

Education Committee Report
11/1/04

1. ConVal Elementary Arts Enrichment Program Presentation

- Enrichment through Exposure and Experience is the motto of the program.
- Started as a concept from a committee at PES, spread to a pilot program with one employee working with Temple School staff and students, and now has grown to one fulltime and one part-time employee working with the staff and students in all eight elementary schools.
- The program is funded by a mixture of a Title V grant, donations from PTOs, and monies in both individual school and the district budgets. Title X funds maybe unavailable next year and we are monitoring this situation.
- The program strives to provide every elementary student to yearly exposure to: a visit to museum or artist studio, a theater production, an extended artist- in-residence experience, hearing live music performed, participating in or seeing a dance performance, learning about art from an historical or cultural perspective, and creating a meaningful curriculum- related project.
- These goals are achieved by the staff doing curriculum integration, working on the Artist-In –Residence program, acting as booking agents, providing staff development, doing community outreach, co-coordinating the F.A.C.T.S. (Famous Artists Come to School) as well a providing effort, enthusiasm, creativity, and much more.
- Jeannie Connelly and her co-worker Terri Reeves reminded us that the arts help improve grades, test scores, attendance and retention rates.
- Visit the website: <http://www.conval.edu/artenrich/index.html>. It's worth the trip.

2. Harris Center for Conservation Education Presentation

- The Harris Center's mission is one of environmental protection and stewardship plus promoting understanding and respect for the environment by providing education for people of all ages.
- The Conval district has had a relationship with the Harris Center since 1971! Their highly trained staff currently works district-wide with students in 2nd-5th grade and at the high school level.
- Education centers on the Monadnock region and "knowing your backyard". Lessons are closely tied to the Conval curriculum and the NH Science standards.
- Staff development is another service offered along with parent and community involvement.
- Presently the district pays for only approximately 10% of the costs of the services we are receiving from the Harris Center. Grants, sponsors and the Center's fund-raising cover the rest. This may change in the future.
- Overall, involvement with the Harris Center provides such things as inspiration for higher education, active engagement with science, increased academic motivation and activities that reach learners with all types of learning styles.
- Visit the Center and its website <http://www.harriscenter.org>.

3. Projected 2005-6 costs for CVHS Math Program

- Next year we will continue the Honors Math Program by offering Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra II. The worst case scenario for textbook costs are \$10,240.-; \$5,120.- per class.
- Next year, additional classes in Algebra are being planned. While the exact course content, etc. are still being created, the worst case scenario for textbook costs are \$19,600.-
- We will continue to be updated on the development of the high school math offerings, including reviewing the new Algebra textbook.

4. Curriculum Website Review

- Paul demonstrated the incredible wealth of information which can now be found on the Conval website <http://ww.conval.edu>. By clicking on a subject, you are able to see all the skills your student will be taught—no matter what the grade level (through grade 10), the topics of study she will have, enrichment activities, valuable other websites and much, much more.
- Social Studies is still in the process of being revised with the estimated completion set for next year. We will monitor its progress.
- Visit the website and tell your friends and neighbors.

Our next meeting will be Monday 11/15/04 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christy Greene
Education Committee Chairperson

