

Inside you will learn about the many wonderful opportunities that the North Penn School District Educational Foundation is providing for students throughout the district with the help of many creative and dedicated teachers and generous contributors. The grants for the 2006-2007 school year consist of 60 grants! The projects cover varied subject areas and involve students at every grade level.



Music – Orchestra Students – Susan Anderson

Orchestra students from Gwyn-Nor, Knapp and North Wales elementary schools will be given an opportunity to be enlightened, educated and entertained by the Philadelphia Orchestra Concerts for Students program. Young orchestra students will be trained not only to participate in a performing ensemble, but also to become a trained audience for future musical performances. This exposure to a professional orchestra is a perfect way to do this.

Music – Band Students – Jeffrey Miller, Jessica Davis

Band students in grades five and six at Gwynedd Square and Inglewood elementary schools will have the chance to attend a Philadelphia Orchestra student concert at the Kimmel Center. This unique cultural experience will allow the students to see and hear a performance from some of the world's best professional musicians playing many different instruments. The exposure to a professional orchestra is a perfect way to prepare students for both performing in an ensemble and becoming a trained audience.

Social Studies – Second Grade Students – Ina Bernstein-Schmidt

Geography books will be purchased for students in second grade at Gwynedd Square Elementary School. This year, the children will write their very first research reports about a state, using books which are written on an appropriate, independent level for second graders. They will locate information such as the state's capital, flower, tree, animal and more. This correlates with the social studies curriculum as well as the language arts curriculum.

Autistic Support – Autistic Students – Kim Seiler

Autistic support students at Hatfield Elementary School will have the exciting opportunity to take several field trips to many motivating places throughout the environment. Research-based verbal behavior is a way of teaching children diagnosed with autism how to learn information in a classroom setting. Going on these field trips will help the students in sequencing, emotions, money skills, as well as socialization. Natural environmental teaching helps the students to benefit tremendously in academics, life skills and basic socialization skills.

English as a Secondary Language – Grades 1-2 – Marilyn Loeffler

Primary students in the ESL program at Hatfield Elementary School will visit Peter Wentz Farmstead, where they will tour an active farm which grows crops and raises animals and its 18th century homestead. The children will learn about sheep shearing and use materials such as wool combs used for making yarn. They will have an opportunity to see and hold objects that were commonly used in the 18th century, and to guess how they may have been used. ESL students having the ability to talk about their experiences will create a wonderful learning base from which they can draw when they are learning about that era in social studies.

English as a Secondary Language – Grades 1-2 – Donna Kleinert

Primary students in the ESL program at Hatfield Elementary School will visit numerous places in the community such as the police station, fire station, ambulance corp, grocery store and post office to experience those resources and learn what the community workers do. The police station will hopefully be a positive experience reinforcing that officers are our friends, and not to be feared as they are in some countries. Since many of these students are not native to this country and are unfamiliar with this community, these trips will certainly ease their adjustment.

Social Studies, Science and Reading – Third Grade Students – Margaret Grollier

A subscription for the National Geographic Explorer Magazine will be purchased for the third grade classes at Inglewood Elementary School. This will allow students to read nonfiction publications that are of high-interest to them and motivates them to learn. Last year this grade level began a reading initiative called "Read Across the USA". The children record minutes read at home, which translates into miles traveled. Using the National Geographic magazines to choose a destination supports this project. They learn about the destination by reading the article and visiting the companion website. Once they've read enough miles to reach their destination, they have a celebration.

Social Studies and Reading – Fifth Grade Students – Dean Calvaresi, Linda Lux, Julie Ryan

To support the Effective Schools process, fifth graders at Inglewood Elementary School will focus on reading strategies. Research has continued to show that students perform poorly when tested on non-fiction material. A subscription to National Geographic Explorer will bring high interest stories with interesting photography to each fifth grade student while enhancing the curriculum. The magazines offer reading comprehension questions, nonfiction skills pages and cross-curricular extensions as well.

Music – All students – Lori Scherling

Inglewood Elementary will invite the University of Pennsylvania's undergraduate a cappella group, Off the Beat, for an assembly and classroom presentation. Every voice level is represented in this ensemble, which helps the children learn visually, auditorially and hands-on the true meaning of soprano, mezzo, alto, tenor, baritone and bass.

