ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

NUTLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION

NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL YEAR 2008/2009
ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

NUTLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL YEAR – 2008/2009
# NUTLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### BOARD MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Philip T. Casale, President</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Mr. Angelo Frannicola, Vice President</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Mr. James Kuchta</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Mr. Vincent Moscaritola</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>Mr. Kenneth Reilly</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>Mr. Steve Rogers</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>Mrs. Deborah Russo</td>
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<td>Mr. Walter Sautter</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>Mr. Thomas Sposato</td>
<td>2012</td>
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</tbody>
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### ADMINISTRATORS

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Joseph Zarra</td>
<td>Superintendent of Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mariana Franciosa</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael DeVita</td>
<td>Secretary/Business Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gregory Catrambone</td>
<td>Nutley High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. John Calicchio</td>
<td>John H. Walker Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Lorraine Restel</td>
<td>Lincoln School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael Kearney</td>
<td>Radcliffe School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rosemary Clerico</td>
<td>Spring Garden School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Douglas T. Jones</td>
<td>Washington School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. David Sorensen</td>
<td>Yantacaw School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Paul Palozzola</td>
<td>Director of Special Services</td>
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Members of the Board of Education:

The 2008/2009 school year was a wonderful year for our students, staff, and Board of Education.

Our students realized an exceptional year in special awards:

- Johns Hopkins University Talent Search
- Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars
- National Merit Scholarship Program
- National Hispanic Recognition Program
- 2009 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 2009 AP Scholars with Honors
- 2009 AP Scholar Awards
- Finalist in the Lucerne Dairy Art Competition
- State Award – Invitation to CTY Awards Ceremony
- Mathcounts Competition

A special thank you is in order to faculty and students who participated in the above mentioned activities.

Nutley athletes and musicians also continue to distinguish themselves with awards:

**Athletic Awards:**

- 2008-09 Boys Basketball – NNJIL Sportsmanship Award
- 2008-09 Boys Bowling – NNJIL Sportsmanship Award
  1st Place NNJIL Division B

**Music Awards:**

**Music Department Group Performances**

The Nutley School District was designated one of the Best 100 Districts for Music Education in all of America

- The Jazz Labs A&B performed at the Jazz Concert at “Trumpets” in Montclair
- The Concert Choir performed at Carnegie Hall
- The Concert Band and Orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall
- The Choralettes, Chamber Singers and Concert Choir participated in the outstanding spring musical "The Producers"
- NHS Raider Band won first place trophies at three marching band competitions.
- All North Jersey Region I – Concert Band and Wind Ensemble received a Silver Metal
- Orchestra received 1st place trophy in Music in the Park Competition

Additional positive information pertaining to students proceeding to higher education and the scholarships they received, continues to be revealing and is reflected in the following pages. Please note that 87 percent of students will be going on to higher education and that they have been offered a total of $3,302,983 in scholarship awards. Our graduates continue to attend a diverse array of quality academic institutions throughout the nation.

**Curriculum Development Occurred in the Following Areas:**

- Kindergarten Curriculum Revision
- Language Arts Literacy – Grades 1-4
- Mathematics Curriculum Revision – Grades 7 & 8
- Social Studies – The Modern Middle East Honors Course

**In-services/Workshops Occurred in the Following Areas:**

- Affirmative Action
- I&RS Workshop
- ITIP, Professional Development & EAN Workshop
- Laptops, Notebook Programs and Faculty Web
- Macbook Laptop Cart
- Multimedia Software Workshop
- Web Resources
- Wilson Reading

**The Following Initiatives Continue to be Implemented:**

- No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
- Montclair State University – The New Jersey Network for Educational Renewal
- Seton Hall – Project Acceleration
- Cisco Networking Academy Program-Levels I & II
- C.A.S.T. - Communications Arts & Science Training-Levels I, II &III
- World Languages (Elementary Schools/Seventh Grade)
As we begin the 2009/2010 academic year, our school community can be certain that our excellent staff will continue its commitment to the development of our students.

Joseph Zarra
Superintendent of Schools
REPORT ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS  
CLASS OF 2009  
July 17, 2009

ENROLLMENT................................................................. 325

TOTAL APPLICANTS PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION........... 283

% OF CLASS OF 2009 GOING ON TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION..... 87%

Four-Year College/University........................................ 263 (64.9%)
Two-Year College............................................................ 46 (19.4%)
Other Post-Secondary School.......................................... 11 (3.1%)
Military.............................................................................. 5 (1.2%)
Full-Time Employment.................................................. 22 (7.4%)
Undecided........................................................................ 12 (4%)

REPORT ON SCHOLASTIC AWARDS  
NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT  
CLASS OF 2009

SCHOLARSHIPS $3,302,383
GRANTS 600

$3,302,983

OFFERS ACCEPTED $1,779,465
OFFERS DECLINED 1,523,518

$3,302,983
CONTENTS

NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL REPORT ....................................................... 1 - 66
J.H. WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT ........................................... 67 - 104
LINCOLN SCHOOL REPORT ............................................................. 105 - 125
RADCLIFFE SCHOOL REPORT ........................................................ 126 - 139
SPRING GARDEN SCHOOL REPORT ............................................... 140 - 156
WASHINGTON SCHOOL REPORT .................................................... 157 - 171
YANTACAW SCHOOL REPORT ......................................................... 172 - 184
SPECIAL SERVICES REPORT ........................................................... 185 - 186
STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELORS ........................................... 187 - 209
GIFTED AND TALENTED ............................................................... 210 - 211
SIXTH GRADE TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION .................................. 212 - 215
NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL
CONTENTS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GUIDANCE
BUSINESS AND CREATIVE ARTS
ENGLISH
MATHEMATICS
MUSIC
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES
WORLD LANGUAGES
ATHLETICS
LIBRARY
MEDIA
CIE PROGRAM
SAC COORDINATOR
As the 2008-2009 school year comes to an end, I want to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Zarra, Superintendent of Schools, for his leadership as well as the Nutley Board of Education for their support of our school and our students. Also, our high school administrators, faculty, and support staff must be acknowledged for their dedication and commitment to our students.

As a school, we continue to be committed to our students. We are always mindful of our responsibility to them, their families, and their dreams and aspirations. Our administration and teachers provide a safe and supportive learning environment where students can grow and develop to their fullest potential.

We are very proud of our students and their accomplishments in many areas. They have distinguished themselves in academics, the arts, athletics, student activities, and community service. These accomplishments are a very positive reflection of the great working relationship and partnership that exists between the superintendent, board of education, administration, teachers, staff, parents, and the community. They have all contributed and share in the success of our students.

The year ended on a high note with a graduation program that was viewed by many as a wonderful ceremony that showcased the accomplished type of student we are producing in the Nutley Public Schools. Project Graduation was held at the YMCA-YWCA, Wayne, New Jersey. One hundred and seventy-five students participated and enjoyed an evening of swimming, volleyball, basketball, and a variety of recreational activities.

As this report outlines, each department in our school continues to develop to meet the changing interests and needs of our students, changing trends in education, in our society, and current federal and state mandates. Additionally, we are proud to point out that while teaching and nurturing our students, many of our own staff has been recognized for their own accomplishments in education.

Noteworthy among the many innovations and achievements for this school year are the following:

- Internally, the auditorium was upgraded with a sound and lighting booth. This final phase of the auditorium renovation makes our auditorium a state-of-the-art facility. Additionally, the addition of a new air conditioning system makes the facility a comfortable venue for all musical and school-wide programs.

- Many of our students were honored for their academic and athletic accomplishments. Fifteen students were named Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars, three were named National Merit Commended Scholars, one was named National Merit Semifinalist, two were named National Merit Finalists, one was named a National Hispanic Scholar, six were named AP Scholars, one was named AP Scholar with Distinction, and one was named AP Scholar with Honor. Additionally, our partnership with UMDNJ, Seton Hall, and Montclair State University continues to offer our students and staff outstanding educational opportunities.
Cooperative education and vocational-technical subjects were available in shared-time programs. Job shadowing was offered in conjunction with the School-To-Careers Program.

- SAT scores continue to be a priority at Nutley High School. We address this goal in all of our academic classes as well as SAT prep courses offered during the school year in the evening and zero period, as well as during the summer Princeton Review. A SAT class was offered to juniors and seniors for the 2008-2009 school year. Our SAT scores are consistent with the state and national averages for all percentiles. The seventy-fifth percentile scored 560 in critical reading, 560 in writing, and 560 in math; and the mean score was 492 in critical reading, 494 in writing, and 500 in math.

- In the area of state mandated testing, Nutley High School continues to be a school in hold status. Out of our general student population of three hundred seven, 96.1% passed the Language Arts Literacy and 85.3% passed the Mathematics portion of the HSPA. Out of our total student population of three hundred sixty-five, 84.92% passed the Language Arts Literacy and 73.97% passed the Mathematics portion of the HSPA. An action plan is being developed to address those students in need of remediation. A “zero” period and specific junior math course that meets the HSPA requirements is being designed and will be implemented in the fall. All graduating seniors in the Class of 2009 successfully fulfilled this obligation. Our high expectations have assured that the Class of 2009 has demonstrated mastery of the proficiency standard. Our NJ Pass results show that our sophomores achieved very well in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In the same disciplines, the freshmen scores illustrate positive indicators of our students’ scholastic growth.

- There were 917 athletes competing in forty-six varsity and sub-varsity sports during the year. The Football, Cross Country Team, Boys and Girls Soccer Teams, Girls Tennis Team, Girls Volleyball Team, Boys Bowling Team, Wrestling Team, Baseball and Softball Teams, Track Team and Boys Tennis Team all qualified and competed in the NJSIAA State Tournament, and the Crew team performed on a National level. The Boys Soccer Team and Boys Bowling Team captured NNJIL titles, and the Boys Bowling team captured Essex County and State Sectional titles for their second consecutive year. The wrestling team sent three wrestlers to the State Tournament in Atlantic City and had two place winners as well as two Region 3 Champions, the Track team had numerous county and state qualifiers with Lindsay Ryder winning a State Sectional Title in the Javelin Throw. Tudor Stefan broke the Nutley Soccer goal scoring record with 37, Anthony Damico broke the school record for wrestling wins with 126, and Guiseppe Pappaccio broke the school record for career hits in baseball with 115. We have had various All League, County, and All State recipients. Mr. Gerald Ryan and Ms. Valerie Martin received coach of the year honors in the respective sports and our Bowling Team and Basketball Team won the NNJIL Sportsmanship Award with our Boys teams placing third overall.

Due to our state realignment that was provoked by the NNJIL, particularly NHS, the NNJIL has been dissolved and in the 2009 – 2010 school year NHS will play in the newly formed Super Essex Conference (SEC) of which our Athletic Director, Joe Piro, has been a founding father and will serve on the league’s executive committee.
Our students’ educational experiences have included domestic and international travel. Students have traveled to England, France, and Italy. The high school choirs, concert band, and orchestra performed together at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Our marching band, concert band, jazz band and orchestra and winter guard competed in the tri-state area in numerous competitions and received excellent ratings. The wind ensemble performed in Sydney, Australia last July. The Nutley School District has been rated a Top 100 Music Program district in the United States.

The Class of 2009 has received acceptances from some of the top universities in our nation. Post high school plans: 64.9% four year college; 19.4% two year college; .3% college prep school; 3.3% career education/apprenticeship program; 1.2% military; 7.4% employment; and 3.7% undecided/unknown.

A random drug testing program was conducted by the administration. An average of twenty students per month were screened in the nurse’s office. Our Student Assistance Counselor worked along side of the administration to guide the student and parents with drug rehabilitation and related services if needed.

We continue to stress character education through athletics, student activities, and student service to our school and community. It has become an integral component of our educational program and has expanded greatly this year.

Our activities foster school spirit, encourage participation and pride, teach tolerance, and develop leadership skills. Our activities program include: club and class activities, dances, car washes, fundraising for world, national, state, and local causes, academic competitions, senior citizen programs, special young adults programs, veterans programs, and international student exchanges with Italy and Korea. A special pep rally was held to honor Craig and Samantha Abayo-Campos sponsored by “Dancing With The Stars”, WABC Los Angeles, California. Craig and Samantha were then finalists for the show and eventually won the junior competition. Our Nutley High School pep rally was aired on national television.

Assembly programs and other initiatives continue to address issues of importance for our teenage students. Among the topics selected, dorm fires, alcohol abuse, drugs, tolerance, self-esteem, wellness, melanoma awareness, career/job readiness, and financial literacy education program sponsored by CNBC Television. A “Stayin’ Alive” assembly was designed for freshman and sophomores to address the alcohol and drug issues facing teenagers. Additionally, a “Crash Course in Realty” or crash simulation was held for juniors and seniors with the help of our SAC and town emergency management officials. NY Yankee, Joba Chamberlain, spoke with our students following our “Crash Course in Reality” crash simulation regarding his own experiences with alcohol and drugs on a personal and team level.

Nutley High School is a place where the students are academically involved and accountable, the senior courtyard is welcoming and inviting, school spirit and pride is everywhere, and the teachers and staff care.
# NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Nutley, New Jersey

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<th>STAFF</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Student Assistance Coordinator</td>
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Introduction

According to the National Standards for School Counseling Programs, the purpose of a school counseling program is to promote and enhance the learning process. In this regard, school counselors continuously assess students’ needs, identify obstacles that may hinder student success, and advocate programmatic efforts to eliminate these barriers.

Structure

Counselors facilitate student development in three broad areas: academic, career, and personal/social development. In order to meet these needs, the Nutley High School Guidance Department works with students individually, in groups, and with parents and teachers to assist in meeting graduation requirements and preparing for post-secondary plans. To be successful in meeting these goals, students must proceed in a healthy, positive way, and counselors are relied upon to understand and respond to the challenges presented by today’s diverse student population.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Guidance Department at Nutley High School is to work with individual students and groups of students, directly through the curriculum, alone and together with the whole educational team, to ensure that every student has an opportunity to understand his/her own strengths, needs, and goals; learn about life career options; learn decision-making and planning skills, and develop a plan for his/her next step in life.

Role of the Counselor

The guidance counselor at Nutley High School:

1. Is concerned with the total needs of the pupil (educational, vocational, personal, and social) and encourages the maximum growth and development of each counselee.

2. Informs the counselee of the purpose, goals, techniques, and rules of procedure under which he/she may receive counseling assistance.

3. Refrains from consciously encouraging the counselee’s acceptance of values, lifestyles, plans, decisions, and beliefs that represent only the counselor’s personal orientation.
4. Is responsible for keeping abreast of laws relating to pupils and ensures that the rights of pupils are adequately provided and protected.

5. Makes appropriate referrals when professional assistance can no longer be adequately provided to the counselee. Appropriate referral necessitates knowledge about available resources.

6. Protects the confidentiality of pupil records and releases personal data only according to prescribed laws and school policies. The counselor shall provide an accurate, objective, and appropriately detailed interpretation of pupil information.

7. Protects the confidentiality of information received in the counseling process as specified by law and ethical standards.

8. Informs the appropriate authorities when the counselee’s condition indicates a clear and imminent danger to the counselee or others. This is to be done after careful deliberation and, where possible, after consultation with other professionals.

9. Provides explanations of the nature, purposes, and results of tests in language that is understandable to the student and family.

If students are to be given a responsible chance to fulfill their potential, counselors need to be able to spend time on activities that guide students toward improved self-understanding, better use of their academic talents, and increased knowledge of the options available to them.

The role of the guidance counselor is to help students. Counselors, as members of the overall district educational team, are responsible for helping students make decisions about career, education, and personal life situations. Counselors also see students when other staff members or parents suggest that a student may be having a problem and could benefit from professional assistance. In some cases, counselors initiate actions based on their own professional judgment.

Counselors recognize that students will likely face problems in the future. Therefore, they help students learn problem-solving skills that are of value for current and future problems. Counselors work with other members of the school team as well as the family to enable students to acquire these skills. They are reactive, helping to solve problems as they occur, and proactive, taking action before a problem develops. As a department, we are trying to increase the amount of time we spend on being proactive. We plan to take more initiative to see to it that all students improve their ability to successfully overcome challenges on their own. We will continue to work with other members of the school team, through all facets of the school program and in cooperation with the home, to meet our responsibilities.
Major Guidance Objectives

A. Assist students to:
   1. Progress toward productive and rewarding careers.
   2. Select school courses and activities.
   3. Develop interpersonal relationships.
   4. Develop self-understanding and identities.

B. Assist teachers to:
   1. Understand and work effectively with students and parents.
   2. Participate in helping students attain their guidance objectives.

C. Assist parents to:
   1. Understand their children’s educational progress.
   2. Work effectively with their children’s teachers.
   3. Understand the opportunities available to their children.
   4. Participate in helping their children attain guidance objectives.
   5. Understand and utilize the services of the guidance program.

Counselors’ Duties

Counselors’ duties include but are not limited to:

- Academic advising/scheduling
- Individual and group counseling
- Crisis intervention
- College/career planning
- Social/personal development counseling
- Development and presentation of educational programs for parents and students
- (College Fair, Financial Aid, Freshman Orientation for Students and Parents, College Planning Seminars, Scholastic Awards Program)
- Expansion of programs and services for all students
- Enhancement of Guidance website
- Testing administration and interpretation (PSAT, SAT, HSPA, NJ PASS, AP)
- Consultation with teachers
- Networking with post-secondary schools and businesses
- Functioning as liaison to parents, teachers, support services, outside agencies
Professional Development
Counselors are cognizant of the importance of professional development and have participated in the following during the 2008-09 school year:

Conferences/Workshops/Field Trips
- Workshop - William Paterson University
- Workshop - Fairfield University
- Workshop - Gender-related Needs
- Workshop - Section 504 in NJ
- Workshop - Bergen Community College
- Workshop - Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Workshop - Suicide Prevention - Monmouth University
- Workshop - Centenary College
- Meetings - NJEA Convention
- Information session - The Public Ivies
- Counselor Breakfast - Exploring Colleges
- Conference - College Board at Seton Hall University
- Counselor Information Session - Rider University
- Counselor Information Session - SUNY Binghamton, University of Maryland, Miami University
- Counselor Reception - Hofstra University and Bryant College
- NJ School Counselor Association - Fall Conference, School Counselors and the Law at Oceans Place, Long Branch NJ
- NJ Association of College Admission Counselors - College Admissions - "Doing More With Less"
- NJ Association of College Admission Counselors - Ethical Dilemmas in Today's Counseling Office
- Instant Decision Days at NHS - Kean University, William Paterson University, Caldwell College, Essex County College
- Essex County School Counselor Association Meetings - Berkeley College, Caldwell College, Eastwick Colleges (Hohokus)

College Visits/Tours
College visitations/evening programs: Caldwell College, Monmouth University, University of the Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, Rowan University

Other
Graduate study
Faculty Senate Meetings at NHS
School-to-Careers Committee
Junior/Senior Parents' Meeting
College/Career Fair
Career Speaker Program
Freshman Parents' Meeting
Financial Aid Seminar
Standardized testing
ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)
Freshman Orientation, Class of 2013
Board of Education Academic Awards Presentations
Senior Scholastic Awards Program and reception
Guidance Website Development and Maintenance
Naviance – Guidance Information Management System
Planning Your Future – Power Point Presentation, college admission process
Newsletter – five issues
Supervisor – Full year – Guidance intern, Montclair State University

NAVIANECE

The Guidance Department expanded the use of Naviance, an internet-based student information system. In addition to its use as a college search tool, counselors introduced students to a new career and personality assessment module, “Do What You Are.” The information gathered will be used to assist with career and college planning.

Distinctions – Class of 2009

➢ College Board National Merit Scholarship Program:
  • Finalists: 2
  • Semifinalist: 1
  • Commended Students: 3

➢ College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program: Scholars: 1

➢ College Board National Merit Program Special Scholarship Corporate Sponsor:
  • Estee and Joseph Lauder Scholarship: Finalist: 1

➢ College Board National Merit Scholarship: Pfizer, Inc.: Finalist: 1

➢ College Board Advanced Placement Scholars with Distinction: 2
➢ College Board Advanced Placement Scholars with Honor: 1
➢ College Board Advanced Placement Scholars: 6

➢ Garden State Scholarship Program
  • Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars: 15
The following activities summary/highlights of the Academic Year, 2008-2009 are being submitted for your review.

1. **STAFF WORKSHOPS - DEVELOPMENT DAYS - PROFESSIONAL VISITATIONS**

   Various members of this department were involved in workshops and professional day visitations, including, but not limited to: College Board Studio Art AP Conference, Art Educators of New Jersey Annual Conference, Mayco Ceramic Workshop, Cisco Network Academy Professional Development, BetterPhoto.com, (YTTW) Stage Technicians Consortium Meetings, 23rd Annual NJTEA Conference & Expo 2009, NJ Educational Computer Cooperative Workshop, NJTEA Alternate Energy Workshop, ECELE Annual Conference, and PhotoPlus Expo. Staff also furthered their education by attending classes at local post-secondary institutions such as: Caldwell College, Kean University, Saint Peters College, NJCU, and Mercer County Community College.

2. **FIELD TRIPS**

   Classes and clubs visited various sites this year including Disney World, The Ceramic Supply Co. in Lodi, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Guggenheim Museum, New York Metropolitan Museum, the Nutley Public Library, New Jersey Sportsman’s Show as well as local Post Secondary Institutions such as NJIT and Stevens Tech.
3. GUEST SPEAKERS

Trade and Technical schools such as Ringling School of Art & Design, The New York Art Institute, Full Sail University, New Hampshire School of Art, Lincoln Technical Institute, Engine City Technical Institute, Gibbs College, and the Stage Technicians Union sent representatives to speak to our students about their school and careers in related fields.

Representatives from Rider College and MSNBC spoke to our TV and Broadcasting students.

Mr. Christadore brought in many speakers from various fields including but not limited to: County prosecutor’s office, CPA firms, and sports marketing corporations.

Former students currently attending various Colleges and Universities, members of the Armed Services, leaders in local industry, and staff members returned to speak to our students about their post High School experiences, careers, and/or hobbies.

Mr. Peter Busacca, YTTW Grant Coordinator, spoke to our Technology and Work Study classes about opportunities available in the stage technician trades.

4. SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The staff participated in the following school and community service projects: served as members of the Faculty Senate (High School), Principal’s Advisory Committee (Middle School), member of the Vocational and School-to-Work Advisory Committee, Coordinator – Intervention & Referral Services, Class Advisors for Senior and Junior Classes, Head Coach Boys and Girls Varsity and JV Bowling Teams, designed and produced Awards Certificates for various School Departments, Art Club Advisor at High School and Middle School, Photography Club Advisor, Video Production Club Advisor, 4-H Hopefuls Club Advisor, Project Wisdom Coordinator, Invest It Club Advisor, and It’s MY Business Club Advisor.

The Business and Creative Arts Department and its student population produced numerous school visuals (Webcasts, Public Service Announcements, bulletin boards, administrative signs, program covers, business cards, assemblies banners, spirit week banners, yearbook, honor society book, etc.), town visuals (festivals, parades, etc.), various pieces of art work, Fundraisers, yearbook pictures, taught in Nutley’s C.A.T. program, Let’s Learn, and produced Arts Fest "09" both at the High School, Middle School, and Nutley Public Library.

Our Digital Photography students produced a Senior Class Videography DVD featuring many senior activities and sports which will be shown during yearbook signing party. Digital Photography II worked with students from Radcliffe School to produced flip page
picture books featuring student images which can be interchanged.

The Culinary Staff and students catered many activities for both the school and community including but not limited to: Annual Staff Bar-B-Q, Career Advisory Council Luncheons, Senior Prom for Senior Citizens, Breakfasts for distinguished visitors to the school, dinners for numerous club/class activities, etc.

5. AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

Students from the Creative Arts Department were the recipients of numerous awards including Annual Rotary Art Competition, Representative Bill Pascrell's U.S. House of Representatives “An Artistic Discovery” Art Competition, Nutley Chamber of Commerce 5K Fun Run race logo, and finalist in the Lucerne Dairy Art Competition.

Scholarships were awarded in varying amounts to our Art students from many institutions.

Scholarships were also awarded in varying amounts to students in the Trade and Technical Program including Gisela Widersich Academic Booster Club, UNICO, Israel & Celia Sonenshein Memorial Award, and Nutley Rotary.

6. STAFF

At the High School the Creative Arts Department is composed of one Department Coordinator (Mechanical Drawing, Residential Architectural Design, Civil Architectural Design, and Senior Architectural Design), two Culinary Arts instructors (Culinary Arts, Adv Culinary Arts, Culinary Arts IS), three Art instructors (Art Fundamentals, Art I, II, Advanced, AP Studio Art), two Photography instructors (Digital Photography I, Advanced Digital Photography) and two Technology instructors (Woodworking, Carpentry, Furniture Fabrication, Metalworking, Metal Fabrication, and Advanced Metalworking, Electricity, Electronics, and Advanced Electronics).


We have one staff member teaching our CISCO sequence (IT Essentials, Cisco I, and Cisco II) and one staff member teaching our Broadcasting sequence (Radio/TV Broadcast Technology I, Radio/TV Broadcast Technology II, and Radio/TV Broadcast Technology III).
At John Walker Middle School the Creative Arts Department consists of one Art Instructor (7th Grade Fine Arts and 8th Grade Advanced Art), one Technology Teacher (Intro to Technology, and Principles of Technology), and one full time and two part time Business Staff (Keyboarding, Word Processing, and Internet Safety).

Mrs. Arlene Orenstein will be retiring this year after 16 years of dedicated service to the Nutley School System. Mrs. Orenstein has demonstrated true professionalism throughout her tenure in Nutley, instilling not only keen business skills in her students but a true sense of pride in all that they do. Mrs. Orenstein will be missed by both students and staff.

The High School Art Department was responsible for one student teacher from Montclair State University.

The Middle School Art Department was responsible for one student teacher from Montclair State University.

Staff member Mrs. Hillary Hill-Trovato was honored for her art at the Warren County Art Exhibit.

7. **GOAL(S) SHORT TERM**

During the 2006-2007 school year the Culinary Arts Curriculum was reviewed and revised. During the 2007-2008 school year the Fine Art and Technology Curriculum was reviewed and revised. The current Business Education Curriculum has not been reviewed since 1999-2000 school year. A Curriculum Revision Committee should be formed this coming year to update and align our curriculum with current NJCCCS.

This is the first year that we have implemented the Simple Assessment for student technology literacy in our 8th grade Keyboarding classes. The results should be reviewed to be sure that this evaluation tool is the correct one for the Nutley School System. It is my understanding that some form of testing will become a requirement in the very near future.

The Business Education Department will be offering a new course next year entitled International Business Practice Firm. We will not only be working with local business but other schools from around the country. It is very important that this class have a smooth and successful start.

Digital photography is currently one of the most popular course offerings in the school. New equipment, in particular digital cameras, is needed to afford each student the opportunity to fully experience all this course has to offer.
8. GOAL(S) LONG RANGE

To increase student (male and female) awareness, interest, and enrollment in Business and Creative Arts Courses at the High School level in particular Cisco and Mechanical Drawing classes.

With the addition of Technology Classes at the Middle School it is imperative that time be set aside for inter-school department meetings in order to successfully coordinate course offerings. Inter-school department meetings would benefit all areas within the Business and Creative Arts Department.

It is imperative that we continue to monitor our curriculum in order to remain consistent with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

8. NOTEWORTHY

Mrs. Hrubash continued to refine her new course, Internet Safety, at Walker Middle School and produced numerous Public Service Announcements.

Solid Works was successfully integrated into our Technical Design classes.

New computers were installed in rooms A127 and 211.

Mr. Daniel Wormann, Cisco instructor, left us mid-year for a position in his hometown of Piscataway. We were very fortunate to fill this position quickly with Mr. Vance Campbell, who comes to us from the Roselle School System. Mr. Campbell has proven to be a very knowledgeable and competent Cisco Instructor, and, quickly established a very good rapport with his students. Mr. Campbell has also taken a position on our Intervention & Referral Services Committee.

9. CONCERNS

Of immediate concern is finding a certified Business Teacher to replace Mrs. Arlene Orenstein.

Maintenance of Woods/Metals area by staff members on a daily and weekly basis is needed in order to protect and preserve our very expensive equipment and to insure student safety.
Our Business Education Curriculum is nine years old. As previously stated, it needs to be reviewed and revised.

We had the unpleasant situation this year of one of our staff members being ill and unable to continue her teaching duties throughout the entire school year. This proved to be a very trying situation. Fortunately one of our permanent subs, Mrs. Susan Baker, stepped in and succeeded in providing our students a truly sound and rewarding artistic education. At the time of the staff member's unfortunate illness we also had a student teacher under our wing. The entire Art staff along with Mrs. Baker helped to provide this aspiring teacher the best possible experience under the situation. It should also be noted that after her student teaching experience was completed, Mrs. Marie Cooper stepped in and assisted with a smooth transition to Mrs. Baker.

10. MADELINE HUNTER

The entire Creative Arts Staff is maintaining their commitment and dedication to the Madeline Hunter Teaching Methodology and the "Total Teaching Art".

11. ARTS FEST "2009"

On May 14, 2009 the Creative Arts Department set-up and displayed hundreds of examples of our student's creative, talented works. The display has returned to the High School for the first time since 2003 and was set up in the School Lobby. The Arts Fest was open during the evening hours immediately before the annual Music Festival to afford parents and the community an opportunity to attend this wonderful exhibit. Students from Walker Middle School visited after school hours. Our staff stayed in order to accommodate these young future artists. Enthusiasm by the participants, staff, and visitors was evident. Attendance by both parents and students in the evening was encouraging. This proved to be a very rewarding experience for both the staff and student exhibitors. Anyone who missed this exhibit truly missed a wonderful presentation. Hopefully next year we can arrange for the Elementary Schools to visit. I suggest that next year the show day and hours be expanded and coordinated with the Elementary Schools and transportation department to afford the 6th students the opportunity to view our displays. This would not only increase our exposure but also serve as a feeder for our program.
2009 Annual Report

To: Mr. Gregory Catrambone, Principal of Nutley High School

From: Ms. Cyndi DeBonis, Coordinator of Language Arts

I. Testing

Student preparation for the High School Proficiency Assessment is a priority of the English Department. Students on each grade level completed assignments that were developed to reinforce and strengthen the skills that students need to perform well on the HSPA.

There were 307 general education students who took the HSPA in March 2009. Our passing score was 96.1%.

The NJ PASS was administered to ninth and tenth grade students in March. Students who are considered to be “at risk” for passing the HSPA will be placed in basic skills classes.

Students are also given materials that relate to the SAT and PSAT and correlate with daily instruction in literature, grammar, and writing.

II. Curriculum

A. The use of technology in the classroom is continually increasing as students use the Internet as a tool for research. The research projects required for course study are designed to enhance and develop the necessary skills students will need to be successful in accomplishing these tasks. In addition, web quests, Internet scavenger hunts, and power point presentations are just a few examples of the ways in which the writing lab has enhanced student learning. The computer continues to be a strong tool for student writing.
B. Literature Requirements

Students are required to read a fiction or non-fiction book each marking period as part of the supplemental reading program. Literary circles have been successful in enhancing independent reading. Students are given a summer reading list and asked to read three books during their vacation. Students are asked to demonstrate their knowledge of these books when they return in September.

C. Basic Skills Reading/Writing

There were nine classes of basic skills reading and writing classes this year. Classes were comprised of students that did not pass the NJ ASK as eighth graders in the spring of 2008, and ninth and tenth grade students who did not pass the TerraNova administered to all freshmen and sophomores. Students entering our school who had not taken the NJ ASK and who had not met the standard in the testing at their former school were also placed in the basic skills class.

Students either take a final exam for this course or complete a final writing project, which gives the students an opportunity to select, revise, and edit their favorite piece of writing for a class publication. This end of the year project enables students to see their work in print and to share their work with students in the entire basic skills program.

III. English Electives

A. Journalism Program

Seven issues of the school newspaper, The Maroon and Gray, ranging from 4 to 16 pages, were produced. All issues were written and prepared in class, using In Design for desktop publishing, Photoshop, and other peripheral programs, including scanning and special graphics software. Photography was either digital or scanned photos, all taken and processed by students. All issues were sent, camera-ready, to an outside printer and distributed in homeroom by the students.

Journalism I students learned the principles of journalistic writing, layout and design and computer operation, along with software applications.
The text *Scholastic Journalism*, English & Hach was supplemented with *The Star Ledger, Nutley Sun*, and other regional publications. Newspaper Writing I and II students designed and executed pages for all departments of the newspaper.

B. Creative Writing

The major objective of this course is to have students develop a sense of trust and respect for each other to facilitate presentation and criticism of writing. A variety of strategies for planning and revising work are explored. Ultimately, this course promotes growth in writing and encourages students to develop a willingness to experiment with form and subject.

C. Public Speaking

This course is designed to promote the art of public speaking and to offer the students a forum for a variety of public speaking activities. Many projects give students an opportunity to create speeches as well as explore famous speeches for content and delivery. Students are given a rubric to follow that enables them to monitor their progress throughout the year.

IV. Writing Contests

Students are encouraged by their teachers to enter contests that are offered by community and educational organizations.

V. Staff Development

Several staff members attended workshops and seminars during the 2008-2009 school year and shared information and new ideas with members of the department. Teachers that taught Inclusion classes attended a two-day workshop with their in-class support teachers at Montclair State University relating to various techniques recommended for Inclusion instruction.
Hannah Hungler organized and conducted a trip to London in February 2009 that explored the architecture, history, and literature of Great Britain.

Cheryl Rossillo contributed greatly to the AP Humanities course by conducting field trips to The Cloisters and St. John the Divine Cathedral, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center for the opera La Bohème, the ballet The Nutcracker, and a concert of the New York Philharmonic all located in New York City. She is the Drama Club Advisor that produced the play Arsenic and Old Lace that was presented on June 5th and 6th 2009. The production was excellent and focused on characterization under the direction of student leadership. Mrs. Rossillo continues to serve as the leader of the Nutley High School Faculty Senate. This body of staff members meets regularly and their efforts to discuss a variety of school issues are greatly appreciated.

Marilyn Testa continued with a second year of the Future Educators Association. A number of projects were accomplished including regular meetings, fundraisers, field trips, a book drive, Toys for Tots book collection, Project Help, By-Laws Reorganization, and an end of the year dinner. This club is especially important for students that will be entering the teaching profession. The field trip to Montclair State University regarding teaching as a career was inspiring and gave the students a better understanding of the expectations of the teaching requirements.

Dennis Sasso continues his annual trip for English IV students to St. John the Divine Cathedral and The Cloisters in New York City. This trip inspires students to appreciate the artwork and culture relating to our English curriculum.

Hannah Hungler and Jennifer Sabatelli produced another all-color yearbook at Nutley High School. The students were enthusiastic and worked diligently under their direction and guidance.

VI. Book Management

Books are stored in two bookrooms in the old wing of the third floor. An inventory list is compiled and given to each teacher in September. This list contains the titles of books available, where they are stored, and the cost.
The department's secretary distributes and collects books from teachers' classrooms, keeping an accurate total of books requisitioned for classroom use at all times.

VII. Concerns for the Future

Class size is still an issue at Nutley High School. The need for additional teachers in the English Department is imperative particularly in regards to the instruction of the writing process.

The creation of the drama/acting elective that was done last year will be implemented in the 2009-2010 school year.

Revision of the research projects in English II, III, and IV is a concern with the teachers making research a priority and providing some variation to these projects.

Continued emphasis on the skills needed for success on the HSPA and SAT is a top priority.

Professional development that relates to the course of study and student learning remains a concern for the department. This may be realized when the school based professional development committees meet next year.

Revision of the entire English curriculum grades 9-12 needs to be addressed.

Each classroom on the third floor needs to be equipped with LCD projectors and interactive whiteboards. This will enhance student learning and give the students' an opportunity to create projects that involve multimedia presentations. A variety of activities such as maintaining a classroom Web site, participating in online communities, and writing projects using the LCD would be extremely beneficial.

The English department is currently working on grammar packets to be used in freshman, sophomore, and junior classes starting in September 2009. The addition of grammar skills on the SAT makes it imperative to address these skills on a regular basis.
TO: Mr. Gregory Catrambone  
FROM: Toby D’Ambola  
Subject: Annual Report – Mathematics Department, High School  
Date: June 5, 2009

I. Staff

A. Departmental statistics indicate that twelve teachers taught a total of 63 class sections. This included 18 regular subjects in addition to classes in the Basic Skills Improvement Program. As of May 2008, the average class size was 21.6 in the regular classes, which represented an increase from last year’s average class size of 20.4, and there was an average of 18 students in the basic skills classes.

B. This year there were no new teachers added to the mathematics department.

II. Testing

A. The math portion of the High School Proficiency Assessment was administered on March 5th. A preparation program, implemented in early September, was carefully designed to provide practice in solving HSPA type problems and to familiarize students with the actual test format. Teacher prepared materials, publisher workbooks, and a practice test given to us by the State of New Jersey, were used to supplement the curriculum. This year an extra effort was made to reach those juniors who were in freshman and sophomore math classes. Those juniors who were not successful on the March assessment will have to attend a zero period remediation class in their senior year. This class is designed to reinforce those areas our students are still having difficulties with and prepare them to be successful on the retest of this assessment in October. Once the retest is completed, all students will begin the SRA process, which must be completed by March 31st and be submitted to the county superintendent’s office.

B. This year the NJ Pass assessment was administered to all ninth and tenth graders from March 3rd to March 6th in order to satisfy standardized testing requirements mandated by the state. Results of these tests will be used to identify students who are at risk of failing the eleventh grade HSPA. Students who fall below the MLP for mathematics will be placed in a remediation program. In addition, results will also be used to test students out of the Basic Skills improvement program. This year we had one Basic Skills 10 and one Basic Skills 11 class.
C. This year we continued to provide a zero period remediation class for those seniors who failed the HSPA in March 2008. Ms. Martin, Mrs. Drexler and Ms. Mabel were the instructors and did an excellent job in preparing our students to retake the state assessment, which was given during the week of September 29th. The enrollment in this year’s class was 37 seniors; this was slightly higher than last year’s enrollment of 35 students. Based on the retest results, it indicated that 24 of the 37 seniors tested were successful. The remaining 13 seniors continued to attend the zero period remediation class until they completed the student review assessment (SRA) process at the end of March. Since all SRA’s projects submitted to the Essex County Department of Education were approved, these seniors will now be allowed to graduate with their class on June 24th.

