

# Connections

A Community Working Together



Holyoke Public Schools

Volume 4, Issue 1

Fall 2005

## America's Choice and HPS forge partnership

By

Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo  
Superintendent of Schools

In earlier issues of the *Connections* Newsletter, I have provided you with information relative to our Turn-Around Plan to improve education in the Holyoke Public Schools over the next two years. Part of the agreement with the State Board of Education was that we would jointly seek a Turn-Around Partner with experience in helping a district like ours to improve academic performance. So it was that three months ago in July, an agreement was signed by the State Department of Education and America's Choice to become our Turn-Around Partner. The following mission statement has been adopted by the Holyoke Public Schools and America's Choice: *The America's Choice mission in partnership with the Holyoke Schools is to do whatever it takes to make sure that our students reach the benchmarked standards of achievement approved by the DOE in the Turn-Around Plan.*

America's Choice, for those of you who may not know, is a research-based company that provides a coherent instructional system along with professional development for teachers that is based on high expectations and of nationally and state accepted standards.



Dr. Carballo visits a 7th grade math class at Peck Middle School and talks to Patrick Laramie about his group's work on a math problem.

Their work in our district will entail a concentrated effort that will focus on modeling, facilitating, coaching and with delivering very specific progress and services in three critical areas: at the district level, school based and targeted interventions.

### District Level

- NISL (National Institute for School Leadership) Training for all principals
- Standards Based Planning
  - Work Expectations for each grade level
  - Portfolio System for each individual student
  - Literacy Campaign:
    - Book of the Month
    - 25 Books Campaign

### School-Based

Adoption of America's Choice Curriculum at Middle School Level:

Peck, Lynch, Donahue, Kelly, Sullivan, White

### Targeted Interventions

- Ramp Up Math in Grade 6
- Ramp Up Math in Grade 9
- Ramp Up Literacy in Grade 9

We are very excited in the school district about the renewed effort to take our school improvement to the next level. We invite all of our readers to contact us about our efforts and about how you might be able to help.



Focused Walk Throughs help district administration monitor progress of America's Choice initiatives in the schools. Left to right: Principal Linda Carrier, David Valade/ ELL Supervisor, Rochelle Herring/America's Choice, Kimberly Wells/ Curriculum Director.



### Inside this issue:

Lynch and America's Choice	2
Attendance Zones	3
School Briefs	4-5
Family Literacy	6
Talking Points	7
Sports Corner	8
Spanish Translation	9-12

### Special points of interest in this issue

- Find out why everyone seems to be carrying reading material around
- Learn about the reasons HPS adopted Attendance Zones
- Read how HPS students responded to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina
- Meet America's Choice project manager, Rochelle Herring



**Mission Statement**

*The America's Choice mission in partnership with the Holyoke Schools is to do whatever it takes to make sure that our students reach the benchmarked standards of achievement approved by the DOE in the Turn-Around Plan.*

Laura DuPont

Editor

ldupont@hps.holyoke.ma.us

Special Thanks to:

Elaine Lathrop, Luz Aguilar, Judy Williams, Lori Banks

*Contributing to this issue:*

Chris Van Leeuwen

Gary Tirrell

Marie Silver

Sharon Sampson

Ray Mitchell

Ray Mitchell

Dr. Lora Barrett

Ellen Stein

Jody Spitz

Lee McGarrigle

Pauline Carriere

Debbie Menard

Nancy Stenberg

Ted Watt

Stephanie Hamm

Joanne Marcotte

Martha Owen

Kate Dean

Hilary Russell

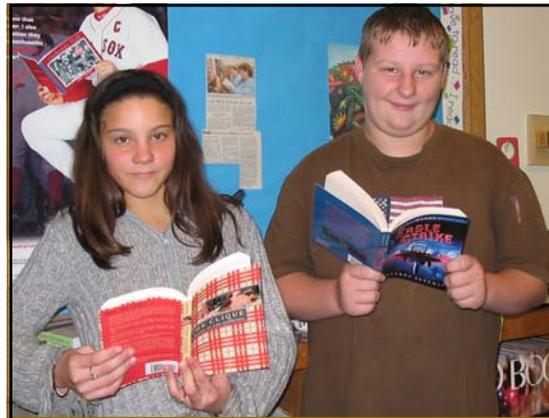
Gary Abdullah

Aaron Morris

## Lynch Middle School ramps up with America's Choice

The America's Choice partnership is up and running at Lynch. Students of the Reader's Writer's Workshop in grades 6, 7, and 8 are in the process of drafting major reports on topics of their own choosing. Steve Shevlin, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reader's Writers' Workshop teacher, says, "We are transitioning from the **what** to the **how** and **when**", referring to the "mini-lessons" that are an integral part of the America's Choice method of teaching. The mini-lessons for the report genre covered everything from subtitles in nonfiction literature to controlling ideas and organizing structures in students' own reports. Shevlin goes on to say, "We are seeing progress with the students, and the staff has adapted to the 100 minute schedule blocks associated with the America's Choice model. We are looking forward to the next three genres and incorporating the data from standardized testing results into our teaching."