Social Studies – Sixth Grade Students – Mag Mulligan, Karen Reid, Mark Smerkanich

Sixth graders at Inglewood Elementary School will have access to a year's subscription to National Geographic Explorer Magazine, which features non-fiction articles, charts, maps, graphs, diagrams, time lines and colorful posters. They will use these reference materials for discussion exercises that stimulate critical thinking skills and comprehension of factual material.

Math – Grades 2-5 – Nicole Dudek

Families of students in second through fifth grades at Inglewood Elementary School will be invited to Family Math Games Nights, which will reinforce math concepts, mastering skills and developing higher order thinking skills. By inviting families into the learning process, it increases the home-school connection, providing teacher facilitated activities that connect directly to the concepts taught in school. Math Club provides support and enrichment to third and fourth graders focusing on activities that promote logic and critical thinking in an after-school atmosphere. Materials for both Math Games Nights and Math Club will be purchased with a Foundation Grant.

Language Arts – All Students- Terri Klein, Dean Calvaresi

All students at Inglewood Elementary School will have the opportunity to utilize a website named Quia.com through a one year subscription that will allow them to create interactive spelling and vocabulary practice for the new Language Arts program to be implemented, effectively integrating language arts with technology. Activities include hangman and word searches to practice spelling words, concentration to practice vocabulary, and quizzes to test reading comprehension. These applications can be attached to a classroom website which will allow the students to practice these skills at home as well as in the classroom.

Math – Eighth Grade Students – Amy Grecu

Eighth grade math teachers at Pennedale Middle School will receive a book on how to differentiate instructional math with various students to help implement math instruction. This book will help teachers address the various learning styles within classrooms and how to use the activities in small groups or with individual students. These activities could be used with all levels of students and is a great tool for implementing this new technique.

Math – Eighth Grade Students – Amy Grecu

Eighth grade math students from Pennedale Middle School will be able to learn how to utilize the calculator in the classroom with an overhead calculator, making teaching the parts of the calculator much easier for teachers. Students are taught how to use the calculator so they are more comfortable with it when they take the PSSA tests in March. This would speed up the process of calculator usage in the classroom and allow for more instruction and practice of content. This piece of equipment will aid instruction and help the students better grasp how to use the calculator.

Family & Consumer Science – High School Students – Sharon Craig, Beth Light, Kathy Noce, Jennifer Slater

Over 200 students use "Real Care Baby II" dolls in the Child Development major course yearly. Supplies and equipment have been purchased in order to operate the updated RealCare Baby II dolls. The objective of having these dolls is to teach valuable lessons about parenthood and to discourage teen pregnancy. Advanced technology allows students to experience proper and realistic care for an infant through handling, feeding, diapering and caring for them 24 hours per day.

Theatre – High School Students – Dave Toia

The NPHS Improv Troupe has grown from 20 to 50 members over the past year. The Troupe will be holding another Great Improv Event in the spring, similar to last year, which will include a day of workshops by some of the leading improv performers in the Philadelphia area, a dinner and a competition. With the number of students increasing this year, there will be a need for an additional instructor at this event.

Technology – All Grade Levels – Bob Gillmer

Students at North Penn High School and Oak Park Elementary School will be introduced to the pilot program, Ipod University. This program allows a teacher to wear an Ipod in their shirt pocket, record their lesson and post the lessons to their website at the end of the day. Students will then be able to review the lesson that night, the night before a test or even before a final. When the lesson is downloaded to the students' music players, students can study while riding on a bus, waiting for an appointment - basically any time they have down time and have their music player with them. This program will enable students to access daily audio lectures through the district website to reinforce daily lessons and provide educational review and study opportunities while utilizing tools and technology that students already have imbedded in their every day lives.

