



## Quarterly Report

*Karin D. Knapik – Director of Grants and Community Enrichment Programming*

### Overview of Activities

#### ***The After Hours Program***

The After Hours program continues to flourish. During the fall semester we had more than 80 students participate in a variety of programs including:

- Art Show 101
- Snack Attack
- Basic Woodworking
- Beginner Engineering
- Video Club
- Dance, Dance Revolution
- Coin Collecting Club
- Karate (with After Hours and Daycare students)

The spring programs are underway and include:

- The Natural Art Kit
- Creative Writing
- Dance, Dance Revolution
- Coin Collecting Club
- Drawing and Illustration
- Karate
- The Cook in You
- Afternoon Yoga
- Crystal, Snowflakes and the Colors of the Rainbow
- Video Club

We have more than 150 students participating in the spring enrichment programs. The overall program continues to grow in popularity as we had three classes reach maximum capacity. We continue to be hindered by the lack of space. I find it ironic that even after most of our students have gone home for the day we don't have the space to serve our after school population. This semester the After Hours program and the production of 101 Dalmatians, along with daycare, had to share the limited space available at Taft (where the programs are most popular).

We have also added a new club to Taft – the Lego Club. We knew this program would be popular amongst this age group but WOW! the program was full after the first day of registration. Originally we had planned to cap the program at 25 but, after the first day, we had more than 49 registered students and I have had to turn away many sad students! As a result of this overwhelming response we are considering running a Lego Summer Camp in addition to our two-week Theatre Camp.

If you look back at the types of classes that are offered through the After Hours program you will see that in addition to providing students with something fun and exciting to do after school hours we are actually extending the school day. Students gain valuable experiences during enrichment activities including team building, problem solving along with the basics in reading and math. The Lego Club will provide students with pre-engineering skills in a team setting. The cooking classes constantly reinforce fractions through the increase and decrease of recipes. Karate instills confidence and establishes self-discipline while the art classes foster students' imaginations and creativity.

It was Dan's idea to create a Community Enrichment program and I am proud to continue bringing this vision to life.

### ***Adult Education***

This is the first year that I have taken on Adult Education (with co-coordinator Renee Bianco). We found during the fall semester that the methods used to disseminate the schedule to the public in the past no longer worked. The turn-out for the fall program was horrible and we ended up running only one of our many programs. We decided the best means to get information out to the residents of not only Uxbridge, but the surrounding communities, was to place an ad in the New Uxbridge Times and the idea worked. We are now running 12 programs with over 100 participants from all over the Valley and the requests keep coming in. The yoga class has been extended and will run an additional eight weeks after the first session is over. We are very excited about the potential of the Adult Education program and look forward to greater participation next year as the program grows in popularity.

This semester we offered (the programs with an asterisk next to them didn't run due to insufficient enrollment):

- Aerobics\*
- Yoga
- Line Dancing
- Ballroom Dancing
- Modern Jazz\*
- Knitting and Crocheting
- Floral Design\*
- Sewing
- Calligraphy\*
- Intro to Painting – oils and acrylics\*
- Ceramics\*
- Intro to Using a Computer

Microsoft Word  
Microsoft Excel  
Using the Internet and Email \*  
Video Production  
Introduction to Sign Language\*  
English as a Second Language

### *Grants/Donations*

This has been a wonderful year for enrichment grants. Most recently we have been awarded \$1,000 from the Community Partners for Health to purchase Sony Wii systems for the After Hours program. These systems will be used to provide physical activity for students who generally don't participate in after school sports at the Whitin Middle School. We will also share these systems with daycare over the summer so their students can enjoy some healthy screen-time.

Some of the larger grants received this year are \$10,000 to start a community juvenile advocacy group, \$10,520 to expand the scope of the International Fair at Taft to include the performance arts, \$33,846 to expand the surveillance and entry systems throughout the district, a defibrillator for the high school, and \$2,400 to create a garden in front of the high school through a partnership with local landscape contractors, which will be dedicated in the Superintendent's name once complete.

As you can see these grants vary widely in subject matter and provide our students and school community opportunities that they may not have had otherwise.