Math is another area affected by America's Choice at Lynch. Sixth grade students who are more than one grade level below their peers in math are in a special program called Ramp Up. Sandy Helliwell, who teaches the Ramp Up classes, notes that this program is different from many



Eighth graders Yamilette Garcia (left) and Kyle Potyrala (right) have already added several books to their book logs for the 25 Books Campaign at Lynch

remedial programs in that the students are "doing algebra" right from the start.

A third facet of the America's Choice program is the 25 Book Campaign: every student and staff member at the school is encouraged to read 25 books during this school year. The school is working hard to promote the campaign and make books available to students. Lynch had a fun kick-off event on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in which students from each grade level met in the cafeteria for an explanation of the program. The school is offering some incentives: after six

books are read and documented, a free ice cream coupon is handed out; after 12 books, students receive a coupon for the school store special: a notebook, a pen, a pencil and a pencil grip; for 18 books, students will receive a Lynch Middle School T-shirt, and a gift certificate will be awarded for meeting the 25 book goal! The children were introduced to Maria Pagán, Director of the Holyoke Public Library. Ms. Pagán talked about the services offered at the library and invited students to visit the library to get new library cards or get lost cards replaced.

As a result of Ms. Pagán's invitation, Lynch students and faculty members walked to the library as a group on

Tuesday, October 18 to tour the facility and sign up for library cards. In addition, Lynch's Librarian, Nancy Stenberg, worked with a group of students to organize Lynch's Book Fair from October 11 through 14. Lynch families purchased approximately \$1,500 worth of books and related materials at the Book Fair. Students now have access to books through the school library, the public library, and their own purchased books. We look forward to reading together all year long.

## Attendance Zones promote feeling of school community

On Monday, May 2 the Holyoke School Committee unanimously adopted the Superintendent's Gradual Implementation Plan for School Attendance Zones. Starting September 2005, all new students entering Holyoke Public Schools are to be assigned to their Attendance Zone Schools.

The rationale for Attendance Zone schools in lieu of School Choice was two-fold. First and foremost, it made sense that children living in same neighborhoods should attend the same schools because it would give many more parents access to, and involvement in, their children's education. Attendance Zone Schools would facilitate the home/school connection and create a stronger feeling of school community. Secondly, the spiraling costs of transporting students to and from all areas of the city to every school needed to be addressed.

The plan resulted from many months of work by a volunteer Advisory Task Force. Their

work focused on evaluating enrollment trends, building capacities, city demographics and several different Attendance Zone plans. Holyoke's new Attendance Zone Plan includes: three (K/5) school zones McMahon, Morgan and Lawrence, four (K/8) school zones Donahue, Kelly, E.N. White and Sullivan, and 2 middle school zones Lynch and Peck.

Immediately after the 2004/05 school year ended in June, the District began the huge task of coordinating the reassignment of approximately 50% of the District's student enrollment: Grades 1-8. Two schools having the greatest "anticipated" student body turnover were E. N White with 53% of their students, and McMahon with 58% of their students opting to transfer out to their attendance zone schools. Sullivan School, had the least "anticipated" turnover with just 22% of their student body opting to transfer out to their attendance zone schools.

In some cases; when the num-

ber of students choosing to transfer to their attendance zone schools was greater than the number of seats available, wait lists became necessary. As of today, there continue to be some 30 student names still on wait lists. When and if space becomes available, those students and their families will be contacted and invited to transfer at that time. Until such time, busing will be provided by the District for any student on a wait list eligible for transportation under the current bus policy: over 1 mile for a K-5 student and over 1.5 miles for a student in grade 6-8.

In light of losing some students to the Holyoke Charter School, and having approved a number of transfers since last June, the average percentage of "in-zone" students enrolled at every elementary and middle schools which **70%**. This clearly demonstrates the overall impact of the new Attendance Zone Plan on student enrollment.

