

A Voice for the Youth

MARCH-APRIL 2011

The Youth Informer

Orange Youth Services is recognized as the central agency for the development, implementation and coordination of programs and services for the youth of the Town of Orange.



Babysitting graduates hold their Certificates of Recognition for completion of the course.



Home Alone students are pictured with Youth Officer John Aquino and Deputy Fire Marshall James Vincent who gave presentations on home safety and responsibilities

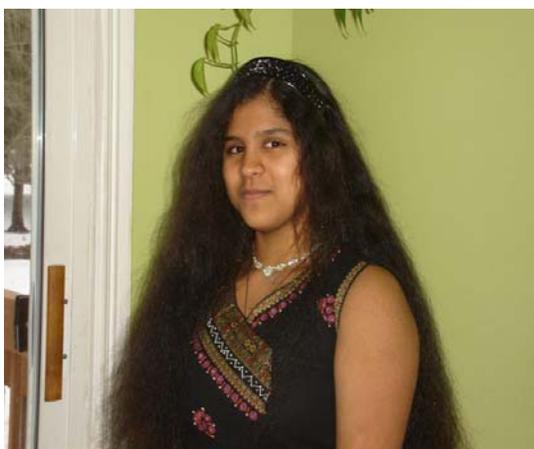
Youth Services Offers Students Babysitting and Home Alone Courses

Youth Services offered students two separate courses over the February vacation. The Babysitting Course was held on February 15th and students, ages 12-14, were provided with course materials, First Aid Certification, and lunch. Students also received graduation certificates. In addition, Youth Services also held a *Home Alone* course for 6th graders. The course offered information and instruction on home safety, preparation, and personal responsibility. The course was assisted by the expertise of Deputy Fire Marshal James Vincent and Officer John Aquino of the Orange Police Department.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Christina DiStefano



Vimratha Teepireddy

Christina DiStefano is currently in the 7th grade at Amity Middle School. She is an honors student and is involved in several activities in and out of school. Christina is an active member of the Student Council and enjoys being involved in planning activities for school events. She has also joined the Fabulous Friends after school program, which works with students with special needs. In addition, she has also joined the Tech Ed Club.

Outside of school, Christina has been a member of the ARAC Swim Team for the past four years. She also plays soccer. She enjoys swimming, ice skating, skiing, reading, drawing, and musical theater. Christina has been attending classes at Center Stage, in Shelton, performing musical theater songs from Broadway musicals such as Grease, Mary Poppins, Hair, and Sister Act to name a few. Christina is a very outgoing and friendly. She will take that extra step to help someone feel welcome and makes friends easily. She enjoys meeting new people and learning new things. She loves to spend time with her family and friends.

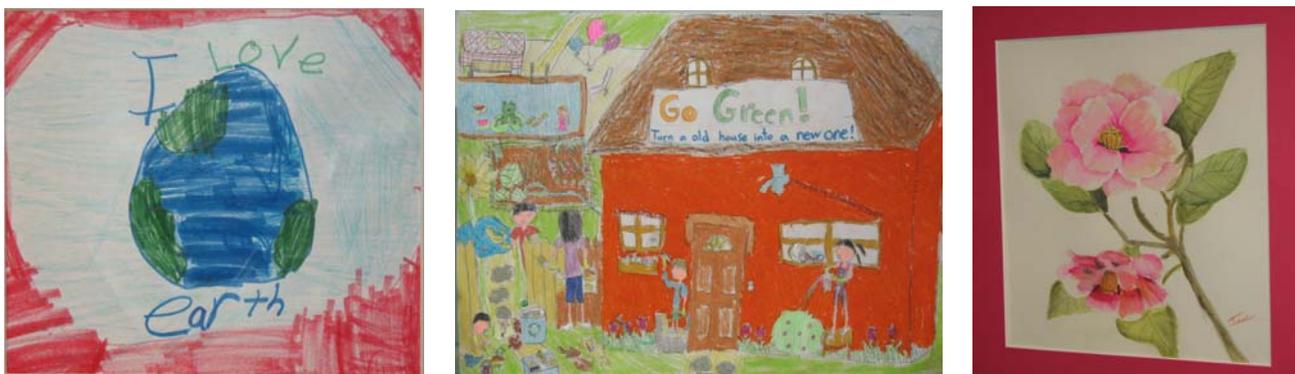
Vimratha Teepireddy is a student at Amity Middle School. She enjoys going to school every day. Vimratha is involved in a few clubs at Amity; she is part of the Yearbook, Fabulous Friends and Book Chat Café. She enjoys going to the Fabulous Friends meetings; she enjoys helping and being with the kids with special needs in the Fabulous Friends. She also enjoys discussing about books in Book Chat Café, and helping create the year book. Some of Vimratha's hobbies are dancing, playing cricket, reading fiction books, hanging out with friends, and learning new math skills. Vimratha also does some volunteer service outside the school. Every year she

