

Youth Services Newsletter – Winter-Spring 2015

Recent Youth Services Activities Highlight Various Programs

Youth Services has provided various program offerings to youth incorporating a variety of activities and events. The programming encompasses areas of Intergenerational Tutoring, babysitting courses, artist colonies courses, Job Bank, Home Alone classes, an e-Parenting series, the K-6 Children of Orange Library Art Exhibit, an interactive Living History Club, as well as an Incoming 7th grade Super Raffle Bingo Spot Shop and orientation event, Youth Advisory additions and more. The newsletter highlights some of these activities.



A recent babysitting class. Instructor was Mickey Reid.

Babysitting Courses Help Students to Learn the Basics of Child Caring

Youth Services holds regular babysitting classes for Orange youth between the ages of 12-14 years. The courses are held during the December and April school vacation periods. Parents need to pre-register their child for the course. The course instruction is provided by Youth Services as well a First Aid certification portion which is provided by Mickey Reid, instructor. There is a minimal cost for the program. The course materials cover a wide range of information how to address the child's needs, safety measures, pre-visits, medical concerns, and emergency first aid techniques. Space is limited.

Youth Services Volunteer Program Assists High School Students

Youth Services has assisted many Orange High School Students with opportunities to accumulate their quota of High School volunteering hours. Students have had opportunities through dances, summer prize raffle bingo/orientation, local Town events and more to participate with assisting the Town and organizations who may have specific needs for volunteer assistance.



Artist Colony students shown with art instructor Audrey Galer.

Artist Colony Classes Teach Students the Finer Points of Art

Two Artist Colony classes are held yearly during students' vacations. One class gives instruction for Watercolors and another for Drawing. The course, which is detailed and works with students collectively as well as on a one-to-one basis, is provided for Middle school students who want to improve their artistic abilities and create a work of art in the process. There is no cost for the classes. All materials, lunch, and professional instruction are provided. Class size is limited to 12 students per class. Classes are held during December and April vacations.

Photography-Poetry Course Planned For Middle School Students

Youth Services is planning a 2-part Photography-Poetry course for Amity Middle School students. Students who have a talent or have an interest in areas of expression through their photography and combining their photos with narrative or poetic verse to compliment their work will have an opportunity to share with others their creations. Date and time to be announced.

Area Residents Need Jobs Help? Youth Services Job Bank Can Assist

The Orange Youth Services Job Bank provides a service of pre-screened students, ages 13-16, who can be employed by area residents to do a large variety of jobs such as yard work, garden help, attics/basements, raking, snow shoveling, small painting, party helper, tutoring, clerical assistance, mother's helper...and more. The program provides area residents with a Job Bank student/parent connection to assist with a successful jobs match. For further information, please call John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator, at 203-891-4785. There is presently a waiting list but replies are processed in order received.



Incoming seventh grade students enjoyed a Super Raffle Bingo and an orientation to Youth Services events last year

Super Raffle Bingo and Orientation Event Held For Incoming Seventh Grade Students During Summer Vacation

Youth Services had their *Incoming 7th Grade Raffle Bingo Spot Shot and Pizza Orientation Party* for Orange incoming 7th grade students who graduated in June, on August 26th at the High Plains Community Center's Cafeteria. Students filled the cafeteria and received pizza, prize raffles bingo, games room activities, and a Youth Services programs orientation. Prizes were donated by area merchants. Parent chaperones also attended the event. The event made possible by a grant from the Orange Lion's Club and community merchant donations.

Living History Club Teaches Students First-Hand Accounts of Historical Events

The Living History Club utilizes the knowledge and in many instances, first-hand experiences, of senior citizens who lived through or knew acquaintances/family members that may have actually partook of modern historical events and timelines to talk with students in regard actual experiences. Examples of subject matter could encompass the economic recessions, World War 2, Korea, Vietnam, the rise of computers, what home life was like half century ago, economic times, entertainment and advent of television, world events, what school systems were like, the landscape and environs of Orange and surrounding towns, political elections, songs of the day, latest fashions...The Living History Club would interchange questions and ideas, give personal observations, answer school-related questions as an opportunity for students to speak with those who were at these events.

Youth Services Dances Offered to Orange 7th and 8th Grade Students

Youth Services offers Orange 7th and 8th grade students dances that provide a safe, socialization opportunity at the High Plains Community Center during various time of the school year. Provided are DJ, food, refreshments and raffle prizes.



Some of last year's K-6 Children of Orange Art Exhibit Artists Pose.