## Training for kindergarten teachers to focus on learning centers

Holyoke Public Schools kindergarten staff will have the opportunity to attend a year long professional development series funded by the Quality Kindergarten Grant. The professional development series, "Making the Most of Learning Centers," is being presented by Mary Curro, the District's Academic Coordinator for Kindergarten. The Kindergarten staff professional development will entail a series of eleven training sessions that will focus on the effective use of the block center in the early childhood classroom with emphasis on identifying science

and math concepts taught through blocks, developing adult/child scaffolding techniques for higher order thinking skills, and observing, assessing and documenting the learning that takes place when children experience block play. Teachers will use the text, "Building Structures with Young Children," written by Ingrid Chalfour and Karen Worth who were presenters at last year's Early Learning Institute which was sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education Early Learning Services. The texts have been purchased through the Kinder-

garten Grant. In addition, participants in the training will use digital cameras, purchased through the Quality Kindergarten Grant, to create documentation panels as they observe, record, and assess the skills children develop through block play. The training sessions are scheduled every Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at Peck Middle School. The Kindergarten staff will be working in Room 151, the Academic Coordinator's room where a working block center will be set up, and in the Professional Development Room.

### Access the Attendance Zone Locator on the Web

This interactive site can help you find your zone. Go to Holyoke Public Schools Web page [www.hps.holyoke.ma.us](http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us) and click on the tab "Inside HPS"

The locator was developed by Tighe & Bonde and the HPS Technology Department.



### Bus Stats

This year there are a total of 22 large

buses for all students in grades K-8. Last year there were 36 buses. The number of bus routes is also greatly reduced: from 66 last year to just 25 routes this year. This results in a much less complicated morning/afternoon commute and a significant savings to the City of Holyoke

# School Briefs



We're off to a quick beginning at the **Holyoke Alternative Program**. We have welcomed our new principal, Paul Nowak, to the building this year. Formerly at Lawrence, Mr. Nowak has graciously devoted his time and energy to HAP for the current school year.

Also new to HAP this year and deserving of a big welcome: Sarah Rodriguez, paraprofessional, and Mary Lyons, teacher, for the Latency Program. We are also welcoming Erica Leahy and Bob Bard, both new teachers here at the Alternative Program.

"These students have an amazing talent for art," exclaims Bob Bard, art teacher at HAP. "So amazing that they don't even realize how gifted they are. They are the most artistically inclined students I've taught in 8 years."

Students are becoming quite the book worms this year. In Mr. Paul Gaudin's ELA class students are taking on the great endeavor of reading 25 books this academic year as part of the district-wide 25 books campaign. Students are hard at work racing to the finish line and a few are almost half-way there.



Sullivan School students proudly show their picks for reading in the 25 Books Campaign parade on October 4th.

If you drove by **Sullivan School** on Monday morning October 3 maybe you noticed all 670 students and all Sullivan faculty and staff gathered on the school grounds. If you looked closely you would have also seen colorful posters, banners, and costumes celebrating BOOKS. It was the festive kick-off of the district-wide 25 BOOKS Campaign and Sullivan School principal Christine Zajac and vice-principal John Breish encouraged students to READ, READ, READ so that by the end of this school year all Sullivan School students and staff will have read 25 books. Everyone got started by coming

back to their classrooms, work places, offices and reading for fifteen minutes.

The goal of the 25 Books Campaign is to read one million words this year. Students and staff are keeping "Reading Logs" that document the books they have read. Incentives will be offered to students as their reading logs grow. Sullivan School students have access to their school library and will also be encouraged to sign up for library cards at the Holyoke Public Library. From the looks of things that Monday morning – posters celebrating Harry Potter, The Witches, Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See, Lord of the Rings, Because of Winn Dixie, Freaky Friday, Chicken Soup for the Soul and many, many more – Sullivan School students and staff love to READ and look forward to the 25 Book challenge.



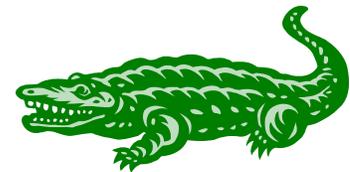
The **H.B. Lawrence School** has opened a Parent Center to help service the needs of the families of our students. The Parent Center is located near the main entry across from the main office. The kick-off for the center was held on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> during our annual Open House. A bake sale in the Center was sponsored by the parents and staff. Proceeds from the sale were donated to the district-wide disaster relief fund. While furniture and other donations are still coming in, the current space is large enough to have several different zones. One will be an area that is a classroom space for workshops and classes geared toward parent needs. Another zone is an area for parents to come in and get information on services and other related information for themselves, their family or their children. The center will house a computer area for both computer literacy classes and opportunities to access the Internet. The parent liaison is coordinating the staffing of the resource room through parent volunteers. The H.B. Lawrence staff is also working with the Title One Parent Coordinator and the HALO Center to provide parenting workshops, literacy, and Pre-GED and GED classes for parents. The goal is to provide an opportunity for parents to access services in the community, increase their own educational opportunities, and to provide a positive link to their children's schooling.