participates in fundraising programs such as: T.A.C.T. (Telugu Association of Connecticut), The International Festival at Central Connecticut University; V.S.E.I. (Volunteer in Service to Education in India), a fundraiser for kids in India who need money to get a good education. These programs are all fundraisers for people in need as non-profit organizations. Vimratha has been learning a classical Indian dance named Kuchupudi for the past six years. She has been performing at these fundraisers three times a year with her friends since 2005. Vimratha also does community service at Sri Sai Samsathan (Hindu Temple) and goes to Chinamaya Mission Fairfield-New Haven. There she learns about the Hindu religion and participates in fundraisers for Food Camp and orphan students two times a year. Vimratha has been attending this school for the past six years. Vimratha's dream is to be a great dancer when she grows up. When she grows up she wants to help many in need, and keep participating in the annual fundraisers and keep raising money for the ones who need it.

Her goal is to become orthodontist and serve the nation in her capacity while working too. She loves the nature and tries to save the environment and educates who ever listen to her. She always says "Save the environment and live happy."

(Special thanks to Lynn Edwards for her assistance with Students of the Month)

YOUTH SERVICES ART COLONY DISPLAYS THE NEWEST ADDITIONS



Some new Art Colony editions are now hanging at High Plains

Art Colony Has New Submissions To Be Displayed at High Plains

The 4th Youth Services Art Colony is presently being displayed on the walls of High Plains Community Center through May. Exhibit is ongoing, and will accept submissions as long as hanging space is available. The Art Colony is open to all Orange youth. Media will be paintings, drawings, and photography. Artist or parent can call John Ulatowski, Youth Services Coordinator, at 203-891-4785 or email at julatowski@orange-ct.gov for questions/form on guidelines information. Parents or student can also bring art work to Community Services office at High Plains Community Center Monday-Friday between 8:45 am to 4:00 pm. - Parent must sign permission and waiver form to exhibit. - Guidelines:-All artwork, novice and advanced, will be represented in the exhibit. Works should be light-weight matted, and should **not** be framed. Please attach permission/waiver form to back of artwork. An award recognition event for artist and parents is scheduled in May at HPCC. (*Special thanks to Rebecca Casey for her kind assistance with Art Colony.*)

Living History Club Visits, Shares Experiences with Amity HS Students



Living History Club members who attended the sessions, Bill Dietz, Dr Don Tasso, and Rosemary Courtney, relax before talking to students.

The Youth Services *Living History Club* recently went to Amity High School to address combined History classes during two of their sessions. The Club spoke on the subjects of the Great Depression and World War 2 which they had personally experienced. The Club members started the program with a brief description of their background, first-hand experiences within the two events, and a variety of anecdotes in regard how friends, family, and the general public were affected by these historical events. Also, there was an open forum for students who wanted to ask questions. Members from the Living History Club attending the sessions were William Dietz, Rosemary Courtney, and Dr. Don Tasso. Youth Services wishes to express its sincerest appreciation to AHS Dr. Charles Britton, Principal, and Ms Wendy Carrafiello, History teacher, for their kind assistance. The Living History Club is a first-hand, eyewitness learning Club that encourages senior citizens to share their personal experiences with Middle and High School students who have a keen interest in Social Studies. The Club would be able to visit classes during or after school hours and have an informal exchange that would be educational and fun. For inquiries, please contact: John Ulatowski, Youth Services Coordinator, Town of Orange Tel 203-891-4785

FEBRUARY MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE PHOTOS DISPLAYED ON NEXT PAGE

YOUTH SERVICES "WINTER BLAST" DANCE ENJOYED BY AMITY STUDENTS



Come, Share, and Maybe Be Famous!!!

The Youth Services newsletter “Youth Informer” is seeking submissions from students!

Photos, drawings, poems, essays, favorite book or movie review, jokes, favorite hobbies info.....All newsletter submissions should be emailed to

julatowski@orange-ct.gov for our future editions.

Subject email: newsletter. Thanks!