

June 2008

# Superintendent's Newsletter "Believe and Succeed"

## SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

**Contest Winner!  
Participation in the Special  
Olympics!**

The end of this school year is approaching and we are extremely pleased with our accomplishments. Our year was highlighted by the enrichment of our academic program which was enhanced and supported by our successful "Distance Learning Program".

Through our E-rate Grant and affiliation with Promedia Technology, Little Falls, N.J., we have progressed to where we are providing a high quality virtual experience for all of our children.

The Mt. Carmel Guild School & Preschool will be re-locating to St. Valentines School in Bloomfield, N.J. at the corner of JFK Blvd. and Bay Avenue. We are excited about the additional space that includes larger classrooms, offices, gym and an all purpose cafeteria. We will be notifying you of the date and time of this change.

At the Mt. Carmel Guild Academy the year is coming to a close with having accomplished our goal of upgrading our academics with the addition of the consultative services of Frank DiStefano, Learning Consultant and remedial reading instruction. Our future plans include individual diagnostic skills assessment and analysis.

The Mt. Carmel Guild High School has had a very successful year with enriched academics in the area of mathematics, science, Language Arts/reading and social studies through the efforts of our learning consultant and the technology committee through various virtual trips and other school contacts through our Distance Learning Program. They have ended this year with a Transition Fair on May 21, 2008. The following services were in attendance; Goodwill, Heightened

Ind. Progress (HIP) UPS, US Marines, Catholic Charities, Capri Institute, Lakeside School, Div. of Rehab., Newark, Lincoln Tech, Job Corps and Eastwick Colleges.

Our school wide music program ended with our Spring Concert "From Sea to Shining Sea". It was an outstanding success with participation by all schools including concert choir, chime choir and poetry readings. It was well attended by parents and friends.

Have a great summer!

Joseph Marino

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## MT. CARMEL GUILD SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

Our school participated in St. Vincent's Academy's Spring Students-in-Community program. Three girls did 7 days of service and it was a good exchange for students in both schools. In May we had a school wide trip to Turtle Back Zoo and students went to NJPAC for a musical performance. Three classes partici-

pated in the annual "Spring Concert" held at MCG Academy.

On Saturday, June 7th, eleven children and families traveled to Ewing, N.J. to participate in the **2008 Special Olympics Summer Games**. This was truly a fun-filled day. Shop Rite and other local corporate sponsors were on hand providing free food, drink, toys and educa-

tional supplies for everyone.

The Young Athlete Program made it possible our school to participate by funding most of the cost of the bus transportation to the games. Hats off, Special Olympics New Jersey for a job well done! Staff members who participated in this event include Karen Parsons, Theresa Smith and Tiffany Cook.

## MT. CARMEL GUILD ACADEMY

With the end of the school year, students and staff concluded a very successful school year.

Since the last newsletter, students in grades 3 through 8 participated in the NJ ASK testing. All students who took the test were enthusiastic and we are eagerly awaiting the test results. It is expected that many did well enough to score in the proficient or better category.

During the final quarter of the school year, students had the opportunity to participate in many out of school activities and trips. Included in the trips were a day at Turtle Back Zoo, and Liberty Science Center. The eighth grade graduates

were treated to a professional baseball game at Yogi Berra Stadium in Montclair.

As the year ended, the Academy is saying goodbye to many students. June 20<sup>th</sup> saw the graduation of seven eighth grade students. Five of the eighth grade graduates are returning to their home district schools; including two that were accepted into two of the satellite high schools in Newark. Needless to say, we are extremely proud of these seven students and wish them well in high school.

With the start of the new school year in September, there are an additional five students who have demonstrated enough behavioral and academic success that there will be returning to their home

schools. We are very proud of their efforts and wish them luck in the new year.

*The whole world opened to me when I learned to read.*

*Mary McLean*

## MT. CARMEL GUILD HIGH SCHOOL

Spring has sprung and senioritis is in the air, however, the staff at Mt. Carmel Guild is as dedicated as ever to see that the students meet their expectations to move forward. During the third and fourth cycles, two students completed six weeks of introductory training at CCS Workforce Development. After the initial six weeks, one student decided to continue with the program. While attending the program, that student took and passed The New Jersey Food Handlers Certificate exam. After graduation, he will pursue further training in Culinary Arts. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Padilla from Heightened Independence and Progress for providing our seniors with six weeks of independent living skills education. The training primarily focused on self-advocacy, job search and resume writing. Furthermore, some of our seniors had the opportunity to visit Bergen Community College and HoHoKus School of Trade. Both trips were exciting to students as they find themselves in unfamiliar territories absorbing new information and receiving hands on experience with welding and carpentry. In May, our students were exposed to various career options during our second annual Transition Fair. Students were able to take full advantage of the fair by visiting different vendors and obtaining information that was specific to their interests. Parents and students had the opportunity to attend a presentation entitled "Do You Know What You Will Be Doing When the School Bus Stops Coming?" by Loraine D'Sylva-Lee, Director of Transition from Family Support Center of NJ.

During the third marking period we had a few

students move up to level II of the Behavior Management System. Furthermore, we have seen more interest from students who initially did not buy into the Behavior Management System. The items and privileges available to level II students are strong motivating factors for students. For the third and fourth marking periods, some students had the opportunity to participate in several weekly incentives such as decorating a tile at a pottery shop, roller skating, special luncheon, and a trip to a jujitsu class. We are proud to announce that three of our students had taken part in a community drug awareness competition sponsored by the United Way of Hudson County. Under the direction of our music teacher, Ms. Taveras, Mr. Gregory and Ms. Phillips, these three students worked diligently to prepare a drug awareness rap song to submit for entry. It is with much pride that I announce that their song was selected to be performed live in New Port Mall. During the actual performance, they delivered a great performance with a message that everyone can appreciate, "Don't Do Drugs". In May, two of our science teachers collaborated with each other and organized a field trip to the New York Aquarium. Lastly, we are proud to announce that 14 seniors received their High School Diplomas. We are extremely pleased that these seniors did not take their eyes off their goals to graduate from high school.