D. In May the advanced placement test was administered to students in the AP Calculus and AP Statistics classes. Student results for this exam are normally reported in July and those students who scored a three or higher may receive credits towards their college degree.

III. INSTRUCTION

A. The resource center continues to function as an important part of the mathematics program. Each period of the day, a math teacher provides individualized instruction for those students who are in need of help to improve their understanding of the concepts of mathematics.

B. In order to implement current recommendations for increased use of calculator technology in the classroom, and to satisfy state requirements concerning the use of calculators on the grade 11 HSPA, 100 additional Casio 300 MS scientific calculators were purchased this year. Calculators this year were not distributed to all students but instead each instructor had a set of calculators to be used in the classroom as a tool for problem solving and also to properly prepare students for the HSPA. Graphing calculators were available to all students in our AP Calculus, PreCalculus, Advanced Math and Accelerated Algebra II classes. At the request of Seton Hall University, calculators were not issued to students in the Calculus Honors class.

This year Casio provided the math staff at the high school a training program on how to use their Slim Cam Graphing calculator. Faculty members were then assigned to create one calculator related lesson each month. Casio, in return, donated 30 graphing and 300 scientific calculators to our school.

C. The math resource room this year was shared by a work-study group of students during period two and a special education class in mathematics during period 6.
D. The SAT preparation program continues to serve our students preparing to enter college. Jessica Mabel conducted eight evening sessions in mathematics during the fall semester from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. More than 40 students planning to take either the PSAT or SAT in the fall attended this class. A similar program was conducted during the spring semester for approximately 50 students preparing to take the spring SAT. A second SAT prep class was offered during the zero period for a 9-week period in both the fall and spring. Seniors attended the fall semester whereas the spring enrollment was made up of juniors. Tests from previous years were used in both the morning and evening sessions to provide practice and acquaint students with key concepts as well as the format of the actual test.

Once again, a mini SAT review course was implemented in our Selected Topics course to prepare students for the SAT. A videocassette program entitled, “The SAT Edge”, was used in the classroom in order to enhance lessons, help alleviate test anxiety, and acquaint students with the test format.

Results reported in September for the prior year showed that 89% of the class 2008 took the SAT and showed a mean mathematics score of 500. This score compares to 516 for the class of 2007 and 531 for the class of 2006. The current state average for this test is 505. More importantly the top 75% of the graduating class, those students who will most likely attend a 4-year college, had a mean score of 560.

E. This year we did not have any student teachers or college practicum students.

IV. FIELD TRIPS

On November 1st, Mr. D'Ambola took a group of 20 students to NJIT for its annual “Engineering Career Day”. This program is designed to give high school students, especially juniors and seniors, an opportunity to explore options in six diverse engineering fields. Students met with faculty and currently enrolled engineering students. The students who attended this program felt it was productive and informing.

V. MATHEMATICS CONTESTS

The Math Club, sponsored by Leann Martin, met monthly to conduct contests and discuss problem-solving strategies. Students participated in six contests during the year sponsored by the New Jersey Math League. The contest involved approximately 60 students from all grade levels competing with other schools throughout the state.
This year the mathematics department celebrated Pi day on March 13. Posters, which were made in class, were placed in the math hallway and activities relating to pi took place in the math classrooms.

On May 27th, students from the following math subject areas: Algebra I and II, Geometry, Pre Calculus, Statistics and Calculus, participated in the annual Essex County Math League contest. Our Geometry team took third place and all teams placed fifth out of fifteen participating schools.

VI. WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, AND OTHER VISITATIONS

The following is a list of seminars and workshops that were attended by members of the math department:

Toby D’Ambola attended four math supervisor round tables.

Toby D’Ambola made a presentation at the annual AMTNJ conference held in October.

Jon Olsen attended the AMTNJ conference in October.

All members of the math department attended a workshop on graphing calculators held by Casio.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL GOALS FOR 2009 – 2010

A. Continue expanding the use of computers and scientific and graphic calculators in the classroom. Continue to train teachers in the use of computers as a tool for enhancing lessons and also in the use of the Internet in the mathematics classroom.

B. Continue to group students according to grade level in basic skills so that we may better meet the needs of these students. Also carefully monitor the Pre Algebra curriculum to make sure it meets state-mandated requirements.

C. Continue to review the secondary mathematics curriculum with regard to updating course content and textbook materials to more closely align them with the NJ Core Curriculum Content standards and state testing. This should be done in our Algebra I, Plane Geometry and Algebra II at the high school.

D. Continue to monitor the “Math Analysis” course to make sure it provides our students with a strong background in mathematics.
E. Continue to incorporate open-ended questions into our regular classroom activities and to include these types of questions on class tests and final exams.

F. Continue to monitor those juniors who take Basic Algebra 1, Basic Geometry or Basic Algebra II and offer remediation to those students who we feel may be in jeopardy of failing the H.S.P.A.

G. Continue to monitor the B.C. Calculus course, which will be in its second year.

H. Continue to work with the special education teachers who will be assisting our regular math staff in the math inclusion classes.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Gregory Catrambone, Principal of Nutley High School

From: John Vitkovsky, Coordinator of Music

Re: Principal’s Report for the 2008 - 2009 School Year

The following are activities of the 2008 - 2009 school year, present concerns, and recommendations that are being submitted for your review and consideration.

ACTIVITIES

1. This year enrollment in Concert Band, Concert Choir, Choralettes, Chamber Singers, Orchestra, Jazz Lab A and B, and Fundamentals of Music I and II remained the same. I am pleased to announce that the string section of next year’s orchestra will double in size.

2. In the Fall, the Raider Marching Band participated in four competitions, the Herald-News Band Festival, all home and away football games, and at the three town parades: Columbus Day, St. Patrick’s and Memorial Day. The NHS Raider Band won first place trophies at three marching band competitions this year. The highlight of the year was the superb performance of the Concert Band and Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. At the All North Jersey Region I Concert Band Competition, which the NHS Music Department hosted, the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble earned a Silver Medal. Two of our students received the Most Outstanding Solo Performance Medal. At the Music In The Parks Competition, the Orchestra received a first place trophy in the Concert Band Division and a first place trophy for the best Concert Band Overall.

3. It was a fantastic year for the Orchestra. The Orchestra students worked very hard all year long and their efforts were rewarded with awesome performances at the NHS Yuletide Concert, the Spring Music Festival, and the Music In The Parks Competition in Lakewood, NJ. At this competition, the Orchestra received a first place trophy in the Orchestra Division and a first place trophy for the best Orchestra Overall. Continuing a long-standing tradition, the Orchestra and Band will jointly perform at the June 24th NHS Graduation.

4. The Choralettes had an excellent year, which included the following performances: Nutley Rotary Club, the Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony, the NHS Yuletide Concert, the December concert at St. Mary’s, the April performance at Carnegie Hall, and the NHS Spring Choral Music Festival. On May 29th, the Choralettes and Concert Choir will compete at the Music In The Parks Competition held at Six Flags Great Adventure.
5. Jazz Labs A and B performed at the NHS Open House, the Music Boosters Beefsteak Dinner, the Parkside Senior Center, the NHS Spring Music Festival, and at the Essex County School Boards May Meeting. Both Jazz Labs and the Jazz Band performed at the NHS Yuletide Concert, the Freshmen Orientation, the Music Boosters Café Night, and the Jazz Concert at *Trumpets Jazz Club* in Montclair, NJ.

6. The Concert Choir’s enrollment remained at 117 members. This group gave superior performances at the Mayor’s Tree Lighting, the NHS Yuletide Concert, the December Benefit Concert at St. Mary’s, the NHS Spring Choral Music Festival, and the NHS Graduation. On April 9th, the Concert Choir was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, NYC. It was the tenth time the Concert Choir has performed at that prestigious hall. This time, Mr. Cundari conducted the combined NHS Concert Choir and NHS Chamber Singers in an outstanding performance of Mozart’s *Requiem Mass*. Two Concert Choir students have been selected (by audition) to the 2009 N.J. All State Chorus which will perform at the November 2009 NJEA Convention and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

7. The NHS Chamber Singers had an exceptional year. For a third year, this vocal group was scheduled as a class. This permitted the students enough rehearsal time to participate in all of the performances mentioned above with the Concert Choir as well as to perform separately.

8. Professional Days: Mr. Vitkovsky and Mr. Maiello attended (during February Break) the New Jersey Music Educators Convention/Workshop in New Brunswick. In January, Mr. Vitkovsky took part in the Music Technology Workshop given by Dr. James Frankel at the Morris County Museum. Mr. Maiello attended the December Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic that was held in Chicago.

9. Spring Musical: A large group of students from the Choralettes, Chamber Singers, and Concert Choir participated in the awesome Spring Musical, *The Producers*. The musical was so spectacular it has been nominated for twelve Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards. This performance was made possible by Mr. Cundari, Ms. San Giovanni, Mr. Wdowiak, and their students dedicating many hours of practice after school, on weekends, and during school vacations.

10. Music Boosters Café Night: Twelve instrumental groups were featured. This performance was made possible by the students and staff volunteering to rehearse many hours for this event both before and after school.
11. Winter Guard: Once again our "Guard" was placed in a very competitive division. Ms. Aurilla Card and her students worked very hard to produce and execute a challenging routine. Unfortunately, they did not receive the scores from the judges that they truly deserved.

12. For a second year in a row, the Nutley School District was designated one of the Best 100 Districts for Music Education in all of America. Only ten other schools districts in New Jersey received this honor. I am convinced we were selected for this honor because of the outstanding team we have in Nutley: the best Music Faculty, the best Administration, the best Board of Education, the best Music Students, and the best support from Parents through the Music Boosters and Friends of Nutley Singers.

CONCERNS

1. There is a dire need for a full-time string teacher in the district. This teacher will be shared by the five elementary schools, Walker Middle, and Nutley High. This specialist will enable our string students to succeed more rapidly on their beautiful, but difficult to learn instruments.

2. Shelves need to be built along the walls in Room 104 so trophies and awards can be stored more efficiently.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Hire a badly needed string specialist for the elementary schools and secondary schools.

2. Build wooden shelves along the walls in Room 104 (the Band/Orchestra Room).
The Physical Education and Health Department has endured a few hardships this past year.

**Bleachers** – are always a point of consternation. Bleachers have to be pushed back after a night time activity. Bleachers are broken, cannot be pushed back, causing a safety issue in the gym. Overflow of students during a regular class, they have no where to sit, since one cannot sit on top of the bleachers, this causes many problems for the physical education teacher. Students are now in the way of an activity. Mr. Piro has been on our case whenever he sees someone sitting on top of the bleachers. This is not a practical solution, where do the students sit during a physical education class while the activity is going on?

**Remote Bleachers** – have been not working properly all year, either they cannot be pulled out completely or they don’t go back in completely. On February 25, we had an Army Presentation, could not get the bleachers to work. Have sent out many work orders regarding this problem.

**Lock Check Days** – lock check days were initiated after a boy had some money stolen out of the boys locker room. Students must show their teachers the locks that they are using. I also rented some locks out to students for a $5.00 rental fee, which will be given back once the lock has been turned in. Miss Kowalski had some locks saved from last year’s seniors that she had given to some of the students. The department would like to hand out locks to students, but we don’t have the funds for that to occur. Locks would be returned year after year.

**Gym Attire** – students are wearing their regular clothes instead of changing for physical education. If they wear sweats to school, they think they can use those clothes instead of
changing. We would like to go back to a “gym suit” of some kind, so that students do change for physical education. Will look cleaner and sharper.

**Lockers for boys** – major lack of communication when the boys had gotten some used lockers, then they were moved to another site, we do have some “used” lockers. Are we getting any more? Boys locker room needs to be remodeled.

**March** – two teaching areas were lost, due to the water damage in the weight room.
- constant need of coordination between the teachers who were not quite happy with the situation.
- Weight room was temporarily moved upstairs into the small gym. For three weeks, students had an elective program, only one half of the small gym was used for badminton.

**Physical Education Curriculum** – remains the same, need revise to meet the state and national standards. Need to hire a dance instructor. Volleyball tournament continues to be as popular as ever. Mr. Puzio and I had a “dodge ball contest” after school on June 3, 2009, eight students on a team, all boys no girls, approximately 100 students were in the gym that day, participants and observers. Basketball is gaining in popularity especially after school, students are always in the gym.

**Security** – over a dozen basketballs have been taken from our equipment rooms, this is of major concern. This is not acceptable, boys team basketball have been taken as well. Need better storage, anyone and everyone comes into the main gym storage room.

**Driver Education** – Mr. Mitschow continues to do extra work, overseeing the retakes of the state test. This continues for every marking period. Retakes are done after school or early in the morning. Mrs. Romaglia and I oversee the special needs testing for those students who need the extra help. This continues to be a part of their IEP record.

**Health** – this is the last year where the health and physical education grade is combined. The senior class is the last class. All other classes will have a separate grade for health and physical education.

**Dividing Curtains** – doors must be cut into the plastic curtains, for monitoring of students and safety issues.

**Weight Room** – Safety issues in the weight room; too many broken bikes, bikes that don’t work, elliptical machines need to be thrown away; equipment pieces are too close to each other. Having a class downstairs is not safe, for students and teachers.
To: Mr. Gregory Catrambone  
From: Mr. Michael Fetherman  
Re: Principal’s Report for the 2008-2009 Academic Year  
Date: June 1, 2009

The 2008-09 academic year was a great success, as members of the Nutley High School Science Department thrilled and inspired our students with their knowledgeable, enthusiastic, creative and compassionate instruction. With Kent Bania helping steer the group as our newly appointed Lead Teacher, an energized and refocused team provided a second-to-none level of instruction. Departmental statistics indicate that 13 dynamic teachers taught 18 different course selections offered within a balanced framework of entry-level, college prep and advanced placement options. Our diverse population of learners from all abilities had the opportunity to select courses germane to their interests in preparation for the next chapter in their young adult lives.

Highlighted by what has become an annual event, the pilgrimage to Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center, located within New Jersey’s first Marine Conservation Zone, just off Island Beach State Park, kicked off our busy fall schedule. Students enrolled in Mr. Bania’s AP Biology class explored both the natural and cultural history of the region using hands-on methods that included marsh walks, kayak tours, and conventional fishing, crabbing, and clamming techniques. Further investigation of the marine environment was done using nets, microscopes, field guides, and more. Once again, students left the 3-day workshop with a deeper understanding of the entire ecosystem and experienced a weekend they will never forget!

Another noteworthy opportunity took place in May, when Ms. Polk attended the all expenses paid Roche Biotechnology Institute’s 5-day Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program in Atlanta, Georgia. Teachers from across the US and around the world were selected to participate in this intensive training program highlighted by hands-on sessions to incorporate standards-based lessons on biotechnology and bioethics into the curriculum, a best practices seminar in state-of-the-art labs, panel discussions on leading issues in biotechnology presented by renowned scientists and field trips to local biotechnology companies. Ms. Polk is excited to bring a fresh perspective and several hands-on initiatives back to her science classroom!

Please find in the pages that follow the statistics, activities, accomplishments, accolades, concerns and recommendations submitted for your review and consideration.
I. The Department

The following information represents a section-by-section review of the department’s course offerings and includes the course and instructor name(s), enrollment, time allotted for classroom study and a brief synopsis of the topics covered.

**AP Environmental Science – Teacher: Mr. Joseph Tagliareni**
This year 71 students enrolled in *AP Environmental Science*. This Advanced Placement course meets six periods per week. Equivalent to an introductory college level environmental course, emphasis is placed on understanding the interrelationships of the natural world, identification and analysis of environmental problems and examination of risks and solution to the problems.

**AP Biology – Teacher: Mr. Kent Bania.**
This year 34 students enrolled in *AP Biology*. This Advanced Placement course meets six periods per week. Designed to meet the objectives of an introductory general biology course at the college level, students who successfully complete this course will possess knowledge of facts and principles of biology, understand how biological information is collected and interpreted, and be expected to formulate hypotheses and make appropriate scientific predictions.

**AP Chemistry – Teacher: Ms. Christine Polk.**
This year 11 students enrolled in *AP Chemistry*. This Advanced Placement course meets six periods per week and is to be taken only after successful completion of a first course in general chemistry. Areas of emphasis include atomic theory, states of matter, reaction types, stoichiometry, gas laws, equilibrium and thermodynamics.

**AP Physics – Teacher: Dr. Michael Naumoff**
This year 23 students enrolled in *AP Physics*. This Advanced Placement course meets six periods per week and is to be taken only after successful completion of a first course in high school physics. This course offers a variety of laboratory experiences and independent learning activities as well as in-depth discussions of fundamental physics principles.

**Accelerated Biology – Teacher: Ms. Kati Gratz**
This year 68 students enrolled in *Honors Biology*. This course meets six periods per week and invites students to deal extensively with the abstract concepts of biology as it incorporates a more in-depth practice of higher level thinking skills, experimentation and processing skills than is found at the introductory level.

**Chemistry Honors – Teacher: Dr. Peter Smith.**
This year 91 students enrolled in *Honors Chemistry*. This course meets six periods per week and deals with the composition of matter in its various forms, including the change which matter undergoes. Class procedures place emphasis on understanding and application of principles and development of clarity in thinking and expression. Individual laboratory work, as well as teacher demonstration, provides a basis for development of the unifying principles of modern chemistry.
Physics Honors – Teacher: Mr. Jeremy Thornton
This year 36 students enrolled in Honors Physics. This course meets six periods per week and covers a wide variety of topics traditionally covered in a high school general physics class, albeit in greater depth and with emphasis on laboratory work.

Human Physiology Honors – Teacher: Mr. Kent Bania
This year 32 students enrolled in Honors Human Physiology. This laboratory-oriented course meets six periods per week and involves detailed dissection, microscopy and in-depth investigation of cells, tissues, organs and systems of the human body.

Human Physiology – Teachers: Ms. Kati Gratz and Mr. Joseph Simko
This year 80 students enrolled in Human Physiology. This laboratory-oriented course meets five periods per week to present a systematic study of the human body, stressing structure and function.

Microbiology – Teacher: Mrs. Paula Kasner.
This course did not run this year, but will be making a triumphant return in the fall! This laboratory-oriented course meets five periods per week and is designed to introduce students to the study of bacteria, viruses and other microorganisms. Lab skills in microscopy, as well as slide, media, and solution preparation will be developed.

College Biology – Teachers: Mrs. Kasner, Mrs. Jennifer Marcino and Mr. Simko.
This year 188 students enrolled in College Biology, a required course for all incoming ninth graders. Course objectives include facilitation of a broad understanding of basic biological principles as they relate to biochemistry, cytology, genetics, evolution, botany, zoology and ecology.

Biology for Living – Teacher: Mrs. Jennifer Marcino
This year 25 students enrolled in Biology for Living, an introductory course to the world of the living. Emphasis in this course is placed on the learning of basic life processes such as those associated with the cell, evolution, genetics, plants, animals and the environment.

College Chemistry – Teachers: Dr. Naumoff, Ms. Christine Polk and Mr. Thornton
This year 239 students enrolled in College Chemistry. This college preparatory class meets six periods per week and stresses the fundamental principles of elementary chemistry. Treatment of the subject is designed to appeal to those entering fields requiring general exposure to chemical principles, but not needing a highly sophisticated understanding of technical concepts.

College Physics – Teacher: Ms. Polk
This year 27 students enrolled in College Physics. This course meets six periods per week and focuses on the fundamental principles of elementary physics. More than adequate introduction is provided for students preparing for college, as emphasis is placed on the collection, analysis and expression of data.

Earth/Space Science – Teachers: Ms. Kerry Ferrara
This year 35 students enrolled in Earth/Space Science. This class meets five periods per week and deals with all facets of the planet earth and its relationship with the entire solar
system including the composition, structure, history and dynamics of planet earth and its place in the universe.

**Environmental Science – Teachers: Mr. Joseph Tagliareni and Ms. Kerry Ferrara**

This year 74 students enrolled in *Environmental Science,* a course designed to provide students an overview of the structure of the environment, how organisms react with their environment and how human activities and natural phenomena affect the environment.

**Forensic Science – Teacher: Mrs. Sandra Stark-Houck**

This year 86 students enrolled in *Forensic Science.* This course consists of a comprehensive and challenging curriculum designed to give students a solid scientific foundation in the basic principles of forensic science. Topics range from basic measurement and scientific method to more complex concepts such as fingerprint analysis, enzyme testing and the role of DNA in criminal investigation.

## II. Advanced Placement Testing

Advanced Placement testing was offered in four areas: *AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science* and *AP Physics.* Effective for the 2008-09 school year, only students who are enrolled and signed up for an AP test sat for their respective exams.

## III. Science Awards

Recognition and awards were distributed among well-deserving students of the sciences at Nutley High School. Members of the Junior and Senior classes were eligible to receive the following awards: *The Rensselaer Award* and *The Dominick Di Ciaccio Memorial Award*

## IV. Staff Development

Staff members sought and participated in additional professional development opportunities ranging from workshops to lecture series to field trips to graduate school. The following is a list of professional development activities and events attended and/or participated in by the staff. I commend all participants on a job well done!

**Workshops and In-Services:**

- AP Chemistry Teacher Exchange
- Roche Biotechnology Seminar
- Workshop: Bullying
- Workshop: Affirmative Action
- Response Law
- Right-to-Know - Lab Safety
- Food Science: A Great Career Option (Rutgers University)
- Suicide Prevention and Awareness

**Other:**

- New Jersey Science Teachers Convention
- Physics Day – Six Flags Great Adventure
V. Curriculum Development

To continually meet the challenges of our dynamic secondary school learners, instructors of the new course, Oceanography/Geology, refined the curriculum and selected a new textbook. New courses such as this continue to be added to reflect the desire to maximize the usefulness and relevancy of the learning experiences as well as meet the needs of our changing curricula and state standards.

The NHS Science Curriculum Committee last convened during the Fall of 2003. Revisions to our science curricula and subsequent alignment with the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards have been in place for several years, and consideration is now being made to implement calendar-based curriculum mapping for grades 9-12. Documentation of our students’ learning experiences would permit teachers to design lessons that capitalize on our learners’ strengths and fortify their weaknesses.

In essence, curriculum mapping creates easy-to-follow sequences of what teachers are actually doing in their classrooms, and would help us navigate through our offerings to identify unnecessary gaps and repetitions and ensure compliance with state standards. In addition, opportunities created that promote dialogue between our diverse high school educators (amongst the math and science staff, for instance) can reasonably be assumed to benefit the learning experiences of our youngsters.

VI. UMDNJ Partnership

The students of NHS continued their participation in the Health Dynamics and Human Physiology courses offered here at the high school. When these courses are taken concurrently, students can sit for the qualifying exams at UMDNJ, earning valuable college credits. Results of this year’s examination will be published in the near future.

A special thank you to Mrs. Rose Cioffi and Mrs. Sharon Romaglia for their continued support of the UMDNJ-Nutley High School program. Rose Cioffi taught the Health Dynamics course offered during zero period Tuesday mornings. Sharon Romaglia attended monthly meetings at the UMDNJ-Scotch Plains campus and acted as liaison between the UMDNJ community and Nutley High, as she coordinated numerous activities in which our students took part. In short, our students enjoyed access to this selective program due in large part to the time and effort of these two women. Both Rose and Sharon deserve a great big thank you!
VII. Project Acceleration

Several students earned college credits through Seton Hall University’s Project Acceleration program. For a nominal fee, students enrolled in this worthwhile program which seeks to recognize and reward collegiate-level achievement with college credit to students that successfully reach the established benchmarks in AP Biology, Human Physiology and AP Chemistry. Congratulations to all of our student participants!

VIII. Extracurricular Activities

The following is a list of extracurricular activities supervised by members of the science department:

Biology Club Advisor – Mr. Bania
Biology Club Advisor – Ms. Gratz
GSA Club Advisor – Ms. Gratz
C.A.T. Program – Mr. Simko
Asian Culture Club Advisor – Dr. Naumoff
C.L.A.W. Club Advisor – Mr. Joe Tagliareni
Science Club Advisor – Ms. Polk
Academic Team Advisor – Mrs. Marcino
Health Careers Club Advisor – Mrs. Kasner
Ski Club Advisor – Mr. Thornton
Lacrosse coach (Montclair State University) – Mr. Bania
Assistant Football Coach (NHS) – Dr. Smith
Assistant Lacrosse Coach (NHS) – Dr. Smith

IX. Concerns for the Future

Our science department continues its commitment to the districts’ students and their achievement throughout their tenure here at Nutley High School. Lesson planning reflects thoughtful consideration of our students’ emotional and educational needs and a steady focus on curricular objectives and state standards.

In an effort to enhance the vertical alignment of our Middle to ninth grade curricula, as well as the in-house horizontal alignment, it is imperative that we engage the challenges and reap the rewards that calendar-based curriculum mapping bring to the educational round-table.
The Social Studies Department continues to offer a rich and varied curriculum that addresses a broad range of social studies concerns and requirements. This is accomplished through a curriculum of fifteen different courses that includes four honors courses and four advanced placement courses. Twelve teachers and the coordinator cover fifty-four sections, as well as one section of the interdisciplinary Humanities course. Total enrollment for all courses is currently 1,288 students, including a substantial number of students who are taking two or three courses within the department.

During the course of the academic year, the faculty conducted an annual review of the Advanced Placement courses in accordance with the demands of the College Board. These courses will be reviewed annually to renew the approval of the College Board. In addition, the department added a new course, The Modern Middle East Honors. The teachers continued to incorporate both PowerPoint and Internet-based materials into instructional strategies, and utilized recently acquired LCD projectors on a regular basis.

I. Curriculum
   A. The curriculum is well-designed to meet the current needs of the students, and is continually examined in light of the state standards.

   B. The department plans to meet to review and map the curriculum in accordance with the NJQSAC recommendations.

   C. The department, in conjunction with Library Media Services and the Art Department, applied for, and won, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. Titled “Picturing America”, this grant provides 40 works of art from American history. This will not only facilitate department efforts to satisfy the state core curriculum requirement that art be infused into the social studies curriculum, but will also serve as writing and discussion prompts and provide visual resources for alternative learning styles. In-service workshops on infusing the materials into classroom instruction were conducted during the fall of 2008.

   D. The faculty is continuously working to evaluate, enhance, and update the curriculum and instructional strategies, and to locate and develop new materials for the various courses.

   E. The department continues to be in compliance with the state mandate regarding Holocaust / Genocide education. Pursuant to this mandate, and in compliance with district objectives, instruction concerning the Holocaust was infused into appropriate units of the curriculum, and this content was tested in each United States History II class, at all levels.

   F. In light of the emphasis placed by the Department of Education on teaching tolerance, Nutley continues to utilize several state and privately generated materials concerning discrimination
and prejudice. This material was infused into relevant units of the United States History curriculum, as well as other courses where appropriate. The faculty also addressed additional issues pertaining to bullying.

G. A departmental initiative to infuse more reading into the social studies curriculum, and to enhance reading skills and raise verbal SAT scores, was continued during the 2008 – 2009 academic year. Members of the faculty evaluated current texts, and continued the search for other suitable works. These included books and primary sources that helped students realize other social studies skills and objectives. Among these were *The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers* and W.E.B. DuBois's *The Souls of Black Folk*, as well as two volumes of important documents from American History.

H. The ongoing upgrade of the department's web site continues. Additional student resources were added to the “Resources” section, including the initial study guides for the new World History course. Additional guides will be created and posted as time allows. In addition, voter registration resources were added to the page.

I. The department has initiated planning for the School Level Objective for the 2009-2010 academic year. This initiative will focus on public speaking skills and instruction in American civic virtues and responsibilities.

II. Staff Development Activities

A. The Social Studies faculty took part in the following workshops and seminars:

1. Workshop on dealing with difficult parents
2. Montclair State Humanities seminars
3. Workshops on the Amistad mandate
4. The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Annual Fall Conference
5. New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association Fall and Spring Workshop. This focused on standards and assessment, as well as the new graduation requirements. Mr. O’Dell volunteered to serve on the Assessment Committee, which hopes to draft guidelines for state approved local assessments.
6. New Jersey Council for the Social Studies / New Jersey Annual Convention
7. Three HSPA Workshops
8. In - service workshops on Instructional Theory In Practice (ITIP), Critical Thinking, and Computer Skills.
9. A statewide session with the New Jersey Center for Law Related Education (NJCLRE), focusing on civic education.
10. NJASSP Student Activities Conference

B. Faculty members completed graduate courses through Montclair State University and Drake University Distance Learning.
III. Enrichment

A. The following activities were conducted by the Social Studies faculty:

1. Legislation was again drafted and submitted in the State Legislature. The students were able to gain valuable experience regarding the legislative process, testifying before Assembly committee. It should be noted that the students did an outstanding job during the testimony, and were well prepared by their instructor, Mr. Steve DiGregorio

2. New Jersey Canals project from the department’s website.

3. Online video exchange with a class in the Ukraine as part of a program fostering the development of democracy.

4. Debates regarding the bombing of Hiroshima, affirmative action, federal funding of education and the arts, and the social movements of the 1960’s

5. Debates concerning the nature of the American Revolution, slavery, the inevitability of the Civil War”, and Reconstruction

6. “Create a Civilization”

7. Veteran’s Day breakfast for students and veterans

8. Mock trials

9. Reenactments and role playing

10. Forbear Project

11. Political Personality Profiles and Voting Analyses

12. Guest Speakers
   a. The Honorable William Pascrell, Member, House of Representatives
   b. The Honorable Fred Scalera, Assemblyman
   c. The Honorable Joanne Cocchiola, Mayor of Nutley
   d. Social workers, Nutley Family Services

13. Internet Access Projects

14. Student and faculty generated PowerPoint presentations

15. Seminars: Famous Americans of the Nineteenth Century, decades of twentieth century American history, the Progressives, Affirmative Action
   a. Creation of travel brochures and virtual tours of the countries
   b. Mock Elections
   c. Neighborhood Analysis (Sociology)
   d. Use of library and classroom computers
   e. Political cartoon projects
   f. Poster projects
   g. Black History Month projects
   h. Women’s History Month projects

16. The posting of appropriate bulletin boards in the Annex hallway.

17. Re – enactment of the Convention of 1860

18. Mock Senate hearings

19. Field Trips
   a. Veterans’ Home
   b. Humanities - five field trips
   c. New Jersey Association of Student Councils Convention
IV. Textbook Management

A. Textbook age, condition, and inventory are continually monitored.

C. Money was budgeted for new texts for the Modern Middle East Honors course.

D. New textbooks are needed in the European History course.

E. It is recommended that the department soon seek an alternative to the current economics text, as these books go out of print rapidly. The current text is no longer available in a new format.

F. The American history courses are due for review and possible revision. This will likely entail the purchase of new textbooks.

V. Social Studies Awards

Awards to graduating seniors:

1. Brian McGinley Award for Outstanding History Student – David Zatorski
2. Daughters of the American Revolution Medal in History, Yantacaw Chapter – Shelley Fredericks
3. League of Women Voters of Nutley – Emily Hazzard
4. Nutley Post # 70, American Legion Auxiliary – Michael Ryder and Roseanna O’Brien

VI. Items New to the Social Studies Department for 2008 - 2009

A. Mr. Christopher Rosati was deployed to Afghanistan during the first marking period as part of his Naval Reserve unit. His courses were assumed by Mrs. David, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Ryan, and Mr. O’Dell. The department is happy to report that Mr. Rosati returned to us in November, and wishes to commend him on his service to our country.

B. For the second year, the Young Democrats (sponsored by Mrs. Miller) and the Young Republicans (sponsored by Miss Lombard) conducted a Voter Registration drive that registered students as first time voters. The department hopes to continue this as an annual event and a required activity for these clubs.

C. The Rand McNally history maps were repaired and updated, with some financial assistance from the manufacturer.

D. The Young Democrats and Young Republicans conducted a presidential debate at the Nutley Public Library in October. This debate was attended by Congressman Pascrell and Assemblyman Scalera, who were generous in their praise of the outstanding performance by the students.
E. The Young Republicans and the Young Democrats, working with Assemblyman Scalera, conducted a debate on the New Jersey State Budget, and were recognized by the Assembly for their efforts.

F. The AP Government class again testified on behalf of the drafted anti-smoking legislation before the Assembly committee.

G. In May, several members of the AP Macroeconomics class presented a seminar on financial literacy in conjunction with Cablevision and CNBC's Carmen Wong Ulrich of "On the Money". This included an audio feed with Ms. Ulrich and a question and answer period with her. This was also in accordance with the Governor's new initiative to require instruction in financial literacy as a graduation requirement, starting with the freshman class of 2010-2011.

H. The Veterans of Foreign Wars recognized two members of the department as "Teachers of the Year". Mrs. Rebecca Miller was recognized for her role in the presidential debate as mentor of the Young Democrats, and for her role in organizing the veterans' breakfast in November. Mr. Steve DiGregorio was recognized for fostering civic literacy and virtue due to his mentoring of the students as they drafted anti-smoking legislation and testified before Assembly and Senate committees during the 2007-2008 academic year.

I. New software for the computers, including Microsoft Office 2008 and outlining programs capable of generating web pages, was updated and utilized.

J. A new course, the Modern Middle East Honors, was written and approved by the Board of Education.

K. The continuation of faculty discussions to enhance reading and geographic literacy in the social studies.

VII. Department Concerns and Recommendations

A. The number of supplemental readings available for the reading initiative should continue to be increased. The department is grateful for the ongoing support of the administration in this endeavor.

B. The department would like to continue to investigate new strategies for teaching geography in order to enhance student understanding and retention of key geographic concepts and content.

C. In order to enhance the effective use of computer applications and resources, the department would like to conduct additional in-service workshops regarding the available software.

D. The department would like to control its portion of the web site, as current difficulties in maintaining and linking to files has discouraged effective use of this important resource for students.

E. In-service courses that are content-based and designed to enhance current instruction would be a welcome addition to the professional development program. Mr. O'Dell and the department staff are willing to conduct these workshops.
NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL
NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY
WORLD LANGUAGES and ESL DEPARTMENTS

TO: Mr. Gregory Catrambone, Principal of Nutley High School
FROM: Mr. Ciro Violante, Coordinator of the World Languages and ESL Departments
SUBJECT: Annual Report – 2008-09

The World Languages and ESL Departments continue to provide an outstanding high school program. Achievement remains high, and primary departmental objectives for 2008-09 have been realized. All the World Languages and ESL classrooms are now equipped with LCD projectors and computers. There is a prevailing attitude of professionalism among the staff, and dedication to a quality program is clearly evident. Following are a number of areas worthy of mention:

I. Statistical Data and Staff

1. Approximately 75% of the student population was enrolled in world language classes. (French, Italian, Latin and Spanish levels 1-5-AP), and three classes of ESL (Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced).

2. Eleven staff members including two itinerant teachers (Mrs. Frost-Guzzo taught 3 classes of ESL at the high school, and 2 at the middle school. Mr. DiCristo taught 3 classes of Latin at the Middle school and one at the High School) taught 49 sections of 29 course offerings of World Languages and ESL, including regular College Prep, Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

3. Mr. Violante continues to be also the Coordinator of Project Acceleration with Seton Hall University. During the academic year 2008-09, approximately 150 students signed up for Project Acceleration credits in the fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters. Many students earned approximately 20+ credits, which they transferred to a college of their choice.

4. District ESL Program – The district has met the Annual Measurable Achievement Objective (AMAO) for English Language Learners with 75% of students improving (the state required 70% improvement). For the next school year the state requires a 75% improvement.

5. One again Mr. Violante applied for Title III Grant- NCLB, as well as for immigrant Student Aid Grant. Together, the district was awarded more than $32,000 for FY 2008.

6. Mr. Violante applied for a grant from the Italian American Committee on Education (IACE) an expansion of the Italian Embassy in New York, and was awarded $4,000.00, to be used for teaching material.
II. **Curriculum**

1. The World Languages department hosted three student teachers during the 2008-09 school year, including in Italian from Seton Hall University with Mrs. D'Urso, in Spanish from Montclair State University with Mrs. Rucinski, and in Latin also from Montclair State University with Mrs. Stepansky.

2. Mrs. Rhein, Mrs. Camarda and Mrs. Stapensky each mentored a student from Montclair State University doing their junior practicum in Spanish, French and Latin.

3. Mr. Violante conducted an all day training session in January for all district ESL teachers. In order for the staff to administer the new ACCESS test for ELLs, everyone has to be test administrator certified including the supervisor.

4. The State English Language Proficiency Testing (ACCESS for ELLs) was administered to all K-12 ESL students in the district. Mr. Violante coordinated the testing schedule in the district. The test has to follow the same security protocol as any other state mandated testing program. The results of the test will be sent to the district in July.

5. Mrs. Stepansky’s Latin Honor Society students presented a program by exposing Latin and Roman Concepts relevant to today’s times to all 6th grade students at the elementary schools. The students presented also a short skit on Julius Caesar’s assassination.

7. Mr. Cicchino took a group of AP levels Italian students to visit all five elementary schools to showcase the Italian language program at the high school to all 6th graders.

8. The Italian and Spanish classes in collaboration with the culinary arts teachers (Mr. Gallardo and Mr. Huggins) collaborated in preparing regional and authentic foods from Italy and various Spanish and Latin American countries.

9. Mrs. Frost-Guzzo, ESL teacher:
   a. Infused technology into her lessons through frequent use of audio CDs, and LCD projector for viewing curriculum components CD-ROMs, curriculum components web-sites, and wide variety of Internet sites, maximizing comprehension for all English Language Learners (ELLs), and reinforcing listening/speaking, reading skills, and phonemic development.
b. She maintains a teacher's website posting assignments, reminders, and Internet web-site link useful/beneficial to ELLs.