Upcoming Foundation Events:

Outback Steakhouse Charity Luncheon

Saturday, February 24, 2007

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Outback Steakhouse, Montgomeryville

Have a "bonzer" good time at the Foundation's very popular charity luncheon at Outback Steakhouse. For just \$25 you get all-you-can-eat Ribs on the Barbie, Chicken on the Barbie, Grilled Shrimp on the Barbie, Bloomin' Onion and much more. Plus, your glass will never be empty because specialty alcoholic drinks, beer, soft drinks, coffee and tea are limitless too! Proceeds benefit the NPSD Educational Foundation. Register early to avoid disappointment at 215-853-1021.

Champions for Children Fun Walk/Run

Saturday, May 19, 2007

North Penn High School, Lansdale

Bring the entire family to the second annual Champions for Children Fun Walk/Run, sponsored by the NPSD Educational Foundation. This was made into an annual event due to the large success of last year's celebration. Join parents, students, NPSD staff, community members and many more for this 5K Race and Fun Walk. A Diaper Dash will be held for the little ones. For more information on this event, please contact 215-853-1021.

6th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, August 20, 2007

PineCrest Country Club, Lansdale

We've already set the date for the sixth annual NPSD Educational Foundation Golf Classic! Make sure to mark your calendars now, and be sure to indicate your interest in playing on your survey sheet, we'll contact you when the time comes to sign up!



Language Arts – Kindergarten and Autistic Support Students – Chris Heimer and Amy Sulger

Kindergarten and Autistic Support students at Oak Park Elementary School will benefit from the purchase of a writing program entitled, “Handwriting Without Tears.” This program teaches letters in a developmentally appropriate order with a focus on correct letter formation and placement. The program also promotes left to right directional reading and writing. This will allow students of all ability levels to make handwriting an automatic and natural skill. Numbers are also incorporated into this program.

Family Enrichment – Grades K-6 – Patricia Koontz

Walton Farm Elementary School will create a Parent Section in the school library. The books in this section will be available to parents and teachers that will help them with student and family issues such as discipline, behavior, positive, sports-related attitudes in children, balancing numerous family activities, divorce, death and other important family matters. The school library will now be a great place for parents and guardians to turn when faced with issues related to their children and they will view Walton Farm Elementary School as a Family Friendly School.

Reading – Pre-School Students – Patricia Koontz

Walton Farm Elementary School will hold a workshop for parents and their toddlers to empower parents with strategies and confidence to read with their children. This workshop will include activities, demonstrations, group discussions, informational hand-outs and complimentary board books for all participants. All toddlers and parents who attend this workshop and who will attend North Penn schools in the future will be affected by this initiative. This project will help parents encourage toddlers to be excited about and interested in books at a very early age and will help the school make a connection with parents before their students are even enrolled in the North Penn School District.

Language Arts – Fourth and Fifth Grade Students – Dona Cuppett

North Wales Elementary School and York Avenue Elementary School are co-hosting the 2007 Young Authors’ Conference. The York Avenue parent representatives serving on the host school and district committees will determine the theme for the folders, programs and decorations based on the books written by keynote speaker, Roland Smith. Mr. Smith has scheduled a half-day visit to York Avenue Elementary School to meet and speak with students in preparation for the Young Authors’ Conference. During this visit he will broaden their background knowledge and vocabulary in the areas of biology, science, geography and writing, as well as use different approaches to engaging students in the writing process.



English – Ninth Grade Students – Kimberly Marzola

Ninth-grade students from Pennbrook Middle School will explore the life and work of William Shakespeare while receiving a better understanding of the function of the English language. Students will also be able to make stronger historical and cultural connections using various collections from the famous author. This program will enhance the study of Shakespeare for every ninth grade student. These Shakespeare excerpts will come alive onstage as one of the best assemblies of the year, allowing students to make a strong connection to their English curriculum.

Health and Physical Education – Middle School Students – Denise Helsel

Adventure Education is part of the curriculum in regular health and physical education classes. It consists of alternatives to the traditional gym class team sports which offer more opportunities for all learners, especially for the adapted physical education students. Street surfing is a new, innovative activity at Pennbrook Middle School that will support the adventure curriculum already in place in NPSD. This activity is similar to skateboarding, but the technique used to ride the board is like surfing. Instructors from “The Wave” will visit all health and PE classes to offer free assemblies to promote their program on street surfing. This activity will improve balance, coordination and focuses on core body fitness, supporting the nationwide goal of developing healthier teens.