Some will be moving on to explore various options that were introduced to them throughout the school year. While they have grown with us and reached a certain level of maturity, they have realized that the staff at Mt. Carmel Guild always had their best interest and will continue to do so. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Class of 2008. A special graduation luncheon was given to acknowledge the seniors for their accomplishment.

## MT. CARMEL GUILD CARES

May has been marvelous for MCG Cares. To start off the month our 4 year old students visited Elliott Street School Kindergarten classes. The four year olds were given a tour of the classes and they also interacted with other students. Just to keep everything running smoothly for staff at work and in everyday life, all staff members attended a "Stress Management" Workshop presented by Harry Fraizer. Mr. Fraizer provided our staff with helpful tips on how to minimize stress.

Congratulations to Betsy Perez who completed her mentoring process for her P-3 certification.

The month of June was very

busy. In the early part of the month our 3 and 4 year old children enjoyed fun filled educational trips to Turtleback Zoo and the Rainforest Café. Progress reports for all children were given out June 26th. These reports show the progress of each child throughout the school year. Our end of the year ceremony was held on June 20th. The theme was "Friends Forever". Our end of the year trip took place on June 24th. The students went to Sesame Place.

The Distance Learning program has finally taken off and our destination is The Cleveland Museum of Art and Natural History. We have 4 programs set-up.

Update: In February 2008 a staff weight loss program was implemented at MCG Cares. Four months later, a total of 110 lbs was lost as a group. Congratulations to the participants.

***A gifted teacher is as rare as a gifted doctor, and makes far less money.***

***Unknown***

## MCG LITTLE SCHOOLHOUSE

During the months of March, April and May, The Little Schoolhouse had the pleasure of having the nutritionists from the Rutgers Cooperative Education group to come over and talk to our children and staff on the advantages of living a healthy lifestyle, eating the right foods as well as having fruits and vegetables for the children to taste, smell and even to make their own nutritional snacks.

As warm spring weather remained, The Little Schoolhouse garden has sprouted up some

beautiful zinnia's and sunflowers. We even noticed our beans and tomatoes sprouting up as well! Once they are fully grown, we will honor parents by giving them flowers that their child actually took the time to plant and nurture. For Mothers Day all of our mothers were honored with roses and assorted flowers as well as an excellent selection of a grab and go breakfast. The Moms were so happy and pleased with this special event. Also, in May, which was "Healthy Teeth Month". Mrs. Maria Vasquez's (Teacher) hus-

band, a local dentist came to the school and do a demonstration on the appropriate way to brush their teeth and gums. He gave out colorful Crayola toothbrushes as well as individuals tubes of tooth paste. Ms. Maria Olea (Family Worker) dressed up as a life size tooth. The children were amused and attentive to what was being said by the dentist and by the tooth. Group photos were taken of the event.

As the end of the academic school year leaves us, The Little Schoolhouse held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Carnival on June 13, 2008, to say farewell and good luck to the children who attended the program and to the parents and guardians who chose to place and keep their child at one of best community providers in the city of Elizabeth! There will be 12 game booths, gifts, prizes, barbeque food and even cotton candy!

## MCG CHILD STUDY TEAM

Our Child Study Team has been busy completing information needed for the students' files as this school year comes to an end. Thus far, we've completed 202 cases, 158 in Newark and 44 in Kearny. Our Case Manager, Adria Goldenkranz continues to work with staff and parents on various strategies for the last few weeks of school. Each of our eleven schools received Satisfaction Surveys from our CST in June. The re-

sults will be reviewed by our team in August in which we will discuss our program's strengths and develop an improvement plan. We hope to increase our services for the 2008-2009 school year by reaching out to neighboring districts.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Blessed Sacrament in Newark who closed their doors in June.

Our Child Study Team recently moved from 37 Evergreen

Place, East Orange to 100 Valley Way, West Orange, 07052.

To reach us, please call (973) 325-4400 ext. 217 to speak to Ivy Hall, Child Study Team secretary.

## WE HAVE A WINNER!



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Each year, students at ASAH member schools submit artwork that captures the spirit of special education as they experience it. This year's theme, "Building the Future, One Student at a Time," yielded some truly remarkable work! Miya, a student at the MCG Academy won first prize in the 10 year category.



## “Autistic Program Highlights”

With the end of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who help make the program a success for the second year. We are happy to announce that not only will we be opening a third classroom this fall, but we are also including a Daily Life Skills Room. There are many important things that our children need to learn in order for their lives to run smoothly. In recognition of the importance of helping our children function successfully as young adults, daily living skills will assume a major role in our curriculum come this Fall. This year our students had the opportunity to go on several trips, be apart of field day as well as the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Our students have made tremen-

dous strides in the areas of verbal communication, social skills and academics. During April we had the opportunity to host three workshops presented by Cosac. Many of our parents attended as well as Cosac members from the surrounding counties. The workshops were very informative and provided parents with the opportunity to share and exchange information with one another. This year our ESY program will include intensive Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Program, life skills, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, summer activities as well as other services. The program will run from July 7, 2008 to August 1, 2008.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.