E.N. White's After School Math program is one of the reasons the school is seeing gains in math scores.

**E.N. White School** was recently informed by the MA Department of Education that they achieved AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in Math on the 2005 MCAS Exam. This was due to the hard work of faculty and students. Many different

Math strategies were put in place during the school year enabling the school to achieve this goal. The most influential strategy was the After School Program that focused mainly on Math MCAS preparation.



Mrs. Iwona Langlois' 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at **Donahue School** have been studying Gustave, a dangerous crocodile who lives along the Rusizi River in the African country of Burundi. By conducting research, students have learned that Gustave weighs as much as a small car and is nearly twice the size of a typical male Nile crocodile. Over the past 30 years, Gustave has killed hundreds of people and terrorized thousands of people who live along the muddy river. Students have learned that this croc has rammed small fishing boats with his snout and devoured fishermen who tumble into the water. Students are following any stories that pertain to Gustave by using the Internet to conduct research on this fascinating creature. Mrs. Langlois has a life size drawing of this ruthless creature decorating her classroom.

# School Briefs

The fifth grade at **Morgan School** is trying something new this year. Students move from class to class similar to a middle school model. Each teacher is responsible for their favorite subject. Both teachers and students are enjoying it. A great deal of learning is going on and students will be prepared for sixth grade.

On October 28th Morgan School hosted a movie night. Another movie night is scheduled for November 18th (*The Incredibles*). Other upcoming events include a Veteran's Day celebration. Local veterans have been invited to attend the event. The Morgan School choir will perform patriotic songs at Barnes and Noble on November 12th at 11:00a.m. This is a fundraiser and proceeds will go toward the Morgan School Winter-fest.

Help is a word that frequents the vocabulary of all members of the **Kelly School** community. Not help they are seeking, but help they are willing to provide for those in need. After hearing of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, members of the Kelly School

community knew that there had to be some way in which they could help. Teachers Marybeth Devaney and Aaron Morris sprung into action. Together, they have created and implemented a variety of fund raising programs, all geared at raising money for the American Red Cross. Ms. Devaney is working with the students in her newspaper class to create a penny drive, as well as to run student events such as "Hat Day." Mr. Morris is spearheading the faculty and staff fundraising efforts which have risen over \$500 to date. Overall, the programs are very successful. As new teacher Debbie Menard puts it, "We are not only helping the cause, but we are helping to create compassionate individuals."



Also reaching out to the Hurricane victims were the students were **Read 180** students in the district. Thanks to a generous donation of books by the Scholastic Book company, middle school students wrote messages on the inside covers of hundreds of



Read 180 students make friendship bracelets to send along with books to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

books and sent them to children affected by the Hurricane. According to Read 180 coordinator Lynn Lajoie, "Books can offer such an escape for a child, if only for a little while".

In addition to sending books, Read 180 students also made friendship bracelets for the children. The books and bracelets were sent to Louisiana where they were distributed to the smallest victims of the hurricane. Read 180 is an intense reading intervention for students who are two or more years below grade level.

## Art teacher reflects on students' reaction to Hurricane Katrina

Grade 8 students at Peck Middle School recently completed a mural dedicated to the people who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. It all began when I was leading my class in a brainstorming activity about great themes in paintings, and how artists sometimes used subject matter that was familiar to them, important to them or their culture, or interpretive of the work of others. They were going to create a mural, one of the now "traditional" challenges for my classes at Peck. I knew that such a challenge would permit me to cover a wide variety of the Visual Arts Standards, the elements of art (line, shape, color, value, texture, space, movement), and provide for participation of students with a broad array of abilities and the development of thinking skills at different levels of the cognitive process..

The activity would require stu-

dents to work together, to analyze, plan, interpret art history and would be supplemented with charts, Web sites, pictures of paintings, and to evaluate their work and the work of others. In a round table discussion, students offered ideas for the project. What I had not counted on was the intense interest with which they were following the current events of the Hurricane. I had thought that we would work on a mural focusing on ancient cultures and an art time line, but they had other important things to say about racism, loss, natural disasters, and politics. I let them, and in permitting myself to be flexible, facilitated the production of an extremely complex thought provoking, powerful piece of art.

We talked about color and the impact of color on feelings and emotion. Ashely Esparra told

me, "I think it's a good mural to represent other disasters and hurricanes that happened throughout the years. Because the colors we used make me think of sadness. They're sad colors. I was sad."

Angelique Torres created a phoenix rising from the ashes of devastation; a blood red chain symbolizing pain, separation and death stretches across the face of the mural.

It was an empowering moment for these students, as they wrapped up two weeks worth of planning and execution. And summing up, Cassandra Perez said, "It was a fun experience." Melissa Sanchez added, "It was a cool experience."