10 Mr. Violante as district ESL coordinator, together with Mrs. Frost-Guzzo, ESL teacher, were involved in the following: as per Code 6A:15.

- Each marking period reviewed report cards of all ELLs current students to monitor progress of potential difficulties in content area classes, as well as those students exited from the ESL Program within the last two years. 6A:15-1.10
- Coordinated with guidance counselors and ELL parents to maximize participation in tutoring services available through NCLB and code 6A:15-1.7
- Determine the native language of each LEP student. Developed a screening process to determine the proficiency level and make appropriate recommendations to guidance. Maintain a census record. Report annually to the State Department of Education as part of the (Fall Report) fall LEP Enrollment Summary. 6A:15-1.3

III. Accomplishments, Achievements and Cultural Events.

The World Language staff is extremely proud of the tremendous success and achievements of many of our students. Also this school year, many awards and certificates have been bestowed upon our students who have distinguished themselves in various aspects of the foreign language experience.

1. Mrs. Camarda’s French classes attended a performance of the following Operas: “La Boheme” “Il Trovatore”, at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Also, Mrs. Camarda is co-sponsor of the National Honor Society.

2. Mrs. Garcia, Spanish teacher, gave a presentation on “G-cast” and Discovery websites to the World Language staff at the monthly department meetings with examples in how these websites may be useful for world languages classes and students.

3. The High School, specifically the Italian classes are continuing the sister town relationship with Forino, the town in the province of Avellino, and Acri, in Calabria, Italy. In October, a group of students, parents and dignitaries (mayors and council members) from Italy visited the township of Nutley and Nutley High School for 12 days. Nutley families with children at the high school hosted the Italian students. The township of Nutley hosted the dignitaries in Hotels nearby.
4. A group of 10 students from the city of Acri, in the province of Cosenza in Calabria, Italy, were hosted by Nutley High School students as an exchange program from April 5 – April 19, 2009. During the day, these students attended ESL (English as Second Language) classes at Nutley High School and their host students’ regular schedule. They also visited New York including Ground Zero, the United Nations and The Metropolitan Museum. Nutley High School students were invited to visit Acri, in Calabria next year.

5. Once again Mr. Cicchino chaperoned a group of 20 students and parents on a trip to Italy during the spring vacations. During the tour of Venice, Lugano, Stresa, Verona, Florence, Sorrento, Capri, Pompeii, and Rome, The group met up with the Italian exchange students, mayors and other dignitaries of the towns who visited Nutley High School.

6. The Spanish Club organized “Foreign Language and Culture Week” that took place the week of April 27 – May 1, 2009. All the language students participated including the French, Italian and Latin classes. Each day comprised of different activities. The goal was to encourage students to celebrate ethnic and culture diversity in and out-side of school by embracing the things that make us different.

7. The annual National World Languages Honor Society induction took place on April 7, 2009. 115 students were inducted into the National Italian, French, Spanish and Latin Honor Society.

8. The Italian club and classes under the supervision of Mrs. D’Urso, Mr. Cicchino and Mr. Violante, sponsored “Carnevale” “Mardi gras” with Italian food, music and skits prepared and performed by the students in the school cafeteria. The event was attended by many parents, students, administrators and teachers.

9. Mr. Cicchino's Italian classes attended a performance of the Opera "Madama Butterfly", and "Rigoletto", at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

10. In March, Mrs. Stepansky's Latin, II-H, III-H, IV-H and AP Vergil classes participated in the National/International Latin Exam. Many of the students received recognition (Gold and silver medals and certificates of merit).

Latin II student - Jared Lin, Jessica Novak, Wilbur Vale, Dana Kutzleb, Shannon Keating, were awarded the “Silver Medal and Maxima Cum Laude Certificates”.
Ryan Lynch, Mark Falanga, were awarded "Magna Cum Laude Certificates".
Michael Hovan, Satoe Ozawa were awarded “Cum Laude Certificates”.
Latin III students - Bhaven Jani, Dan Rohr, William Blazeski, Alexandria Loveall, were awarded the “Silver Medal and Maxima Cum Laude Certificates”.
Valerie Iaccarino, Domenick Scutti, Derek McMullen, Toby Nicastro, Shoko Okabe, were awarded “Cum Laude Certificates.”
Latin IV students - Alex Rossi, Patrick Roche, Brendan Striano, James Nepa,
Matthew Fuzia, Ryan Connor, Machael Iaccarino, were awarded “The Gold Medal and Summa Cum Laude Certificates”. Jeffrey Lin, Peter Jones, Robert Mihal, Adam Dolan, were awarded the “Silver Medal and Maxima Cum Laude Certificates”. Brandon Cresi was awarded “Magna Cum Laude Certificates”. And Seimi Rurup, and Michael Cooper were awarded “Cum Laude Certificates”.

Those who participated were from all 50 states and 11 foreign countries including: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, England, Poland, Italy, New Zealand, China, Israel, Lithuania and Mozambique. The students have been nationally recognized for their fine achievement by the National Latin Exam Committee and the Junior Classical League.


13. Mrs. D’Urso sponsor of the Italian club, marched in the Columbus Day Parade with the students.

14. Mrs. Rucinski as sponsor of the Spanish club, organized World Languages and Cultures week in May. Also, she hosted a student teacher in Spanish from Montclair State University, and took the Italian III –H students to see the Opera “Madama Butterfly” at Lincoln Center.

15. Mr. Wdowiak was assistant director of the musical, “The Producer”.

16. The French, Spanish and Latin National Honor Societies held fundraising events for Scholarships to benefit seniors going to College and study languages.

17. The Spanish Honor Society Sponsored by Mrs. Rhein had the annual flower sale for Valentine’s Day, and various bake sales. The club raised over $800.00. The money will be given out to four (4) graduating seniors as scholarships.


IV. **Workshops - Professional Development, Conferences**

1. Mr. Violante attended several Professional Development Workshop Series for ESL and World Language Educators sponsored by the State Department of Education. He also attended the by-monthly Roundtable of New Jersey State World Language Supervisors. Some of the Conferences/workshops were:
a. *World Languages Supervisor's Professional Development Institute.*
b. *New Jersey Supervisors of World Languages – “Bi-Monthly Round-Table*
c. *Seton Hall University – Annual Project Acceleration Conference*
d. *Facilitator training session for state ESL language proficiency testing “Access for ELLs”.*
e. *Spring Conference - New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/Bilingual Education (NJTESOL/BE).*

2. Mr. Cicchino attended the annual conference “*Showcase Italian: Pedagogical Approaches to Italian Language, Italian Studies, and Italian American Studies*” at Rutgers University Sponsored by Italian Embassy, the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission.

3. Mrs. Frost-Guzzo attended out of districts professional workshops/conferences.
   
   • *Spring Conference - New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/Bilingual Education (NJTESOL/BE).*

V. **Departmental Goals/Recommendations :**

1. To insure continuity, all teachers in the department need to continue to develop strategies and activities that support communication based language as outlined in the revised New Jersey State Content Standard using the three Modes of Communication. These activities should begin with level one. Most teachers are using it and developing these strategies.

2. Revise the ESL Curricula and align the Standards with new State mandated World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Standards as required by NJ ESL/Bilingual Code.

3. I would like to thank the administration and above all the principal Mr. Catrambone, without his full unconditional support the department would not have had all of the above mentioned accomplishments.
To: Greg Catrambone

From: Joe Piro

Re: End of Year Report

Date: 6/24/09

I would like to thank the Nutley Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Joseph Zarra and Nutley High School Principal Greg Catrambone for the opportunity to work with our student athletes and coaches. It is an honor and privilege to be the Athletic Director for such an outstanding district. The 2008-2009 school year was another fantastic year and we continue to get better. Nutley had 917 athletes compete in 46 varsity and sub-varsity sports in 2008-2009. This number has increased from 2007-2008 by over 35 participants.

The Football, Cross Country Team Boys and Girls Soccer Teams, Girls Tennis Team, Girls Volleyball Team, Boys Bowling Team, Wrestling Team, Baseball and Softball Teams, Track Team and Boys Tennis Team all qualified and competed in the NJSIAA State Tournament, and the Crew team preformed on a National level. The Boy’s Soccer Team and Boy’s Bowling team, captured N.N.J.I.L. titles, and the Boy’s Bowling team captured Essex County and State Sectional titles for their second consecutive year. The wrestling team sent three wrestlers to the State Tournament in Atlantic City and had two place winners as well as two Region 3 Champions, the Track team had numerous county and state qualifiers with Lindsay Ryder winning a State Sectional Title in the Javelin Throw. Tudor Stefan broke the Nutley Soccer goal scoring record with 37, Anthony Damico broke the school record for wrestling wins with 126 and Guiseppe Pappaccio broke the school record for career hits in baseball with 115. We have had various All League, County and All State recipients. Mr. Gerald Ryan and Ms. Valerie Martin received coach of the year honors in the respective sports and our Bowling Team and Basketball Team won the NNJIL Sportsmanship Award with our Boys’ teams placing third overall.

Do to our state realignment that was provoked by the NNJIL, particularly NHS, the NNJIL has been dissolved and in the 2009 – 2010 school year NHS will play in the newly formed Super Essex Conference (SEC) of which I have been a founding father and will serve on the leagues executive committee.

GO RAIDERS!
FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS
Individual Honors: See Attached Honors Sheet

WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS
Individual Honors: See Attached Honors Sheet

SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS
Individual Honors: See Attached Honors Sheet

GO RAIDERS!
# 2008 FALL RECAP

Congratulations to all of our fall coaches, athletes and the following award winners!

## CROSS COUNTRY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Award 2nd Team All Essex County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dana Principe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Lochan</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Rauco</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Roche</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lianne Rossi</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Russo</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miki Tanaka</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Canubida</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Lin</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FOOTBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All Essex County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tudor Stefan</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Greulich</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ball</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ryder</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Nicastro</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd Team All Essex County, Lou Studer Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Johnson</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Borino</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Byrnes</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## BOYS SOCCER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All Essex County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tudor Stefan</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Greulich</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ball</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ryder</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Nicastro</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd Team All Essex County, Lou Studer Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Johnson</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Borino</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Byrnes</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## GIRLS SOCCER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All Essex County, 1st Team All Area, Frank Cocchiola Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Perez</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Feher</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Diacheysn</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd Team All Essex County, 1st Team All Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Raimondo</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>2nd Team All Essex County, 1st Team All Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay Ryder</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>2nd Team All Essex County, 1st Team All Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Restaino</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All Essex County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey Hresko</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All Essex County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alissa Tucci</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All Essex County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## GIRLS TENNIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award Hon. Mention All NNJIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harsha Amirthajothi</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## VOLLEYBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award 1st Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Award Hon. Mention All NNJIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Marrero</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Dwyer</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2008-09 WINTER RECAP

Congratulations to all of our winter athletes, coaches and award winners!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BASKETBALL – GIRLS</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Dwyer</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghan McDevitt</td>
<td>2nd Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alissa Tucci</td>
<td>2nd Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BASKETBALL – BOYS</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Parisi</td>
<td>2nd Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Smorto</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BOWLING</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uzma Ahmed</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Costa</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Frezza</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Georgetti</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelo Lambroschino</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Penett</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Rafter</td>
<td>2nd Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Sowizral</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ICE HOCKEY</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Tempsick</td>
<td>1st Team All NJIHL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Rasp</td>
<td>2nd Team All NJIHL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Pergola</td>
<td>2nd Team All NJIHL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WINTER TRACK (Boys)</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Khalif Burney</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL-NHS Record (55 meter dash)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Cresci</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL-NHS Record (4 x 800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Grueter</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL-NHS Record (4 x 800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Oliveri</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL-NHS Record (Pole Vault)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Revised 6-24-09) Winter Sports Awards Program
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Team/Record/Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Rauco</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL-NHS Record (4 x 800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Roche</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL-NHS Record (4 x 800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WINTER TRACK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Girls)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Andrews</td>
<td>2nd Team all NNJIL 4 x 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irene Kim</td>
<td>2nd Team all NNJIL 4 x 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larissa Lohman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizuki Tanaka</td>
<td>2nd Team all NNJIL 4 x 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Principe</td>
<td>2nd Team all NNJIL 4 x 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celina Sooksatan</td>
<td>2nd Place NJSIAA (High Jump)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WRESTLING</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Damico</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL 1-10-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Achieved 100th career win!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Broke NHS Record - Most wins in NHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>history! (126-26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essex County Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Region Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Place Winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Maurillo</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL 2-28-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Achieved 100th career win!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essex County Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Region Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Place Winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Cetrullo</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dante Montes</td>
<td>2nd Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Souza</td>
<td>2nd Team All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Broke NHS Record – Most wins in a season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by a Freshman with 29 wins (2-28-09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Scuttaro</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essex County Champion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Revised 6-24-09) Winter Sports Awards Program
## 2008-09 SPRING SPORTS RECAP

Congratulations to all of our spring athletes, coaches and award winners!

### BASEBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Team All Essex County</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giuseppe Papaccio</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Broke NHS record career hit record (115)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Dispoto</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarrett Schack</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Signorelli</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Weinstein</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ryder</td>
<td>Hon. Mention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Szablicki</td>
<td>Hon. Mention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GOLF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Barr</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Carlo</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Catelli</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Tempsick</td>
<td>Hon. Mention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOFTBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Team All NNJIL</th>
<th>Team All Essex County</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meghan McDevitt</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Donatiello</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Iradi</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Purcell</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Castano</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Petrucelli</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen Mattia</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina De Falco</td>
<td>Hon. Mention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TENNIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahmed Elkarimmy</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Pensuswan</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRACK &amp; FIELD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khalif Burney</td>
<td>NJSIAA Sectional Medalist (100m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariane DeMarco</td>
<td>New NHS Record Girls’ Javelin Relay 196’3”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Koster</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL (high jump)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larissa Lohman</td>
<td>New NHS Record Girls’ Pole Vault Relay 15’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NJSIAA Sectional Medalist (Pole Vault)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Matallana</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL (Javelin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Principe</td>
<td>2nd Team All NNJIL 800 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay Ryder</td>
<td>1st Team All NNJIL 2nd Team All County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NJSIAA Sectional Champion (Javelin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NNJIL Champion (Javelin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New NHS Record in Girls’ Javelin Relay 196’3”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gianna Scarpelli</td>
<td>New NHS Record Girls’ Pole Vault Relay 15’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celina Sooksatan</td>
<td>Hon. Mention All NNJIL 2nd Team All NNJIL (High Jump)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NJSIAA Sectional Medalist (High Jump)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nutley High School

Library Media Center

Annual Report 2008-2009

June 12, 2009
Susan Bresnan, MA, MLIS
Library Media Specialist
Narrative:

The Library Media Center has continued to play an active role in providing services to the High School community. The Library contains 25,337 volumes, 70 print periodical subscriptions and access to over 50 subscription databases including titles from Ebscohost, Facts on File, ABC-CLIO, and the Thomson/Gale series of databases.

Books continue to play an active role in the Library Media Center with over 2,500 books circulated. Additionally, there were over 700 books consulted in the Library and 600 renewals.

While book use remained at levels consistent with prior years, student utilization of databases increased substantially. The ABC-CLIO database use doubled from the previous year. There were over 4,700 logins into the database with almost 25,000 pages viewed. There was also a substantial increase in the use of the Gale series of databases with student access totaling over 800 hours. Students also continued to access subscription databases available through the Nutley Public Library.

The Library continues to make resources available in many media. This year we added over 1,000 eBook titles - digital versions of reference books from all disciplines. These electronic resources are available to students 24 hours a day via password protected websites.

The Library Media Center strives to provide and instruct students on information resources in all formats. Over that past three years, book use has remained at constant usage level and database use has increased substantially.

The number of classes in the Library increased by over 10% from the previous year with over 500 classes scheduled for instruction. Although the majority of classes were from the English and Social Studies departments, we have also had classes from World Languages, Science, as well as other departments. In addition to scheduled classes, 40 to 50 students sign into the Library each day from classes, during lunch periods and before and after school.

Completed Projects in the Library include:

- Inventory of the paperback fiction collection.
- Update of Library Web Page.
- Continued weeding of books, particularly Reference titles.

Projects for 2009-2010 include:

- Inventory of Fiction Collection.
- Continued re-organization of Reference Collection.
- Continued revision of Library Web Page.
- Continued weeding of books.
Statistics as of June 12, 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of books checked out:</th>
<th>2483</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of books added to collection:</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of books lost:</td>
<td>346*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books used in Library:</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewals:</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine monies deposited:</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copier monies deposited:</td>
<td>$317.15</td>
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</table>

*Reflects inventory of paperback books (which had not been done in many years)

COPY ACTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Total</th>
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MEDIA DEPARTMENT

YEAR END REPORT

2008 - 2009

June, 2009
Mr. James Kelly
2008-2009 Media Activities and Projects

1. The Media Department has serviced various school and community groups regarding distribution of audio-visual hardware and software.

2. The media student assistants videotaped student teachers for various departments.

3. Additions of all pertinent videos and DVDs in all subject areas are continually added to our video/DVD library.

4. The Media Club attended a guest lecture with CNBC Financial Producers. They attended Rider University video editing non-linear seminar.

5. The Media staff have assisted The CAT program weekly. Assistance was provided to outside organizations with audio-visual hardware and problem solving information. Some of these organizations were Kean University, the Nutley Police Department, and the Nutley Red Cross and the Public Affairs Department.

6. The Media Department provided video coverage for the Yantacaw Talent Show and the Nutley High School graduation program. They also provided video production at Spring Garden School for students and faculty.

7. The Media Department taped and broadcasted Board of Education meetings on Cablevision (our cable television provider.) Students also produced documentaries for the Mayor's Public Affairs Department which aired on local cable station.

8. The Media Department served as the liaison between Nutley Public Schools. New Jersey Public Television, and Cablevision.

9. Overnight taping of an education program requested by the High School staff was recorded by the Media Department.

10. Our audio-visual student assistants videotaped elementary school community segments for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Holiday Season activities. Students provided coverage of concert choir and music festivities for Nutley High School.

11. The Television Studio, channel 77, is now housed in the audio-visual department. Production classes utilize the studio equipment for video production work. Students also produced live call-in shows and athletic college highlight videos.

12. The Media Department routinely services the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Channel One Daily Operation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duplication of pertinent educational videos for the district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV requests</td>
<td>AV budgets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV maintenance</td>
<td>Media room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV inventories</td>
<td>Media helpers</td>
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</table>
I. **Film and Video – 2008 - 2009**

Film and videos used from outside sources were 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<td>Postage money for film and video returns (UPS):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental fees for AV Software</td>
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Total $20.00

II **Audio Visual Hardware Requests**

<table>
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<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daily requests</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Term requests</td>
<td>478</td>
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III **Additional Media Requests**

- Fall and Spring CAT Programs Sessions: 20 sessions
- Channel One video curriculum feeds: 52 segments

Independent and community organization requests are filled as needed throughout the year, as are district wide needs.

IV **Media Room Use**

- House Television Studio (Channel 77) Program 24/7 Bulletin Boards
- Study – Research – Preview
- Maintenance of Hardware and Software
- AV Production Site
- Inventory Storage and Housing
- Office of Operation for Media Department
- Channel One operation daily

V **Expected Expenses 2009-2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Software Purchases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardware Purchases</td>
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**Total** $2,000.00

**Missing Software 2008-2009 – None**

**Missing Hardware 2008 – 2009 – None**

**Summer Loans – 2009**

Chris Oseja Utilizing a TV-VCR in Math Resource Room for Summer Program
Missing Software 2008-2009
None

Missing Hardware 2008-2009
None

Summer Loans 2009
Chris Oseja Utilizing a TV/VCR in Math Resource Room for Summer Program
TO: Mr. Gregory Catrambone

FROM: Mr. Bill Farkas

SUBJECT: End of Year Report for the CIE Program and Job Placement Service

DATE: June, 2009

FACT SHEET

1. CIE Regular Program.

2. Began with 18 students and finished with 13 students.

3. The 13 Students break down as follows:

   Three (3) will perform the same work they were trained for on the CIE program either on a full time or part time basis.

   Two (2) will go to vocational school, two years or less.

   Two (2) will go to the county college.

   Two (2) will go into apprenticeship programs – plumbing and auto mechanics.

   Two (2) undecided.

   Two (2) will be back for their senior year.

4. Total earnings of these students during the 2008-2009 school year amounted to $42,000.00.

5. One student will enter Local 108 Youth Transition to Work Program (auto mechanics); another will go into Local 5 of the Plumbers Union.

6. For the past couple of years I have become very active performing placement service duties for all Nutley High School students, both part time and full time permanent positions. This office has placed many students, and many others are aware of job possibilities offered through me.
7. Two new programs I was involved in this year: United Labor of Bergen County AFL-CIO Stage Technician Program and the New Jersey Health Care Employers Training and Development Fund – Local 1199S.

8. I had over 20 speakers from various vocational schools speak during my 2nd period class about the opportunities provided at their schools.

9. Finally, the Career Club I started eight years ago was cancelled by Mr. Fetherman this year. Why?

10. The O.S.H.A. Program was a success again. This is the ninth year for the union to come in and offer our students the opportunity to learn about safety on the job.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

William Farkas
CIE Coordinator

WF/md
JOHN H. WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent of Schools  
FROM: John Calicchio, Principal of John H. Walker Middle School  
RE: Principal’s Annual Report for the 2008-2009 School Year  
DATE: June 3, 2009

This Annual Report represents a composite of the following district and school’s priorities, monitoring and encouragement of staff, curriculum development and implementation, staff development and other various activities.

New Priorities Review:

The continued review and implementation of the Core Content Standards is ongoing. The review and the implementation of the Facilities Plan for the Walker Middle School continue to be ongoing. The Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy and an ongoing review of the students’ handbook and agenda planner continues to be addressed. As well, the District’s Technology Program, Library Media Skills, Gifted and Talented initiative, technology integration Grade Pro program and website development continued to be implemented. Curriculum guides were updated to reflect any changes to curriculum. In-service training continues to be well-received by the Walker Middle School staff. Lastly, the administration reviewed the lesson plans to insure Core Curriculum Standards were addressed. All committees made presentations and recommendations to the Board of Education.

Continuing Priorities Review:

The staff at the Walker Middle School continued the implementation of innovations in a variety of curriculum related areas. Several other important related items were addressed. In-service training was offered in the use of the Grade Pro grading program, CPR certification, ITIP, I and RS and 504 accommodations and computer integration. In addition, Mr. DiCristo and Mrs. Stendardi conducted workshops for professional development on Google Applications and Interactive Websites along with interactive middle school websites. Also, mentorship was offered for new staff and administration. In
addition, in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, current trends were discussed at monthly faculty meetings. Special Education instructors attended curriculum based department meetings so as to enhance their knowledge of current trends and issues, other non-curricular related items including state mandated directives such as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) were addressed at each faculty and department meeting. The importance of achieving safe harbor was reiterated at each meeting. The entire staff has worked tirelessly to meet that goal. Twelve after school mathematics and language arts review sessions were offered and well-received by the students. This, in conjunction with other activities, will hopefully help us achieve safe harbor. Also, the emergency management plan, use of the district’s website, implementation of all board of education policies and procedures and the EAN contract as it relates to the running of the Walker Middle School were implemented and supervised. Lastly, the monitoring and evaluation of the entire Walker Middle School staff provided opportunities for professional communication. These ongoing activities, along with advanced training and in-service workshops enhance the instructors’ professional development. These activities help to foster quality expertise in their fields.

The school district’s technology plan implementation efforts were continually communicated to the staff of the Walker Middle School by Mr. John Schwarz, Mr. Dan DiCristo and Mr. Ian Viemeister. The incorporation of the grade book program has streamlined the grading procedures. In addition, the staff is looking forward to doing homeroom attendance via the computer. Mr. Schwarz and Mr. Viemeister continue to monitor and upgrade our software, CD rooms, and other various items.

The new teacher orientation was well-received and set a positive tone for the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Francioso, Mrs. Clerico and Mr. Jones are to be commended for its content, presentation and direction.

The Walker Middle School staff took advantage of in-service workshops throughout the year. Various staff members attended in-service workshops offered by the district. In addition, many attended workshops outside the district to enhance their professional development. These workshops provided valuable information that could be incorporated into the classroom setting. Mr. Schwarz and Mr. DiCristo offered several in-service workshops to enhance the teachers’ use of the Grade Pro Program. The staff that attended these workshops shared information at faculty and department meetings throughout the school year. The Walker Middle School educational program continues to generate and outstanding approach in the education of middle school students focusing on a sound balance between the academic and non-academic areas. Student success is demonstrated by high academic achievement in subject areas: the Johns Hopkins Talent Search, the Seventh Nutley Writing Achievement Test, the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) in grades 7 and 8. Once again, the results of these standardized tests are above state and national averages in the various testing areas. Furthermore, the Walker Middle School students have achieved commendable results in the various competitions that they attend. Once
again, a significant number of seventh and eighth grade students participated in the Johns Hopkins Talent Search Program and received outstanding scores in both math and verbal areas of the SAT. This year the top score in the mathematics area was a 700 with a top score in the verbal area of 610.

Student interest in clubs, intramurals, community and school service, music and arts festival remain high. Walker Middle School’s students have an opportunity to participate in over 30 clubs. These clubs offer the youngsters the opportunity to experience other aspects of the school community. These clubs and other activities remain an integral part of the Walker Middle School setting. These activities enhance decision-making skills and positive social interaction at this critical age.

In addition to the normal teaching responsibilities, Walker Middle School teaching staff and administrators continue to be actively involved in curriculum work throughout the year. The staff’s commitment toward a continuance of professional development fosters a broader enlightenment in their curriculum areas that will ultimately benefit the students.

School Level Objectives for the 2008-2009 School Year

Our School Level Objectives were implemented during the 2007-2008 school year. The following details the Walker Middle School:

**OBJECTIVE I**

By June of 2009, seventy percent of students enrolled in the seventh grade English classes will achieve an average score of three or better on two open-ended questions that will relate to a selected reading text. This assessment of student proficiency in the writing of open-ended questions will be administered in May. These written responses will be scored holistically using the Rubric utilized for NJ ASK 7.

**Results of Objective I:** During the 2008-2009 school year, monthly meetings were held with all the seventh grade English instructors. Those staff members analyzed skill areas. Classroom lessons and activities were developed that enabled the students to develop the skills needed to successfully complete the school level objective. Practice activities were utilized throughout the school year to reinforce those skill areas. In May, the test was administered to all seventh grade students. The written responses were scored with 70% of the students scoring a three or better using the Rubric utilized for NJ ASK 7.

**OBJECTIVE II**

By June of 2009, seventh percent of students enrolled in all the seventh grade mathematic classes will achieve an average score of three or better on two open-ended questions that will relate to a selected mathematics problem. This assessment of student proficiency in the writing of open-ended questions will
be administered in May. These written responses will be scored holistically using the Rubric for scoring an open-ended response for the NJ ASK.

**Results of Objective II:** During the 2008-2009 school year, monthly meetings were held with seventh grade mathematics instructors. Those staff members analyzed skill areas. Classroom lessons and activities were developed that enabled the students to develop skills needed to successfully complete the school level objective. Practice activities were utilized throughout the school year to reinforce those skill areas. In May, the test was administered to all seventh grade students. The written responses were scored with 75% of the students scoring a three or better using the Rubric utilized for NJ ASK 7.

**School Level Objectives for the 2009-2010 School Year**

**OBJECTIVE I**

By June of 2010, sixty percent of the seventh grade students will score a 70% or better on the Technology Literacy Assessment. This assessment of the students’ general knowledge of computer use and application, information literacy skills and the latest knowledge of computer terminology and practices will be tested in late May. This assessment is an online computer based assessment utilized by many other middle schools throughout the state. The best is a 60 questions test with the score given immediately upon completion.

**OBJECTIVE II**

By June of 2010, seventy-five percent of the eighth grade students will score a 75% or better on the Technology Literacy Assessment. This assessment of the students’ general knowledge of computer use and application, information literacy skills and the latest knowledge of computer terminology and practices will be tested in late May. This assessment is an online based assessment utilized by many other middle schools throughout the state. The test is a 60 question test with the scores given immediately upon completion.

**Principal’s Priorities for the 2009-2010 School Year**

The results of the Nutley Writing Test (grade 7), the NJ ASK (grade 7), and the NJ ASK (Grade 8) were carefully reviewed. The progress of the students in mathematics strategies, language arts strategies and special education were closely monitored. All the youngsters continue to show academic progress in all subject areas. The use of the grade distribution chart in all subject areas is closely reviewed. The building principal attended and participated in the various in-service workshops. This information was shared at various faculty and parent meetings. The principal attended the PTO executive board meeting and the general PTO meetings. At those meetings, the school level objectives and other school based activities were discussed.
The building principal also attended the CAT program and Superintendent’s Advisory Committee and provided input to the various committees with concerns for the staff. This information was shared with the faculty.

The 2008-2009 school year was a very productive year with many students enjoying the Halloween Dance, the winter dance, the spring dance and other PTO and school sponsored activities. These activities continue to be well-received and attended by most of our students and staff. The vocal and instrumental students, once again, provided a variety of numbers during the Holiday, April and May concerts. The concert choir debonaires, chorale, band and orchestra competed in a variety of concerts and competitions throughout the year. All groups represented the Walker Middle School in the finest manner. The concert choir appearance at Bush Gardens was the culmination of an excellent school year. The large number of clubs has enabled many students to become active in a variety of extra curricular settings. The Walker Middle School Annual Awards Program recognized the hard work of many students in the areas of scholarship, service, character and leadership.

**Principal’s Priorities for the 2009-2010 School Year**

Monitor all close out activities of the construction project so that they do not interfere with the educational process at the Walker Middle School.

Monitor the conditions in and around the school so that staff and students may enter a safe environment.

Oversee the project and communicate concerns to the project manager.

Encourage staff through in-service workshops to utilize the Grade Pro program to its fullest.

Continue to incorporate the use of e-mail to inform staff of day-to-day activities at the Walker Middle School along with informing parents/guardians of all informational items through the school’s website.

Develop an eighth grade public speaking class for the 2009-2010 school year.

Review/revise the seventh and eight grade elective programs to align with the Core Contents Standards.

Monitor computer electives that will be instituted during the 2009-2010 school year to verify that WMS is meeting standards 8.1 and 8.2.

Review and update the Algebra I exam.

Implement the fire drill/emergency evacuation/secure in place plans and practice each as required.

Review the test scores from the NJ ASK 7 and 8 and Nutley Writing Test.
Assist the staff in the implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Underscore ITIP/Critical Thinking Methodology at Walker Middle School with the instructional staff.

Assist new staff with the mentoring procedures and review Core Content Standards with the entire staff.

Underscore the importance of the preparation of the students in grades 7 and 8 for the NJ ASK to all staff.

Develop instructional strategies that will assist the special education staff in increasing test scores so that the Walker Middle School will show adequate yearly progress in the NJ ASK 7/8.

Continue to oversee the implementation of the study skills elective.

Oversee all school level objectives development, implementation and completion.

Implement the use of the student handbook and review the district’s drug and alcohol policy along with the bullying and harassment policies. Encourage all staff to implement the use of the computer to enhance all classroom lessons.

Implement the use of the internet as a valuable instructional tool in all the classroom lessons.

Encourage the use of the computer lab and implement various means of research and telecommunications.

Encourage staff to participate in the various in-service programs.

Encourage staff to be a part of various after school curriculum committees.

Encourage staff to keep abreast of the profession through graduate courses, workshops, communication with staff, administration and first hand experiences.

Encourage staff to be the advisor to the various clubs at the Walker Middle School.

Encourage the students to actively participate in the variety of clubs offered at the Walker Middle School.
To: Mr. John Calicchio

From: Mr. Christopher Chern

Re: 2008-2009 Annual Report- Health and Physical Education Department

Mr. Christopher Chern, Mr. Thomas Grant, Ms. Luanne Zullo and Ms. Jennifer Citarella currently staff the Health and Physical Education Department.

- Mr. Christopher Chern teaches two 8th grade health classes, two 8th grade physical education classes and two seventh grade physical education classes. He also acts as the department representative; duties include organizing the budget for the department and designing teacher schedules. Mr. Chern is also the coordinator of the I & RS team.

- Mr. Thomas Grant teaches two 8th grade physical education classes, two 7th grade health class and two 7th grade physical education classes. Mr. Grant had a student teacher during the first half of the school year. Mr. Grant served varsity golf coach at Nutley High School this past year. Mr. Grant also sponsored the golf club at the middle school.

- Ms. Luann Zullo teaches two 8th grade Physical education classes, two 7th grade physical education classes and two 8th grade health classes. She also is the freshman girl’s volleyball coach, JV girl’s basketball and head softball coach at Nutley High School. Ms. Zullo sponsors the softball club. Ms. Zullo also chaperones many extra-curricular activities at the middle school. This past spring Ms. Zullo had two student teachers.

- Mrs. Jennifer Citerella teaches two 8th grade physical education classes, two 7th grade physical education classes and two 7th grade health classes.

The physical education curriculum was implemented by offering the students a choice in team-sport based actives or lifetime-based
activities depending on the marking period and the weather (students were given a choice of two activities to participate in twice a marking period when possible, increasing participation and students attitude toward physical education). Fitness testing was administered to each student in the fall and spring.

Physical education classes were able to use the oval (weather permitting). The physical education teacher on the oval will have the walkie-talkie during the class so contact with the building will available.

Health classes followed the health curriculum. Units that were covered included; mental health, substance use and abuse, growth and development, communicable disease, STD's and AIDS, fitness and nutrition.

Technology

A projector was installed in the health classroom enabling the teachers to utilize the computer and Internet during lessons. The projector can also be used to show many other types of media files from the computer, some that will enable the class to interact with the media and increase student participation in the learning process. Teachers were able to use the computers in their office, health room and teachers lounge. In a subject area like health access to the Internet keeps information current and topical and allows the lessons to be interactive for the students. The physical education classes were able to use the Sony DDR program that was acquired for us by the mayor's office this past year. All of these tools had a tremendous impact in the classroom and in the gym.

Recommendations

- Now that we are using the oval for physical education a better or quicker way of getting to the oval would help improve our use of the time allowed for physical education.
Objectives: To serve the school community by helping provide the informational needs of the staff and students.

Goals of the media center:
- To purchase, evaluate and organize both print and technology materials for all grade levels and support the schools’ curriculum.
- To offer services that facilitates the use of the library and the pursuit of knowledge. Encourage cooperative learning between the librarian and teachers.
- To maintain a friendly, clean and welcome library environment that is conducive to research and studying for both staff and students.
- Provide staff development workshops (example: Interactive MS Websites) to help staff incorporate new ideas and increase technology use in their lessons.

Basic Computer Skills
- Login and logoff the computer
- Saving their work to the appropriate folder on the computer network
- Open and close basic programs
- Manipulate desktop shortcuts to access programs
- Copy and paste information and/or graphics to a document
- Printing to the correct printer
- Identifying basic computer problems

Application of Computer Programs
- The Media Specialist sees all the 7-8th grade English classes, and 7-8th Social Studies classes throughout the year. Also included are all other subject areas and grade levels as assigned by the teacher. During this time, they are working on a various projects that involve the use of the basic Microsoft Windows programs.
- Each student takes a pre/post Technology Literacy Assessment – based on results, lessons will be planned to incorporate these concepts.

Listed below is a breakdown of teacher/class usage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Studies</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Foreign Language</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Special Ed./ESL</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400(classes)</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Lunch-study during various lunch periods and homeroom passes allow students additional time to utilize the media center for research and quiet studying.
This includes:

- Creating a simple Excel spreadsheet to organize the data and interpret the information. (Using formulas if necessary)
- Setting up correct margins, spacing and font in Microsoft Word
- Creating newsletters, brochures and other publications in Microsoft Publisher
- Creating an electronic graphic organizer using Inspiration
- Designing a presentation using PowerPoint. They are also taught to use bullets for information, correct color, style and font technique, inserting images and animation usage.
- Hyper-linking websites or online video footage (United Streaming)
- Adding and downloading attachments to and from email
- Practicing use of Smartboard tools and software
- Utilizing an interactive website to create a final product

Information Access and Research Skills
- Choosing appropriate information resources (both print, non-print and web resources) to support research
- Identifying Internet search engines and meta search engines
- Using Boolean and Advanced Searches
- Identifying appropriate URLs
- Instruction on the use of the on-line databases are library has access to
- Instruction on the use on the on-line card catalog system
- Teaching how to properly cite information both print, non-print and web resources.
- Evaluating the accuracy, relevance and appropriateness of on-line information

Social Aspects
- Each student must have their AUP and also a Student Responsibility Sheet signed before they are given their username and password for the computer network
- Explain the consequences of inappropriate use of technology both the physical computer, parts of the computer and Internet sites.
- Explain copyright rules, plagiarism and properly citing information
- Describe and practice Internet and email “etiquette”.

By working independently and/or collaboratively to produce a final product for their teachers, each student is reinforcing and achieving the objectives set forth in the technology and library standards. In conjunction with the other Technology classes offered here, the students are getting a clear perspective on the usage and importance of technology in their daily lives.
Circulation Statistics:

This school year 3,085 books were checked out of the media center.

- A majority of these books (fiction, biography and current issues) were used for book reports and research paper for their English classes or free reading.
- Booktalks were given to promote fiction books.
- Overdue were written and fines were collected for lost or overdue materials.
- Themed book displays were created to promote new books or a certain genre.
- Visually appealing bulletin boards were created to display various aspects of reading and technology usage.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. John Calicchio, Principal of Walker Middle School
From: John Vitkovsky, Music Coordinator
Subject: Annual Music Department Report 2008 - 2009

The following are activities of the 2008 - 2009 school year, present concerns, and recommendations that are being submitted for your review and consideration.

ACTIVITIES

1. I am pleased to report that once again, almost two third’s of the Middle School’s students are involved in the music program. This year’s enrollment remained the same for the Concert Choir, the WMS Debonaires, and the Chorale. Enrollment was up for the Band and the Orchestra. The projected enrollment for next year’s music classes will continue with the same large numbers of students.

