IS TO OPEN OUR
 HEARTS TO OTHERS WHILE
 ENHANCING OUR STUDENTS'
 EDUCATION.**



For more information on how you can be involved with Service-Learning at your school, contact your 2004-2005 Service-Learning Advocates:

- Beverly Hills High School**
Sarah Utley
Marian Strauss
Jen Wehner
- El Rodeo**
Kerry Mazor
- Beverly Vista**
Gaby Rouss
- Hawthorne**
Helen Rogaway
- Horace Mann**
Christy + Christian Fuhrer
- Project Coordinator**
Diane Mead

Please visit the Service-Learning website at <http://webs.bhusd.k12.ca.us/calserve>