English – Ninth Grade Students – Lawrence Fullerton

Ninth grade students from Pennndale Middle School will receive a visit from actors of the Walnut Street Theatre, who will perform excerpts of William Shakespeare’s plays. This play will be presented to 350 students and will allow them to make the connection of reading the plays in English class to seeing them performed live on stage. This will help them to enhance their reading, writing and speaking skills.

Social Studies – Seventh Grade Students – Rob Pecharo

Seventh grade students at Pennndale Middle School will be visited by special guest Wayne Brunt. Mr. Brunt is a former teacher of NPSD and also a Revolutionary War Reenactor who is involved with the First Pennsylvania Regiment of Foot Reenactor group. He will present a Revolutionary War reenactment to the Pennndale seventh grade. His presentation objectives are to provide audio, visual and textual examples of the war to students in an innovative manner that they will not forget. This presentation will take place in both the classroom and in Memorial Park across the street from Pennndale.

Math – Eighth Grade Students – Amy Grecu

Students are now required to know how to use TI-83 graphing calculators before they enter high school. Often ninth grade courses, including Algebra I, also use this type of calculator. In collaboration with the teaching of this tool, students at Pennndale Middle School will be provided with a book of activities that educate students on the graphing calculator that offers real life activities. This book will be extremely helpful in instructing the students on what the calculator is capable of, as well as how to use it.

English as a Secondary Language – ESL Students – Deanne Delp
ESL students from Bridle Path and Kulp elementary schools will discover how their own observances and firsthand experiences can lead to writing. “Write About What You Know” will be their focus as they meet with a writer from The Reporter who will model his/her work and answer questions about what a reporter must do. One a separate day, students will go on a field trip to a grocery store and Merrymeade Farm where they will practice these skills. At the supermarket, they will tour the warehouse, and observe market employees in their different departments such as the florist, the deli and the bakery attaching specific vocabulary to these places, professions and products. Then at the farm, they’ll enjoy a skit on “Johnny Appleseed”, find their way through a cornstalk maze, take a hayride and pick their own pumpkins. Upon returning to school, students will transform their notes into articles that detail their experiences and reinforce the new vocabulary.

Science – Second Grade Students – Cynthia Hilferty

All second grade students throughout the entire North Penn School District will have the unique opportunity to enjoy science stories written and illustrated by a NP teacher. Literature is so important, and is especially beneficial in the content areas. Up to this point, there were not many books in circulation to review science concepts and vocabulary for each unit. Mrs. Hilferty wrote four stories about Higgens the cat, and his owner Bill, based on the following science units: Balancing and Weighing, Changes (Solid, Liquid, Gas), Soils, and Organisms.

Math – Grades 4-6 – Amy Ryan Faga, Carole Lancaster

Students district wide in grades four through six have the ability to participate in the 24 Math Tournament to compete for prizes and glory. This after school competition helps students practice mental math calculations, how to be flexible math problem solvers and how to show good sportsmanship among their peers. Points are earned and tallied to find the top three scorers. It’s fun for the kids and a nice reward for doing well in an after-school academic pursuit.



Social Studies – All Students –

Donna Green, Regina Powell, Kevin Harper

Universal values have been a topic that’s been discussed a lot lately, most recently at the North Penn Community Forum in which Dr. Borba spoke. Students at North Wales Elementary School will have the pleasure of seeing Universal Values posters in each of their classrooms which will aide the teachers in facilitating classroom discussions on these values. The posters will increase the students’ emotional awareness, enhance academic performance by demonstrating and practicing the values taught, as well as improving on both community and home relations.

Art – All Students – Amy Ryan Faga, Betsey Oeschger

Each year, North Wales Elementary School will celebrate and display the most creative and interesting pieces of artwork. By framing and hanging one piece of artwork from each grade level, K-6, the building will be beautified as well as will serve as encouragement for all students’ artistic expression. The choices will be announced and unveiled at the end-of-year Awards Assembly, and will remain on the elementary school walls for the year to follow. This program will inspire the students to think imaginatively and originally in their art projects.