2. The Walker Select Concert Choir had another outstanding year. The concert schedule for the year included: the Mayor’s Tree Lighting, the Walker School Holiday Concert, and the Spring Choral Festival at Nutley High. On the weekend of May 15-16th the Concert Choir participated at the Hershey Park Choral Festival and received a first place (superior) trophy. The Concert Choir will bring its concert season to a close performing at the Walker Eighth Grade Promotion.

3. The Walker Chorale also had a wonderful year. Led by their director, Ms. Nicole San Giovanni, this vocal group gave excellent performances at the Walker School Holiday Concert and the Spring Choral Festival.

4. This year, the Madrigal Singers were enthusiastically received at: the Walker School Holiday Concert and the Spring Choral Festival. On May 15th, the Madrigal Singers competed at the Festival In The Parks Competition at Great Adventure where the Madrigal Singers received a first place (superior) trophy.
Music Dept. Annual Report - Walker Middle School

5. The Debonaires had an excellent year. This all girl chorus performed at the Walker School Holiday Concert, the Spring Choral Festival, and received a first place (superior) trophy at the Hershey Park Choral Festival.

6. The Walker Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra gave excellent performances at the Walker Holiday Concert and the Spring WMS Instrumental Music Festival. In December and March the Walker Jazz Band performed for the senior citizens at the Parkside Manor. In December, the Walker MS Wind Ensemble performed at the Mayor’s Tree Lighting. The WMS Jazz Band together with ten WMS instrumental ensembles performed at the Music Boosters Café Night. At the Dorney Park, Music In The Parks Competition, the WMS Concert Band received a first place (superior) trophy and the Jazz Band received a second place (excellent) trophy. On May 18th the WMS Jazz Band performed at Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair, NJ. Once again, the WMS Marching Band will march in the Nutley Township Memorial Day Parade.

7. Workshops: During the February Mid Winter Vacation, Mr. McPartland and Mr. Vitkovsky attended the NJ Music Educators Convention and Workshops. Also, Mr. McPartland attended the January 19th Music Workshop at The Music Shop. The presenters for this were: Dr. Peter Boonstaff of Hofstra University and Mr. Alan Bomwell of the Conn-Selmer Company.

8. In February Mr. Cundari and Ms. San Giovanni co-hosted the All North Jersey HS Region I Choral Festival rehearsals at Walker Middle School. They were assisted by Mr. John Calicchio, Principal of Walker Middle School and Mr. John Vitkovsky, Coordinator of Music.

9. Once again, the Nutley Music Program has been selected as one of the best 100 music programs in America. Only ten districts in New Jersey and none of our neighbors made the Best 100 List.

The Best 100 List is compiled annually by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. Districts that applied to the Foundation were measured using the following criteria: funding, enrollment, student/teacher ratios, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and other relevant factors.

We first made the Best 100 list in 2005 and again last year. We have an outstanding Music Program that is made possible by:

1. exceptional music faculty in the elementaries, middle and high school.
2. talented AND DEDICATED student musicians.
3. superb support from the Nutley Board of Education, Mr. Zarra, Mrs. Francioso, and Mr. Calicchio.
4. our fantastic parent groups: the Nutley Music Boosters and Friends of Nutley Singers.

Being chosen to this list isn’t an accident. The reason we are on the Best 100 list is because of the Team Effort that is present here in Nutley.

CONCERNS

As each year goes by with meager increases in the budget, due to state mandated budget caps, the inventory of instruments at Walker School gets older. A number of instruments are forty to fifty years old. Even though we send instruments for repair on a regular basis, their age prohibits them from remaining in playable condition. We definitely need to replace these old instruments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We need to replace the old instruments in our inventory (those that are thirty to fifty years old) with new ones.
To: Mr. John Calicchio, Principal of John H. Walker Middle School
From: Ms. Cyndi DeBonis, Coordinator of Language Arts K-12
Date: June 1, 2009

I. Testing

A. Seventh and eighth grade students take the NJ ASK Assessment in April and preparation for this test is a priority of the English Department.

B. Seventh and eighth grade students are given reading and writing samples beginning in September that reinforce skills tested on the NJ ASK. Essays and open-ended questions are graded following the holistic scoring rubrics recommended by the New Jersey Department of Education.

C. Students that scored a 77 or lower in their English class were recommended for a NJ ASK Enrichment class that met on Wednesdays after school for the six weeks prior to the test. Each student was scheduled with a different teacher than they had for English during the day.

D. The speculative prompt was refined further by including explanatory writing. This required the students to create a story from a scenario, respond to a quotation, or solve a problem.

II. Instruction

The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards were emphasized when creating weekly lesson plans. This included the areas of reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and listening. The revision of the grades 5-8 language arts curriculum and the creation of mapping from September to June gave the teachers a guide to follow that promoted continuity throughout the department.

Seventh and eighth grade students are encouraged to write in their journals on a regular basis. Some entries are literature based and the students select others. Spontaneous writing is encouraged daily. Writing as a process is also a major element of the instruction each week.
Vocabulary development and grammar skills remain a top priority. Teachers use the Daily Language Workouts and Do Now activities to accomplish this goal.

The teaching of the novel with all of the elements of the plot diagram remains a priority in seventh and eighth grade. The various literary terms are emphasized with guided reading and class discussions on each chapter. For the first time this year, the Shakespearian play *A Midsummer's Night Dream* was taught in eighth grade. This will assist the students in understanding the language of Shakespeare before entering high school. Also, the seventh grade read *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The incorporation of classical literature has proven beneficial and has contributed to the quality of their reading experiences.

Eighth graders are required to write a research paper. They are guided through a step-by-step approach and follow the MLA format. Students prepare an outline, note cards, a rough draft, and a detailed bibliography with works cited. Research is conducted in the library using various sources and individual assistance is given.

The elective offered to seventh graders is the Writing Workshop. The goals of this course are to teach and reinforce writing process skills and to present the opportunity for students to learn and practice the skills of writing in relation to their abilities. Students are encouraged to explore writing for a variety of purposes and to write for a variety of audiences. An important element of this course is student conferencing. This allows each writer to discuss his/her writing with a peer and to share ideas on revision and editing for a final copy.

The elective offered to eighth graders is Journalism, which also produces the school newspaper. Students are encouraged to be reporters and write stories that will be of interest to the entire school. The production of the newspaper includes computer skills, writing skills, photography, and accurate reporting. This course is an excellent choice for students that want to become involved in the *Maroon and Gray* in high school.

The basic skills courses provide at-risk students the opportunity to refine their skills in reading and writing. It correlates to the regular English curriculum and gives the students an extra period each day to receive individual assistance in these areas. Strategies for the NJ ASK are provided and refined to give the students confidence to meet with success in language arts literacy.
III. Staff Development

Many issues pertinent to the success of the English department were discussed throughout the year at department meetings and Articulation Day. The revision of curriculum was implemented and using the curriculum mapping was very useful as a structural device. The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards were used in developing lesson plans with an awareness of the Big Idea, the essential question, and the enduring understanding. The creation of the school-based professional development committee will assist the department in refining some of our goals and bring a greater awareness of student learning.

IV. Articulation between Walker Middle School and NHS

Writing folders are sent to the high school at the end of grade eight. This is a collection of a variety of writing assignments including the eighth grade research paper. Index cards listing the books read in seventh and eighth grade are attached to the writing folder.

Summer reading lists are available on the school website under parental notices. Teachers are instructed to give a hard copy to students that may not have access to a computer. The lists are also available in the main office. Upon returning to school in September, the students are asked to demonstrate their knowledge of these books, which will count as three homework assignments.

V. Concerns for the Future

Continued teacher training for skills relating to the NJ ASK.

Consideration of two periods of English so that students will have 80 minutes of Language Arts Literacy.

Continued participation in the Montclair State University Renewal Program, which provides meaningful workshops and conferences that relate to the proficiency of Language Arts Literacy.
Implementation of writing across the curriculum to include all departments in the writing process with emphasis on open-ended questions and informational text.

Training for teachers in the area of digital technology including using the LCD projectors.
The Social Studies Department at the John H. Walker Middle School maintained a strong curriculum that enabled students to meet the goals, objectives, and proficiencies of social studies education. The department offered four courses divided into thirty-one sections, which included vector and regular levels of instruction, as well as inclusion classes. A staff of six full-time and one share-time faculty members addressed the needs of 343 seventh grade students and 263 eighth grade students.

I. Curriculum

The department continued to implement a curriculum that was designed in accordance with the current New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards and the requirements for the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment. In preparation for the aforementioned test, the curriculum focused upon the development of the American nation and the first half of the two-year sequence in World History. Special emphasis was placed in the seventh grade upon the study of American government, and in the eighth grade upon world geography and the history of the ancient and medieval eras. The faculty also continued to infuse instruction concerning the Holocaust, tolerance, and various forms of discrimination into appropriate units of the course of study. Of its own initiative, the department has continued to explore methods of incorporating a greater emphasis on reading in the social studies into the curriculum. This is part of an overall effort to raise verbal scores on various standardized tests, and to develop and enhance essential skills necessary for the successful study of the social sciences. This past academic year also witnessed a continued infusion of technology into classroom instruction, as the department continued to utilize Apple laptop computers, ceiling mounted LCD projectors, and wireless networking capabilities. The department made use of software such as *Inspiration!* and Microsoft Office 2008.

The department completed the third year of implementing the revised the Grade Eight curriculum, which focuses upon world history from the origins of civilization to the fifteenth century of the Common Era. This was accomplished with the efforts and expertise of three faculty members and the Social Studies Coordinator. This initiative was in accordance with the 2004 New Jersey Curriculum Standards and the announced preference by the previous state Coordinator for Social Studies for an “Essential Questions” curriculum model. The department has also initiated discussions regarding a revised scope and sequence for grades five through seven, pending the adoption of new Social Studies Core Curriculum Standards by the New Jersey Department of Education.
II. Assessment

The monitoring of student achievement of district and departmental objectives remains an ongoing concern of the Social Studies Department. To this end, the department continues to utilize previously developed tests concerning the nature of prejudice and discrimination, as well as tests measuring geographic literacy, as needed. Faculty members also have incorporated various instruments to measure mastery of the Holocaust curriculum where appropriate. The department is currently considering means of evaluating the increased infusion of reading into the curriculum, as well as the retention of geography skills. More emphasis will be placed upon “essential questions” in the eighth grade. As always, the faculty monitors a wide range of skills and learning styles through the use of standardized tests, teacher-generated tests, projects, and presentations.

III. Staff Development Activities

The faculty of the Social Studies Department took part in the following workshops and seminars:

1. Amistad workshops.
2. Graduate courses at Caldwell College
3. New Jersey Network for Educational Renewal
4. Substance Abuse/School Security workshops
5. The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies annual convention.

IV. Enrichment

With the active support and encouragement of Mr. Calicchio, the Social Studies Department conducted the following enrichment activities:

A. Mock Elections, including the National Student-Parent Mock Election
B. History Club
C. Law and Justice Club
D. Poster Projects
E. Bulletin Boards and School Displays

1. Black History Month
2. Women’s History Month
3. American Presidents
4. The Constitution
5. The Holocaust
6. Campaign Posters for Past Presidential Elections
7. Great Documents display in individual classrooms
F. Ancient History poster projects
G. Academic Booster Club History Fair
H. World Religions projects
I. Internet - Based Projects Concerning the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
J. Analysis and Creation of Political Cartoons
K. Oral and Written Research Projects
J. Current Event Magazines and Projects
K. Viewing of Movies and Videos
L. National Geographic Geography Bee.
M. Creation of colonial newspapers, using Microsoft Publisher and Office 2008
N. Multimedia student projects and presentations on the American Revolution
M. Biographies
O. PowerPoint presentations

V. Textbook Management
A. Textbook age, condition and inventory are continually monitored
B. Copyright dates of the two texts being used:

   Grade Seven
   *Why We Remember*, combined volume, 1998

   Grade Eight
   *Journey Across Time: The Early Ages* combined volume, 2005
VI. Concerns

As in past years, the department would like to continue to enhance its capability to access primary sources and present computer-generated materials to the class. Therefore, it is recommended that John Walker Middle School continue funding for age-appropriate subscription services, such as Facts-On-File and ABC-CLIO. Mr. O’Dell recommends establishing an Internet presence for the department on the school’s web site, making the current placeholder site live with recommended resources and long-term class assignments. In addition, the department would like to increase the number of grade-appropriate supplemental readings available for the students. As always, the department is encouraged by the ongoing support of Mr. Calicchio and the administration towards the realization of these goals.
To: Mr. John Calicchio
From: Toby D'Ambola
Subject: Annual Report – Mathematics Department
Date: June 1, 2009

I. Staff

A. Departmental statistics indicate that 8 regular teachers taught a total of 41 Math classes with an average class size of 20. This includes four sections of Algebra I, two sections of Computer Applications and for the first time one section of Accelerated Geometry. In a state mandated supplemental program, Denise Cleary and Connie Inguanti taught our Math Strategies classes. Ms Cleary taught two math strategies classes at the 7th grade level and one study skills class while Ms. Inguanti taught four math strategies classes, three at the 8th grade level and one at the 7th grade level. Both Ms. Cleary and Ms. Inguanti worked on test taking skills in answering open-ended questions with their students while at the same time reinforcing those skills being taught in the regular math classes.

B. This year, Mr. Christopher Weinstein joined the math staff replacing Ms. Jennifer Ambrose who took a position as a K through 8 mathematics' supervisor with the Jersey City school district. Mrs. Turro was a cooperating teacher for a student teacher from Fairleigh Dickerson University working with this person from January through May.

TESTING

A. On May 7th all students in grade 8 took the NJ ASK 8 assessment. Results of this assessment will not be known until the summer and will be used to determine whether a student should be placed in a basic skills class when entering the 9th grade at the high school.

B. The NJ ASK 7 assessment was also given to 7th graders on May 7th and 8th. Results from this test will be used to determine whether a student should be placed in a math strategy class for the next school year.

C. Those 7th and 8th grade students who took the John Hopkins Talent Search assessment scored an average of 440 on the mathematics part. The following 7th grade student: Eugene Or received distinction and state awards from John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. Eighth grade students who participated and received awards are: Debanjan Saha, Kevin Li, Jaimie Sheppard, Alexander Horta and Zachariah Calluori.
III INSTRUCTION

A. To insure that students were adequately prepared for the NJ ASK 7 & 8 assessments, supplementary materials were used in all classes to reinforce the curriculum. Consumable commercially published workbooks were issued to each student. These workbooks were specifically designed to provide practice in preparation for state testing.

B. In January, a letter concerning the NJ Ask 8 was sent to all parents of eighth grade students. This letter informed parents of the impact of this assessment and how it would affect their son's/daughter's schedule next year if they did not achieve a passing score. The letter encouraged parents to seek assistance for their child where necessary by making arrangements with their child's mathematics teacher for extra help. Parents were requested to sign the letter and return it to their child's mathematics teacher.

C. This year we continued our after school program to assist those students in levels 3 and 4 of our mathematics program. The classes met twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3 P.M. to 4 P.M. starting in January and continuing through April. Class size was kept to a minimum so that each student could receive individualized attention. Instructors worked on test taking skills with a major emphasis on answering open-ended questions. At the end of these sessions a sample test was given to all students to evaluate their overall progress, preparing them to take the upcoming state assessments.

D. In April a comprehensive test was given to all 7th and 8th grade classes as a pre-test to the state assessments given in May. This test was used to evaluate the students' progress and reinforce those areas that our students had difficulties with.

E. In order to implement current recommendations for increased use of calculator technology in the classroom, and to satisfy state requirements concerning the use of calculators on the NJ ASK, 100 Casio 300ES scientific calculators were purchased for use in the seventh grade while the eighth grade classes continued to use the Casio 300MS calculator. Next year all 7th and 8th grade classes will be using the ES calculators. Calculators are issued to all 7th and 8th grade students in order to enhance daily lessons and to properly prepare them for the state assessment at each level.

F. This year we continued to offer Algebra I at the seventh grade level. Those students who successfully complete this course will be placed in Accelerated Geometry next year. Because of the success of this program, we had enough students this year that we were able to offer an Accelerated Geometry class at the middle school. This program in general has been very successful with
many parents commenting favorably about the challenges and opportunities it offers their children.

II. MATHEMATICS CLUBS, CONTESTS

A. This year, seventh and eighth grade vector students participated in the annual New Jersey Math League competition. Contests were held during regular vector classes. This was under the direction of Nancy Foglio, Deanna Fredricks and Frank Sasso.

B. The Math Club, sponsored by Nancy Foglio, met once a week to prepare for contests and discuss problem-solving strategies. In February they participated in MathCounts, a national math competition. Our math club also participated in the Essex County math league contest held on May 27th, with the middle school geometry team placing 3rd out of 15 teams.

C. This year, our math department, again participated in the St. Jude’s Mathathon. This is a program where students do math problems to raise funds for the work done by St. Jude’s hospital. It is not only an educational activity but also makes our students aware of the needs of other children. Ms. Ferraro was in charge of this fundraiser, which raised more than $1,500.00 for this charity.

III. WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, AND OTHER VISITATIONS

In October Nancy Foglio, Connie Inguanti and Denise Cleary attended the AMTNJ conference held in Somerset.

Nancy Foglio, Frank Sasso, Sarah Misner, Connie Inguanti and Larry Tuorto participated in four Saturday mornings curriculum meeting discussing the 5th grade to 8th grade mathematics curriculum.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL GOALS FOR 2009 – 2010

A. Continue to monitor the progress of those students in the Math Strategies classes and create a math strategies curriculum.

B. Continue to review the middle school curriculum with regard to updating course content and textbooks to more closely align them with the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards.

C. Continue to incorporate the open-ended question into our regular classroom activities and to include these types of questions on classroom tests.
D. Continue to encourage the use of technology in the classroom. Continue to train teachers in the use of computers and the Internet as tools for enhancing daily lessons. Increase the use of the RM software in all math classes.

E. Continue to monitor and evaluate the seventh grade Algebra I program.

F. Change the mathematics program at the eighth grade level to increase the number of students taking Algebra 1, starting September 2010.
TO: Mr. John Calicchio, Principal of John H. Walker Middle School

FROM: Mr. Ciro Violante, Coordinator of the World Languages and ESL Departments

SUBJECT: Annual Report, 2008-09

I. Statistical Data

1. Approximately 35%, seventh graders were enrolled in Latin, Spanish, and Italian level 1A. Approximately 33%, eighth graders were enrolled in Latin IB, Italian IB, Spanish IB,

2. Three World Languages and one ESL staff members of whom is itinerant taught 16 sections of 3 course offerings of Italian, Spanish, and Latin, levels 1A and 1B, and ESL.

3. Mr. Di Cristo together with Mrs. Stepansky the Latin teachers at the high school visited the five elementary schools to promote the Latin program to 6th graders.

4. Mrs. Frost-Guzzo, the ESL teacher continues to work very diligently with interdepartmental teachers the administration and guidance department to test LEP students for entrance/exiting ESL program, reinforce academics and track the ESL students in and out of the program. She continues to revamp the ESL program at the Middle School to make it more challenging, and make the students accountable, at the same time to prepare them for the ACCESS Test as required by the State of New Jersey according to the NCLB and Title 3.

5. Mr. Violante applied for a grant from the Italian American Committee on Education (ACE) an expansion of the Italian Embassy in New York, and was awarded $25,000.00, to be used for teacher salary and teaching material for the Italian classes.

III. Accomplishments, Achievements, Cultural Events and Workshops.

1. Mrs. Schiavone's Italian IA (7th graders) classes attended a dress rehearsal performance of the Opera "Madame Butterfly" at the Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln center, New York City.
2. The Italian club held a bake sale during lunch periods. It included brownies and Italian pastries. The profits from the sale financed the student’s annual field trip to a local Italian restaurant.

3. Mrs. Schiavone, sponsors of the club, took a group of students during lunch time to authentic Italian restaurants/café to taste traditional regional cuisine and gelato.

4. The Italian club accompanied by the sponsor Mrs. Schiavone, marched in the Nutley Columbus Day Parade.

5. Mrs. Muniz took the Spanish club members on a guided tour of the United Nations in New York. She also hosted a student from Montclair State University for junior practicum in Spanish.

6. Mr. Violante as district ESL coordinator, together with Mrs. Frost-Guzzo, ESL teacher were involved in the following: Code 6A:15.
   • Each marking period reviewed report cards of all ELLs current students to monitor progress of potential difficulties in content area classes, as well as those students exited from the ESL Program within the last two years. 6A:15-1.10
   • Coordinated with guidance counselors and ELL parents to maximize participation in tutoring services available through NCLB and code 6A:15-1.7
   • Determine the native language of each LEP student. Developed a screening process to determine the proficiency level and make appropriate recommendations to guidance. Maintain a census record. Report annually to the State Department of Education as part of the (Fall Report) fall LEP Enrollment Summary. 6A:15-1.3

5. Mrs. Frost-Guzzo attended out of districts professional workshops/conferences.
   • During the fall Articulation Day, she with the other elementary ESL teachers visited the Linden Public Schools’ K-12 ESL Program, which was designated by the State Department of Education as a model program in 2008. The teacher had the opportunity to observe exemplary practices in second language teaching in a district using a magnet school arrangement.
   • Spring Conference - New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/Bilingual Education (NJTESOL/BE). She attended three separate workshops.

7. Mrs. Frost-Guzzo, ESL teacher:
   a. Continues to infuse technology into her lessons through frequent use of audio CDs, and LCD projector for viewing curriculum components CD-ROMs, curriculum components web-sites, and wide variety of Internet sites, maximizing comprehension for all ELLs, and reinforcing listening/speaking, reading skills, and phonemic development.
   b. She maintains a teacher’s website posting assignments, reminders, and
IV. **Departmental Recommendations**

- The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages and The State Department of Education mandate that every student K-8 has to be enrolled in a foreign language class. In order to be in compliance with the State Department of Education, the world languages department strongly recommends that every middle school pupil be given the opportunity to choose to study a second language. N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 (a)3 holds districts accountable for "assessing and publicly reporting on the progress of all students in developing the knowledge and skills specified by the Core Curriculum Content Standards, including content areas not currently in the Statewide assessment program."

- Children in early second language programs where curriculum is aligned with other core areas show gains in standardized tests of basic skills, and derive additional cognitive and affective benefits;

- **Early language learning results in improving literacy skills.** Reading and writing processes are similar for first and second languages. Skills and strategies are transferable for first to second language and vice-versa. Well constructed K-8 world languages curriculum will positively influence literacy skills in both first and second language learning.
The John H. Walker Middle School Science Department dazzled and delighted our young learners with another great year of scholarship, inquiry and exploration. Complete with veteran and veteran-like talent, Mrs. Atkins, Mr. Bertuzzi, Mr. Francia, Mr. Libert, Mrs. Love and Mrs Lynn Zazzali continue to provide the guidance, wisdom and a passion for teaching science. Our kids are the better for having shared in their learning experiences!

Please find in the pages that follow the statistics, activities, accomplishments, accolades, concerns and recommendations that are being submitted for your review and consideration.

I. The Science Department

Departmental statistics for the 2008-2009 school year indicate that 6 diverse and dynamic teachers taught 7th and 8th grade science in the inclusion, regular and vector level settings. Our Middle School curriculum emphasizes four areas of study: life, physical, earth and environmental science, the following of which constitutes a section-by-section mention of each staff member’s classroom teaching assignment:

**Teacher: Mrs. Alison Atkins**

Mrs. Atkins taught three vector and two regular education seventh grade science sections, both of which were taught in the inclusion setting. Alison continues to add activities that bring greater relevancy to her classroom, and her work using ‘smart notes’ has helped capture the value of having Smartboards in our classrooms.

**Teacher: Mr. Joseph Bertuzzi**

Mr. Bertuzzi taught five sections of eighth grade science, three vectors and two regular education. A veteran teacher, Joe continues to add hands-on activities and outdoor learning exercises that enhance the relevancy of his popular courses.
Teacher: Mr. Frank Francia
Mr. Francia taught five sections of seventh grade science: two at the vector level, and three at the regular education level. Mr. Francia has added several new activities this year, including the construction of DNA models, sampling of the local ‘Mud Hole’ in search of microorganisms, as well as volcano construction and boat buoyancy projects.

Teacher: Mr. Frank Libert
Mr. Libert taught five sections of eighth grade science: two vector, two regular education, and one in the inclusion setting. A veteran teacher, Frank brings a wealth of content knowledge and enthusiasm to work everyday, infusing his classroom with experiences taken from the field kayaking and hiking as part of the National Geographic Society, NJ Audubon and Earthwatch Institutes and the Hackensack River Kayak and Canoe Club.

Teacher: Mrs. Laura Love
Mrs. Love taught five sections of regular level eighth grade science this year, two of which was taught in the inclusion setting. A veteran teacher, Laura brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her classroom.

Teacher: Mrs. Lynn Zazzali
Mrs. Zazzali taught five sections of regular level seventh grade science this year, one of which was offered in the inclusion setting. Lynn has breathed new life into the seventh grade program, and enhanced the relevancy of her lessons by placing greater emphasis on the application of technology to deliver instruction.

II. Staff Development

Each and every staff member of the John H. Walker Middle School science department sought out and participated in professional development opportunities that ranged from workshops to lecture series to field trips. I commend all participants on “a job well done.” See section III - Extracurricular Activities for a detailed listing.

III. Extracurricular Activities

The following is a list of extracurricular activities and professional development opportunities participated in by members of the science department:

Supervised the JHWalker's Cooking Club
Supervised Meteorology and Sports Information Club
Participated in Earthwatch scientific research
Completed Graduate Course work at Montclair State and William Paterson Universities
Participated in the Principal’s Advisory Council
Attended the Owl Prowl at the Weiss Ecology Center
Attended the Hackensack Riverkeeper Eco-Cruise Program
Investigated the state of Maine's ecosystems via kayak
Participated in Response Law in-service seminar
Participated in the Suicide Prevention in-service seminar
Participated in Easy Grade Pro workshops
Participated in the Cyber Technology workshop
Participated in numerous Smartboard training in-service seminars
Participated in the Introduction to Studywiz Spark seminar
Served as the *Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach* (NHS)
Served as *Head Varsity Baseball Coach* (Bergen Tech HS)

In addition to the aforementioned activities, several staff members displayed their students' science projects in the hallways and classrooms of the John H. Walker Middle School, reinforcing various components of our science curriculum.

**IV. Concerns for the Future**

The science department continues its commitment to the students of our district and their achievement throughout their middle school years. Classroom lessons reflect careful planning and execution with constant focus on curricular objectives and state standards.

With the arrival of Smartboards to all of our science education classes, staff and students, alike, are experiencing an exciting renewal of the delivery of instruction. And to continue to meet the challenges of our dynamic middle school learners, considerations are underway for new textbooks designed to maximize the effectiveness of learning experiences as well as meet the needs of our changing curricula and state standards. While textbooks should not drive curriculum, they can be an integral part of the overall presentation of our students' experiences. As such, books should be user-friendly to encourage our students to read and reflect the most up-to-date information available in the dynamic field of science and discovery.

Additionally, on behalf of a continued effort to enhance the vertical alignment of our K-6, Middle School and 9-12 curricula, it is now more necessary than ever that we embrace the challenges and rewards of calendar-based curriculum mapping. Dialogue continues in an effort to promote articulation between our primary, middle school and high school educators, and we can reasonably presuppose that the learning experiences of all of our youngsters will profit from this worthwhile endeavor.
May 27, 2009

TO: Mr. Joseph Zarra
FROM: Mr. George M. Ackerman
RE: Annual Report 2008-2009 School Year

The following activities summary/highlights of the Academic Year, 2008-2009 are being submitted for your review.

1. **STAFF WORKSHOPS - DEVELOPMENT DAYS - PROFESSIONAL VISITATIONS**

   Various members of this department were involved in workshops and professional day visitations, including, but not limited to: College Board Studio Art AP Conference, Art Educators of New Jersey Annual Conference, Mayco Ceramic Workshop, Cisco Network Academy Professional Development, BetterPhoto.com, (YTTW) Stage Technicians Consortium Meetings, 23rd Annual NJTEA Conference & Expo 2009, NJ Educational Computer Cooperative Workshop, NJTEA Alternate Energy Workshop, ECELE Annual Conference, and PhotoPlus Expo. Staff also furthered their education by attending classes at local post-secondary institutions such as: Caldwell College, Kean University, Saint Peters College, NJCU, and Mercer County Community College.

2. **FIELD TRIPS**

   Classes and clubs visited various sites this year including Disney World, The Ceramic Supply Co. in Lodi, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Guggenheim Museum, New York Metropolitan Museum, the Nutley Public Library, New Jersey Sportsman’s Show as well as local Post Secondary Institutions such as NJIT and Stevens Tech.
3. GUEST SPEAKERS

Trade and Technical schools such as Ringling School of Art & Design, The New York Art Institute, Full Sail University, New Hampshire School of Art, Lincoln Technical Institute, Engine City Technical Institute, Gibbs College, and the Stage Technicians Union sent representatives to speak to our students about their school and careers in related fields.

Representatives from Rider College and MSNBC spoke to our TV and Broadcasting students.

Mr. Christadore brought it many speakers from various fields including but not limited to: County prosecutor’s office, CPA firms, and sports marketing corporations.

Former students currently attending various Colleges and Universities, members of the Armed Services, leaders in local industry, and staff members returned to speak to our students about their post High School experiences, careers, and/or hobbies.

Mr. Peter Busacca, YTTW Grant Coordinator, spoke to our Technology and Work Study classes about opportunities available in the stage technician trades.

4. SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The staff participated in the following school and community service projects: served as members of the Faculty Senate (High School), Principal’s Advisory Committee (Middle School), member of the Vocational and School-to-Work Advisory Committee, Coordinator – Intervention & Referral Services, Class Advisors for Senior and Junior Classes, Head Coach Boys and Girls Varsity and JV Bowling Teams, designed and produced Awards Certificates for various School Departments, Art Club Advisor at High School and Middle School, Photography Club Advisor, Video Production Club Advisor, 4-H Hopefuls Club Advisor, Project Wisdom Coordinator, Invest It Club Advisor, and It’s MY Business Club Advisor.

The Business and Creative Arts Department and its student population produced numerous school visuals (Webcasts, Public Service Announcements, bulletin boards, administrative signs, program covers, business cards, assemblies banners, spirit week banners, yearbook, honor society book, etc.), town visuals (festivals, parades, etc.), various pieces of art work, Fundraisers, yearbook pictures, taught in Nutley’s C.A.T. program, Let’s Learn, and produced Arts Fest "09" both at the High School, Middle School, and Nutley Public Library.

Our Digital Photography students produced a Senior Class Videography DVD featuring many senior activities and sports which will be shown during yearbook signing party. Digital Photography II worked with students from Radcliffe School to produced flip page
picture books featuring student images which can be interchanged.

The Culinary Staff and students catered many activities for both the school and community including but not limited to: Annual Staff Bar-B-Q, Career Advisory Council Luncheons, Senior Prom for Senior Citizens, Breakfasts for distinguished visitors to the school, dinners for numerous club/class activities, etc.

5. AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

Students from the Creative Arts Department were the recipients of numerous awards including Annual Rotary Art Competition, Representative Bill Pascrell’s U.S. House of Representatives “An Artistic Discovery” Art Competition, Nutley Chamber of Commerce 5K Fun Run race logo, and finalist in the Lucerne Dairy Art Competition.

Scholarships were awarded in varying amounts to our Art students from many institutions.

Scholarships were also awarded in varying amounts to students in the Trade and Technical Program including Gisela Widersich Academic Booster Club, UNICO, Israel & Celia Sonenshein Memorial Award, and Nutley Rotary.

6. STAFF

At the High School the Creative Arts Department is composed of one Department Coordinator (Mechanical Drawing, Residential Architectural Design, Civil Architectural Design, and Senior Architectural Design), two Culinary Arts instructors (Culinary Arts, Adv Culinary Arts, Culinary Arts IS), three Art instructors (Art Fundamentals, Art I, II, Advanced, AP Studio Art), two Photography instructors (Digital Photography I, Advanced Digital Photography) and two Technology instructors (Woodworking, Carpentry, Furniture Fabrication, Metalworking, Metal Fabrication, and Advanced Metalworking, Electricity, Electronics, and Advanced Electronics).


We have one staff member teaching our CISCO sequence (IT Essentials, Cisco I, and Cisco II) and one staff member teaching our Broadcasting sequence (Radio/TV Broadcast Technology I, Radio/TV Broadcast Technology II, and Radio/TV Broadcast Technology III).
At John Walker Middle School the Creative Arts Department consists of one Art Instructor (7th Grade Fine Arts and 8th Grade Advanced Art), one Technology Teacher (Intro to Technology, and Principles of Technology), and one full time and two part time Business Staff (Keyboarding, Word Processing, and Internet Safety).

Mrs. Arlene Orenstein will be retiring this year after 16 years of dedicated service to the Nutley School System. Mrs. Orenstein has demonstrated true professionalism throughout her tenure in Nutley, instilling not only keen business skills in her students but a true sense of pride in all that they do. Mrs. Orenstein will be missed by both students and staff.

The High School Art Department was responsible for one student teacher from Montclair State University.

The Middle School Art Department was responsible for one student teacher from Montclair State University.

Staff member Mrs. Hillary Hill-Trovato was honored for her art at the Warren County Art Exhibit.

7. **GOAL(S) SHORT TERM**

During the 2006-2007 school year the Culinary Arts Curriculum was reviewed and revised. During the 2007-2008 school year the Fine Art and Technology Curriculum was reviewed and revised. The current Business Education Curriculum has not been reviewed since 1999-2000 school year. A Curriculum Revision Committee should be formed this coming year to update and align our curriculum with current NJCCCS.

This is the first year that we have implemented the Simple Assessment for student technology literacy in our 8th grade Keyboarding classes. The results should be reviewed to be sure that this evaluation tool is the correct one for the Nutley School System. It is my understanding that some form of testing will become a requirement in the very near future.

The Business Education Department will be offering a new course next year entitled International Business Practice Firm. We will not only be working with local business but other schools from around the country. It is very important that this class have a smooth and successful start.

Digital photography is currently one of the most popular course offerings in the school. New equipment, in particular digital cameras, is needed to afford each student the opportunity to fully experience all this course has to offer.
8. GOAL(S) LONG RANGE

To increase student (male and female) awareness, interest, and enrollment in Business and Creative Arts Courses at the High School level in particular Cisco and Mechanical Drawing classes.

With the addition of Technology Classes at the Middle School it is imperative that time be set aside for inter-school department meetings in order to successfully coordinate course offerings. Inter-school department meetings would benefit all areas within the Business and Creative Arts Department.

It is imperative that we continue to monitor our curriculum in order to remain consistent with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

8. NOTEWORTHY

Mrs. Hrubash continued to refine her new course, Internet Safety, at Walker Middle School and produced numerous Public Service Announcements.

Solid Works was successfully integrated into our Technical Design classes.

New computers were installed in rooms A127 and 211.

Mr. Daniel Wormann, Cisco instructor, left us mid-year for a position in his hometown of Piscataway. We were very fortunate to fill this position quickly with Mr. Vance Campbell, who comes to us from the Roselle School System. Mr. Campbell has proven to be a very knowledgeable and competent Cisco Instructor, and, quickly established a very good rapport with his students. Mr. Campbell has also taken a position on our Intervention & Referral Services Committee.

9. CONCERNS

Of immediate concern is finding a certified Business Teacher to replace Mrs. Arlene Orenstein.

Maintenance of Woods/Metals area by staff members on a daily and weekly basis is needed in order to protect and preserve our very expensive equipment and to insure student safety.
Our Business Education Curriculum is nine years old. As previously stated, it needs to be reviewed and revised.

We had the unpleasant situation this year of one of our staff members being ill and unable to continue her teaching duties throughout the entire school year. This proved to be a very trying situation. Fortunately one of our permanent subs, Mrs. Susan Baker, stepped in and succeeded in providing our students a truly sound and rewarding artistic education. At the time of the staff member's unfortunate illness we also had a student teacher under our wing. The entire Art staff along with Mrs. Baker helped to provide this aspiring teacher the best possible experience under the situation. It should also be noted that after her student teaching experience was completed, Mrs. Marie Cooper stepped in and assisted with a smooth transition to Mrs. Baker.

10. MADELINE HUNTER

The entire Creative Arts Staff is maintaining their commitment and dedication to the Madeline Hunter Teaching Methodology and the "Total Teaching Art".

11. ARTS FEST "2009"

On May 14, 2009 the Creative Arts Department set-up and displayed hundreds of examples of our student's creative, talented works. The display has returned to the High School for the first time since 2003 and was set up in the School Lobby. The Arts Fest was open during the evening hours immediately before the annual Music Festival to afford parents and the community an opportunity to attend this wonderful exhibit. Students from Walker Middle School visited after school hours. Our staff stayed in order to accommodate these young future artists. Enthusiasm by the participants, staff, and visitors was evident. Attendance by both parents and students in the evening was encouraging. This proved to be a very rewarding experience for both the staff and student exhibitors. Anyone who missed this exhibit truly missed a wonderful presentation. Hopefully next year we can arrange for the Elementary Schools to visit. I suggest that next year the show day and hours be expanded and coordinated with the Elementary Schools and transportation department to afford the 6th students the opportunity to view our displays. This would not only increase our exposure but also serve as a feeder for our program.
The following annual report for Lincoln School contains information gathered from the school curricula, school activities, concerns, and recommendations.