Lora Barrett  
Art Teacher/Peck Middle School



## Even Start Family Literacy Program celebrates fourth year of programming



Dalishalee Rivera (left) and Jomaralee Serrano are enrolled in the Even Start Program which is now in its fourth year.

The Holyoke Even Start Family Literacy Program continues to offer comprehensive Family Literacy programming to Holyoke residents. The program entering its fourth year of operation has exceeded its FY '06 enrollment goal by 20%.

Twenty families are currently enrolled and participating three nights a week. The program has established a waiting list of eligible families.

Currently operating out of the Metcalf School and soon to be relocated to the Peck Middle School, the program offers

ESOL classes to adults and their children. The program serves children between the ages of 3-7.

In addition to adult instruction in language and arts, Parenting Education classes are offered. Issues previously covered have included nutrition; discipline; community resources; Internet and PBS educational resources to name a few.

Activities are created by the Even Start instructional team for what is referred to as Parent and Child Together Time (PACT). All activities are de-

signed to adhere to the Massachusetts Frameworks. In the past, activities have included, Family Math; Science; Instructional Games; and Health.

A Home Visitor meets once a month in each participating family's home to demonstrate literacy techniques; observe and evaluate the parent's increased role in their child's literacy activities and to help with any issues that might be confronting the family.

For more information please contact Jim Lescault or Yvette Heredia at (413) 493-1609.



### November is Family Literacy Month

*Holyoke has Family Learning opportunities in four sites:*

**Even Start:** Tu,W,Th evenings, ESL for adults, academic support for children, and activities for the whole family, please call 493-1609

**Pathways:** Tu & Th evenings, GED preparation, academic support for children, activities for the whole family, please call 534-2026.

**Connections** after school classes (for parents or family members of children enrolled in Connections after school programs):

ESOL classes at Kelly Elementary School: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 PM call: 538-5770; and

HHS after school classes – please call 534-2026 for information about GED or ESOL classes for adults.

## Family Literacy initiatives encourage parents to be learners, too

The third annual Education Fair took place on October 1, bringing together about 200 families and 20 education and support service programs. Highlights included:

1. The kick off of **One Book Holyoke/Un Libro Para Holyoke: Like Water for Chocolate/Como Agua Para Chocolate**. All residents of Holyoke are invited to read this book of romance and



recipes during the fall. Copies are available at the Holyoke Public Library, Juntos Adult Education sites (for enrolled

adult students) and Barnes and Noble - Holyoke for purchase. Watch for information about a special event on November 17 at Barnes and Noble-Holyoke.

2. The grand re-opening of the Children's Museum and their new Exploration Room.

3. A group of members of the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club recited a pledge they took about their commitment to

## Connecticut in the Classroom Summer Institute

This summer 13 HPS elementary teachers participated in a three day teacher institute organized through the Connecticut in the Classroom project. The Children's Museum at Holyoke and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment planned and led the institute supported by funding from the Jesse B Cox Charitable Foundation in Boston. The institute included: science content,

grade-level appropriate teaching lessons and activities, and field experiences to enrich teachers' lives as adult learners. The focus of the institute was directly on school and classroom related learning during some of each day. Additionally, field trips helped raise teachers' awareness about different aspects of their community and the wider Valley.



HPS teachers learn about their community through field trips. Among the places visited were Bray Lake and Tierra de Oportunidad farm in Holyoke.

# Talking Points



Congratulations to all who contribute to our quarterly newsletter. The Holyoke Public Schools has won the APEX 2005 award for Publication Excellence. This is the



Art Department Head, Dr. Lora Barrett was nominated for a teaching award at the University of Massachusetts.

third year in a row that **Connections** has taken the honor. APEX awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. With close to 5,000 entries, competition was exceptionally intense. 100 Grand Awards were presented to honor outstanding work in all 11 major categories, with 1,523 Awards of Excellence recognizing exceptional entries in 109 sub-categories.

**Connections** is distributed throughout Holyoke and to mailing list recipients.

Dr. Lora Barrett, Art Department Head, has been nominated for a Distinguished Teaching Award. It is the highest award that a

professor or instructor can receive at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. In addition to teaching art at Peck Middle School, Dr. Barrett is an assistant professor at UMass. She teaches the Advanced Seminar in Art Education and the Student Teaching Seminar to seniors and graduated students. She was nominated for the award by several former students.

Dr. Barrett's landscape paintings have recently been in two shows on Cape Cod, one in Orleans and the other in Barnstable.