Reading – Kindergarten Students – Christine Heimer, Mary Ann Kerlin

Kindergarten students at Oak Park Elementary School will be provided with a rich literacy experience using prepared backpacks. These back packs will include a book, a cassette tape and a tape player that the child can use by himself or in the company of other family members. Research validates the importance of early literacy experiences in the development of the child’s readiness to learn as well as the importance of the home/school connection in the child’s language acquisition.

Science – Kindergarten Students – Christine Heimer

Kindergarten students at Oak Park Elementary School will learn how to eat nutritious foods in an activity where alfalfa sprouts and mushrooms will be planted to watch their growth. The project will culminate in the assembly and consumption of salads and pizzas using their healthy, home grown vegetables.

Social Studies – All Students – Kelly Cook

All families from Oak Park Elementary School will have access to information on bullying. Thanks to the Safe, Orderly and Caring Effective Schools correlate, Oak Park’s library will be enriched with books, videos, posters and other teaching materials that will educate our students and resources for parents to support their children. This will hopefully provide a clear message that bullying will not be tolerated, and that kindness and empathy are expected.

Reading – All Students – Jennifer Sweeney

Students in all grade levels at Oak Park Elementary School will have the opportunity to be engaged in an innovative assembly named, “YOJO Choose to Read and Ace Your Test”. This program will help students be well prepared, confident and energized to put forth their best effort on standardized tests. Raising the bar for achievement will bring successful results, and will hopefully motivate children to read and always strive to do their best.

Music – All Students – Cathleen Keane

Oak Park Elementary School students will be further exposed this year to music literacy with the use of new pitched and unpitched percussion instruments. In continuing with their program, Music for Little Mozarts, this unique curriculum will challenge the eyes, ears, body and mind of each child at their particular level of development.

Library – All Students – Patricia Koontz

The library at Walton Farm Elementary School will now have various books written by Dr. Michele Borba on the topics ranging from bullying, moral intelligence, friendships among students and how parents can make a difference in their child’s life. All students will be affected by this purchase through the understanding and awareness of their parents and teachers concerning issues that are facing children today.

2006-2007 Mid-Year Approved Grants

Library – Life Skills Students – Patricia Koontz

Life Skills students will be given access to books appropriate to their developmental level, which focus on sensory, language and tactile awareness. These materials will enable these students to be able to participate in, understand and enjoy their experiences with books during their weekly library time. All books purchased can also be used by the Life Skills staff in their classrooms to reinforce the fun and learning from the library.

Various – All Students – Christine Detwiler

In order to help combat bullying in the school, Walton Farm Elementary will purchase the book, “Don’t Laugh at Me” for each classroom in the building. This book, written by Steve Seskin and Allen Shamblyn, helps to show children empathy for others illustrating scenarios such as children being teased for being different. Each teacher will read the story to follow it up with class discussion giving the school the chance to begin the year on the same page.

Music – Orchestra Students – Erica Milbourne

Orchestra students in grades seven through nine at Pennbrook and Pennfield middle schools will be presented with an assembly titled, “Bach 2 Rock”, by violinist Caryn Lin, who will teach about the five stringed electric violin, six stringed electric violin and four stringed electric baritone. Performance techniques and different ensembles for which the instruments can be used will also be explored.

Technology Education – Grades 7-9 – John Benedix

Students at Pennbrook Middle School will develop a better understanding of the attributes of design using the latest graphic communications technology. Individuals will be able to use this equipment for troubleshooting, research and development, invention and innovation. Graphic design technology plays a vital role in how humans communicate and is extremely important that its impact on society and economy be explored.

Math – Grade 8 – Amy Grecu

Eighth grade students at Penndale Middle School will now have access to two sets of books relating to the PSSA math test. These supplemental resources will aide the students mastering typical problems they may encounter on standardized tests. Each question provides the student with a hint to support and direct them towards the completion of the problem. Once these students take the PSSA test, they will hopefully get higher test scores because of these learning tools.