District Curriculum Priorities

The Nutley School System, in accordance with New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards continues to provide its students with a quality education. The following priorities have been implemented:

Continuing Priorities

- Technology
- State Mandated School Objectives
- District Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Program
- District Emergency Management Plan
- Differentiated Instruction/Inclusion Instructional Strategies
- Implementation of Mathematics Curriculum
- Art Curriculum
- Language Arts Writing Program
• Language Arts Curriculum
• Core Curriculum Content Standards
• Autistic Program
• Gifted and Talented Program
• World Language Program to Implement the Rosetta Stone Program
• World Language Curriculum
• Mathematics Strategies Program
• Character Education
• Health and Physical Education Curriculum
• Science Curriculum
• Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum
• Implement an Elementary SAC Curriculum
• Life Skills Curriculum
• Library Media Skills

**Continued in-service was provided in the following areas:**

• Instructional Theory into Practice
• Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and 504
• Exploring Web 2.0 Tools
• Designing Technology Integrated Lessons
• Elementary Assessment – NJ ASK 3-6
• Mentoring Program
• Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Procedures
• Affirmative Action Policies
• Introduction to Differentiated Instruction: Managing the Differentiated Classroom
• Autistic Program
Curriculum development occurred in the following areas:

- Language Arts Literacy Gr. 1-4
- Kindergarten
- Mathematics Gr. 5-8

Testing

The results of the Nutley Math mid-term and final Tests and the 2008 NJ State Tests will be carefully reviewed. Plans for continued success and improvement have been designed. These include several school-wide initiatives, which focus on strengthening our students’ problem solving strategies, improving writing skills, and increasing reading comprehension. The staff will continue to address the academic needs of our population and search for innovative methods to encourage our learners.

Results of School Level Objectives 2008 – 2009

Students in grades kindergarten through two (K-2) showed appropriate proficiency in science targeting the area of earth science using the scientific method. This objective was assessed during the months of March and May. More than 99% of the students in Lincoln School achieved a combined score of 80% or higher on the teacher-developed assessment.

Students in grades three through six (3-6) showed appropriate proficiency in language arts, targeting reading strategies utilizing Study Island. This objective was assessed during the months of November and May. More than 84% of the students achieved a combined score of 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of reading strategies.

The students of Lincoln School successfully met the 2008-2009 School-level Objectives.
School Level Objectives 2009 -2010

By June 2010, students in kindergarten through grade two (K-2) will demonstrate proficiency in writing as demonstrated through a writing assessment. A minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric will be used to score the writing assignment.

By June 2010, students in grades three through six (3-6) will demonstrate proficiency in mathematics, targeting math strategies utilizing Study Island. Students will be assessed using a pretest in September. By May, a minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of math strategies.

Staff Development

Lincoln School Staff attended various professional workshops, conferences, and graduate courses both in and out of district. The following is a list of additional professional development opportunities the Lincoln School Staff participated in during the 2008 – 2009 year.

- January Advance at Montclair State University
- Strategies for Mentoring and Coaching
- Critical Thinking in the Elementary Classroom
- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- NJ ASK Language Arts Literacy Grades 3-6
- Writing Strategies Lunch and Learn Workshops with Cyndi De Bonis
- Affirmative Action
- NJASK Preparation Workshop
- MSUNER Teacher Study Group – Inclusion Strategies in the Classroom
- Making Inclusion More Successful: Practical Classroom Learning Strategies
- Handle With Care Training
- Wilson Reading Training
- Smart Board Training
- Priorities Report
- Graduate courses through various Universities
Monthly Faculty Meetings continually highlighted the district and school priorities. Agendas included: School Level Objectives, the District Emergency Plan, Superintendent's Advisory Committee Reports, and many other items that needed to be addressed.

Grade Level Meetings provided the opportunity to review curricular concerns and focus on student issues in order to provide consistent, quality instruction.

Special Programs
Throughout the year the children and staff have participated in many different projects and programs. The following are some of the highlights:

Read Across America
Lincoln School was invited members of the Nutley High School Future Educators of America Club to visit our school and visit various classrooms. The students arrived prepared with lessons and reading selections which they shared with the classes they visited. The students and staff appreciated the outstanding job these visitors provided for our students.

Lincoln School Animal Club
The children of the Lincoln School Animal Club and its facilitators, Mrs. Valerie Martin and Ms. Florence Meyers donated $900 to the Essex County Sheriff's Department this year for purchase of first aid kits for its canine unit. The club, formed sixteen years ago, raised the money through bake sales and a dog tag sale. The club and its sponsors hosted a presentation ceremony at the school in June. Sheriff Fortunato and several of the dogs and trainers were present at the ceremony. The dogs demonstrated several maneuvers for the students. The event was covered by the local papers and the local hometown web site.
Jump for Heart
The children and staff of Lincoln School, once again, participated in Jump for Heart, through the American Heart Association. Led by Mr. Gargiulo, the children raised over $5,000 to be donated to the American Heart Association. A field-day program coordinated by Mr. Gargiulo allowed the children the opportunity to see the benefits of physical activity in their lives while making a difference in the lives of others.

Author Visit
This spring the students in grades Pre K – Grade 3 were delighted to meet Brian Pinkney, famed author and storyteller. Many of the children purchased his books which he was gracious enough to autograph for each child.

Illusion Maker Assembly
The children in Grades K- 6 were invited to participate in an exciting and interactive Environmental Game Show produced through the The Illusion Maker and sponsored through the Nutley Township Clean Communities and the Lincoln School PTO. The format of the show, “Who Wants to be a Know It All” allowed for each child in the audience to have a turn answering questions covering a variety of topics ranging from recycling, reusing, and reducing to conservation, waste management, and litter abatement. The students thoroughly enjoyed this interactive and informative program.

Prismatic Magic Laser Light Show
The Lincoln School PTO sponsored a third assembly program this year, the Prismatic Magic Laser Light Show. This show, Laser B.E.A.M. (Behavior and Ethical Advancement through Music) was attended by the children in grades K – 6. It focused on an exciting approach to character building and enrichment that focused on teamwork and the personal character attributes that are important to teamwork: self-discipline, tolerance, and mutual respect. The children were entertained by the laser show while learning a valuable message.
Pick-A-Packet Assembly
This interactive assembly, sponsored by the Lincoln School PTO, was attended by students in grades 3-6. The half day program challenged the students to work in teams to use critical thinking, problem solving techniques, and higher order thinking skills to solve various puzzles in a round robin format. The program received rave reviews from the students, staff, and many parents who volunteered to help with the activities.

Lenape Lifeways Assembly
The fourth grade classes were given an opportunity to expand their studies of the Lenape culture with a visit from Mr. John Kraft, an archaeologist/educator who has helped to discover and excavate Lenape villages and artifacts. His slide show and display of artifacts enabled our students to make a real-life connection to the information presented to them in their Social Studies books.

Lincoln School Website
Each month, teachers and specialists wrote a short message highlighting what was happening in their classes. Parents and students enjoyed this up close look at their class.

4th Grade Astronomy Program
The fourth grade, in conjunction with Raritan Valley Community College participated in an Astronomy Program, which consisted in bi-weekly visits from Mr. Bill Gaydos, a certified amateur astronomer. Mr. Gaydos works at ITT in Nutley and volunteered his services for this exciting program. He brought various telescopes and materials to the class and integrated astronomy into the Science and Social Studies lessons.

Family Math and Family Science
Parents of students in the fourth grade were given the opportunity to attend the popular Family Math and Family Science Programs with their children. Mrs. Dolores Contreras and Mrs. Lorraine Rubinstein promoted problem solving using various manipulative activities in the Family Math workshop. Mrs. Kristine Comune and Mrs. Flavia Groeling planned hands-on experiments for their Family Science groups. These experiments
supported the scientific process. These sessions correlated with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and fostered the home and school connection.

**Lincoln School Art Show**
The students of Lincoln School were honored to have the opportunity to conduct an art show at the St. John’s Church in Newark this April. Under the direction of Ms. Mary Pagana, approximately 100 students had their artwork displayed in the show. It was well received and attended by close to one thousand visitors including the parents, children, and many dignitaries from our town and others.

**Musicales**
Mrs. Carol Bender provided the students of Lincoln School with an opportunity to participate in several productions this year. Students in grades three and four along with the Lincolnaires entertained their parents in December with a variety of holiday tunes. Grades 1 & 2 entertained us with a program entitled “Put on a Happy Face” in March, and the fifth and sixth grades along with the instrumentalists and Lincolnaires entertained us with several songs and sections in May. The Instrumentalists performed beautifully at the Holiday concert as well as at the All Elementary Concert in March. Mr. Baron Raymonde continues to be an inspiration to the students of Lincoln School. Under his guidance and instruction, the instrumental music program continues to grow. His performances were both inspirational and entertaining.

**Teacher Study Group – Inclusion Strategies in the Classroom**
This group was formed through a $500 grant through Montclair State University’s Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER). A group of approximately twenty-two teachers met once a week during their lunch hour to become more familiar with and explore various strategies that can be used in the inclusive classroom. The group consisted of both regular ed. and special ed. Teachers. This forum provided an opportunity for discussion and sharing of strategies that have been successful with the children in our school. As a culminating activity, the group prepared a handbook of suggested strategies that have been successful with our students. This handbook will be
presented by members of the group at the Summer Conference at Montclair State University as well as distributed to the staff of Lincoln School.

**TICKET Program through Bloomfield College**

Several teachers from Lincoln School participated in the TICKET Program offered through Bloomfield College. This program, Total Immersion Course for Korean English Teachers, allowed two teachers from Korea to spend several months in our classrooms working alongside our teachers while perfecting their English so that they could better teach it upon returning to Korea. The program proved to be a great success for all involved. The visiting teachers were able to accomplish their goals while the students of Lincoln School were able to learn about another culture first hand.

**Women’s History Panel**

Lincoln School welcomed several women from the Nutley community to speak to the fifth and sixth grades in honor of Women’s History Month in March. The panelists discussed their career experiences and answered many thoughtful questions from the students. The assembly was well received and provided the students with perspective into many different careers.

**Battle of the Books**

Students in grades five and six participated in the National Battle of the Books Program. The students in each grade were divided into teams. Each team was responsible for reading fifteen novels from a pre-selected list. The teams then “battled” in their classes by answering questions based on their comprehension of the various books. They then went on to battle the winning teams from their grade and ultimately produced a winning team for the fifth and sixth grades. The winning team members were presented with a Barnes and Noble gift card as a reward for their efforts. This program continues to be an extremely successful method of promoting reading, exposing the children to different kinds of novels, and improving comprehension skills. The program will continue during the 2009-2010 school year. Due to budgetary cutbacks, however, the teachers have
decided to once again, choose their own collection of books from those we already have in stock and create our own “Lincoln School Battle of the Books Program.”

**Grants**

**NBATE**

Several members of our staff received grants from the Nutley Business People for the Advancement of Technology in Education (NBATE). Among the awards received at Lincoln School were a Light Table and Prism Blocks for Mrs. Ellen Wolf to be used with her Pre-school students and an Earobics Specialist Clinical System for Mrs. Koribanick for use in her first grade classroom.

**Programs that Support our Community**

The students of Lincoln School are very generous and compassionate toward the needs of others. The following are examples of programs conducted during the 2008-2009 school year:

**St. John’s Homeless Shelter**

Students in the fifth grade, under the direction of Miss Patricia Griffin, visited St. John’s Soup Kitchen monthly to prepare food for the homeless. They also collected food and clothing to bring to the shelter throughout the year.

**National Wear Red Day**

During the month of February, the staff of Lincoln School supported the Go Red for Women Movement and participated in the National Wear Red Day. As a result, Lincoln School contributed $123 to the American Heart Association.

**Toys for Tots / Treasure Chest –Nutley**

Mrs. Thunell, in conjunction with Mayor Cocchiola’s office, collected unwrapped toys for our most needy families and helped distribute them before Christmas.
2008 Holiday Treasure Chest
The students of Lincoln School collected new, unwrapped toys during the month of December and donated them to Nutley’s CARE Committee to be distributed to needy families in Nutley during the holiday season.

Pajama Program
The students of Lincoln School collected new pajamas and books during the month of March and donated them to needy children in the United States and around the world. The collections were handled through Ms. Claudia Marra, and the Student Council who did an outstanding job.

Holiday Wishes to American Soldiers
Several classes at Lincoln School took the time to make cards and write letters to some of our Servicemen in Iraq. The letters were received and much appreciated. We were honored to have a visit from one of the soldiers after their return home from his tour of duty. He visited with many of the classes and spoke with the children who wrote to him. The school honored him with a clap out as he finished his visit with us.

Integrated Work Study Program – Nutley High School
Under the direction of Mrs. Sharon Romaglia, students from Nutley High School worked at Lincoln School this year. Each afternoon a group of caring responsible students came to Lincoln School to serve as helpers in several of our classrooms. They performed many tasks to aid the teachers and were well received by the students and staff. We look forward to continuing this program next year.

Health and Safety
Several programs were conducted in order to promote healthy choices and lifestyles.
Substance Education
Mrs. Nancy Thunell, our Student Assistance Coordinator, met with many students and classes over the course of this year. Among the topics discussed were peer pressure, conflict resolution, bullying, and drug / tobacco prevention.

Social Skills/Banana Splits
Mrs. Thunell and Ms. April Hauer continued their Social Skills Group this year. The group met once a week during the lunch hour to work with students who were experiencing problems with social skills. Their group meetings alternated between the Social Skills Group who worked on developing socialization skills and the Banana Splits Group for those students who have experienced divorce or loss of a parent. The meetings were well attended and successful. The groups are hoping to continue meeting next year.

Health Screenings
Mrs. Robin Greengrove, our school nurse, conducted screenings for vision and hearing for all children in Lincoln School. Children in grade five were also screened for scoliosis. She conducted the puberty presentations for the fifth grade boys and girls as well as attending to the needs of individual children with health or hygiene concerns.

Jump for Heart
Mr. Thomas Gargiulo facilitated the Jump For Heart program this year. After a motivational assembly introducing the program to the students, Mr. Gargiulo planned a school wide field day that emphasized the importance of exercise for a healthy heart. The students participated in a series of cardiovascular related exercises that promoted healthy behaviors and fun. The event raised over to $4000 that was donated to the American Heart Association.

Relay For Life
The staff of Lincoln School formed two teams for Bonnie’s Buddies and participated in Nutley’s second Relay for Life event. The team raised close to $2000 in memory of Bonnie Weiss, a staff member of Lincoln School who lost her battle with cancer.
Pennies for Puppies
The staff and students of Lincoln School received a visit from a trainer and dog from The Seeing Eye, an organization that trains dogs to be Seeing Eye dogs for the blind. Motivated by the visit and anxious to do something for the organization, Lincoln School conducted Pennies for Puppies collection. Throughout the collection period, the students donated pennies and any loose change they had in order to sponsor our own puppy. Many parents joined the collection by sending their own family donations to this worthwhile cause. I am happy to report that Lincoln School raised $619.00 and was able to sponsor our own puppy! A certificate was sent to Lincoln School announcing the birth of Gilroy, a Black Labrador puppy, born May 3, 2009. The certificate will be framed and posted in the school for all to see.

Class Trips
The following is a list of the curriculum related field trips our students took this year:

- Kindergarten - Montclair State University, Nutley Police and Fire Departments, and the Morris Museum.
- First Grade – Heaven Hills Farms, Liberty Science Center, Montclair State University.
- Second Grade – Montclair State University, Madison Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, Newark Museum.
- Third Grade – Turtle Back Zoo, Montclair State University.
- Fourth Grade – Planetarium, Raritan Community College.
- Fifth Grade – Montclair State University.
- Sixth Grade – Fairview Lake YMCA Camp, Brunswick Bowl, Belleville, NJ.
- SLD Classes – In addition to the trips attended with their “buddy classes,” students also visited Alstede Farms, and Booth Park.
Student Achievements

Many students in Lincoln School participated in a variety of poster and essay contests as well as other activities throughout the year in addition to their required schoolwork. The following is a list of some of the activities they participated in.

- American Legion Post 70 Coloring Contest
- World Against Violence Youth Conference
- Third Half Club Basketball Tournament
- 2009 ABC Science Fair
- Academically Speaking
- Essex County Challenge 24 Tournament
- Earth Day Clean-up of Lincoln School
- Lion’s Club Peace Poster Contest
- Lion’s Club Spelling Bee
- ABC Poetry Festival
- Elks Essay Contest- “What Freedom Means to Me”
- Elks Poster Contest
- Amvets Essay Contest- “What Does an American Veteran Mean to Me” – Abigail Gardner, a sixth grader from Lincoln School, won the local and state levels of this competition. Her essay is going on to the AMVETS National Headquarters to represent New Jersey in the National competition. Judgment will take place in August.

Clubs at Lincoln School

The following is a list of clubs offered at Lincoln School during the 2008 -2009 school year:

Advanced Recorder Ensemble – Mrs. Carol Bender

This club is for fifth and sixth grade students who expressed a desire to continue playing the soprano recorder. They learned more advanced music including two part music. They performed at the Spring Concert.
Animal Club – Mrs. Valerie Martin and Ms. Florence Meyers
The purpose of this club is to create an awareness of and appreciation for animals. The children held several fundraisers to enable them to make donations to a variety of animal causes. The club raised enough money this year to provide each of the nine dogs in the canine unit with their own first aid kit. These kits were presented to the Essex County Canine Unit at a ceremony held at Lincoln School.

Banana Splits/Friendship Club- Mrs. Nancy Thunell and Ms. April Hauer
These clubs were formed to aid students in learning positive coping strategies when struggling with family issues that could impact their functioning in school. The friendship club also worked to provide a safe and therapeutic environment to learn and practice social skills. The clubs alternated meetings on Mondays during the lunch hour.

Baton Twirling Club-Mrs. Theresa Strus
This club was formed to teach beginner baton twirling techniques to first graders. The club met on Fridays during the lunch hour. The students learned a routine and performed it for their parents and the student population during the Spring Concert held in March.

Chess Club- Mrs. Kristine Comune
This club was formed to enable interested children to learn the fundamentals of playing chess. Interest for this club was so large; the children were divided into two groups and met bi-weekly during the lunch hour. The year culminated with a chess tournament. Winners of the tournament were presented with their own chess board, purchased by Mrs. Comune.

Creative Talents Club – Ms. Mary Pagana
The fifth grade students in this club had an opportunity to use their artistic abilities in advanced art projects. Their work was displayed throughout the school.
Crochet Club—Mrs. Kimberly Algieri
The students in this club learned the basic stitches used in the art of crocheting while practicing valuable social skills. They were encouraged to develop their altruistic selves by creating blankets for charity and running a school-wide yarn drive collecting yarn to be donated to the Linus Foundation.

Fine Arts Club—Ms. Mary Pagana
The sixth grade students in this club enhanced their drawing experiences to produce a portfolio that was presented to the middle school for consideration into the fine arts class. They also worked on the decorations for all school musicales.

Fundamentals of Flag Football—Mr. Thomas Gargiulo
This club was formed to teach the basics of flag football. The students in the sixth grades met during the lunch hour to learn the basics of the game while reinforcing the characteristics of team concepts. The culminating activity was a homeroom vs. homeroom tournament for the boys as well as a tournament for the girls.

Lincolnaires—Mrs. Carol Bender
The fifth and sixth grade students in this ensemble worked to learn unison, two and three part choral music, and good singing skills to perform a several concerts and functions throughout the school year.

Math Boot Camp—Mrs. Mary Giordano
This club met during the lunch hour to apply strategies to math concepts and problem solving using a multi-sensory approach that was fun while also specific to the needs of the club members.

Service Club—Feed the Hungry—Ms. Patricia Griffin
This club, consisting of fifth grade students met once a month to service and feed the hungry at St. John’s Church, Newark. They worked there to prepare meals and serve
breakfast to the needy. The children also collected food and clothing to be distributed to those in need.

**Sixth Grade Patrol Program - Mr. Kenneth Ferriol**

This group of sixth grade students performed various duties throughout Lincoln School to help to maintain order and aide the classroom teachers and staff. This club fostered responsibility, tolerance for others, and a feeling of community among its members. Students in this club must have received all of their checks on the Social Skills side of their report card in order to participate.

**Student Council – Grade five –Mrs. Niki Vlasakakis**

The members of this club, along with the sixth grade club worked throughout the year to perform school and community services to come to the aid of those in need.

**Student Council – Grade 6 – Mrs. Linda Batson**

The members of this club, along with the fifth grade club worked throughout the year to perform school and community services to come to the aid of those in need.

**Video Yearbook Club – Ms. Janine Peters**

The students in this club met weekly to report on current events and learn to use the media devices available to them. The students worked with the video camera, i-movies, the digital camera, and word processing to simulate a news report. Their culminating project was the production an outstanding video/slide show used during the sixth grade promotion ceremony. Each member of the sixth grade class received a copy of the DVD as a keepsake of their final year at Lincoln School.

**Wednesday Walkers – Mrs. Ellen Wolf**

This club invited “high risk” students and students with special needs to participate in a program that provided them an opportunity to exercise and socialize during the lunch hour. The students met each Wednesday and walked 1.5 miles through the neighborhood
surrounding Lincoln School. This program also supported the **Mayor’s Wellness Campaign and the Mayor’s Fitness Challenge.**

**Lincoln School’s Parent Teacher Organization**

I would like to thank the Lincoln school PTO for its dedication to our school. Their unending enthusiasm and commitment to our school has provided our students with many exciting programs and materials. Their willingness to form a partnership with the teaching staff in order to enhance our educational program is to be commended. I would like to extend a special thank you to our president Rosemary Brush and the rest of the board for their tireless efforts on behalf of our school. I am looking forward to another successful year working with them.

The following are a few of the many PTO sponsored events:

- New Parent’s Tea
- Scholastic Book Fair (Fall and Spring)
- Pumpkin Patch
- Holiday Boutique
- Winter Socials
- Family Bingo
- Tricky Tray
- Talent Show
- Holiday parties
- Muffins for Mom
- Donuts for Dad
- Sixth Grade activities and dance
- Bowling
- Plant sale for Mother’s Day
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Olympic shirts and pizza
- Author Visit- Brian Pinkney
• Illusion Maker Assembly
• Prismatic Magic Laser Light Show Assembly
• Pick-A-Packet Assembly
• Lenape Lifeways Assembly-Grade 4
• Bake Sales
• Reception treats for the Pre-school, Kindergarten and Sixth grade promotions

The following list contains examples of the wonderful gifts the Lincoln School PTO has purchased for our school as a result of their tireless fundraising throughout the year. The entire staff joins me in thanking them for their generosity and support.

• Agenda Pads and Folders for the entire school
• Smart Boards with projectors and speakers
• Several printers
• Digital camera with memory card, printer, and case
• Teach and store chart stand
• Easy-access Book Center
• Touch Math Money Collection Kit
• Weather Center
• Spotlight on Literacy Elements
• Play by the Book board games
• SRA Science Kit
• Letters and Numbers Mat
• Water Table
• Classroom organization materials
• Letter People puppets

Concerns
Lincoln School continues to need attention due to its age and its ever increasing population. The installation of the new HVAC system this year provided us with cool
classrooms throughout the winter and the spring. I am hopeful that the ongoing projects will continue to restore our aging facility. Our playground blacktop needs to be resurfaced and repitched in certain areas in order to promote proper drainage in storms and to prevent injury to staff and students. The faculty and staff will continue to monitor the needs of the facility and cooperate in all efforts to improve the situation so that we can provide our students with the best possible learning environment.

**Conclusion**

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the faculty and staff for their ongoing support throughout this year as I served as the principal of Lincoln School. There is never a time that I question their loyalty and support. I would also like to thank the parent community for allowing me the privilege of working with their children. The Lincoln School students should be commended for their enthusiasm and desire to do their best.

Mrs. Donna Bolcato, our school secretary, is an integral part of what makes Lincoln School function so smoothly. Her warm, caring manner and unbelievable work ethic has been a vital part of the successful management of our school. She, along with our team of dedicated aides has provided a pleasant office environment for the staff, the students, the parents, and me.

Mr. Phil Nicolette, the Manager of Buildings and Grounds continues to be a great resource to me with my many questions regarding the maintenance projects at Lincoln School. He, along with my custodial staff, under the guidance of head custodian Daniel Russomanno, has worked tirelessly to provide a safe, clean, orderly environment for our staff and students. I appreciate all of their efforts.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Child Study Team, Mr. Paul Palozzola, and Department of Special Services for their assistance and guidance in supporting our at risk students. Under their care, these students continue to flourish and grow both academically and socially.
Thank you to the Nutley Board of Education for their support of Lincoln School and their dedication to the children of Nutley. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Mr. Angelo Frannicola, our Lincoln School Board of Education Representative. His attendance at our PTO meetings added valuable insight to our meetings and events. I appreciate all of his help and guidance.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank my administrative colleagues, especially Rosemary Clerico, for her continued help and guidance. Their patience and humor helped to make my year successful and enjoyable.

Mr. Michael DeVita should be commended for his patience and understanding with helping me plan and maintain a budget for my school. With his help and guidance, Lincoln School successfully functioned and the needs of our faculty and staff were met.

I would like to thank Mrs. Mariana Francioso, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, for her unending encouragement and guidance during this year. She was never too busy to take my calls and her advice was invaluable.

I would like to especially thank Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent of Schools, for giving me the opportunity to serve as the principal of Lincoln School. His professional advice, enthusiasm, and leadership is invaluable. His dedication to the students, staff, and families of Nutley is second to none. I look forward to working with him for in the 2009 – 2010 school year and for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Restel
Principal, Lincoln School
June 30, 2009
RADCLIFFE SCHOOL
TO: Mr. Joseph Zarra  DATE: June 30, 2009
FROM: Michael J. Kearney, Principal, Radcliffe School
RE: Principal's Annual Report - School Year 2008/2009

The following annual report for Radcliffe School contains information gathered from the school curricula, school activities, student activities, parent activities, concerns and recommendations.

District Curriculum Priorities

The Nutley School System, in accordance with New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, continues to provide its students with a quality education. The following priorities have been implemented:

Continuing Priorities

- Technology
- State Mandated School Objectives
- District Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Program
- District Emergency Management Plan
- Differentiated Instruction/Inclusion Instructional Strategies
- Implementation of Mathematics Curriculum
- Art Curriculum
- Digital Art
- Language Arts Writing Program
- Language Arts Curriculum
- Core Curriculum Content Standards
- Autistic Program
- Gifted and Talented Program
- World Language Program to Implement the Rosetta Stone Program
- World Language Curriculum
- Mathematics Strategies Program
- Character Education
- Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Science Curriculum
- Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum
- Implement an Elementary SAC Curriculum
- Life Skills Curriculum
- Library Media Skills
Continued in-service was provided in the following areas:

- Instructional Theory into Practice
- Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and 504
- Exploring Web 2.0 Tools
- Study Island
- Designing Technology Integrated Lessons
- Elementary Assessment – NJ ASK 3-6
- Mentoring Program
- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Procedures
- Affirmative Action Policies
- Introduction to Differentiated Instruction: Managing the Differentiated Classroom
- Autistic Program

Curriculum development occurred in the following areas:

- Language Arts Literacy Gr. 1-4
- Kindergarten
- Mathematics Gr. 5-8

Mrs. Christine Oseija, Elementary Technology Facilitator Teacher, continues to assist classroom teachers with lessons to aid in infusing technology throughout the curriculum. Mrs. Oseija held four teacher-workshops this year. We continue to monitor and upgrade our technology and integrate technology into our curriculum through the use of Smartboards, educational software, world wide web, and other computer-related items.

In addition to Mrs. Oseija technology assistance, this year Mr. Lawrence Weiss, who was the Sixth Grade Technology Integration Teacher, brought lessons to our sixth grade students, as well as taught Rosetta Stone to our first and second grade students.

Results of School Level Objectives – 2008-2009 School Year

By June 2009, students in grades kindergarten through two (K-2) demonstrated proficiency in science, targeting the area of earth science, utilizing the scientific method. A minimum of 80% of the students achieved a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric was used to score each assignment.

By June 2009, students in grades three through six (3-6) demonstrated proficiency in language arts, targeting reading strategies, utilizing Study Island. By May 2009, a minimum of 80% of the students achieved a 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of reading strategies.

Both were met successfully.
School-Based Planning Team

The School-Based Planning Team, which was comprised of teachers, parents, and administrators, met frequently to discuss the school level objectives. The members of the team proposed the following school level objectives for the 2009-2010 school year:

By June 2010, students in grades kindergarten through two (K-2) will demonstrate proficiency in writing as demonstrated through a writing assessment. A minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric will be used to score the writing assignment.

By June 2010, students in grades three through six will demonstrate proficiency in mathematics, targeting math strategies utilizing Study Island. Students will be assessed using a pretest in September. By May, a minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of math strategies.

School Activities

The Mayor’s Wellness Campaign – this initiative was in its third year and was township-wide through the Mayor’s office. Also, part of the Wellness Campaign was the very popular “Mayor’s Weight Loss Challenge” for faculty and staff, of which Radcliffe Team 1 won honorable mention for consistent weigh loss throughout.

PTO Open House – Tuesday, September 23, 2008
Our annual open house was September 23, 2008. The teachers were in attendance, along with Mr. Steve Rogers, our board representative.

New Parent Meeting – Tuesday, September 23, 2008
The New Parent Meeting was held before the open house.

Clothing Drive October 6, 2008
Students organized a clothing collection that were sold to an agency and were ultimately given to children and adults in third world countries.

Fire Prevention Week – October 6 – 10, 2008
Radcliffe School conducted Fire Prevention Week, with a visit from the Nutley Fire Department for a Drill & Demo, as well as the annual assembly.

Hearing Screening Week – October 20 –24, 2008
Mrs. Virginia Reilly, School Nurse, conducted our annual hearing screening for the entire school.
Red Ribbon Week – October 20 – 31, 2008
Red Ribbon Week began on Monday, October 20, 2008, and went through the following week, ending on Halloween, Friday, October 31, 2008.

Lyons Club Vision Screening – Wednesday, October 22, 2008
The Lyons Club conducted the annual vision screening for fourth graders on Wednesday, October 22.

American Education week and Parent Visitation Day – Friday, November 14, 2008
Parent Visitation Day was Friday, November 14, for Kindergarten through

Holiday Music Program – December, 10, 2008
Our holiday music program was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. in the gymnasium and was conducted by Mrs. Marie Sanders for our choral program and Mr. Baron Raymonde for our instrumental program. The musicale included performances from grades three and four, with fourth grade strings, and fifth and sixth grades instrumentalists. This was well received again this year.

Seeing Eye Assembly – January 13, 2009
A representative from the Seeing Eye dog company kicked off a fundraising campaign that allowed our students to name one of the dogs. The company is internationally recognized as setting the standard for vision impaired people who would benefit from a guide dog.

Character Education Initiative
Character Education has been ongoing and is in its seventh year at Radcliffe School. The program was successfully shared with the other elementary schools, under the guidance of Mrs. Alisa Gennace, SAC and during her maternity leave Mrs. Tunnell

NJ Sate Bar Foundation 2009 Law Fair Program
Fourteen fourth grade students went to the NJ Law Fair Center in New Brunswick, NJ. They received honorable mention and were recognized by the NJ Bar Association.

Autism Awareness – month of April – Spirit Week – April 6 – 10, 2009
April 2, 2009 was Autism Awareness Day across the country. Radcliffe honored this cause by having the Autistic Staff visit the regular education classes to raise student, faculty and staff awareness. An “Autism Acceptance Booklet” was used during the visits. During Spirit week the students wore the colors of the Autistic ribbon. On several walls of the building, students posted their autism facts and artwork designed on puzzle pieces, signifying the puzzle of Autism. The faculty and staff participated in the annual Autism walk.
**NJ State Bar Foundation 2009 Law Fair Program**

Fourteen fourth grade students went to the NJ Law Fair Center in New Brunswick, NJ. They received honorable mention and were recognized by the NJ Bar Association.

**Read Across America – March 2 – March 7, 2009**

Radcliffe School participated, once again, in the national program, “Read Across America”. The week-long read-a-thon was celebrated by students / teachers by having birthday cupcakes in the classroom on Dr. Seuss' birthday, Monday, March 2. This year, Ms. Susan Quigley (Neri), a first grade teacher coordinated this program, along with Mrs. Michele Cristantiello, coordinator for the entire district. Many new and innovative activities were introduced and it was truly a success again this year, thanks to all teachers.

*Bobby Jackson- NJ Jets February 6, 2009*

Bobby Jackson a former member of the NJ Jets spoke to the students about character, and sportsmanship. Bobby also visited and read to students during Read Across America week.

**Kindergarten Registration – week of March 9 – 13, 2009**

Registration for our kindergarten students for the year 2008/09 was the week of March 9 - 13, 2009. Kindergarten orientation was held for the new kindergarten parents on Monday, April 20, at 1:00 P.M. in the Library, with Mrs. Holly Jasnowitz, Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Virginia Reilly, Mrs. Filomena Contella and Mrs. Justine DeFluri, PTO Co-Presidents, and myself. An open house for the new kindergartners was held simultaneously in the kindergarten classroom.

**Third Half Club Basketball**

Fifth and Sixth Grade students participated again this year in the Third Half Club Basketball, under the coaching of Mrs. Stephanie Mozeika and Miss Danielle Pappalardo, our Strategy Skills teachers.

**Women in History – Assembly – Thursday, March 12, 2009**

This year's assembly was held on Thursday, March 12, 2009, with women dignitaries from the town of Nutley coming to speak to the fifth and sixth graders.

**Spring Musicale – Tuesday, March 31, 2009 - grades 5 & 6**

The annual musicale for grades five and six under the direction of the choral director, Mrs. Marie Sanders.

It was an entertaining and enjoyable evening.

**Spring Musicale – Thursday, April 30, 2009 - grades 1 & 2**

On Wednesday, April 29, 2009, Mrs. Marie Sanders led grades one and two in their Spring Musicale, along with the fourth grade recorders. This musicale was a complete success.
Clubs
Algebra Club – Mrs. Nancy Szura, Sponsor
Animal Kindness Club – Mrs. Gail Kahn, Sponsor
Banana Splits- Alisa Gennace/April Hauer, Sponsor
Battle of the Books – Mrs. Maria Strumolo, Sponsor
Chess Club – Miss Alicia DiPrimio /Mrs. Stephanie Lennon, Sponsors
Chorale – Mrs. Marie Sanders, Sponsor
Human Relations Club – Miss Carla Cullari/Mrs. Holly Jasnowitz, Sponsors
Peer Tutoring Club – Mrs. Gail Kahn/Mrs. Nancy Szura, Sponsors
Recorder Club – Mrs. Marie Sanders, Sponsor
Safety Patrols – Mrs. Nancy Szura, Sponsor
School Spirit Club – Mrs. Alicia DiPrimio, Sponsor
Scrapbook Club – Miss Alicia DiPrimio/Mrs. Stephanie Lennon, Sponsors
Student Council – Miss Danielle Pappalardo, Sponsor
Wildlife Club – Mrs. Gail Kahn, Sponsor
Window Club – Mr. Peter Behrens, Sponsor

Teacher Achievements

Radcliffe School staff continued to attend professional workshops, conferences, graduate courses, computer in-services, etc. during this school year. A number of the staff worked on curriculum committees for district priorities. The following are highlights of the staff’s attendance:

Pre-Kindergarten – Miss Shaw – Autism Conference at Kean University, two Articulation Days, continuing education at Fairleigh Dickinson University

Pre-Kindergarten – Miss O’Carroll – two Articulation Days

Kindergarten, First, Second – Mr. Yin – Assessment in Special Ed., Differentiating Instruction in the Inclusive Classroom, Computer Applications in Special Ed., two Articulation Days

Kindergarten – J. Farro – CyberTechnology workshop, Mathematics workshop, Basic Skills Curriculum Committee

Kindergarten – H. Jasnowitz, Fourth Grade Family Science, “Pennies for Patients”, continuing education (Kean University classes)

First Grade – S. Neri – Web 2.0 Tool workshop, EAN Pride Chairperson, two Articulation Days

First Grade - M. Cristantiello – Professional Development Committee Chairperson, QSAC Committee Member, I & RS Team member, LA Literacy Curriculum Committee member, two Articulation Days, recently sworn in as Vice President of the Education Association of Nutley

First Grade – S. Lennon - Fourth Grade Family Science, two Articulation Days
Second Grade – G. Kahn – Affirmative Action Committee member, two Articulation Days

Second Grade - L. Moscaritola – LA Curriculum Committee member, two Articulation Days

Third Grade– M. Strumolo – Battle of the Books, two Articulation Days, continuing education (Kean University classes), Lunch & Learn workshops

Third Grade - S. Hagert– Superintendent’s Advisory, two Articulation Days, Lunch & Learn workshops

Third Grade – P. Conry – two Articulation Days, Lunch & Learn workshops

Fourth Grade - C. Jousset – Family Math, two Articulation Days, Lunch & Learn workshops

Fourth Grade - C. Perrone- two Articulation Days, Lunch & Learn workshops, Language Arts Curriculum

Fourth Grade – V. Sautter – Spanish I (Montclair Adult School,) two Articulation Days

Fifth Grade – C. Cullari – Fourth Grade Family Math, Language Arts Curriculum Revision and Workshops, “Pennies for Patients,” Lunch & Learn workshops, I & RS Team member, continuing education (Kean University classes) two Articulation Days, Math Curriculum Revision

Fifth Grade – E. Napoli – two Articulation Days, Lunch & Learn workshops

Sixth Grade – N. Gatto – Read-a-thon coordinator, two Articulation Days, Lunch & Learn workshops

Sixth Grade - N. Szura – Laptop In-Service, Lunch & Learn workshops, two Articulation Days

Library – J. Gambaro – Book Repair workshop, Library Specialists’ Meeting, Professional Development Committee member, Lunch & Learn workshops, Follett Book Look workshop

Strategy Skills – S. Mozeika – Third Half Club coach
Strategy Skills – D. Pappalarado – Third Half Club coach
Art Teacher – P. Behrens
Librarian – J. Gambaro
Music Teacher – M. Sanders
Physical Education Teacher – J. Alessio

Special Education – Resource – A. DiPrimio – Lunch & Learn workshops, Wilson Reading workshops, two Articulation Days
Special Education – Resource – J. Pravata – Lunch & Learn workshops, two Articulation Days, Wilson Reading workshops
Special Programs

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Promotion was held on Monday, June 22, 2009. The students presented a New York theme for the promotion program.

Grades 1 – 2

Spring musical held on Thursday, April 30, 2009 - On Thursday, April 30, 2009, Mrs. Marie Sanders led grades one and two in their Spring Musicale, along with the fourth grade recorders, band and strings, under the direction of Mr. Baron Raymonde.