The Holyoke

**Adult Learning Opportunity (HALO)** is excited to welcome Elia Dreyfuss to the team. Elia will be teaching English As a Second Language (ESL) for the beginning and intermediate levels. Elia brings a wealth of experience to HALO. She has taught ESL for many years, both here in the United States, and abroad. Elia is especially knowledgeable about community resources as she has worked for several programs here in Holyoke. She is fluent in Spanish and holds a Master's degree from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst.



Elia Dreyfuss works with adult learners at HALO.

## Meet Rochelle Herring of America's Choice



Rochelle Herring (above) started her career as a classroom teacher in New Jersey. She joined America's Choice in 2000 and few years later left to attend Harvard University's Urban Superintendent's Program.

In 2005 she became part of America's Choice again.

As the America's Choice project manager on special assignment to Holyoke, Rochelle Herring is working with the school district in several capacities. America's Choice will provide a focused curriculum. This year in literacy the focus is on reading and writing reports, narrative accounts and responding to literature. In math, the focus is on getting students to answer questions in words, numbers and pictures along with diagrams.

"Our biggest challenge is time. We have a long list of things to do and not much time," said Rochelle. She added that a lot of time had to be spent on prioritizing.

Rochelle is encouraged by the work done

by teachers and students so far. "At the middle schools I see teachers having conversations about the work being done in their readers and writers workshops. Teachers are coming on their free time on Tuesday afternoons to plan lessons with me."



She says that students are reading different types of books and exploring topics of

interest to them. "When I walk into classrooms, students invite me over to see what they are doing."

## Sports Corner



The fall sports season is well underway and so far the results are great. The Holyoke High girls' soccer team is 6-2-2 and should make the Western Mass. Tournament for the first time in years. The H.H.S. girls' volleyball team is 9-4 and just defeated the number one team in their league. They will also qualify for post season play. The field hockey team is 2-4-6 but with the number of ties they have they could make the

tournament also. The cross country team is running at the Mt. Tom Reservation this year. Their record is 1-0 in the league with four meets left. The boys' soccer team (the reigning Division I Western Mass. Champs) is 7-2-2 and will make the tournament again this year and hopefully they will do as well as last year. The football team is still in contention for the I-AA Super Bowl. They stand at 3-3 and must win the rest of their league games. The golf team is 4-9-1 and the season is over.

All that's left is the one player playing in the individual's tournament.

At Dean Tech the girls' volleyball team is having an awesome season. They are 9-4 and have already qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament and the State Vocational Tournament.

The Hawk's football team is at 3-3 and could qualify for the State Vocational Super Bowl. All in all it has been an outstanding fall season. Congratulations to the hard working student athletes.

### Holyoke School Committee

Mayor Michael Sullivan  
 Michael Moriarty  
 Mary Signet  
 Yvonne Garcia  
 Barry Conway  
 Mollie Plant  
 William A. Collamore  
 Margaret Boulais  
 Gladys Lebron-Martinez  
 Jonathan Allyn

## Children's Museum gets help from HPS students



A new exhibit to be built at the Children's Museum is a model of the Connecticut River.

Students from Holyoke Public Schools have been helping the Children's Museum with an exciting new exhibit in the last year and a half. As part of the successful "Connecticut in the Classroom" project that the schools have been operating with the museum, an exciting, interactive new exhibit will be built. It will be called "At the Canal's Edge" and will include a working model of the Connecticut River, the dam and the canal system. Young visitors will be able to explore waterpower, try out dam systems and enjoy making their own fanciful river creatures as a part of this new exhibit.

Holyoke middle and high school

students acting as Junior Volunteers of the Museum have been instrumental in the interpretation of the new exhibits. The youth aged 10-18 conducted research for the new exhibits by visiting the *Holyoke Fish Lift*, the *Turners Falls Discovery Center*, and different areas of the river itself. They applied their knowledge of the Connecticut River by contributing input into the design process of the water exhibit and giant river mural, which is being painted on the entry hall wall. They also created their own exhibit and built a kiosk last year that provides creative exploration of fanciful river creatures.

The fun continues and the Jun-

ior Volunteers throughout the year will assist in the creation of signs, guidebooks, and artwork connected with the "At the Canal's Edge" exhibit. When asked to reflect on the experience of being involved with the project Brianna age 16 a Holyoke resident said, "I learned about all sorts of creatures that I didn't know live in my backyard." And Siobhan age 18 also of Holyoke said, "I love making things for the museum that kids can touch and play with." If you know of a youth who might be interested in becoming involved with this project please have them contact the museum (413) 536-7048 ext. #209.

## Title I Events

### "Raising Children in Troubled Times" Program at Holyoke High School

6:30 p.m.

