

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

ISSUE 4

WINTER 2011

**MSP
AMERICORPS
MEMBERS
ACROSS THE
STATE**

**Anchorage School
District**

Mears Middle:
Heather McCarthy

Gruening Middle:
Jeanne Feinstein

**Bering Strait
School District**

Brevig Mission:
Josephine Tocktoo

**Fairbanks North
Star School
District**

**North Pole
Middle:**
Lea Ann Hood

Ryan Middle:
Betty Holder

**Lower Yukon
School District**

Hooper Bay:
Patrick Ulroan

Mountain Village:
Daisy Harpak

**Saint Mary's City
School District**

Saint Mary's:
Agnes Wasky

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS -

JEANNE FEINSTEIN, MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
COORDINATOR
GRUENING MIDDLE SCHOOL



Jeanne with her students' MLK essays

There have been a lot of exciting things happening at Gruening. The middle school's involvement in the nationwide Project Amigo has finally been completed. Students had been dropping donations into the decorated water bottles to help children pay for school in Colima, Mexico. Jeanne and her students raised a total of \$1,043, enough money to send two kids to school for a full year. The 7th Grade Kenai Team raised the most money and won a celebratory ice cream social and trophy.

During her winter break, Jeanne volunteered with five students at Super Suppers to gain community service hours. The students washed dishes for the meals and stocked necessary items for the consumers. Jeanne and the students had a lot of fun while also learning more about the importance of serving those in need.

Throughout January, Jeanne's students participated in a writing project based around Martin Luther King, Jr.'s values and teachings. The students were asked to write a short essay in response to Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech and the values within. The final essays were showcased to the entire school.

Jeanne had her organizational class program up and running during the student-lead conferences in February. She worked with Wal-Mart, Office Max, Office Depot, and the military liaisons to gain supplies for the project.



Colima, Mexico students use supplies paid for by Project Amigo. Photo courtesy of www.clubrunner.ca

Take A Look at the Numbers (2010):

Middle School Students engaged in AmeriCorps events: 3547

Adult participants in AmeriCorps- hosted events: 1160

Volunteers for AmeriCorps- hosted events: 167

Volunteer hours at AmeriCorps- hosted events: 599.5



Brevig Mission students head out for an after school ski

SPREADING HER INFLUENCE AT BREVIG MISSION SCHOOL

JOSEPHINE TOCKTOO INSPIRES HER STUDENTS AND EDUCATES HERSELF



Josephine leans in to help this Brevig Mission middle school student tackle the math problems in front of her

Josephine Tocktoo's presence at Brevig Mission School has meant a lot to her former teachers still teaching there, the brand new counselor, the principal and, of course, the middle school students. During AmeriCorps Coordinator Tara Loyd's February site visit to Brevig Mission, countless people stopped to share what a support it is to have Josephine in her role as an AmeriCorps Partnership Coordinator.

"She is a trusted part of this community already," said principal Robin Gray, "and that means a lot."

This month has Josephine giving thought to how she can best support the middle school students through the summer. She is considering applying for foundation funding to help support local subsistence learning activities for the kids and helping to connect them to local summer camp opportunities where she could spend time with them.

AmeriCorps is also giving Josephine the chance to go back to school and pursue her own higher education. She is looking forward to taking a few classes this summer and more in the fall when she will receive her education award upon completion of her service year.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Students at Ryan Middle School in Fairbanks have been getting lessons in how to care for other species. Middle School Partnership Coordinator Betty Holder teaches her students a fun, creative recycling method. Each week, Betty and the students turn old newspapers into padded bedding for the dog cages at the local North Star Borough Animal Shelter. Betty first formed this partnership in early January.

At least once a week, Betty and her students make thick piles of newspapers comfortable enough for up to 40 dogs. They then drop off the paper with the Animal Shelter.

Continued on Page 3



Betty teaches her students how to properly pad the dog cages.



Ryan Middle School students use the skills learned to make their own dog cage pads.

Continued from Page 2

Not only are the middle school students learning successful recycling tips, but they are also forming relationships with the Fairbanks community. In addition to the newspaper project, Betty hopes to stay connected to the Shelter in other ways.

"I want the kids to experience a day in the life of a dog at the shelter," says Betty.

She wants the students to understand the difficult living situations of the dogs and to appreciate the work of the shelter staff. This kind of partnership will make the middle school students more aware of their role in the larger community.

BECOME A MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR!

MSPP is excited to begin recruitment for year two of the project! There will be six positions open which will begin with an orientation training in June. In round 1 of recruitment, all middle schools and communities in Alaska are invited to apply. In round 2, ten selected schools will be invited to recruit applicants. From those applicants, the six positions will be filled. Second-year Members and sites are encouraged to apply. The service year will be June 2011 through June 2012. If you are interested in serving as a host school or community for MSPP or becoming an AmeriCorps Partnership Coordinator, please contact Joie Brown at 907.865.7356 or jbrown@ruralcap.com.

Thank You to Our Program Partners

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
 Anchorage's Promise
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska
 Boys and Girls Club Alaska
 Serve Alaska Commission
 United Way



Office of Children's Services & Division of Behavioral Health



Alaska Parent Information Resource Center

For more information, please contact:

Tara Loyd, Community Wellness Coordinator
 Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.
 PO Box 200908
 Anchorage, AK 99520
 Phone: 1-800-478-7227 or 279-2511
 Fax: 1-866-389-8484 or 278-2309
 Email: tloyd@ruralcap.com
www.ruralcap.com

Alyse Galvin, Partnership Liaison
 Department of Education and Early Development
 550 W. Seventh Avenue, #1535
 Anchorage, AK 99501
 Phone: 907-269-7996
 Mobile: 907-830-5694
 Email: alyse.galvin@alaska.gov