Grades 3 - 4

Holiday Musicale - held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 and was conducted by Mrs. Sanders, with the fourth grade strings. The 5th & 6th grade-Band students also performed under the directions of Mr. Raymonde.

Grades 5 – 6

Spring Musicale – held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, and was conducted by Mrs. Sanders.

Grade 5

“Battle of the Books” – under the direction of Mrs. Maria Strumolo

Grade 6

“Battle of the Books” – under the direction of Mrs. Maria Strumolo

Grade 6

The Sixth Grade Promotion was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, with diplomas given to the students by myself and the Radcliffe School Board of Education Representative, Mr. Steve Rogers.

Class/Club Trips

Each grade participated in a curriculum-related field trip. The following reflects the year-at-a-glance:

Kindergarten Picnic

First Grade

Outagesss Pets

Second Grade

Newark Museum & Nutley Public Library

Third Grade

Nutley Museum / Franklin Reformed Cemetery, Nutley Public Library

Fourth Grade

Franklin Mineral Mines

Fifth Grade

Ocean Institute at Sandy Hook, NJ

Sixth Grade

The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA

Safety Patrols

Patrol Picnic

Italian Classes 6th Grade Marzullo’s Italian Restaurant
**Student Council**

The Radcliffe School Student Council, under the direction of Miss Alicia DiPrimio and Miss Danielle Pappalardo was active and participated in fund drives during the course of the 2008/09 school year, such as the Red Cross food drive, churches food drive, etc. The Student Council held a pep rally the day before the Junior Olympics to encourage school spirit and an assembly program was held for Dr. Seuss Day Birthday.

Recycling for the building was conducted for the third year in a row, in conjunction with the Township, and under the direction of Miss Danielle Pappalardo.

Elections for the new school year 2009/10 were held at the conclusion of the school year. Four officers were elected by the student body, with two representatives from each class in grades 4 - 6.

**Awards Program**

An awards program was held on June 17, 2009 for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades. Awards were presented for high honor roll, honor roll, and perfect attendance. Awards were handed out to the lower grades in their classrooms. In addition, awards were given for the winners for physical fitness (President's Challenge.) Again, this year the “John Walker Foundation Scholarship” was given to two outstanding sixth grade students: The presentation of the Walker Scholarship was done by Mrs. Nancy Szura, on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at the Awards Assembly.

**Presidential Achievement Awards**

The awards, presented for Presidential Achievement, were given to ten sixth grade students at the Awards Assembly Program on Wednesday, June 17, 2009. The criteria for achievement of these awards is ranked in the top 25% of the class, high honors for final grade and Mathematics Final Examination.

**P.T.O.**

Radcliffe School would like to thank the PTO Presidents, Mrs. Filomena Contella and Mrs. Justine DeFluri, who led the organization through this school year – 2008-09 - very successfully.

**P.T.O. Activities**

Radcliffe School P.T.O. Presidents, Mrs. Contella and Mrs. De Fluri, led the organization through the following events. Some activities were a first-time event, but the overall consensus was that the organization was very active and successful.
Assembly Programs
John H. Walker Middle School – Latin Club
John H. Walker Middle School – S.T.A.N.D
Bicycle Safety
Sharon Romaglia’s Dental Assembly – First Grade
Fire Safety
The Magical Song Writer Be A Peace Maker
Cyber Internet Safety
Franklin Institute Traveling Science Show
The Big Bug Show Earth Matters
The Seeing Eye
Women in History

P.T.O. Activities / Meetings

Sept.         Innisbrook Gift Wrap
Sept.         Open House
Sept.         Joseph’s Picture Day
October       Pumpkin Patch
October       Halloween Dance
December      Holiday Musicale
December      Holiday Boutique (Santa Sale)
March         Gertrude Hawks Candy Sale
March         Tricky Tray
April         Spring Musicale
May           Spring Musicale
May           Plant Sale
May           Teachers’ Appreciation Lunch
May           Junior Olympics
June          Ice Cream Truck Day
June          Promotion Activities

P.T.O. Special Activities

The 2008/09 school year proved to be another successful P.T.O. year, with numerous meetings and assemblies.

Smencil sales went very well

The Pumpkin Patch was in its ninth year at Radcliffe School and went extremely well.

The Halloween Dance was a first this year and very successful.

The Holiday Boutique, as in the past, proved to be a worthwhile event.

The Radcliffe School Tricky Tray, the major fundraiser of the year, was held at the Mayfair Farms, West Orange, NJ.
The annual Scholastic Book Fair went well again this year.

The Mother’s Day Plant Sale was held in the alley and was a success.

The Gertrude Hawks’ candy sale was held this year, which was very successful.

“Box Tops for Education” run by General Mills, continued this year and proved to be helpful.

Clothing and toy drive raised several hundreds of dollars all of which were used to benefit the students directly

**Radcliffe Review**

Under the leadership of Mrs. Boardingham and her staff, the Radcliffe Review highlighted P.T.O. activities and the creative writings of our students. A weekly Radcliffe Newsletter was sent out by Mrs. Nicole Hutchison, and kept parents/guardians informed on a week-to-week basis.

**Extended Day Program**

There was continued implementation of the Kindergarten Extended Day and the “before” and “after” care programs conducted in our school, under the direction of the Mrs. Maria Cervasio. Again, this year the school coordinator was Miss Carla Cullari.

**I & RS Team**

The multi-disciplinary team, for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services (I & RS), was in its sixth year. This team was designed to assist students who were experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties, and to assist faculty, who have difficulties in addressing these needs. In its sixth year, it continues to be very successful. Please see the attached I & RS Summary of this school year – 2008-2009.

**Concerns**

Due to our continued increased student population, I recommended the following:

- close examination of building security
- close examination of school facilities
- continued evaluation of the school lunch program
- continued monitoring of the successful first year Autism Program
Conclusion

In closure, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Mariana Francioso, Assistant Superintendent, members of the Board of Education, Mr. Paul Palozzola, Director of Special Services, Mr. Michael DeVita, Acting Business Administrator, and Mr. Philip Nicolette, and to my colleagues for their support, advice, and guidance during my second year as principal of Radcliffe School.

I particularly wish to express my gratitude and congratulations to all the extraordinary teachers, staff members, parents, and children who make Radcliffe School the unique place that it is. Without the support, cooperation, and dedication of all of these fine people, it would not be possible to do the job that is done.

In its second year, in particular, Radcliffe School was honored to have the Autistic program (Special Learners) in the building. The program had three classes (two Pre-Kindergarten and one Kindergarten.) The students in these classes participated in all the specials that were provided to the regular education students (Art, Physical Education, Music and Library.) Also, we had a Learning Consultant, an Occupational Therapist, a Physical Therapist, a Speech Therapist and a Psychologist on hand for the Autistic students. These teachers and staff members were professionals and fully contributed to making this program successful again this year. We also hosted a publicity tour of the Autistic program with Governor Corzine, several local journalists, and Nutley Township officials.

Our secretary, Mrs. Beverly Cullari, is to be highly commended on her continued efforts on behalf of Radcliffe School. She brings a strong work ethic, caring and warmth in dealing with all connected to our school, and the ability to manage the office with efficiency and vision. She is greatly appreciated.

As part of her responsibilities, Mrs. Cullari oversees the Radcliffe School aides, Mrs. Cappetta, Mrs. Juhrden, and Mrs. Pavlisko. These staff members continue to assist the lunch program and office, on behalf of the students and staff of Radcliffe School.

A special thanks to the Parent / Teacher Organization for their hard work and support on behalf of Radcliffe School.

Please see attached list of accomplishments and workshops for this school year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Kearney
Principal
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mrs. Mariana Franciosso
FROM: Michael J. Kearney
RE: I & RS Summary – School Year 2008/2009

DATE: June 30, 2009

During the school year 2008/2009, the I & RS Team met on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 10:40 AM. The Team consisted of the Principal, the Student Assistance Coordinator, the School Psychologist, the Learning Consultant, and two Classroom Teachers.

Throughout the sessions, 23 students were reviewed. Strategies to assist the pupils, who were at risk, included the following:

1. Parent Conferences
2. Instructional Strategies
3. Enrollment Strategy Skills
4. Speech Therapy
5. Referrals to Child Study Team

The above-mentioned strategies were for the classroom teacher and the meetings, as needed, with the School Psychologist and/or Student Assistance Coordinator.

After all these strategies were implemented, two students were scheduled for testing by the Learning Consultant and two were classified for special education. Two students received a 504 Accommodation Plan. The Team will resume as of September 2009.
TO: Mrs. Mariana Franciosa  DATE: June 30, 2009
FROM: Michael J. Kearney
RE: List of Accomplishments – School Year 2008/2009

Please see below the list of accomplishments for this school year:

- Team Leader – I & RS Team
- Recycling – third year -in coordination with the Township and with the assistance of the Student Council
- Continuation of various philanthropic endeavors
- Third Year of “Pennies for Patients” for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and with the assistance of the Human Relations Club
- The Seeing Eye Contribution
- “Going Green” (no paper)

The following are the workshops and/or sessions, which I was a part of this school year:

- Governor Corzine’s Publicity Tour of Autistic Program with journalists and Nutley Township Officials
- NCLB
- Bobby Jackson, former NY Jets Player – Read-a-Thon Assembly
- “TICKET” Program – student teachers from South Korea, in addition to the South Korean students who were in every grade level, except for grade five (6 students in total)
- Autism Awareness Education Series
- NJ ASK Training Workshops and Lunch & Learn Sessions
- Literacy Workshops
- Character Education Training Workshop
- Math Workshop
- Smart Board Training
- Math Curriculum
- Title I
- Unified Plan
- Differentiated Instruction
- Learning for Long-Term Understanding, Grant Wiggins
SPRING GARDEN SCHOOL
TO: Mr. Joseph Zarra
FROM: Rosemary Clerico, Principal
DATE: June 30, 2009
SUBJECT: Principal’s Annual Report
School Year 2008/2009
Spring Garden School

This is a summary of programs, events, and activities that have taken place at Spring Garden School during the 2008-2009 school year. I am very proud of the students, staff and parents for all their efforts throughout the year.

Continuing Priorities

- Technology
- State Mandated School Objectives
- District Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Program
- District Emergency Management Plan
- Differentiated Instruction/Inclusion Instructional Strategies
- Implementation of Mathematics Curriculum
- Art Curriculum
- Language Arts Writing Program
- Language Arts Curriculum
- Core Curriculum Content Standards
- Autistic Program
- Gifted and Talented Program
- World Language Program to Implement the Rosetta Stone Program
- World Language Curriculum
- Mathematics Strategies Program
- Character Education
- Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Science Curriculum
- Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum
- Implement an Elementary SAC Curriculum
- Life Skills Curriculum
- Library Media Skills

Continued in-service was provided in the following areas:

- Instructional Theory into Practice
- Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and 504
- Exploring Web 2.0 Tools
- Designing Technology Integrated Lessons
- Elementary Assessment – NJ ASK 3-6
- Mentoring Program
- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Procedures
- Affirmative Action Policies
- Introduction to Differentiated Instruction: Managing the Differentiated Classroom
- Autistic Program
Curriculum development occurred in the following areas:

- Language Arts Literacy Gr. 1-4
- Kindergarten
- Mathematics Gr. 5-8

Staff Development

- NJ ASK Language Arts Literacy Grades 3-6– Oct. 2008
- Mentor Teacher Training
- Standards Revision Regional Review Session
- An Introduction to Teasing and Bullying, New Jersey State Bar Foundation
- New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Language Arts Literacy Standard Setting Committee for grades 3 and 4
- Book Expo America
- NJ State Bar Foundation: Teasing and Bullying
- Lunch and learns focusing on four square writing and NJ ASK skills and strategies

Results of School Level Objectives - 2008/09 School Year

During the 2008-2009 school year the students in grades kindergarten through two (K-2) showed proficiency in science, targeting the area of life science utilizing the scientific method. One hundred percent of the students achieved a score of 80% or higher on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric was used to score the activity.

During the 2008-2009 the students in grade three through six (3-6) showed proficiency in language arts, targeting reading strategies utilizing Study Island. Students were assessed using a pretest, which was administered in September and May. Ninety-six percent of the students achieved a 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of reading strategies.

School-Based Planning Team

The School-Based Planning Team, which was comprised of teachers, parents, and administrators, met frequently to discuss the school level objectives. The members of the team proposed the following school level objectives for the 2009-2010 school year.
School Level Objectives - 2009/2010 School Year

By June 2010, students in kindergarten through grade two (K-2) will demonstrate proficiency in writing as demonstrated through a writing assessment. A minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric will be used to score the writing assignment.

By June 2010, students in grades three through six (3-6) will demonstrate proficiency in mathematics, targeting math strategies utilizing Study Island. Students will be assessed using a pretest in September. By May a minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of math strategies.

Programs

C.A.T Program

The C.A.T. Program continued to be implemented this year for grades four-six under the direction of Tracy Egan. An Open House on April 4, 2009, was a wonderful culminating activity. The students’ projects were displayed and enjoyed by all.

Character Education

The teaching tolerance and character education program continues to be developed through health and social studies addressing diversity in the culture and acceptance of social demographic and differences.

Gifted and Talented Program

The Gifted and Talented Program consisted of three main components:
1. Enrichment: Activities in a variety of subject areas were offered for students in grades five and six. Participation was based on the interests of the students and was voluntary. Some activities were: Forensics Tournament (Interpretive Reading), Debate, Math Challenge 24 Game, and Academically Speaking.
2. Whole Class Lessons: Lessons were conducted in the classroom as support to the classroom teacher, as well as to afford the gifted and talented teachers the opportunity to observe students in higher-level activities. Programs such as Primary Education thinking Skills, DeBono’s Thinking Hats, Philosophy for Children and Logic for Critical Thinkers were delivered to students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade.
3. Identified Program: Third and fourth graders were identified based on multiple criteria. Classes were offered twice a week to those students who qualified.
Red Ribbon and Violence Prevention Week

This year we recognized Violence Awareness and Red Ribbon Week in the Nutley schools. As part of our health curriculum, teachers reviewed healthy and positive behaviors with their students. Each student received a wristband and ribbon during the week to promote and encourage the importance of helping others and remaining drug and violence free. In addition, each homeroom submitted a poster pledge that was displayed in the hallways.

World Against Violence Youth Conference

This one-day conference was held at Rutgers University. The conference theme was “Learning to Make Positive Choices for Your Future.” Students were exposed to a comprehensive program that included the following:
- Motivational Speaker on decision making and obtaining goals
- Alcohol and Drug Awareness
- Bullying – Peer Pressure
- Internet Safety
- The consequences of drugs and gun violence

Sophie’s Run

Nicole Chuchmach and a team of runners participated in an eight-week run called, Sophie’s Run, from Milton, Ontario to New York City. The purpose of Sophie’s Run was to raise awareness for colorectal cancer. The students at Spring Garden School participated by cheering for the runners and Mayor Cocchiola as the group ran through Nutley.

Black History Month

Throughout the grades, Black History month was celebrated with a variety of Afro-American cultural activities. Banners lined the corridors depicting a vast range of contributions made by the Afro-American society of America. A selection of famous black Americans, civic leaders, sports figures, artists and authors were significantly displayed throughout the building.

Women’s History Month

A plethora of activities, corridor exhibits, videos, writing and poetry experiences were conducted to impact the contributions of women in American history. Also, Mayor JoAnn Cocchiola organized an assembly for grades five and six for Women’s History Month. A panel discussion was conducted to expose the fifth and sixth graders to various careers held by women.

**Read Across America**

On March 6, 2009, Produce Pete, from NBC, came to read to the students in grades four through six. Produce Pete also told the students many stories from his childhood and gave them facts about fruits and vegetables. There was a question and answer portion of the assembly.

Due to inclement weather, students from Nutley High School’s Future Educators of America Club came to read to students in grade kindergarten to second grade to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday on April 6, 2009. Also, a variety of activities took place throughout the school to celebrate the occasion.

**Veteran’s Day**

To commemorate Veteran’s Day, the Spring Garden School students attended an assembly honoring several veterans. Mrs. Doreen Holland organized this event with the help of the Military Fan Mail Club.

**Law Day**

On April 30, 2009, the fifth graders participated in “Law Day, 2009,” a program sponsored by the American Bar Association. Essex County Superior Court Judge Thomas Vena, attorneys Mauro Tucci and Leandra Naranjo and a member of the Sheriff’s Office officiated at the mock trial. This year the case focused on aggravated assault and theft of movable property. Following the mock trial, a question and answer period was conducted allowing the students to gain a greater insight into our judicial system. I would like to extend my appreciation to Ms. Debra Vessichelli for her assistance in organizing this special day.

**Mayor’s Fitness Challenge**

The Mayor’s Fitness Challenge’s goal was to promote a healthy lifestyle by encouraging the students to exercise and eat healthy. Each student that took the pledge was given an exercise logbook in which they were able to record their physical activity for each day. On January 5, 2009, the Mayor initiated a Mid-Year Mileage Contest. The physical education teacher checked the students’ logs and three students were awarded prizes for having the most mileage to date. This initiative helped students achieve the goal to walk twenty-six point two miles.

**Mayor’s Weight Loss Challenge**

The Township of Nutley embarked on a fourteen-week weight loss program called the Mayor’s Weight Loss Challenge. Several Spring Garden School teachers participated in the program. Many incentives were offered to participants; Nutley High School weight room, Starlight Dance Center, and Signature Fitness Gym. Mayor Cocciola did a wonderful job organizing this worthwhile program.
Jump for Heart

During the week of February 2nd, the students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade participated in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart. Jump Rope for Heart takes place in schools throughout the country, teaching students about the importance of regular physical activity and heart health. Curriculum materials were provided. The students raised $4,866.75 for support of vital research and educational programs. Jump Rope for Heart was a fun event that helped our students understand the importance of community service and physical activity.

Be Green Celebrate Earth Day

During Earth Day teams and individuals were assigned a park or school to help keep Nutley Community clean. Students that participated received a homework pass and certificate. It was well attended and the school grounds were cleaned and flowers were planted in each bucket. The students also participated in a poster contest.

Teacher Study Group
“Character Counts: A Path to Tolerance”

I am very proud to announce that the Spring Garden School staff was involved in a Character Education Teacher Study Group sponsored by Montclair State University.

The study group was formed because the staff felt there was a need to reinforce and recognize good character among our students. The staff met at lunchtime once a week to comprise a list of books, and develop lesson plans to address the six pillars of good character.

Each month we chose a pillar of good character to highlight. In order to motivate our students we began a “ticket” program. If a child was seen exhibiting good character, the child was given a ticket and he or she’s name was read over the PA system. At the end of the month five names were drawn from the jar of tickets and the students were announced at an assembly and they received a certificate and dog tag of one of the pillars.

I am very proud of the staff and students for participating in such a wonderful, rewarding program.

Teacher Incentive Grants: Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal

Four of our teachers received teacher incentive grants from MSUNER of two hundred dollars each. These grants helped purchase materials in the area of Wilson Reading and Writing Supplies and reading materials for centers.
I&RS Committee

During the 2008-2009 school year, the I&RS team met regularly on Thursday afternoons from 2:25 – 3:10 p.m. The team consisted of the principal, the learning consultant, the school nurse, a classroom teacher and special education teacher. Throughout the sessions, twenty children were reviewed. Attempts to assist these at risk pupils included enrollment in the Basic Skills Program, parent-help conferences, positive reinforcement plans and instructional suggestions for the classroom teacher. After initial strategies were conducted, six became official Child Study Team referrals and 504 plans were written for two students. These students along with those referred in previous years will continue to be monitored next year and the team will meet with their new teachers in September. The I & RS team meetings will resume in October, 2009.

Fire Prevention Week

During Fire Safety Week, (October) all grades K-6 including a special education class participated in the Fire Prevention assembly and equipment demonstration.

TICKET Program

Spring Garden was proud to participate in the TICKET program (Total Immersion Course for Korean English Teachers). Mrs. Kim Jeong Soo and Ms. Yoonhwa Choi came to Spring Garden School from Korea to learn, speak, and live as Americans. Although Mrs. Kim and Ms. Choi were the ones “learning,” the first and third grade students at SGS learned some valuable lessons as well. The students were introduced to many important aspects of Korean culture such as Korean language, music, clothing, folktales, and historical art. The students performed a Korean play and were even able to speak and read a few Korean sayings. The students were left with lessons rich with creativity, respect, and Korean traditions. A special thanks to Mrs. Maggiano and Mrs. Venezia for all their hard work.

Parent Volunteers

Mr. James Greengrove, a former parent, volunteered his assistance in the primary reading program. Other parent sponsored activities; Daisies, Brownies, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Spring Garden PTO

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTO for all their hard work throughout the year. Through their efforts four SMARTboards have been purchased, wonderful assemblies planned, agendas and folders bought, along with treats for special days, and teacher incentive grants awarded. The students and staff have appreciated all the PTO’s efforts.
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

American Education Week

During American Education Week in November, Spring Garden School invited the parent community and grandparents to visit the classrooms, to view a myriad of activities and displays depicting American education, its past, current trends and aspects of technology.

National Random Acts of Kindness

Spring Garden School students participated in the National Random Acts of Kindness initiative supported by Mayor Cocciola’s office. This one-week event helped our community extend acts of kindness to their loved ones, neighbors, fellow students, teachers and even some complete strangers. It was a wonderful program to help remind children the importance of helping someone else.

Family Math and Science

Family Math and Science were offered at Spring Garden School again this year. Both programs were well attended by the fourth grade families. The Family Math and Family Science programs are designed to address the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards as well as NJASK 4 skills. A variety of hands-on activities were used to build confidence for success in mathematics and to demystify science. The programs have created a unique partnership between home and school. Mrs. Holly, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Shahinian and Mrs. Venezia helped make this program a huge success.

Bears Around the World

This project involved third-grade students under the supervision of Mr. Adubato. Small stuffed bears with a journal insert literally traveled with relatives and friends to different parts of the world.

Many bears were returned to Spring Garden School with post cards, memos, videos, etc. of the bears transcontinental or transworld trip. All memorabilia the students received was put into scrapbooks and the bear destinations were documented on a U.S. or World Map. Throughout the year, it was evident that the unique activity enhanced social studies concepts and the geographical experiences of the children.

National Geographic Bee 2009

On January 15, 2009, the students in grades three through six competed in a geography bee. A series of questions were asked during homeroom and a winner was selected to go on to the final competition, which was held in the auditorium. This year,
first place went to a student in fourth grade, Lauren Urbanovich. The students enjoyed this activity very much. I appreciate Mrs. McCormick's organization of this educational activity.

**Battle of the Books**

Once again this year we implemented Battle of the Books with our fifth and sixth grade students. Thanks to the PTO's generosity we were able to purchase books for each class. The goal of the program was to have students read as many of the fifteen books purchased as possible. Groups were formed and a competition was held at the end of the school year. The students enjoyed the reading material as well as the competition.

**The Seeing Eye**

The students at Spring Garden School participated in The Seeing Eye through our Pennies for Puppies Program. This program enabled blind and visually impaired people to transform their lives through the use of Seeing Eye dogs. The contribution made was $473.85. This donation will help blind individuals from across North America to achieve independence and self-assurance. The puppy that Spring Garden School helped purchase was named Quella. A Spring Garden School family is helping raise the puppy for the next eighteen months.

**Shadow Day**

Students from the Nutley High School Future Educators Association took part in Shadow Day. This worthwhile activity afforded its members "hands-on" experience to help them shape their future plans. The following teachers participated in the day: Mr. Adubato, Ms. Curry, Mr. Gabriele, Mrs. Lightfoot, and Mrs. Shahinian.

**NAEP Testing**

The fourth grade students participated in the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on February 2, 2009. NAEP provides student achievement data to track academic trends for the nation, the states, and selected urban districts. The NAEP test results are an excellent resource for policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders who are interested in improving the quality of education in New Jersey and nationwide. The following test results will be published as follows: mathematics results for grades four in fall 2009; the science results for grade four in spring 2010; and the reading results in late summer of 2010.
New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Language Arts and Mathematics
Descriptor-writing panel for grades 3 and 4

This year two outstanding teachers from Spring Garden School were chosen to participate on the NJASK Language Arts Literacy descriptor-writing panel. Only seventeen teachers were selected from across the state of New Jersey. The teachers were involved in making judgments involving expectations of student performance based on their experience and expertise, specifically in terms of the Core Curriculum Content Standards, and their knowledge of third and fourth grade students’ skill and abilities. I am very proud of Gerard Adubato and Erika Pavlecka for their participation.

NBATE Nutley Business People for the Advancement of Technology in Education

Two teachers received NBATE grants for the purchase of two hot dot pens and activity cards to enhance the math and language arts curriculum.

CLUBS

Journalism Club

The newspaper club met every other Monday under the supervision of Miss Erika Pavlecka. The students prepared two outstanding comprehensive issues. The club afforded the children a successful experience in the areas of communication, editing and computer skills. All issues were distributed to the student body and parents.

Student Council Activities

Mrs. Sally Ryder advised all student council activities. They accomplished their agenda of activities with enthusiasm, support and participation from its members and the involvement of students from grades five and six. The mission of the council focused on school and aspects of community service. Major projects included a collection for Thanksgiving food baskets; bake sales, and feeding the homeless at St. John’s in Newark and Nutley Senior Citizens.

Chorale Club

The students in grades five and six learned the techniques of singing, including breathing, blending and performing. Students met on Wednesday’s at 12:00-12:30 PM.
Spring Garden Chorale Concerts:

- December Holiday Program Grades 4 & 6
- April - Spring Musicale Grades 1 & 2
- April - Musicale Grades 3 & 5

Library Research

The library was opened at lunch to enable students in grades four through six to utilize the technology and research materials and to do independent work.

Safety Patrols

The Spring Garden Safety patrol comprised of sixth graders continues to be effective as they serve at crosswalks under the supervision of adult advisors (crossing guards). They assist on the playground and monitor the kindergarten through third grades entering and leaving the building. Office patrols assist in answering the phone and separating mail during the lunch hour.

Drama Club

The students of the Drama Club met on Thursday to learn about the theater. The students were also taught how to make scenery and directing. A culminating activity was to have the students produce a play. This year Ms. Walk and the students produced a play, entitled, “Adventures of a Comic Book Artist.” The children and parents enjoyed the play.

Military Fan Mail Club

The Military Fan Mail Club has been in existence at Spring Garden School for five years. It consists of approximately sixty active members from the fifth and sixth grades. The club’s mission is to foster a sense of patriotism in students and develop an appreciation for American men and women serving in uniform around the world.

To accomplish this goal, the club makes their own greeting cards, which they send to military men and women serving at home and abroad. The club meets for a minimum of one hour per week. As active members of Friends of Our Troops, the club has placed number one in the state of New Jersey and in the top three in the nation for the number of cards sent by elementary students for our first three years. The club has placed first nationally for the past two years.

In addition to the tour mass mailings, the club also writes to many individual service men and women who have become regular pen pals. We are especially proud of our commitment to Spring Garden’s own, Tim Allen.
In addition to our pen-pal program, the club hosts an annual Veteran's Day assembly program at Spring Garden School for Nutley's veterans. The club is self-sufficient. In order to pay for any necessary supplies, dues, and postage, the club's members plan, organize, and run fundraisers, such as pencil and lollipop sales.

Do Something Club

The Do Something Club helped students to develop leadership, good citizenship, and character. This club was very busy helping others. Some activities were: Halloween Scare Raiser (costume collection), Garbage free lunch days, Teens for Jeans collection, Holiday ornament/card collection for local hospitals, recycling program for the school, the Capri Sun pouch brigade collection and Mr. Walker Walk-a-thon. The students participated with great enthusiasm.

Assembly Programs

- **October**
  - Gr. K-6 Nutley Fire Dept. Assembly Program (4-6)
  - Board of Ed. Assembly, "Attitude for Gratitude" Character Ed. (K-6)
  - Township of Nutley, "Who Wants To Be A Know It ALL" (K-6)
  - Bicycle Safety Gr. 1-6
  - Character Education Assembly (K-6)

- **November**
  - PTO Assembly, "Junk Man Music" (K-6)
  - Gr. 4-6 Veteran’s Day Assembly – Military Fan Mail Club (K-6)
  - Character Education Assembly (K-6)

- **December**
  - PTO Assembly, "Faustworks" (K-6)
  - Cyberbullying (Gr. 6)
  - Character Education Assembly (K-6)

- **January**
  - Pennies for Puppies (K-6)
  - Dr. Einstein & Marilyn Science and Math (K-6)
  - Jump For Heart (K-5)
  - Harassment Assembly (K-5)
  - Geography Bee
  - Character Education Assembly (K-6)

- **February**
  - Gr. 4-6 FMS – Jazz Band
  - Character Education Assembly K-6

- **March**
  - Women’s History Career (5-6)
  - Read Across America – Produce Pete (K-6)
  - Latin Honor Society Gr. 6

Drama Club Performance
Earth Day
Character Education Assembly (K-6)

- April
  - Tobacco Prevention Gr. 3
  - Law Day Gr. 5
  - Character Education Assembly (K-6)

- May

- June
  - Awards Assembly Gr. 4-6
  - Character Education Assembly (K-6)
  - Tobacco Prevention Gr. 4

Awards Assembly
The annual awards assembly under the supervision of Mr. Patrick Gabriel and Mrs. Doreen Holland honored all students who participated in school activities, local contests, and community service with special certificates and commendations as a form of recognition.

FIELD TRIPS:

Kindergarten. . Nutley Fire House

Grade 1 . Morristown Community Theatre
         “Nate The Great”

Grade 2 . Montclair State University
         “James and The Giant Peach”
         . Nutley Public Library

Grade 3 . Turtle Back Zoo

Grade 4 . American Museum of Natural History, New York
         . Bronx Zoo – New York

Grade 5 . West Point Academy, New York

Grade 6 . Camping Trip - Three day environmental program accompanied with experiences in ecology, social interaction, peer bonding skills, building and fostering self esteem and respect for each other through teamwork and group activities
         . Ice Skating – Cody Arena, West Orange
         . Marzzulo’s Restaurant for lunch with Italian Class
         . Cody Arena – Ice Skating
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Many students received special awards and recognition in local, county, and state, levels this year. The following represents a list of honors in the field of literature, art and science.

Kindergarten:
Science Fair - 3rd place - Nicholas Kirby

Grade 1:
Science Fair - 3rd place - Peter Haverick “Static Electricity”

Grade 2:

Grade 3:
Science Fair - 2nd place - Kyle Miskovich “Natural Selection”

Grade 4:
Science Fair: 1st place – Stephanie Calluori “Delightful Dolphins”
ABC History Fair
Lions Club Spelling Bee
Elks Poster Contest
American Legion Coloring Contest “The Price of Liberty”
Storyworks “Inheart” Contest - Declan Intindola
Scholastic Book Contest - Anthony Cassie
Township of Nutley – “What Sharing a Family Meal Together Means to Me”

Grade 5:
Science Fair: 1st place – Julia and Thomas Yang “Mother Nature’s Medicine”
Nutley Lions Club Poster Contest - “Give Peace a Chance”
Anthony Castronova – Honorable Mention
American Legion Coloring Contest “The Price of Liberty”
Nutley Elks Americanism Essay Contest - “What Freedom Means to Me”
Nutley Veterans Council Poster Contest, “Freedom Is Not Free?”
Lions Club Spelling Bee
NJ Middle School Association – “Month of the Young Adolescent”
Township of Nutley – “What Sharing a Family Meal Together Means to Me”

Grade 6:
ABC Science Fair
Nutley Lions Club Spelling Bee
Nutley Elks Americanism Essay Contest “Why I’m Proud to Be an American”
NJ Middle School Association – “Month of the Young Adolescent”
Township of Nutley – “What Sharing a Family Meal Together Means to Me”
Free Throw
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary – “What Does an American Veteran Mean To Me?”
Honorable Mention: Kayla Walker

Grade 5 & 6
Third-half Club Basketball Tournament: Spring Garden School First Place
Team Members:

2009 Third Half Club Basketball Team
Brielle Feaster
Jessica Gilbert
Korrine Durando
Peter DeCilla
Andrew Aiello
Matthew Genitempo
Isaak Lindenbaum
Anthony Condito
Geoffrey Bevere
Jacob Michels
Claudia Martin
Kevin Davis

Hoop Shoot Champs

Gr. 4 – Michael Purcell – 1st Place
Victoria Montes – 1st Place

Gr. 5 – Geoffrey Bevere – 3rd Place

Gr. 6 - Molly Demgard –1st Place
Kristen Palermo – 3rd Place
Nicholas Cozzarelli –3rd Place

Regional County Champs
Molly Demgard – 3rd place
Victoria Montes – 1st place
Michael Purcell – 1st place

Free Throw Contest:
First Place – Cara Michels
Second Place – Molly Demgard and Claudia Martin

**Mayor’s Challenge Mid-Year Mileage Contest**

1\textsuperscript{st} place – Anthony Cassie  
2\textsuperscript{nd} place – Adrianna Guglielmello  
3\textsuperscript{rd} place – Alex Contey

In closing, I would like to thank Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Mariana Francioso, Assistant Superintendent and the Nutley Board of Education, especially Mr. Vincent Moscaritola, our representative, for their continued help and support. I would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Paul Palozzola and the Child Study Team, who aids us with our special education children and their programs, and to Mr. Michael DeVita, Mr. Nicolette and the custodial staff for all their efforts in maintaining and improving the condition of the building. Also, I would like to thank the PTO for all their help, support and generosity.

Spring Garden students continue to achieve high scores on the NJ ASK test. These assessment tests are only one indicator of the outstanding ability of the Spring Garden School students.

I particularly want to note the Spring Garden students continued participation in the many art and essay contests. Their outstanding achievements exemplify their desire to compete and succeed.

The dedicated staff, secretary, and non-professional employees continue to work diligently to renew the spirit, high standards and academic excellence that are the benchmarks of our school district.

Thank you.

Rosemary Clerico, Principal
WASHINGTON SCHOOL
TO: Mr. Joseph Zarra  
FROM: Douglas T. Jones  
RE: Principal’s Annual Report – School Year 2008-2009

This annual report represents a composite of district and school priorities, staff, student, and parent activities, and curriculum development and implementation at Washington School.

Continuing Priorities

This is a summary of programs, events, and activities that have taken place at Washington School during the 2008-2009 school year. I am very proud of the students, staff and parents for all their efforts throughout the year.

- Technology  
- State Mandated School Objectives  
- District Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Program  
- District Emergency Management Plan  
- Differentiated Instruction/Inclusion Instructional Strategies  
- Implementation of Mathematics Curriculum  
- Art Curriculum  
- Language Arts Writing Program  
- Language Arts Curriculum  
- Core Curriculum Content Standards  
- Autistic Program  
- Gifted and Talented Program  
- World Language Program to Implement the Rosetta Stone Program
• World Language Curriculum
• Mathematics Strategies Program
• Character Education
• Health and Physical Education Curriculum
• Science Curriculum
• Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum
• Implement an Elementary SAC Curriculum
• Life Skills Curriculum
• Library Media Skills

Continued in-service was provided in the following areas:

• Instructional Theory into Practice
• Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and 504
• Exploring Web 2.0 Tools
• Designing Technology Integrated Lessons
• Elementary Assessment – NJ ASK 3-6
• Mentoring Program
• Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Procedures
• Affirmative Action Policies
• Differentiated Instruction: Managing the Differentiated Classroom
• Autistic Program

Curriculum development occurred in the following areas:

• Language Arts Literacy
• Mathematics
• Media Arts / Library / Technology

Ms. Christine Osieja and Mr. Larry Weiss, Elementary Technology Facilitator Teachers, have assisted classroom teachers with lessons to aid in infusing technology throughout the curriculum. They continue to train our teachers, develop projects and classroom implementation of concepts. Lunch time programming continued and was well utilized by the entire staff.

Results of School Level Objectives – 2008-2009 School Year

During the 2008-2009 school year, students in grades kindergarten to two demonstrated age appropriate proficiency in science, targeting the area of life science utilizing the scientific method. Over 80% of the students will achieve a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric was used to score the activity.
During the 2008-2009 school year, students in grades three to six demonstrated age-appropriate proficiency in Language Arts, targeting reading strategies utilizing Study Island. Over 80% of the students achieved a score of 70% or higher on the topic of reading strategies covered by Study Island.

**School-Based Planning Team**

The School-Based Planning Team, which was comprised of teachers, parents, and administrators, met frequently to discuss the school level objectives. The members of the team proposed the following school level objectives for the 2009-2010 school year:

**School Level Objective 2009-2010**

By June 2010, students in kindergarten through grade two (K-2) will demonstrate proficiency in writing as demonstrated through a writing assessment. A minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric will be used to score the writing assignment.

By June 2010, students in grades three through six (3-6) will demonstrate proficiency in mathematics, targeting math strategies utilizing Study Island. Students will be assessed using a pretest in September. By May a minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of math strategies.

**Testing**

The results of the TerraNova Test (grades 1-2) were carefully reviewed. Information about the tests was evaluated and strategies were developed and implemented for the year. The information and results from the new test given this year, NJPASS, have not been obtained for the 2008-2009 school year and will be utilized in a similar manner when the results are available.

The New Jersey ASK 3, 4, 5 and 6 were given to all Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth graders of Washington School in the content areas of Language Arts and Mathematics and Science in some cases. Test scores for all grades are not available at this time. Plans for improved instruction based on the results will be developed for the 2009-2010 school year.

**Staff Development**

Washington School staff attended professional workshops, conferences, graduate courses, computer in-service workshops, and various other workshops both in and out of district. The following is a list of the staff's attendance:
I&RS Training
Instructional Leveled Spelling
Semple Math
Introduction to Wilson
Mary Grove College MAT Program
NJ ASK 3-6 Workshops
Eliminating Bullying Workshops
Math Curriculum Workshop
Integrating Technology Workshop
Language Arts Workshop
Critical Thinking in the Classroom
Technology Integration
Defibrillator Training
CPR Training
Epi-Pen Training
Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monthly faculty meetings continually highlight curriculum, emergency management procedures, special education/504 accommodations, school level objectives, strategies, affirmative action, technology, special programs and assemblies, superintendent’s advisory committee, safety, liability, classroom management concerns, and any other items that needed to be addressed.