Homework Chores—November 3  
 Temper Tantrums/ Arguing—Nov. 8  
 Sex/Drugs/Curfews—November 10

### Parent / Student Activities

Family Math Night—Morgan School—Nov. 9  
 A Night with the Author: Nancy Perez — Donahue School—Nov. 14  
 Clifford Night—Morgan School— Nov. 30  
 Math Night Part I—White School— Dec.5

### Parent / Student Activities

Bingo for Books—Sullivan School – Dec.7  
 Math Night Part 2—White School— Dec.12  
 Bingo for Books—Lawrence School— Dec.13  
 Bingo for Books—Morgan School—Dec.14

## La Opción de América y las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke - HPS establecen sociedad



Dr. Carballo visita una clase de matemáticas de séptimo grado (7) en la Escuela Secundaria Peck y conversa con Patrick Laramée sobre el trabajo en grupo en un problema de matemáticas.

Por

Dr. Eduardo B Carballo

Superintendente de Escuelas

En las publicaciones anteriores en el Boletín de noticias *Uniones*, les he proveído la información con relación a nuestro Plan de Vuelta de mejorar la educación en las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke durante los próximos dos años. Parte del acuerdo con el Consejo de Educación Estatal era que juntos buscaríamos una sociedad con experiencia en ayudar al distrito como el nuestro para mejorar el funcionamiento académico. Entonces hace tres meses atrás en julio, se firmó un acuerdo por el Departamento de Educación y Opción de América para ser nuestro Sociedad. La siguiente declaración de misión ha sido adoptada

por las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke y la Opción de América: *La misión de la sociedad de América con las Escuelas de Holyoke es hacer lo que esto toma para asegurar que nuestros estudiantes alcancen los estándares del punto de referencia aprobado por el Departamento de Educación.*

La Opción de América, para aquellos de ustedes que pueden no saber, es una compañía a base de investigación que

proporciona un sistema educacional coherente junto con el desarrollo profesional para maestros que está basado en expectativas altas y de escala nacional y estándares del estado aceptados. Su trabajo en nuestro distrito implicará un esfuerzo que se concentrará en entrenamiento, facilitación, y con la entrega de progreso muy específico y servicios en tres áreas críticas: al nivel del distrito, basado en intervenciones escolares.

### I. Nivel de Distrito

- NISL ((Instituto Nacional bajo la Dirección Escolar) Entrenamiento para todos los Principales
- Estándares Basado en Planificación Expectativas de Trabajo para cada nivel de grado

- Sistema de Carpeta para cada

- Estudiante individual

- Campaña de Alfabetismo:

Libro del Mes y Campaña del

libro # 25

### 2. Base Escolar

Adopción del Plan de estudios de la Opción de América a Nivel de Escuela Secundaria

Peck, Lynch, Donahue, Kelly, Sullivan, and White.

### 3. Objetivos de Intervenciones

Reforzar Matemáticas – Grado 6

Reforzar Matemáticas – Grado 9

Reforzar Alfabetización – Grado 9

Estamos muy felices con el distrito escolar sobre el esfuerzo renovado para nuestra mejora escolar al siguiente nivel. Invitamos a todos nuestros lectores a ponerse en contacto con nosotros sobre nuestros esfuerzos y sobre como usted podría ayudar.



Continúa el enfoque que ayudará a los administradores del distrito a vigilar el progreso de las iniciativas de "America's Choice – Opción de América en nuestras escuelas.

De izquierda a derecha: Principal Linda Carrier, David Valade/Supervisor de Lenguaje Inglés, Rochelle Herring/ America's Choice – Opción de América, Kimberly Wells/Directora de Plan de Estudios.



## El Programa de Alfabetismo de Familia celebra el cuarto año de programación



Dalishalee Rivera (izquierda) y Jomaralee Serrano están matriculadas en el Programa Even Start que está ahora en su cuarto año.

El Programa de Alfabetismo de Familia de Holyoke sigue ofreciendo la programación de Alfabetismo de Familia a los residentes

de Holyoke. El programa que entra en su cuarto año de operación ha excedido su objetivo de inscripción del Año Fiscal 06 con el 20 %. Veinte familias están actualmente matriculadas y participando tres noches por semana. El programa ha establecido una lista de espera de familias elegibles.

Actualmente está funcionando en la Escuela Metcalf y pronto será trasladado a la Escuela Peck Secundaria, el programa ofrece clases de Inglés como Segundo Idioma -ESOL a adultos y sus niños. El programa sirve a niños entre los 3-7 años de edad.

Además de la instrucción adulta en lenguaje y artes, las clases de Educación de Crianza son ofrecidas. Los temas antes cubiertos han incluido la nutrición; disciplina; recursos de comunidad; Internet y recursos

educativos PBS y por mencionar unos cuantos.