Math – Grade 8 – Amy Grecu

Penndale Middle School students will have access to a program called, “Write Math!” which will help them with the open ended math questions that are part of standardized tests. Writing in content areas has become paramount, so students need to realize that writing is not only required in English class, but in all classes. By using these books on a weekly basis, the students should become more comfortable with the writing prompts on the PSSA tests.

Math – Grade 8 – Amy Grecu

Students enrolled in eighth grade math at Penndale Middle School will enjoy watching videos on subjects such as criminal investigation and magic while learning how these topics relate to mathematics. Teenagers often ask when they will ever use math in “the real world”. These videos will show practical math applications used in such careers as forensics, and detective work and how the best illusion or magic trick has math connections. Math is truly embedded in many professions and other day to day activities.

Family & Consumer Science – Middle School Students – Dorine Rader

Students at Pennfield Middle School will be provided with a “Heart to Heart” program that will benefit them in the areas of mentoring, developing teamwork abilities and other Family & Consumer Science-related skills. This will honor and recognize the contribution of support staff such as custodians, office staff, library and cafeteria aides and nurses. The objective of this program is to help “at risk” kids learn empathy, good decision making and feel as though they have a “safe place” to come one period per cycle.

Guidance – Middle School Students – Ardene Vencius

Adolescent females at Pennfield Middle School will benefit from a program to address a unique form of bullying among girls. Small groups of females from each grade level will meet for six week sessions, which will provide them with the opportunity to talk about relationships and to teach them skills of how to support each other. Each girl will be given a journal.

Science – AP Physics Students – Christopher Young

This year the Advanced Placement physics students at North Penn High School will enter the 2007 Team America Rocketry Challenge. Students will design, construct and fly two model rockets in hopes of winning some of the scholarships and awards that are available. This is a great challenge and is a great cooperative learning experience for students.

Professional Development – All Students – Shirley Bergman, Susan Delp, Toni Butz, Janet Crawford, Janet Roberts, Margaret McCarney

While lesson study has been practiced successfully for years in Japan, it is a new concept here in the United States. Lesson study is a collaborative, professional development model for teachers focusing on planning, observing and revising lessons. Studies have shown improvement in student achievement and increased teacher reflective practices as well as a safe climate for collaboration among teachers.

Enrichment – High School Students – Sally Kauffman, Andrea Roney

For the last several years, Equity Cares/Broadway Fights AIDS Benefit at North Penn High School has displayed two panels of the AIDS quilt. Usually located on the left side of the concourse at the high school, it really delivers a very powerful presentation. This year, they are requesting a specific section of the quilt that was made by our North Penn School District staff. The AIDS quilt will also be on site for the benefit which this organization hosts in February.

Health – High School Students – Sally Kauffman, Barbara Magarity

Each member of the teen pregnant and parenting support group at North Penn High School will receive an early childhood book to read to their child. A book will be given to each member for every month they attend the group meeting. When the student graduates, they will have a small library, and will create a lifelong enjoyment of reading and a way for these teen parents to bond with their child. Students and staff chaperones will also attend a conference giving them the opportunity to visit learning stations featuring many community service agencies that can provide resources for these young parents.

Gifted – Sixth Grade Students – Nancy McCormack, Amy Ryan Faga, Sandra Kopp, Matt Slugg, Melissa Walsh

Sixth grade gifted students from across the district study ancient cultures in social studies, and this year, to coincide with this lesson, the students will have the opportunity to view the contents of King Tut’s tomb at The Philadelphia Franklin Institute. The students will develop their interest in history and learning about another culture, as well as practice good social skills as they interact together on the bus, during lunch and at the exhibit. There is a good chance that these students will be together again when they reach the middle school and high school levels.

Science – First Grade Students – Celeste Allerton, Nancy Kahn, Liz Melville, Kathy Westwood, Maureen Zazyyczny

For several years, Mr. Rick Mikula, known better as “The Butterfly Man,” has given presentations to the first grade science classes at Bridle Path Elementary School as part of the science units on butterflies. The first grade welcomes Mr. Mikula back with his presentation of “Butterfly World,” where he teaches children about one of nature’s most miraculous transformations through accurate demonstrations, stories, geography and pictures. Mr. Mikula is a recognized author, lecturer, photographer and habitat consultant. His knowledge will be an enriching experience for all students.