I&RS Team

During the 2008/2009 school year, the Washington School I&RS team met as needed on a continuous basis. The team consisted of the Principal, Student Assistance Counselor, Learning Consultant, Classroom Teacher Representatives, School Nurse, Parents, and the Referring Classroom Teacher.

Throughout the year, the referral team has successfully assisted many at-risk Washington School students. Interventions and accommodations, consistent with current educational philosophy, utilized by the team to assist these students were as follows: parent-teacher communication, program modification, specific classroom interventions, in-class support, additional Strategies instruction in Language Arts / Literacy and Mathematics, Wilson reading program, and referrals to the SAC for emotional and behavioral support.

Twenty-Five students were referred to the I&RS team. Of these, eleven students were referred to the CST for testing and subsequently tested. The remainder continued to receive interventions set in place by the I&RS team. The remaining students have made adequate progress in learning due to the accommodations put in place by the I&RS committee. These accommodations will continue on into the next school year. The cases will then be reviewed in the beginning of the 2009/2010 school year. In addition, two students were referred for occupational therapy and one speech referral was made. Also, four students received school counseling services on a regular basis.
Overall, the team was effective in meeting the needs of the students who were referred and continues to be a positive resource for the students and teachers of Washington School.

**Student Assistance Program**

Throughout the school year, forty-two permission slips for services were sent home with students. Of these forty-two students, fifteen were seen by the counselor on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The remaining students were met with on an as needed basis.

In addition to this caseload, many more students were met with, based on situational needs (i.e. conflict resolution, crisis intervention, grief and loss situations and behavior modification). Ongoing contact with parents was made and twelve students were referred to outside counseling. Also, one student was sent for an emergency psychiatric evaluation.

Contact was made with teachers throughout the year in order to better meet the needs of their class as a whole. Classroom visitations were made covering topics such as bullying, friendship, and appropriate codes of behavior. Violence Awareness and Red Ribbon Week activities were coordinated. Also, students in need were identified for the Holiday Treasure Chest and appropriate arrangements were made for these families. Many meetings took place with parents, including notification to staff members, recording interventions for the classroom teachers, and keeping track of incoming referrals.

In conclusion, students who received services for the 2008/2009 school year will receive continuation of services letters in the fall of 2009 in order to maintain the continuity of the Student Assistance Program and meet the needs of the students of Washington School.

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

- **Walk to School Wednesdays**
  Students participated in a program to increase health and exercise and to eliminate traffic issues one day per month by walking to school. Mayor Cocchilola joined students from a designated area and walk to school for fitness.

- **Washington School Picnic**
  All Washington School families are invited to attend a picnic held at a local park. Over three hundred attended and was very successful.

- **New Parent Tea**
  All first time and new parents were invited to attend a welcome tea to discuss a plethora of school issues and concerns. Many parents took this opportunity to become familiar with school policies and procedures.
♦ **Guest Speakers**
During the course of the school year numerous guest speakers, with wide varieties of expertise, visited our school. The students and staff totally enjoyed these interesting and educational presentations.

♦ **Annual Halloween Parade**
Our annual Halloween parade was held on our campus. Each class exited the building and marched around the field. The parent community was invited to attend.

♦ **Extended Day Program**
There was continued implementation of a before and after care program conducted in our school, under the direction of Mrs. Maria Cervasio.

♦ **Contests**
Students in grades 1-6 participated in various contests throughout the school year: These included the Newark Museum Centennial Celebration Contest, Family Essay Contest, Lion’s Club Spelling Bee, National Dance Competition held at Nutley High School, Nutley Elks Club Poster Contest, American Legion Coloring Contest, Forensics Tournament, New Jersey Bar Association Law Fair, Academically Speaking, Washington School Chess Tournament, Nutley Science Fair, Mayor’s Fitness Challenge, John Hopkins Talent Search, and Charlie’s Reading Challenge.

♦ **The Third Half Club / John Walker Memorial Basketball Tournament**
The basketball team was selected after several weeks of try-outs. The team was made up of fifth and sixth graders who competed during the latter part of March. The Washington team had a great time participating in this tournament.

♦ **Musicales**
Mrs. Tirri, our instrumental instructor, and Mrs. Bimbi, our vocal music teacher, conducted three musicales in December, April, and May. During the December program grades one, five and six sang a variety of holiday songs. The instrumentalists played many favorite songs. The program created a very festive environment. During the April program grades two, three and four performed. The May concert highlighted songs by our fifth and sixth grade students, instrumental students, Sixth Grade Bell Choir and the Fifth and Sixth Grade Vocal Choir. These concerts highlight the progress of the children in the areas of vocal and instrumental music. Washington School instrumentalists also participated in the All-Elementary Music Concert at Nutley High School.

♦ **Washington School Art Show**
Under the direction of Ms. Crupi the students of Washington School created a whole school art show that afforded every student to show exemplary art produce all year long. All three hallways were used and over Six-Hundred parents and friends attended. The Challenge Art Club members acted as Art Docents to provide visitors with information about each project.
**Affirmative Action**
Throughout the grades, Black History month was celebrated with a variety of Afro-American cultural activities. A selection of famous black Americans, civic leaders, sports figures, artists, and authors were significantly displayed throughout the building. During the month of March activities were planned to honor “Women in History” month. These activities were conducted in grades K-6. The students read books, wrote poetry, and spoke about famous women. Additionally, students learned information concerning the Holocaust. A special guest speaker and Holocaust survivor spoke to the students about his experiences.

Our fifth and sixth grade students participated in a Women in History panel discussion during which women from the community spoke about opportunities for women. A question and answer period followed.

**Assembly Programs**
- Jump Rope For Heart (American Heart Association)
- Walk To School Wednesdays
- Bicycle Safety
- Fire Safety Assembly
- Character Education
- Holly Rock Assembly
- Cyber bullying Assembly
- Jazz Band Assembly
- Author Visit (Tom Warburton)
- Earth Day Assembly
- Simon Sez Assembly
- Dinosaur Rock Assembly
- Latin Honors and Italian Club presentations
- FMS Brass Ensemble
- Tobacco Prevention
- Nutley Library
- Women in History Panel Discussion
- Sports Camp Presentation
- Passaic Valley Sewage Commission
- Peer Mediators Presentation
- Lions Club Assemblies

**Parent Volunteers**
Once again, The Washington PTO consisting of parent volunteers consistently assisted the school in providing support and programs. They are a vital part of the school community and an asset to the children of Washington School.

**Battle of the Books**
Our third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes participated in the Battle of the Books program. The children were asked to read fifteen books throughout the year.
♦ **ABC Science Fair**
Washington School students participated in the science fair. Several students received awards. All of the projects were outstanding and the children had a great time creating them. The winners then displayed them at the Washington School.

♦ **American Education Week**
American Education Week was celebrated the week of November 10th. Parent conferences were held during this week and parents were invited to visit their child’s classroom.

♦ **Family Math and Family Science**
Family Math and Science were offered once again. Both programs were well attended by fourth grade families. A variety of hands-on activities were used to build confidence for success in mathematics and science. The programs are designed to address the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and to help students better prepare for the NJ ASK.

♦ **Read Across America**
In celebration of Dr. Suess’ birthday, a select group of students from Walker Middle School and various other guests came to Washington School to read to our students.

♦ **Johns Hopkins Plus Test**
Several students from Washington School took the Johns Hopkins Plus Test. One fifth grader received high honors from the State.

♦ **Field Day**
Field Day was held on June 19. The entire student body competed in “Olympic-style” events. At the end of the competitions the PTO treated everyone to Rita’s Ice. The children truly enjoy this event.

♦ **Bloomfield College Teacher Exchange Program**
The students participated in an innovative program that placed two Korean teachers in Language Arts classrooms (Grade 2 and 6) to help promote literacy and communication skills.

♦ **Student Awards**

**JOHN H. WALKER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION AWARD**

Anna Allison
Nicholas Tran
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Ms. Chieffo
Bhuvan Dave
Gianna Foti
Katharina Rakauckas

Mrs. Monterosa
Jack Coulson
Samantha Gabriele
Ava Intindola
Declan Jackman
 Giananthony Palangio
Mia Scutti
Steven Wong

Miss Puzio
Evyn Garcia
Maria Gencarelli
Amanda Sullivan
Sara Takhim
Julia Thompson
Natalie Zolnierczyk

Mrs. Carnevale
Abhishek Dixit
Garrett Groeling
James Juat
Cassidy LoRe
Christopher Rodas
Caleb Shi
Aaliyah Vega

Mrs. Crisson
Lara Carnovale
Rocco Galasso
Lingxiao Guan
Katherine Hochstuhl
Debamita Saha

Mrs. Suter
Giacomo Antonicello
Joseph Ambrosone
Alexa Arias
John Christman
Lauren Costello
Ashley Krieger
Eric Long
Joshua O'Neill
Alexis Orr
Emek Tasdemir
Samantha Yoon

Ms. Cerniglia
Samantha DaCosta Lobo
Nicole Giordano

Mrs. Mosior
Michael Alvarez
Sam Coulson
Ellie McCreesh

Mrs. Healy
Cameron Lipton-Martinez
Avkash Patel
Averill Wong

Mrs. Tibaldo
Christian Bascunan
Conor Jackman
Nicholas Napolitano

Mrs. Boyce
Dante Vocaturo
Devin White

Mrs. Lenik
Haddy Abdelhady
Sarah Berroa
Kaitlyn O'Neill
Bhargav Sonani

Ms. Maher
Hasnan Shah
Monika Hanna
Nicholas Tran

Mr. Smyth
Jason Dorr
Kaitlyn Quinn
**Perfect Attendance**

**Miss DiGiacomo**
Amanda Gibney
Isabella Iodice

**Miss Hollywood**
Justin Fox
Sophia Genna

**Mrs. Suter**
Evan Ran

**Mrs. Andreula**
Jonatha La

**Ms. Cerniglia**
Jacob Rivera
Ilya Udalov

**Mrs. Mosior**
Nicholas Butisingh
Erik DeOliveira

**Mrs. Healy**
Christopher Cardola
Aash Patel
Zhaorui Wang

**Mrs. Tibaldo**
Yogesh Rakholia

**Mrs. Beckmeyer**
Robert Remuska
Bryan Currie
Xiv Paragus

**Mrs. Boyce**
Harsh Patel

**Mrs. Lenik**
Aaron Butisingh
Kaitlyn O’Neill

**Ms. Maher**
Michelle DeFranco
**Physical Fitness Awards**
Mrs. Lenik’s class – Casey Barone & Jessica Rucci
Mr. Smyth’s class – Jason Castellanos
Mrs. Boyce’s class – Sean Giordano
Mrs. Rossi’s class – Luciano Petillo

Congratulations to Mrs. Lenik’s class for winning the physical education stars competition.

**AWARDS**
Family Day Essay Contest Winner – Jeremiah Bosque

Nutley Lion’s Spelling Bee Contest – 3rd place winner – Nicole Cimafranca

Eunice Suba – Received the highest score in a National Dance Competition held at Nutley High School*

Nutley Elks Free Throw Contest – 3rd place winner – Nicholas Napolitano

Honorable mention in the American Legion Coloring Contest – Joelle Ocampo

Forensics Tournament – 3rd place individual and 1st place Nutley team – Rosalina Perez

Law Fair – The following 3rd graders received a Honorable Mention for writing an original Law Fair case.

Jessica Marx
Victoria Palmieri
James Quinn
Brian Savage

Francesca Lentini
Stephanie Fleser
Natalie Muzzicato
Ellie McCreesh

Academically Speaking Competition – Dante Vocaturo and Dante Intindola – 2nd place winners

Chess Tournament – 1st place – Dante Intindola & Devin White

2nd place – Connor Eng & Darian Sharif

3rd place – Tamazi Danelia & Anthony Alonso
Newark Museum Centennial Celebration – Devin White and Kyle Brady were the winners of the Newark Museum’s Centennial Poster contest. Their posters were incorporated into a digital display located in the museum’s entry lobby on exhibit. They were awarded certificates along with Washington School.

Science Fair Winners
kindergarten – 3rd place winners – Kavya Anandhan, Evan Giordano, Christopher Carnovale, Nicolas Polewka & Liala Sofi
1st Grade – 1st place – Ava Intindola
3rd Grade – 1st place – Nicole Giordano
5th Grade – 2nd place – Dante Intindola

Mayor’s Fitness Challenge Achievement Award
Maggie McCreesh
Ellie McCreesh
Julia Tiene

Johns Hopkins Talent Search – High Honors Award for the State – Dante Intindola

Charlie’s’ Reading Challenge – Congratulations to the 4th grade for reading over 1500 books

Health and Safety Programs
Mrs. Roberts, our school nurse, conducted scoliosis screening for all students in grade 5 and hearing screening for all students. She also checked the height and weight of each student.

The Lions Club conducted vision screening for grade 4. Mrs. Roberts tested grades K, 2, and 6.

The annual fire prevention drill and demonstration took place during Fire Prevention week.

Parent informational discussions on a variety of current health issues.

Class Trips
Students participated in field experiences outside of the school. Many programs were geared to science and math curricula and were enjoyed by all who attended. Some of the trips included:
Turtle Back Zoo
Liberty Science Center
Camp Bernie
Stony Hill Farms
Montclair State University
Seeing Eye
NJ Marine Sciences, Sandy Hook
Museum of Art
Nutley Library
Marzullo's Restaurant
NJ Bar Association Center

WASHINGTON SCHOOL CLUBS

Art Club
Animal Club
Chimettes
Dance Club
Fitness Club
Gardening Club
Knitting Club
Math Wizards
Chess Club
Fiesta Fever Spanish Club
Student Council
Writer's Club
School Newspaper
Patrols
Computer Club
Pod Casting
Scrapbooking
Photography

PTO Activities

I would like to thank the Washington School PTO for their tireless efforts on behalf of our children this year. They provided a variety of educational assembly programs and purchased many items to enhance our curriculum. The Academic Committee created several educational activities for our children. The extra touches they bring to Washington School help maintain its fine tradition. I truly appreciate the support and cooperation of this wonderful community.

Some of the PTO activities included:
Wrapping Paper Sale
Pumpkin Patch
Holiday Pizza Party
Holiday Boutique
Holiday Luncheon
Scholastic Book Fair
Collected box tops for education
Script Program
Plant Sale
Family Picnic
Staff Appreciation Luncheon

**PTO Activities continued**
Provided refreshments after Open House, for Read Across America, and for our kindergarten and sixth grade promotions
Provided pizza luncheon for grades 4-6
T-shirts were provided for patrols, Olympic participants, and all fourth, fifth, and sixth graders.
Books were provided for our Battle of the Books
Provided ice cream at our annual Field Day
Donated pocket folders and planners for the students
Created a parent directory

**Conclusion**

In closing, I wish to thank Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent of School, for his support and guidance. His direct, honest assessment and constructivism of the district and Washington School status has been vital for my professional growth. Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Marianna Francioso for her continual guidance and support on all levels, Members of the Board of Education, Principals of all other schools for their collected assistance and support in making the past year one of the best at Washington School.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the faculty of Washington School. They are all dedicated staff members who make Washington School a place for children and learning. We are about kids and the staff emulates this ideal everyday. Their dedication creates the culture of the school that is clearly apparent the moment one enters the building.

Our School Secretary, Mrs. Geralynn Dwyer, is to be highly commended for her continued efforts on behalf of the Washington School. She brings a strong work ethic, a caring and warmth in all endeavors and to those connected with the Washington School. Her outstanding ability to manage the office with efficiency and vision is greatly appreciated. As part of her responsibilities she oversees our wonderful, dedicated office and building aides; Ms. Joanne Puccio, Mrs. Pat Defrank, Mrs. Carolyn Drago, Mrs. Janet Fenwick, and Mrs. Diane Guarino and their efforts should be lauded for her efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas T. Jones
YANTACAW SCHOOL
TO: Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: David Sorensen, Principal of Yantacaw School
DATE: June 25, 2009
SUBJECT: Principal's Annual Report – School Year 2008/2009

This annual report represents a composite of district and school priorities, staff, school, student, and parent activities, and curriculum development and implementation.

**Continuing Priorities**

The Nutley School System, in accordance with New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, continues to provide its students with a quality education. The following priorities have been implemented:

- Technology
- State Mandated School Objectives
- District Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Program
- District Emergency Management Plan
- Differentiated Instruction/Inclusion Instructional Strategies
- Implementation of Mathematics Curriculum
- Art Curriculum
- Language Arts Writing Program
- Language Arts Curriculum
- Core Curriculum Content Standards
- Autistic Program
- Gifted and Talented Program
- World Language Program to Implement the Rosetta Stone Program
- World Language Curriculum
- Mathematics Strategies Program
- Character Education
- Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Science Curriculum
• Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum
• Implement an Elementary SAC Curriculum
• Life Skills Curriculum
• Library Media Skills

Continued in-service was provided in the following areas:

• Instructional Theory into Practice
• Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and 504
• Exploring Web 2.0 Tools
• Designing Technology Integrated Lessons
• Elementary Assessment – NJ ASK 3-6
• Mentoring Program
• Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Procedures
• Affirmative Action Policies
• Introduction to Differentiated Instruction: Managing the Differentiated Classroom
• Autistic Program

Curriculum development occurred in the following areas:

• Language Arts Literacy Gr. 1-4
• Kindergarten
• Mathematics Gr. 5-8

Ms. Christine Osieja, Elementary Technology Facilitator Teacher, has assisted classroom teachers with lessons to aid in infusing technology throughout the curriculum. She continues to train our teachers in the use of our mobile labs. We have two mobile labs that comprise of twenty-five laptops each. These laptops enable teachers to create a lab environment within their classrooms. It is a wonderful tool that has enhanced our curricula. We also continue to monitor and upgrade our software, CD Roms, and other computer-related items.

Results of School Level Objectives – 2008-2009 School Year

During the 2008-2009 school year, students in grades kindergarten through two (K-2) were to demonstrate a proficiency in science, targeting the area of life science utilizing the scientific method. A minimum of 80% of the students was to achieve a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. The students successfully met the school’s goals.
During the 2008-2009 school year, students in grades three through six (3-6) were to demonstrate proficiency in language arts, targeting reading strategies utilizing Study Island. Students were to be assessed using a pretest in September. By May, a minimum of 80% of the students was to achieve a score of 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of reading strategies. The students successfully met the school's goals.

**School-Based Planning Team**

The School-Based Planning Team, which was comprised of teachers, parents, and administrators, met to discuss the school level objectives. The members of the team proposed the following school level objectives for the 2009-2010 school year:

By June 2010, students in grades kindergarten through two (K-2) will demonstrate proficiency in writing as demonstrated through a writing assessment. A minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a score of 80% on a teacher-developed assessment. A rubric will be used to score the writing assignment.

By June 2010, students in grades three through six will demonstrate proficiency in mathematics, targeting math strategies utilizing Study Island. Students will be assessed using a pretest in September. By May a minimum of 80% of the students will achieve a 70% or higher on the topics covered by Study Island in the area of math strategies.

**Testing**

The results of the TerraNova Test (grades 1-2) were carefully reviewed. Information about the tests was evaluated and strategies were developed and implemented for the year. The information and results from the new test NJPASS have not been obtained for the 2008-2009 school year and will be utilized in a similar manner when the results are available.

The New Jersey ASK 3,4,5 and 6 were given to all Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth graders of Yantacaw School in the content areas of Language Arts and Mathematics and Science in some cases. Test scores for all grades are not available at this time. Plans for improved instruction based on the results will be developed for the 2009-2010 school year.
Staff Development

Yantacaw School staff attended professional workshops, conferences, graduate courses, computer in-service workshops, and various other workshops both in and out of district. The following is a list of the staff’s attendance:

I&RS Training
Semple Math
Introduction to Wilson
NJ ASK 3-6 Workshops
Eliminating Bullying Workshops
Math Curriculum Workshop
Designing technology – Integrating lessons
Language Arts Workshop
Defibrillator Training
Wilson Training
Singapore Math
Study Island training
Social Skills for Students in Elementary Schools
Bullying Prevention Workshop
CPR Training
Mentoring and Coaching
Smart Board training
Epi-Pen Training
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Social Difficulties of Learning Attention and Autism Disorders
Trauma Survival and Healing and Transformation

Monthly faculty meetings continually highlight curriculum committee reports, emergency management procedures, school level objectives, Special Education/504 accommodations, Basic Skills, affirmative action, technology, specials, Superintendent’s Advisory Committee, safety, liability, classroom management concerns, field trip procedures, and any other items that needed to be addressed.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

• Library Grand Opening

The Yantacaw community entered the Literacy For Life Library makeover contest. Yantacaw won $25,000 to be put toward the renovation of our library and $15,000 in books! The Grand Opening was in February of 2009.
♦ **Guest Speakers**  
During the course of the school year numerous guest speakers, with wide varieties of expertise, visited our school. The students and staff totally enjoyed these interesting and educational presentations.

♦ **Fundraisers**  
Cystic Fibrosis Ice Cream Sale, St. Jude’s Math-a-thon, Pennies for Puppies, Jump Rope for Heart, and several Red Cross Food Drives, were some of the Fundraisers the Yantacaw students participated in to enhance their curriculum and help others both inside and outside our community.

♦ **Annual Halloween Parade**  
Our annual Halloween parade was held on our campus. Each class exited the building and marched around the field. The parent community was invited to attend.

♦ **Extended Day Program**  
There was continued implementation of a before and after care program conducted in our school, under the direction of Mrs. Maria Cervasio.

♦ **Contests**  
Students in grades 1-6 participated in various contests throughout the school year:

- Michael Fogle won first place in the American Legion annual coloring contest on the local level and second place in the state of New Jersey.

- Phelan Yu, John Sebadics, and Sebastian Ruiz were members of the Academically Speaking Team that took 2nd Place in the Essex County Tournament.

- Ava Tucci won first place for individual efforts in the Essex County Forensics tournament.

- Cara Crosby won second place for individual efforts in the Essex County Forensics tournament.

- Ava Tucci and Cara Crosby were first place team winners in the Essex County Forensics Tournament.

- Dana Rebutoc and Cassandra Rebutoc participated in the Essex County Challenge 24 contest.

- Yantacaw fared quite well in the Academic Booster Club Science Fair for 2009 with many entrants and award winners:

  - Kindergarten Victoria Alameda 2nd place
Abby Smith 3rd place  
James Ford 3rd place  
Maguire Braingan 3rd place

First Grade  
Mary Mankowich 2nd place

Second Grade  
Owen Morris 2nd place  
Ethan Gaynor 3rd place

Third Grade  
Jack Halligan 3rd place

Fourth Grade  
Seamus Hargrave 2nd place

Sixth Grade  
Ben Halligan 3rd place

**The 3rd Half - John Walker Memorial Basketball Tournament**
The basketball team was selected after several weeks of try-outs. The team was made up of fifth and sixth graders who competed during the latter part of March. The Yantacaw team had a great time participating in this tournament. They managed a second place finish losing a close game against a tough Spring Garden team.

**I&RS Team**
The I&RS team was established to implement a multidisciplinary team for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services. This is designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties and to assist staff members in addressing those needs. Our team met for one period on a weekly basis. It was a very successful program.

**Musicales**
Mrs. Tirri, the instrumental instructor, and Mrs. Carollo, our vocal music teacher, conducted four musicales in December, April, and May. During the December program grades five and six sang a variety of holiday songs. The instrumentalists played many favorite songs. The program created a very festive environment. During the April program grades one and two performed. The May concert highlighted songs by our third and fourth grade students, instrumental students, Sixth Grade Bell Choir and the Fifth and Sixth Grade Vocal Choir, playing and singing songs that were learned during the school year. The fourth graders also played several selections on the recorder. These concerts highlight the progress of the children in the areas of vocal and instrumental music. Yantacaw instrumentalists also participated in the All-Elementary Music Concert at Nutley High School.
**Affirmative Action**
Throughout the grades, Black History month was celebrated with a variety of Afro-American cultural activities. A selection of famous black Americans, civic leaders, sports figures, artists, and authors were significantly displayed throughout the building. During the month of March activities were planned to honor “Women in History” month. These activities were conducted in grades K-6. The students read books, wrote poetry, and spoke about famous women.

Our fifth and sixth grade students participated in a “Women in History” panel discussion during which women from the community spoke about opportunities for women. A question and answer period followed.

**Picturing America Grant**
The third grade teachers received the National Endowment of the Humanities Initiative Picturing America Grant.

**Pod casting**
Our sixth grade created pod casts on famous women during Women in History month.

**Assembly Programs**
- Fire Safety Assembly
- Awards Assembly
- Jump Rope For Heart (American Heart Association)
- Fire Drill Demo (Grades 1-3)
- Bike Assembly
- Motivational Assembly
- The “Dirtmeister” Science Assembly
- Pennies for Puppies
- Drug and Alcohol Presentation
- Bullying
- Concert Choir
- Jazz Band Assembly
- St. Jude’s Mathathon
- Faust Work Mask Assembly
- Walker Foundation Assembly
- Tobacco Prevention Puppet Show (Grade 3)
- Parks and Recreation Earth Day Awareness
- Women in History Panel Discussion
- NJ State Mock Trial – Law Day
- Tobacco Prevention Awareness (Grade 4)
- Law Fair
- “Are You Greener Than a Fifth Grader” game show
- Italian Honor Club Presentation
- Latin Honor Club Presentation
- Sports Camp Presentation
Fourth Grade Instrumental Music Demo  
Passaic Valley Environmental Assembly  
“Dragons and Dreams” Assembly

♦ Parent Volunteers  
Once again, Yantacaw School had many parent volunteers come in to assist in many areas. The Yantacaw staff continues to welcome them into our building and greatly appreciates the time and effort they give to our youngsters.

♦ Battle of the Books  
Our fifth grade classes participated in the Battle of the Books program. The children were asked to read fifteen books throughout the year. At the end of the school year teams competed in a jeopardy style tournament. The winning team won gift cards, complements of the PTO.

♦ ABC Science Fair  
Yantacaw students participated in the science fair. Four Yantacaw students received second place awards, six received third place. All of the projects were outstanding and the children had a great time creating them.

♦ American Education Week  
American Education Week was celebrated the week of November 12. Parent conferences were held during this week and parents were invited to visit their child’s classroom.

♦ Family Math and Family Science  
Family Math and Science were offered once again. Both programs were well attended by fourth grade families. A variety of hands-on activities were used to build confidence for success in mathematics and science. The programs are designed to address the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and to help students better prepare for the NJ ASK.

♦ Read Across America  
In celebration of Dr. Suess’ birthday, students from Nutley High School’s Future Teachers of America Club and various other guests came to Yantacaw to read to our students.

♦ Johns Hopkins Plus Test  
Several students from Yantacaw took the Johns Hopkins Plus Test. Two students achieved state distinction.

♦ Field Day  
Our eighth annual field day was held on June 19. The entire student body competed in “Olympic-style” events. At the end of the competitions the PTO
treated everyone to hot dogs, drinks, popcorn and ice cream. The children truly enjoy this event.

♦ Bloomfield College Teacher Exchange Program
The students participated in an innovative program that placed two Korean teachers in Language Arts classrooms (Grade 2 and 6) to help promote literacy and communication skills.

♦ Curiosity Shop – Yantacaw PTO
The Curiosity Shop was offered to all Yantacaw students. Parent volunteers conducted 35 classes. These classes included Strange Science, Gardening, Card making with Stamps, Fishing, Italian, Irish Dancing, Scrap booking, Yoga, Candy Making, Brain Games, Drama, and much more. The children were engaged in many hands-on experiences that were both fun and educational. The Curiosity Shop met after school on Thursdays and Fridays during the month of March.

Health and Safety Programs
Mrs. Flannery, our school nurse, conducted scoliosis screening for all students in grade 5 and hearing screening for all students. She also checked the height and weight of each student.

The Lions Club conducted vision screening for grade 4. Mrs. Flannery tested grades K, 2, and 6.

The annual fire prevention drill and demonstration took place during Fire Prevention week.

Class Trips
Kindergarten – Montclair Art Museum
Grade 1 – Outrageous Pets Museum
Grade 2 – Liberty Science Center, Nutley Library
Grade 3 – AMC Theater (movie – Earth), Walking tours of Nutley Museum, Kingsland Park and the Mudhole
Grade 4 – The Seeing Eye Institute
Grade 5 – Philadelphia Zoo
      AMC Theater (movie – Tale of Despereaux)
Grade 6 – Fairview Lakes Campgrounds
      Ralph’s Italian Restaurant 8
Student Council – Madame Trussauds Wax Museum
YANTACAW CLUBS

♦ Student Council – Grade 6 – Ms. Schoem
The Yantacaw Student Council is a service organization that is committed to helping others while maintaining the highest citizenship standards for its members. Students must participate in activities and demonstrate a positive attitude and proper behavior by maintaining their citizenship checks. The council met many times during the course of the school year. Some of the activities the students participated in were: campus-cleanup, food drive for Thanksgiving, clothing drive for abused family shelter, entertained senior citizens at Nutley Parkside Apartments, decorated bulletin boards, sold lollipops, Read Across America, and ended the year with a Staff Appreciation Breakfast.

♦ Fifth Grade Student Government - Ms. Freedman
This club met in the morning and at lunchtime. The students participated in activities that were service oriented. They collected food and clothing for the needy, participated in a campus clean up and went to St. Johns to feed the homeless.

♦ Tom Tom Newspaper - Mrs. Pontrella, Mrs. Pate
This club is the school’s literary magazine. It exhibits our students’ writings and accomplishments. The club has a representative from each homeroom plus student artists. Publications are three times a year.

♦ Chick Chat – Grade 6 - Mrs. Licameli and Sue Furnari
This club empowered the sixth grade girls for social change, to build self efficacy, and encourage authentic relationships. The club also addressed the growing relational aggression and cyber/text bullying prevalent among pre-adolescent girls. Chick Chat met on a weekly basis.

♦ The Club de Espanol – Grade 5 – Mrs. Blandin
To reinforce the Spanish language taught in class to the fifth graders as well as to learn about the Latin culture.

♦ Yantacaw Safety Patrols - Mrs. Dow
The Yantacaw Safety Patrols are divided up into four categories, courtesy guides, street, office, and lunch. All the students are required to attend meetings held during the course of the year to emphasize the importance of their jobs and to solve problems and answer questions that the patrols encounter. Courtesy guides assist the younger students in and out of the building. Street patrols assist the crossing guards on the corners to ensure a safe environment for the children while crossing the street. Office patrols assist Mrs. Gariano at lunchtime by answering the phone, distributing flyers,
and sorting the mail. Lunch patrols assist the lunch aides in the lunchroom and on the playground.

♦ Art Club – Mrs. Goldberg
The Art Club was open to all sixth graders. These students spent time enhancing their art skills, entering various poster contests, and helping make decorations for our school.

♦ Support our Troops Club - Grade 6 – Mrs. Tirri
The purpose of the Support our Troops Club is to send care packages and letters to troops who are over seas in the Middle east Protecting our Country.

♦ GreenCycle Club – Grades 4, 5, and 6 - Mrs. Olivo
The purpose of this club was to foster recycling and to “Greening” here at Yantacaw. This club was also used as a model for the other school in the district

♦ Pod Casting – Grade 6 Mrs. Licamelli and Mrs. Oseija
This club was composed of sixth graders who integrated technology using Apple laptops, Garage band (software), iPhoto (software), and web 2.0 tools to create podcasts on famous Nutley residents both past and present.

♦ Choral – Mrs. Carollo
Sixth grade students learned how to read choral scores while experiencing singing two-part songs. These students performed at school and district programs.

PTO Activities
I would like to thank the Yantacaw School PTO for their tireless efforts on behalf of our children this year. They provided a variety of educational assembly programs and purchased many items to enhance our curriculum. The Academic Committee created several educational activities for our children, such as the Book of the Month Club and other clubs. The extra touches they bring to Yantacaw School help maintain its fine tradition. A special thanks to co-presidents, Laura Fontanals and Francesca Roselli who led this dedicated group of parents to an extremely productive year. I truly appreciate the support and cooperation of this wonderful Yantacaw community.

I would also like to thank our Board of Education representative, Dr. Philip Casale. It has been a pleasure working with you this year at Yantacaw. You have always been supportive of my endeavors. For all your efforts, I am eternally grateful.
Some of the PTO activities included:
Wrapping Paper Sale
Pumpkin Patch
Welcome Back Dance
Tricky Tray
Holiday Pizza Party
Holiday Boutique
Holiday Luncheon
Scholastic Book Fair
Curiosity Shop
Amateur Night/Talent Show
Collected box tops for education
Plant Sale
Family Picnic
Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Birthday books – each child received a book on his/her birthday
Provided refreshments for Read Across America, and for our kindergarten and sixth grade promotions
Provided pizza luncheon for grades 4-6 and staff members after the Olympics.
T-shirts were provided for patrols, Olympic participants, and all fourth, fifth, and sixth graders.
Provided lunch and ice cream at our annual Field Day
Donated pocket folders and planners for the students
Created a parent directory

Conclusion

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Yantacaw teaching staff for all of their efforts in fostering high standards and allowing the youngsters to continue to grow both socially and academically. This truly dedicated and professional staff never ceases to astound me. Their continuous support and cooperation have helped to guide me through my “freshman” year as a principal. Without their efforts it would not be possible to achieve the high academic excellence that is indicative of this school. Leading them has been a pleasure, but joining them has been my good fortune. I would also like to thank my parent community and all of our students, who constantly strive to achieve more.

My sincere thanks goes to our custodial staff, under the direction of our Head Custodian, Mr. Frank Lotito. They continue to do an outstanding job maintaining a clean and safe environment for the students of Yantacaw School. Their work ethic is above reproach as they constantly go that extra mile. Mr. Phil Nicolette, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, has been most helpful and cooperative and has helped keep our school in excellent condition for our students, parents, staff, and members of the school community. The Maintenance Crew is to be commended for the quick response and care given to maintenance requests at our building.
The Child Study Team continually assisted the staff, students, parents, and administration with our Special Education children and their programs. I thank them for all that they do on behalf of our Yantacaw students.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Gariano, continues to do a superb job. She coordinates the daily school activities and oversees the six office aides in order to keep the building running smoothly. She is to be commended not only for her excellence in secretarial matters, but also for all those ways she goes above and beyond her duties. There are not enough words to thank her for all she has done for me. Our lunch aides, Mrs. Linfante, Mrs. Zaccheo, Mrs. Krupka, Mrs. Falconcino, Mrs. DeGennaro, Mrs. D’Onofrio, Mrs. Ritaccco, and Mrs. Rafanello continue to do a fine job supervising the ever-growing lunch program. They also assist with other duties in the office and classroom.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr. Michael DeVita, acting Secretary/Business Administrator for his assistance and guidance with school finances and also with the many maintenance projects at Yantacaw School.

In closing, I wish to thank Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent of Schools, for his support and guidance. His direct, honest assessment and constructivism of the district and Yantacaw School has been vital for my professional growth. Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Marianna Francioso for her continual guidance and support on all levels, Natty Ferrera for his wisdom and insight on many difficult issues, Members of the Board of Education, Principals of all other schools for their collected assistance and support in making the past year one of the best at Yantacaw School.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sorensen
Principal
SPECIAL SERVICES
To: Mr. Zarra

From: Paul Palazzola

Date: June 30, 2009

Re: 2008-2009 SPECIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

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The following Special Services priorities were addressed during the 2008-2009 school year:

- Two additional classes were added to the classes for students with autism.
- Resource room and in-class support classes were increased at the elementary level.
- All in-district related services continue to meet student needs.
- In-class support sections at the high school level were increased to instruct more special education students using the general education curriculum with modifications.
- High School- Special Education Math I, Math II and Math III have been realigned to ensure students have been instructed to the material assessed on the HSPA.
- High School- Special Education teachers were paired with the section and content area in in-class support classes and replacement classes to ensure that the general education curriculum was modified for the replacement classes.
- High School- Special education goals/objectives continue to be reviewed/modified in all replacement classes.
- Self-Assessment was completed and forwarded to the DOE.
- The district was found compliant on all complaint investigations.

Priorities for the 2009-2010 school year:

- Complete Special Education monitoring.
- Implement SEMI procedures for all special education students.
- Review/revise standardized assessment modification considerations.
- Create Special Services area on district web site with procedures and parent resources.
- Increase parent participation in parent group.
- Train staff to utilize in-class resource model.
- Create brochure for all in-district preschool programs.
- Continue to review appropriateness of out-of-district placements.
- Complete a cost analysis of establishing a high school ED program vs. out-of-district placements.
To: Mr. Paul Palazzola, Director of Special Services
From: Lisa Cassilli, Student Assistance Coordinator
Date: June 12, 2009
Re: High School SAC Annual Report

This annual report provides a summary of responsibilities and services provided by the high school SAC for the 2008-2009 school year. The most significant function of the high school SAC is to provide consistent and enduring support services to students in need of assistance. The SAC offers a broad-brush approach in that counseling is provided to students for a myriad of issues including, but not limited to, substance abuse. Many students have concurrent issues that complicate effectively addressing the issue; thus requiring extended time to be dedicated to that particular student.

Case management of a particular student includes frequent contact with the student, parent, treatment provider(s), teachers and administrators to monitor behaviors, grades, and emotional level of functioning. Detailed documentation of all contacts must be maintained due to the sensitive nature of each case. The SAC also serves as a liaison to the administration and will be involved in discipline and parent contact for students with behavioral problems.