Annual K-6 Children of Orange Art Exhibit Highlights

Case Library Exhibit Room With Fine Art

The Annual Children of Orange K-6 Art Exhibit was held recently at Case Library honoring the art work of Orange youth in each of the Orange Elementary Schools. Students selected by their teachers created a work of art that would hang in the Case Library Exhibit room for a month period. A reception was held and parents and family came to come see the art as well as enjoy a variety of food and refreshments donated by the parents. The exhibit was presented by the Art in the Library Committee, Youth Services, and the Orange Board of Education. Youth Services wishes to sincerely thank Audrey Galer; Lynn McMullen, Superintendent of Schools; Colleen Murray, Director of Curricula and Development; and Orange Elementary teachers Erin Garney, Matt Stevens, and John Kaluzynski.



Pictured above are the two new Youth Services student Advisory Board members Lauren Campos and Martin Gnidula.

Youth Services Advisory Board Welcomes Two New Student Members

The Youth Services Advisory Board recently welcomed its two new members Lauren Campos and Martin Gnidula who were chosen as the new seventh grade representatives.

Both students have an impressive list of achievements and extra curricula activities. Lauren has participated in the Peck Place basketball After School programs as well as in the Amity Force basketball clinic. She is in the Student Council, assisted as a bus monitor, was a member of the Peck Place School Orchestra, the Elm City Girls Choir, the United Girls Choir, Neighborhood Music School Suzuki Program, Edgewood School Drama Club's production of *"The Little Mermaid Junior"* as well as a production of *Willy Wonka Jr.* Lauren has also attained achievements in the Accelerated Reader Program for reading 1,000,000 words, was a Battle of the Books Contest Captain, a Music Award recipient, and Peer Put-Up Award given by her peers for being a kind, caring and respectful classmate. She has also volunteered at the North Haven Congregational Church and worked with Church family to create toiletry kits for typhoon affected families. Also Lauren has been involved with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut sing-along, cookie booth, and a scarf making workshop for the homeless. Her interests are basketball, horseback riding, snowboarding, go-carting, playing the violin, swimming, and singing. She also speaks fluent Dutch.

Martin Gnidula has been active in the LEAP program assisting for three years. He has also won the Superintendent's Award as well as the President's Award for excelling in academics. Martin also enjoys lacrosse and basketball. He also is musically inclined and enjoys playing the viola. Martin enjoys participating in the school Drama Club as well. He has taken Polish language and culture lessons to better familiarize himself with his ethnicity. He also has been a member of the Scout organization and is currently in the Student Council. Martin is the announcement coordinator at the school. His interests are a study of foreign cultures and lifestyles. Martin is also interested in politics and may one day decide to seek election to office. Both students will represent their grades at the monthly Youth Services Advisory Board meetings.

Tutoring for Intergenerational Tutoring Program – One-To-One Learning

Orange Youth Services and Senior Services have combined to offer Orange students, grades 3-12, tutorial/homework help. Subjects being tutored are the following: Language Arts, Reading/comp., Writing skills, Math, and History. The group meets every Thursday from 3 to 5 pm at the Case Memorial Library. Tutoring time choices are in two sessions: 3:30 to 4:15 pm & 4:15 to 5:00 pm. Tutors work one-to-one with their students. There is presently a waiting list. The program has been very successful in providing an atmosphere of learning and has, in many cases, raised the grade levels of students.



Pictured with a recent group of students, Home Alone instructors included Officer James Kosh and Orange Deputy Fire Marshall James Vincent.

Home Alone Classes Held For Elementary Schools Sixth-Grade Students

Youth Services, in conjunction with the Orange Fire Marshall's Office and Orange Police Department, recently held Home Alone courses for 25 sixth-grade students at each of the Elementary schools. The course covered how to handle various Home Alone issues such as fire prevention, safety measures, house security, safekeeping of keys and passwords, visitors, and more. Another group of sessions will be held this year as well.

Youth Services/Anti Defamation League, Bridges Presented Parenting Programs on Bullying and Social Media Concerns

Orange Youth Services and The Anti-Defamation League – offered an e-Parenting session on Bullying at the High Plains Community Center in April. Also, a program on Social Media concerns was provided by Bridges in May. As part of an E-Parenting series funding provided by SDE Enhancement Grant, the program was entitled “*What Do We Want for Our Children*”. There was also a parent question and answer session to allow for personal strategies. The program was filmed by OGAT. Admission was free and snacks and refreshments provided. The programs addressed many concerns including strategies for dealing with bullying, peer bonding, utilizing school personnel for assistance, how to monitor your child's internet, being a resource and overseer of peer influences. Two more e-Parenting sessions will be provided during the coming year.

(Information on the above listed programs can be obtained by contacting John Ulatowski, Youth Services Coordinator, at julatowski@orange-ct.gov or by phone at 203-891-4785 Monday through Friday.)