English as a Secondary Language – Grades K-6 – Laura Reed

English as a Secondary Language, ESL, students from Inglewood Elementary School will attend an Earth Balloon Assembly. The Earth Balloon is a 20-foot inflatable globe that students enter to look at the world from the inside out and make discoveries about how the world works. A geography specialist will bring the Earth Balloon to the school and present the program to the students, focusing on the “whys” of geography. This presentation is both interactive and inquiry-based and is also part of the “Read Around the World” initiative program.

Physical Education – Grades 4-6 – Christine Beltz

Inglewood Elementary School students in grades four though six will participate in the activity, Frisbee Golf, a game that combines the skills needed for playing Ultimate Frisbee with accuracy in throwing. This running and resting activity will work much like interval training and will improve student fitness levels while achieving all five of North Penn School District’s Physical Education standards. In addition to the Frisbee Golf unit, intramural teams will be established in the spring and fall for students to play during recess.

Learning Support – Grades 2-6 –

Ruth Desiderio and Kathleen Lawson

Learning Support students in grades one through six at Inglewood Elementary School will create photojournalistic essays upon photographs that they decide to take in school. Students will plan the location, people and situation of subjects and then will organize the photos into groups to develop a common theme. This activity will help students develop style, focus and organization in thinking and writing.

Enrichment – Fifth Grade Students – Sabrina Milles

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has created an active and enriching curriculum for fifth grade students at Knapp Elementary School that builds the foundation for the cultivation of empathy toward animals and other living beings. This program contains activities that will provide students with a different perspective on the care and treatment of animals in addition to generating an awareness of the negative aspects faced by domestic animals in today’s world. A member of the Humane Educator for Montgomery County will present the programs in a classroom setting based on pet safety awareness, pet overpopulation, the training game, habitat and cruelty to animals and puppy mills. Students will be able to grasp the emotional, psychological and economical impact humane treatment of animals has on society.

Learning Support – Grades 1-3 – Michelle Rand

Montgomery Elementary School Learning Support students will use Franklin Electronic Spellers for various day-to-day activities in the classroom. This will allow the learning disabled students to have greater independence and relief from anxiety, using tools that will help them with reading, pre-writing and writing. These tools will provide a heightened sense of self-esteem in students, improve word recognition and pronunciation of high frequency words and assist with memory, organization and practice by utilizing customizable word lists. These tools will also help students distinguish between common homophones for clarification in early writing and reading, and begin to convert phonetically based writing into better constructed writing passages to prepare students for PSSA testing.

Math – Grades 1-6 – Penny Hardwick, Karen Scioli

This grant supports math tutoring sessions for Oak Park Elementary School students. This innovative project, supported by parent volunteers and staff supervision, will benefit students in grades one through six who show signs of educational gaps in the subject of math. Math materials will be purchased to enhance the learning of basic math facts, measurement skills and number sense. Students will be encouraged to utilize math technology resources on the computers to strengthen their skills while the students would rotate through personal tutoring. Eventually these materials will be used at Oak Park Math Night for Families.

Science – Sixth Grade Students – Linda Roberts

Sixth grade students from Oak Park Elementary School will be introduced to how agriculture affects the every day lives of individuals in the North Penn community using the Penn State Mobile Agriculture Science Lab. This motivating and interactive program meets the agricultural components of the state science standards. The mobile science lab, complete with supplies and a certified teacher, targets students with science experiments designed to emphasize different aspects of Pennsylvania agriculture. Students will work cooperatively to solve agricultural problems as they form hypotheses, collect data and draw conclusions.

Language Arts – Kindergarten Students – Nancy Albacker, Marcy Bachert, Donna Grabner

Approximately 70 kindergarten students and their families from Oak Park Elementary School will be provided with literacy opportunities during four festivals held throughout the year. These festivals will celebrate reading and writing using a variety of mentors, such as high school students, parents, teachers, community members, administrators and Oak Park students. Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to share ideas with each other about reading and writing with their students. Together, the North Penn community will work together to spread the joy of literacy.