❖ STUDENT INTERVENTIONS

An immeasurable number of students have been referred by the administration, guidance counselors, the attendance office, school nurses, coaches, child study team members, parents, I & RS team, Juvenile Conference Committee, and other students. All of these students receive an informal assessment, recommendations, and follow-up. Students are monitored by the SAC on a continual basis for support services. Reasons for referral include substance abuse, parental substance abuse, learning disabilities, divorce, behavioral problems, ADHD, grief/loss, eating disorders, mental health issues, and family conflict. Up to 90% of referrals are recommended for some type of outside counseling to address their needs in a therapeutic environment. It should be noted that SAC services should never be used as a substitute for therapy. Students may be referred for individual, family, group or residential treatment. Students are consistently referred to self-help groups such as Al-Anon, Alateen or Narcotics Anonymous. All of the students seen by the SAC are offered educational materials, appropriate numbers to call for assistance, and ongoing support.

❖ PROGRAMS

The high school SAC continues to work hand-in-hand with the middle school SAC and elementary SACs to provide exceptional prevention and intervention programs as well as parent and staff training programs. The Substance Abuse Policy, developed by the SACs throughout the 2001-
2002 school year, is utilized as a model for other districts throughout the State. In addition, cases are discussed regularly to provide supervision and a smooth transition for students entering the high school. A mentoring program is employed when the middle school SAC determines a student may need guidance from an older peer. The SACs at each level sit on a multitude of community and statewide committees, representing the Nutley School District in a positive manner. Some of the most relevant activities at the high school level include the following:

- Violence Awareness Week Activities (SADD)
- Alcohol Awareness/Red Ribbon Week Activities (SADD)
- DR. MICHAEL FOWLIN – “You don’t know me until you know me” focuses on treating others with respect and not judging others based on pre-conceived stereotypes. November 21, 2008 (9th & 10th graders)
- JESSE'S JOURNEY – The effects of substance abuse from a mother's perspective (next year)
- STEVEN BENVENISTI – “The Most Important Case of My Entire Career” – the effects of drunk driving (next year)
- NOT MY KID (next year)
- CRASH COURSE IN REALITY - see below
- Staff Inservice and Trainings offered at faculty meetings, department meetings, and after-school.

❖ "CRASH COURSE IN REALITY"

This community-wide endeavor is coordinated from start to finish by the high school SAC. Students are brought to Franklin Avenue to witness a simulated drunk driving car crash. The “crash” is a cooperative effort among many agencies and it requires months of planning and precision. The organizations involved include Board of Education Buildings and Grounds, Nutley Police Department, Nutley Fire Department, Nutley Emergency Rescue Squad, The Port Authority of NY and NJ, and SADD.

Students were educated on the hazards of driving under the influence and the importance of making good choices. They were encouraged to utilize the school SACs and the police to gain support and receive confidential assistance. Following the visual program, Joba Chamberlain from the NY Yankees spoke to students about his own experience with a DWI. Nutley students taped the event to be played on Channel 12 for the community.

 Probably the most significant component of the program was students portraying victims in front of their peers. Students verbalized how difficult it was to witness their friends being pulled from cars with devastating trauma. It is certainly a visual they will not get out of their minds.
❖ HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

The high school SAC served in a supervisory role for Homebound Instruction.

Under the leadership of the SAC, the Homebound Policy Committee researched and developed a new Homebound Instruction Policy consistent with State Law. This policy and procedures was implemented during the 2008-2009 school year and has proven to be a significant deterrent to the former “open-door” policy for home instruction. Students who receive home instruction must now go through proper protocols with their own physicians and the school physician to assure appropriate implementation of this service. Home instructors are now responsible for logging hours with students. Students must be re-assessed every 30 days to determine eligibility for home instruction.

The SAC handled all calls and correspondence relative to home instruction.

❖ GRADUATE COURSES/CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

The SAC attended many professional conferences including the following:

▪ NJ School Counselors Association-2 Day Conference

▪ “Teens and Substance Abuse”-Princeton House training

▪ Association for Student Assistance Professionals (ASAP): monthly trainings on substance abuse/mental health treatment

▪ I & RS Training – two-day State sponsored training for Chairpersons & Teams

❖ MEETINGS/ORGANIZATIONS

The SAC consistently attends meetings to coordinate services with the following groups:

▪ Intervention and Referral Services – member-daily attendance and case management

▪ CHAMP Committee member- Mayor’s Office –monthly-Organized two all-day trainings for mentors and adults in community; appropriately matched and supervised mentors
• Municipal Alliance Committee member—organized “Senior Prom” with Subcommittee Chairperson in which high school students hosted senior citizens in an alcohol-free night of dinner/dancing (April 25, 2008).
• Juvenile Conference Committee member—evening meetings
• Association for Student Assistance Professionals (ASAP) – Subcommittee Chair for The 3 C’s of Safe and Drug Free Schools—October 3, 2009—please see attached for details
• SADD—Actively coordinates speakers and assemblies as a consultant to the SADD group (Students Against Destructive Decisions).

❖ OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED

• INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (I & RS): a minimum of one period each day is dedicated to this team as well as providing case management for students in need.
  *This team received, processed and monitored more than 100 students this year alone. More members are necessary to continue to provide quality services to regular education services to students in need of assistance.

  • TRUANCY CASES—SAC has attended weekly court hearings with Vice Principal regarding truant students—case managed all aspects of truancy cases

• POLICY: continual revision and updates to the substance abuse policy and procedures including the newly implemented Random Drug Testing Policy. Served on Substance Abuse Ad-Hoc Committee of the Board of Education for two years. Each year the policy is condensed and distributed to every student and teacher in Nutley High School.

• HANDBOOK COMMITTEE—The high school SAC served on the Handbook Committee and attended many evening meetings to develop a handbook for NHS.

• GRANT-WRITING—Researched and completed alternative school grant with administration.

• FACULTY IN-SERVICE: provides research-based presenters for Articulation Day, I & RS, and faculty training on substance abuse.

• REFERRAL LIST: annual revisions are made to the Referral List, which is provided to guidance counselors, nurses, administrators, and parents. This requires research and site visits. Several site visits occurred this year including:
  - Montclair Counseling Center, Montclair
  - The Center for Creative Lifestyles, Caldwell
- High Focus Centers, Paramus
- COPE Counseling, Montclair

- **SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS REPORT**: annually completes Title IV requirements for the Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) to maintain federal funding.

- **BROCHURE** – SACs distributed the Student Assistance brochure to parents at evening events (i.e. Open Houses, Health Fair, etc.) throughout the district.
The 3 C's of Safe and Drug Free Schools
October 3, 2008

Agenda

9:00a.m.
Welcome-Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod,
Acting Executive County Superintendent
Mary Cunningham, Chairperson- Essex County ASAP

9:15 a.m.
School Safety Roles- Wayne Oppito, Esq.

10:00 a.m.
Presentation of ASAP-NJ Award- Jon Gaspich, President ASAP-NJ

10:10 a.m.
Uniform Memorandum of Agreement-
Andrea P. McCoy Johnson,
Deputy Chief Assistance Prosecutor-Essex County

11:00 a.m.
Random Drug Testing- David G. Evans, Esq.
Implementing a Random Drug Testing Program-
Gregory Catrambone, Principal -Nutley High School

11:45 a.m.
Panel Discussion with Questions and Answers

12:15 p.m.
Closing Remarks- Mary Cunningham, Essex County ASAP

12:20 p.m.
Networking/ Exhibitors*

*Please make sure to visit each exhibitors table for vital information. A special thank you to all our co-sponsors, Alternatives Adolescent Treatment Center, COPE, High Focus Centers, Liberty Management, NJPSA, Princeton Behavioral Health, and Treatment Dynamics.
As the Student Assistance Coordinator of the Nutley Public Schools, my primary responsibility is to provide support services to students of John H. Walker Middle School. 207 students were provided services throughout the course of the 2008-2009 school year. Case management duties have included follow-up sessions with students, parent conferences, phone contact with parents and service providers, and contact with teachers to monitor grades, behavior and mood. Referrals were received from students, administrators, teachers, guidance, Child Study Team, parents, self, the Juvenile Conference Committee and the Nutley Police Department.

The following list includes duties and activities throughout the 2008-2009 school year:

- Assisted administrators in implementing Nutley School District’s Drug and Alcohol Policy.
  - One W.M.S. student was subjected to the requirements of the district’s drug and alcohol policy based on suspicion of being under the influence.

- Provided additional student assistance services at Nutley High School.

- Member of Nutley School District’s Child Study Team.

- Member of Nutley School District’s Threat Assessment Team to investigate all reported threats.

- Member of Walker Middle School’s Intervention and Referral Service Team.

- Served on the Elementary Student Assistance Curriculum Committee.

- Conducted a seventh and eighth grade orientation on September 5th and 8th in each physical education class to introduce self as well as services offered through the Student Assistance Program.

- Introduced self and services to new faculty and staff on September 4 with particular focus on procedures for referring students for services and reporting students suspected of being under the influence.

- Presented at FMS’ faculty meeting on November 3, 2008. Topics included:
  1) procedures for reporting a student suspected of being under the influence as per NJS 18A: 40A and the Nutley School District substance abuse policy.
  2) civil immunity (NJS 18A: 40A-13, -14).
  3) signs and symptoms of adolescent substance abuse.
4) referral process.

- Distributed monthly edition of the Nutley Student Assistance Newsletter: Helping Hand to faculty and staff.

- Club advisor for S.T.A.N.D. (Students Taking a New Direction). Members of S.T.A.N.D. met weekly to coordinate school and community activities focused on drug, alcohol, and violence prevention.

  - Members led new students on an orientation of the school.
  - Members assisted in coordinating National Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31) activities by:
    1) decorating John H. Walker Middle School with red ribbons, posters, balloons, and banners.
    2) promoting and participating in the following theme days:
       Band Against Drugs Day – students wore a t-shirt of their favorite band. All participating students received a Color My World Drug Free bracelet.
       Black Out Day – students wore black to symbolize the deadly consequences of drug use. Anti-drug messages were written on each shirt.

- Implemented REBEL2 curriculum into weekly STAND meetings. REBEL2 is New Jersey's statewide youth-led tobacco prevention program for middle school students. Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, the program is overseen by the Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program of New Jersey (CTCPNJ).
  - Awarded a $1,500 grant to fund tobacco prevention programs.
  - Attended REBEL/REBEL2 Essex County Advisor Meetings on November 13 and May 21.
  - Anti-tobacco visual displays created by students were placed in the Main Lobby Showcase for the Great American Smokeout.
  - Students attended the REBEL/REBEL2 County Event on February 27 at Eagle Rock Lanes in West Orange, NJ. The event encouraged students to transition from REBEL2 to REBEL through interactive presentations, games, and other activities.
  - Members performed a puppet show, Adventures in Nicotine Land, on the harmful consequences of smoking in each third grade classroom during the week of March 30th. REBEL2 members highlighted the consequences through visual displays and a question and answer period. The puppets were purchased through the REBEL2 grant.
  - Students conducted interactive outreach presentations to fourth grade classes in each elementary school on June 16th and 17th. The presentations focused on the deceitful advertising of tobacco companies, the harmful effects of smoking, the toxic ingredients of a cigarette, myths of smoking and ways to remain smoke-free. In a show of solidarity, students wore their REBEL2 t-shirts.
- Members participated in Sophie’s Run. Nicole Chuchmach ran from Ontario, Canada to New York City in an effort to raise awareness for breast cancer. Students lined the corner of Franklin Avenue and Chestnut Street to cheer for Nicole and all participants.

- The following activities were held for School Violence Awareness Week (October 20-24, 2008):
  - Arranged homeroom activity conducted by each homeroom teacher on October 20th. Teachers facilitated a discussion on the Do’s and DON’Ts of treating others with respect. Each homeroom created a poster listing their suggestions.
  - Presented in each seventh grade health class on October 22 regarding harassment / bullying.
  - Detective Lieutenant Steven Rogers of the Nutley Police Department discussed school safety during each lunch period.
  - PA announcements were made each morning suggesting ways to make WMS a safer school.

- Celebrated Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2008) through the following activities:
  - Decorated John H. Walker Middle School with red ribbons, posters, balloons, and banners.
  - Promoted and participated in the following theme days:
    - **Band Against Drugs Day** – Students wore a t-shirt of their favorite band. All participating students and staff received a *Color My World Drug Free* bracelet.
    - **Black Out Day** – Members of S.T.A.N.D. wore black to symbolize the deadly consequences of drug use. Anti-drug messages were written on each shirt.
  - Arranged the October 23, 2008 “See Me Now or I’ll See You Later” drug awareness program by Detective Calvin Hart. This presentation assisted seventh and eighth grade students identify the dangers of all drugs (legal, illegal, prescription) as well as alcohol. The program was sponsored by the Nutley Municipal Alliance.
  - Facilitated discussions on progression of teen drug use in each eighth grade health class.
  - The Nutley Municipal Alliance Committee sponsored an essay contest, *Why I will remain Drug-Free?* The winning essays were recognized in the Nutley Sun and Nutley Journal.
    
    1st Place – $100 Visa gift card - Jaclyn Guglielmi
    2nd Place – $50 Visa gift card - Courtney Conte
    3rd Place - $25 Visa gift card - Jordyn Perdon

- Observed the American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout on November 20, 2008. This annual event held on the third Thursday in November
encourages adults and young adults to remain smoke-free, and current smokers to quit. Members of STAND created anti-tobacco visual displays that were placed in the Main Lobby Showcase.

- Served as Walker Middle School’s representative for the Mayor’s Holiday Treasure Chest. The program provided township families with gifts for the holiday season.

- Assisted Mrs. Dana Minervini and Detective Anthony Montaneri of the Nutley Police Department during their April 30th presentation on the dangers of alcohol use and making positive decisions.

- Assisted in coordinating the Nutley Municipal Alliance sponsored Staying Alive Program featuring Matt Bellace, Ph.D., a youth motivational speaker and comedian. The seventh and eighth grade assembly on May 7 entitled *How to Get High Naturally* focused on natural highs and how to be a healthy leader. It was described as the perfect combination of stand-up comedy, interactive demonstrations and inspirational stories. Matt empowered students to be leaders in their lives and make changes in their environment.

Below were some goals of the program:

- Participants will learn about natural highs, and four things that are necessary to lead a naturally high life.
- Participants will be able to discuss why natural highs are healthier than chemical highs.
- Participants will have a greater understanding of the importance in being in prevention efforts in their communities.
- Participants will have fun and associate having fun with prevention.

- Facilitated Power Point presentations on harassment / bullying in each marking period’s seventh grade health classes.

- Presented Power Point presentations on the dangers of tobacco use and the manipulative marketing schemes of big tobacco companies in each marking period’s seventh grade health classes.

- Conducted alcohol awareness presentations in each eighth grade health class. The Fatal Vision Goggles were utilized to simulate the dangers of alcohol use.

- Facilitated discussions with each eighth grade health class on the risk factors of teenage drug use, progression of use, and alternatives to using. The Nutley School District Substance Abuse Policies were also reviewed.
• Coordinated the January 22, 2009 parent workshop, *The 15 Minute Child Break*, by The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey. The one-hour, interactive, multi-media presentation covered the following topics: talking to your kids about drugs and alcohol, the influence of media and pop culture, the effects of specific drugs, keeping your kids drug-free, strengthening parenting skills, and utilizing teachable moments.

• Member of the Nutley Municipal Alliance Committee.

• Member of Community Health and Mentoring Program (C.H.A.M.P.), a community based program geared to providing an array of services to at-risk youth and families of Nutley.

  - Members of Nutley High School’s SADD Club and representatives of C.H.A.M.P. attended the September 19th and May 29th peer mentor trainings conducted by Dr. Alex Kehayian.

  - Supervised peer mentors who worked with WMS students.

• WMS liaison for the Department of Public Safety’s S.O.S. (Shovel Out Seniors) Program. Students were assigned to shovel the front sidewalk and front door area of seniors’ homes during inclement weather. Through this program, students were able to fulfill community service project hours.

• Assisted Ms. Rush with Walker Middle School’s Ski and Snowboard Club.

• Assisted Commissioner Scarpelli develop and promote the Random Acts of Kindness Extended to Seniors (R.A.K.E.S.) program. Students volunteered to rake the lawns of Nutley senior citizens.

• Volunteered to serve as a trained member of the Nutley Juvenile Justice Committee. The committee met as needed to hear cases of first time juvenile offenders.

• Acted as a referral source for the Nutley Police Department’s Station House Adjustment Program, an informal intervention for juveniles of Nutley.

• Active member of the *New Jersey Association of Student Assistance Professionals (ASAP-NJ).*
  - Attended monthly Essex County ASAP meetings.
  - Member of the planning subcommittee for the October 3, 2008 administrator conference entitled *The 3 Cs of Safe & Drug-Free Schools: Compliance, Compassion and Community*. The conference addressed the following: the role of administrators regarding school safety, the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, and the regulations and implementation of random drug testing.
• Conducted on-site visits of the following treatment providers to determine if they should be placed on the Nutley School District: Student Assistance Program Referral List:
  - Montclair Personal Development in Montclair.
  - Elizabeth Hanifin, LCSW and Camille Pazienza, LCSW of Nutley.

• Assisted in monitoring Central and Saturday Detentions.

• Attended the World Against Violence Youth Conference on November 18, 2008 at Rutgers University with six eighth graders. The conference offered by the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office focused on the following subjects:
  a) Alcohol and Drug Awareness
  b) Bullying - Peer Pressure
  c) Internet Safety
  d) The consequences of gun violence

• Attended the following workshops:
  - How to Utilize the Media and PDFNJ's Media Campaigns and Programs by The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey on September 24, 2008.
  - The 3 Cs of Safe & Drug-Free Schools: Compliance, Compassion and Community by the Association of Student Assistance Professionals Essex County Chapter on October 3, 2008.
  - Blamed and Shamed: Adolescents and Young Adults with Co-Occurring Disorders by The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources on June 4, 2009.

• Community speaking engagements:
  - February 26, 2009 - Yantacaw Cub Scout Pack 141
    Topic – Bullying / Harassment
  - April 8, 2009 – Yantacaw Girl Scout Troop 627
    Topic – Tobacco Prevention
To: Mr. John Calicchio
From: Christopher Chern
Date: June 11, 2009
The Intervention & Referral Services Committee consists of the building principal Mr. John Calicchio, The Student Assistance Counselor Mr. Joe Capello and four teachers; Mr. Christopher Chern, Mr. Frank Francia, Mrs. Sarah Misner and Mr. Frank Sasso. As a committee we have updated forms and our data collection system. Forms are now available for teachers on the school's web site. Teachers may now fill out forms and submit them via email or interoffice mail.

Grade 7

- This past school year there were 7 seventh grade referrals.

- Following protocol; after a teacher requested our service the student's information was collected and analyzed by the committee, student and parent outreach was attempted and an action plan was designed and presented to the referring teacher and implemented.

- During the information-gathering phase it was discovered that one student had an IEP that was never forwarded to us from his former school district when the student transferred. This student was referred to the CST so that the IEP could be reviewed and put in place.
• Follow up and feedback indicated that the interventions used were not improving the areas of concern for three of the students. Adjustment of the interventions yielded no change and the three students were referred to the CST for review.

• Follow up and feedback indicated that the interventions used were having a positive impact on the areas of concern for four students. No further action was required.
### 7th Grade Referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Referrals</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Month of Referral</th>
<th>Referrals Family Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted- 7</td>
<td>Male- 3</td>
<td>September 0</td>
<td>Married- 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declined- 0</td>
<td>Female- 4</td>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Divorced 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referred to CST- 3</td>
<td>Total- 7</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Separated 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>December 0</td>
<td>Widowed-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>Never Married 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Adopted 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 0</td>
<td>Living w/relatives other than biological parents 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Other 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Total- 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total- 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:** One student had a parent die; parent then remarried and is currently separated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Referral</th>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>White 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>Black 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Hispanic 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Native American 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander/Indian subcontinent 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total- 7</strong></td>
<td>Other 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes:</strong> Students can be referred for more than one reason</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grade 8

This past school year there were 5 eighth grade referrals.

Following protocol; after a teacher requested our service the students information was collected and analyzed by the committee, student and parent outreach was attempted and an action plan was designed and presented to the referring teacher and implemented.

- Follow up and feedback indicated that the interventions used were not improving the areas of concern for the four of the students. Adjustment of the interventions generated no change and the three students were referred to the CST for review and one student moved out of district.

- There was a referral made in May. During the information collection phase several issues were discovered. At a meeting with the parent, the student’s guidance counselor, student assistance counselor and the referring teacher some additional information was revealed by the parent. In light of these disclosures by the parent and the information collected the student was referred to the CST for review.
# 8th Grade Referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Referrals</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Month of Referral</th>
<th>Referrals Family Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accepted- 5</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>September- 4</td>
<td>Married- 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declined- 0</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>October- 0</td>
<td>Divorced- 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referred to CST 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>November- 0</td>
<td>Separated- 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes- One student moved during the school year.</td>
<td>December- 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Widowed- 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January- 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Single- 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February- 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adopted- 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March- 0</td>
<td>Living w/relatives other than biological parents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April- 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other- 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May- 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total- 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June- 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total- 5</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White- 1</td>
<td>Attendance- 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black- 0</td>
<td>Behavior- 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic- 4</td>
<td>Health- 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American- 0</td>
<td>Other- 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander/Indian subcontinent- 0</td>
<td>Academic- 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other- 0</td>
<td>Total- 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total- 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff Feedback and refinements.

To improve our efficiency we requested the staff to complete a survey.

- The results of the survey suggested that we adjust some of the forms so that they apply to our unique school environment. The forms are to be reviewed each year and adjusted if needed.

- We will also continue to meet with staff to review what our function is and how we can be of service to them.

- Classroom observations provided valuable information for our committee and should be continued to be used for every student that is referred.

- Meeting with teachers other than the referring teacher has been suggested to help gain more information about a referred student. Currently we meet with the referring teacher and use the Information Collection Forms to get feedback from other teachers of a referred student.
As the Student Assistance Coordinator of the Nutley Public Schools, my primary responsibility is to provide support services to students of Radcliffe Elementary School and Washington Elementary School. Students in all grade levels were provided services throughout the course of the 2008-2009 school year. Case management duties have included counseling and follow-up sessions with students, parent conferences, phone contact with parents and service providers, and contact with teachers to monitor grades, behavior and mood. Referrals for services were received from administrators, teachers, Child Study Team, parents, and myself.

The following list includes duties and activities throughout the 2008-2009 school year:

- Attended Peer Leadership Training
- Attended “Handle With Care Overview” for Special Education staff.
- Trained in use of Smartboard technology
- Attended the ASAP-NJ conference, 10/3: The 3Cs of Safe and Drug-Free Schools:Compliance, Compassion, Community.
- Member of Radcliffe School’s Intervention and Referral Service Team.
- Coordinator of Washington School’s Intervention and Referral Service Team.
- Presented information at December 4, 2008 Affirmative Action Meeting concerning implementation of strategies utilized by the Elementary SACs to target cultural diversity, bullying, conflict resolution, and character education.
- Attended and assisted in facilitating “15 Minute Child Break” at JHWMS
- Member of the Gifted and Talented steering committee.
- Acted as a liaison between designated elementary schools and DYFS.
  - Accompanied students while they were interviewed by DYFS workers
  - Completed follow-up paper work for submission to DYFS
• Assisted in preparing and distributing quarterly editions of the Elementary Counseling Newsletter to students and staff.  
  - The Newsletter is also posted on the Nutley Schools website.

• Club sponsor for Radcliffe School’s Banana Splits group  
  - Through games, activities and group discussions members are encouraged to process their experiences with divorce, transition, and loss.

• The following activities were held for School Violence Awareness and Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2008):  
  - A memo was distributed to all classroom teachers discussing the year’s theme of “We Elect to be Drug and Violence Free”.  
  - A packet of sample lessons and projects related to this theme was distributed to all teachers.  
  - Prepared bulletin board displays of poster pledges created by each classroom that went along with the theme of “We Elect to be Drug and Violence Free”.  
  - Sponsored and facilitated individual school wide assembly.  
  - Coordinated the Three Theme Days: Wear Red Day, Put a Cap on Drugs Day and Team Up Against Drugs.  
  - Distributed “Say No to Drugs” wristbands to all students. Funding for this was provided by the Nutley Municipal Alliance.

• Served as a member of Nutley’s Municipal Alliance Committee.

• Assisted in coordinating Nutley’s Holiday Treasure Chest.  
  - Identified families in need in each of my designated schools  
  - Collected information from identified families  
  - Notified families of pick up times and identification procedures

• Distributed Thanksgiving food baskets to specified students at Washington School.

• Facilitated lessons in third grade classes on getting along and what it means to be a friend

• Led discussions fifth grade classes on how to handle bullying situations.

• Collaborated with Nancy Thunell (SAC) throughout the school year on various issues that arose in each of our schools.

• Worked closely with Child Study Team members in meeting counseling needs of classified students.  
  - Met requirements for counseling cited in student IEPs  
  - Attended IEP meetings  
  - Worked to create and implement behavior modification plans for identified students.
As the student assistance coordinator, my primary responsibility is to provide support services to students at all five elementary schools in the Nutley District. Students and issues have been handled on a timely and professional manner throughout the year. Duties included follow up with students, phone contact with parents and providers, teachers and administration.

**Distribution to all teachers:**
Violence Awareness Week
Red Ribbon Week

**Objectives of Elementary Counselor/SAC:**
Helping students:
Organizational skills
Interpersonal Relationships
Conflict Resolution
Peer Relationships
Friendship issues
Family issues, death, divorce
Substance Abuse issues

**Issues addressed through:**
Individual counseling
Small groups discussions
Classroom presentations
Consultation with administration, teachers, parents and children
Working with community resources for students and families

**Lessons/Assemblies:**
• Bullying Assembly-presented during Violence & Red Ribbon Week through Motivational Productions.

• Clinical Faculty member Montclair State University:

• Member of the Intervention & Referral Service team at Lincoln, and Spring Garden School.

• Worked with students referred by Juvenile Conference Committee.
• Member of the Juvenile Conference Committee: Appointed by the courts to work in our local community addressing non-violent first time juvenile offenders to determine resolution/and or restitution for infractions.

• Acted as liaison between parents and administrators.

• Member of Nutley Municipal Alliance attended bi-monthly meetings.

• Member of the Nutley Champ Committee

• Member of the Nutley CARE Committee

• Participated in the Senior Prom for Nutley Senior Citizens 4/25/09

• Attended Association of Student Assistance Professionals (ASAP) meetings.

• Co-facilitated Social Skills group at Lincoln.

• Co-facilitated Peer Mediation Club at Spring Garden. The Mediation Club is open to students in grades 4-6. Students are trained in dealing with conflict resolution with lower grades. They perform various skits throughout the year to address situations presented via the peer mediation box.

• Red Ribbon Week promotion and ordering supplies for distribution in district purchased through the Municipal Alliance.


Goals for 2009-2010:

• Continue to work collaboratively with Elementary school Principals, teachers and students

• To continue to positively reinforce behaviors conducive to social settings

• Continue to provide staff with assistance in dealing with at risk students

• Continue to provide support and assistance for families in the school community

• Continue to serve on various community committees as a liaison with the educational community

• To implement Resource curriculum created by SAC’S and presented to Board in April 2008.
GIFTED AND TALENTED
Identified Program

The identified program was extended this year to include 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The screening process resulted in allowing an additional 61 students admittance into the program, for a total of 118 students district-wide (approximately 12% of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade population). Classes began in September and provided two semesters of courses for identified students. Curriculum was prepared by the coordinator to include the following courses:

Grade 3 – Mysteries and Math Enrichment

Grades 4 and 5 – Archaeology, Engineering and Design, NJ Young Playwrights, Medieval Times,

Recommendation for ’09-10

6th Grade

Expand the identified program to include 6th grade. The 6th grade program should promote a middle school GT format, offering project-based learning, and complex problem-solving, possibly delivered in one longer class per week, rather than two 40 minute periods.

Fall offering for 6th grade should include the Mystery Festival by GEMS publication. This unit explores many key content areas and emphasizes the important distinction between evidence and inference. The many crime-lab procedures include thread tests, powder tests, DNA comparison, chromatography, and fingerprinting. This unit combines logical thinking, and real-life connections to forensic science.

Spring semester should be based on the National Talent Network’s Cognetics Program, which offers a complex problem that students work on for several months. The program culminates at the Cognetics Expo at MSU in May, where students present their solution to a panel of judges.

Additional possibilities for 6th grade are Stock Market, Independent Study, and NJ Playwrights.

4th and 5th Grade

Continue to rotate courses as previously offered, with the possible addition of several new ones, if curriculum is available.

3rd

As stated above
Enrichment Program

In accordance with the Renzulli Schoolwide Enrichment Model, students in Grades 3-6 had the opportunity to participate in the following activities, based on their personal interests and talents.

1) Forensics – 76 5th and 6th graders selected a piece of literature, practiced and received coaching, and performed the piece at a school tournament. A team of five students was selected to represent Nutley at the Essex County Forensics Tournament, where they won the first place team trophy.

2) Law fair – 100 students in 3rd and 4th grade worked in groups to create an original law case to submit to the NJ State Bar Foundation. Two groups were named as Honorables Mention by the Foundation, and had the opportunity to perform their case at the Law Center in New Brunswick.

*Recommendation for 09-10 – Extend program to 5th grade for interested students.

3) Challenge 24 – 80 students in Grades 5 and 6 participated in their schools, with a team of 12 students selected to participate in the Essex County Challenge 24 Tournament.

4) Academically Speaking – Two teams of five students were selected from a qualifying test given to all 5th and 6th graders. Teams competed in the Essex County Academically Speaking Tournament, with one team winning second place.

5) Team Chess – Pilot in Washington and Yantacaw, to expand to all schools in '09-10.

6) In class support continued to expand with lessons offered in Grades K, 2, 3, and 5.

*Recommendation for '09-10 – More organized and regular use of this lesson format, setting up regular rotating schedule in each school.
SIXTH GRADE TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION
MEMORANDUM

Date: June 23, 2009
To: Mariana Francioso, Assistant Superintendent, Nutley Public Schools
Cc: Mr. Joseph Zarra, Superintendent, Nutley Public Schools; Mrs. Rosemary Clerico, Mr. Doug Jones, Mr. Michael Kearney, Mrs. Lorraine Restel, Mr. David Sorensen, and Ms. Chris Osieja
From: Lawrence Weiss
Subject: Sixth Grade Technology Integration/Rosetta Stone Year End Report

As part of the Nutley Public Schools Technology Initiative, the position of sixth grade technology teacher was created during the 2008-2009 school year. I was hired by the Nutley Board of Education for this position in December 2008, and began classroom instruction in January 2009. The primary focus of my teaching duties was to assist the sixth grade classroom teachers with integrating technology into the curriculum while providing the students with opportunities to develop their technology literacy and skills. In addition to these responsibilities, I also provided the first and second grade students of the district access to the Rosetta Stone software as a supplement to reinforce the development of their foreign language learning. The first grade students received instruction in Spanish while the second grade students studied Italian. This report is a summary of some of the lessons and activities I completed during the last six months at all five elementary schools with over 841 students and 45 teachers.

**Sixth Grade Technology Integration**

**Lincoln School:**
As outlined in the earth science curriculum, sixth grade students study earthquakes. To integrate technology into this course I had the students use a web-based PowerPoint presentation on various earthquakes to collect data. This data was then used to create a spreadsheet and graph in Microsoft Excel. In social studies, I had the students complete a variety of activities which included using Kidspiration to create graphic organizers to pre-write myths (these myths were then completed using Microsoft Word) and creating and delivering PowerPoint presentations on ruins of ancient civilizations (details of which were researched online.) In Language Arts some students created crossword puzzles of their vocabulary words using Microsoft Excel, while in Math some students created word problems using fractions. These word problems were then visually demonstrated, digitally photographed, and used to record a VoiceThread, a web-based, collaborative, multimedia slideshow, which was played for other sixth grade students as a teaching tool.

**Radcliffe School:**
To help the students prepare for a cumulative social studies test, I had them research and review information on Ancient India and China using their textbooks, notes, and the Internet. The information the students gathered was used as a script for a VoiceThread. In science, to align with the curriculum, I had the class conduct weather research online,
which involved collecting data on weather patterns in Nutley. This data was then used to create a spreadsheet and graph in Microsoft Excel. Other projects completed with the Radcliffe students included: using interactive graphic organizers, writing essays in Microsoft Word, and using Illuminations, an interactive website created by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Spring Garden:
One of the projects I completed with the sixth grade students at Spring Garden School was a travel brochure. Serving as an outlet for the students to demonstrate their knowledge of Ancient Greece, which they studied, this exercise also provided the students with an opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in keyboard skills, using a variety of tools in Microsoft Word, and also their persuasive writing ability. Starting with a graphic organizer the students created in Kidspiration software, the brochure itself was created using a template in Microsoft Word. A major component of the brochure was a persuasive writing essay, which served as a preparatory exercise for the writing component of the New Jersey Ask test. As part of the health curriculum the students created a print ad and commercial for a health and beauty product. These “commercials” were uploaded to VoiceThread and reviewed by the sixth grade faculty, students and Mrs. Clerico.

Washington School
An activity I initially implemented in the sixth grade health classes at Washington and later replicated at other schools in the district involved the students planning a typical meal at McDonald’s. Once they made their meal choices, the students accessed the McDonald website to gather nutrition information on and determine the healthiness of their meal. Students then selected a healthier meal, obtained the nutritional data, and then compared the data for each meal by creating a spreadsheet and graph in Microsoft Excel. The students also created print ads for grooming products using the Internet and Microsoft Word. In Language Arts, the students used interactive graphic organizers to prepare to write a persuasive letter. These letters were written using Microsoft Word, providing the students an opportunity to experiment with business letter templates in the software. As reinforcement to the social studies curriculum, the students worked in pairs to research and write a VoiceThread on a Greek god or goddess.

Yantacaw School:
With my direction, the students at Yantacaw completed several projects using the table-formatting feature in Microsoft Word. In health they created tables to compare and contrast the run-off of wastewater in the home and in math they created tables as a visual representation of the metric system. Over a period of time I worked with the students on two different PowerPoint presentations for social studies. The first was a PowerPoint on an assigned Greek god or goddess and the other was a presentation on the Middle Ages. Both of these projects involved extensive online research and computer time using Microsoft software. In addition, the students used the Kidspiration software for several writing projects.
As this summary report suggests the Nutley sixth grade students were provided with instruction and activities aligned with the Nutley technology education curriculum. The students had ample opportunity to demonstrate proficiency with basic operations and concepts (e.g.: use of input/output devices, basic features of an operating system, and a variety of media and technology resources for directed and independent/group learning activities.) Social, ethical, and human issues were addressed through cooperative learning, responsible use of technology systems/software, and instruction on recognizing accuracy and/or bias of information. Almost every lesson afforded the students hands-on practice with technology productivity tools. The students were able to create developmentally appropriate projects with support from teachers and peers, have access to a variety of media and technology resources, received reinforcement of their intermediate word processing skills, and conducted research to extend the classroom curriculum (much of which involved the use of a graphic organizer to produce a finished document using *Microsoft Word* software.) To address the technology research component of the curriculum students used developmentally appropriate multimedia resources, Internet web browsers and search engines, produce a research project incorporating information retrieved from at least two different sources, and use technology tools for individual and collaborative writing. This, of course, assisted the students in meeting the curriculum benchmark for using technology resources for problem solving, communication, and illustration of thoughts, ideas, and stories.

**Rosetta Stone**

In addition to the work I completed with the sixth grade students of the district, I also facilitated *Rosetta Stone* instruction with grades one and two. *Rosetta Stone* is the world’s leading technology-based language learning software. Usually completed on an individual basis with the user sitting directly in front of the computer wearing a headset, to better introduce the young students to the requirements of the program instruction was performed as a whole class learning experience. The *Rosetta Stone* instruction afforded students in both grades the opportunity to experience another side of their foreign language instruction. While the program may be somewhat advanced for the primary grades, the students rose to the challenge, finding the program both enjoyable and instructive. The second grade students in the district, studying Italian, progressed easily through the first two units, learning to identify familiar words, concepts, and ideas. The first grade students studying Spanish completed the first unit and began the second unit.

**Acknowledgments**

I would not have been able to successfully complete such a broad scope of materials and instruction without the cooperation and assistance of a host of people whom I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge. First, and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Mariana Francioso, my supervisor, whose encouragement, guidance and support was unwavering during this first year. Secondly, I would like to thank Ms. Chris Osieja, my mentor, not only for her support, but also for her introductions to many of the
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**Grade 6:**
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- Mr. Ken Feriol
- Mrs. Danielle Ferraro
- Mrs. Niki Vlasakakis

**Grade 2:**
- Mrs. Kris Commune
- Mrs. Flavia Groeling
- Mrs. Lorraine Milinaitus

**Grade 1:**
- Miss Patricia Griffin
- Mrs. Kathy Koribanik
- Mrs. Teresa Strus

**Radcliffe School**

**Grade 6:**
- Ms. Natalie Gatto
- Mrs. Nancy Szura

**Grade 2:**
- Ms. Gail Kahn
- Mrs. Linda Moscara

**Grade 1:**
- Mrs. Michele Cristantiello
- Mrs. Stephanie Lennon
- Ms. Susan Quigley

**Spring Garden School**

**Grade 6:**
- Mrs. Doreen Holland
- Mrs. Sheryl Holly
- Mr. Pat Gabriele

**Grade 2:**
- Miss Antoinette Frannicola
- Mrs. Sally Ann Ryder
- Mrs. Carol Von Achen

**Grade 1:**
- Mrs. Pamela Maggiano
- Mrs. Rosann Rizzuto

**Washington School**

**Grade 6:**
- Mrs. Erin Lenik
- Ms. Patti Maher
- Mr. Kevin Smyth

**Grade 2:**
- Mrs. Andrea Carnevale
- Mrs. Christine Crisson
- Mrs. Olga Suter

**Grade 1:**
- Ms. Lenore Chiello
- Mrs. Heather Monterosa
- Miss Kristen Puzio

**Yantacaw School**

**Grade 6:**
- Mrs. Leslie Licamelli
- Mrs. Beverly Masullo
- Mrs. Marcy McKenzie

**Grade 2:**
- Mrs. Jacqueline McAloon
- Mrs. Sharon Reed
- Mrs. Gail Reilly
- Miss Josephine Tucci

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