Las actividades son creadas por el equipo educacional para lo que se refiere como Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) PACTO de Tiempo de Padre y Niño Juntos Todas las actividades son diseñadas para adherirse a la Estructura de Massachusetts. En el pasado, las actividades han incluido, Matemáticas de Familia; Ciencias; Juegos Educativos; y Salud.

Un Invitado del Hogar se reúne una vez al mes en la casa de familia de cada participante para demostrar técnicas de alfabetismo; observar y evaluar el papel del padre en las actividades de alfabetismo de su niño y ayudar con cualquier situación que podría confrontar la familia.

Para más información por favor

## El Centro de Aprendizaje HALO da la bienvenida a la nueva maestra de ESL Inglés como Segundo Lenguaje

El Centro de Aprendizaje para Adultos de Holyoke - (HALO) está muy contento de darle la bienvenida a Elia Dreyfuss al equipo. Elia enseñará Inglés como Segundo Lenguaje (ESL) para niveles del principio e intermedios. Elia trae una riqueza de experiencia al Centro HALO. Ella ha enseñado Inglés como Segundo Lenguaje - ESL durante muchos años, tanto aquí en los Estados Unidos, como en el extranjero.



Elia Dreyfuss trabaja con los adultos en el Centro HALO.

Elia está informada sobre recursos de la comunidad cuando ella ha trabajado para varios programas aquí en Holyoke. Ella domina el español y tiene un grado de Maestría de la Universidad de Massachusetts/Amherst.

## Las iniciativas de Alfabetismo de familia animan a los padres a ser también aprendices

La tercera Feria de Educación anual ocurrió el 1 de octubre, juntando aproximadamente 200 familias y 20 servicios de apoyo en programas y educación. Toques de luz incluyeron:

1. Para empezar **One Book Holyoke/Un Libro Para Holyoke: Like Water for Chocolate/Como Agua Para Chocolate**. Todos los residentes de Holyoke están invitados a leer este libro de romance y recetas durante el otoño. Las copias están disponibles en la Biblioteca

Pública de Holyoke, sitios de Educación de Adultos (para estudiantes adultos matriculados) y Barnes y Nobles - Holyoke para la compra. Mirar para información sobre un acontecimiento especial el 17 de noviembre en Barnes y Noble-Holyoke.

2. La gran re-apertura del Museo de Niños y su nuevo Cuarto de Exploración.
3. Un grupo de miembros de Holyoke Boys and Girls Club – Club de Jóvenes hicieron una promesa sobre su compromiso a su educación





## Las Zonas de Asistencia promueven sentimiento de la comunidad escolar

El lunes, 2 de mayo el Comité Escolar de Holyoke unánimemente adoptó el Plan de Realización Gradual del Superintendente para Zonas de Asistencia Escolares. Comenzando en septiembre de 2005, todos los estudiantes nuevos que entran a las Escuelas de Públicas de Holyoke deben ser adjudicados en sus Zonas de Asistencia Escolar.

La razón fundamental para las Zonas de Asistencia Escolar en lugar de Opción Escolar era doble. Antes que nada, tuvo sentido que los niños que viven en las mismas vecindades deberían asistir a las mismas escuelas porque esto daría mucho más acceso a los padres, y la participación en la educación de sus niños. Las Zonas de

Asistencia Escolar facilitarán la unión entre el hogar y la escuela y crearán

un sentimiento más fuerte de la comunidad escolar. En segundo lugar, los gastos de transportar a estudiantes a y de todas las áreas de la ciudad a cada escuela necesitaban ser dirigidas.

El plan resultó a partir de varios meses del trabajo por un Consultivo voluntario. Su trabajo se concentró en la evaluación de tendencias de inscripción, construyendo capacidades, datos demográficos de la ciudad y varios proyectos de Zona de Asistencia diferentes. El nuevo Plan de Zona de Asistencia de Holyoke incluye: tres zonas escolares (K/5) McMahon, Morgan y Lawrence, cuatro zonas escolares (K/8) Donahue, Kelly, E.N. White y



Sullivan, y 2 zonas de

### Estadísticas de Autobús

Este año hay un total de 22 autobuses grandes para todos los estudiantes en grados k-8. El año pasado había 36 autobuses. El número de rutas de autobús también es enormemente reducido: de 66 el año pasado a sólo 25 rutas este año. Esto resulta en una mañana/tarde mucho menos complicada y unos ahorros significativos a la Ciudad de Holyoke.

escuela secundaria Lynch y Peck. Inmediatamente después de haber terminado el año escolar 2004/05 en junio, el Distrito comenzó la enorme tarea de coordinar la reasignación aproximadamente del 50 % de la inscripción de estudiante del Distrito: Grados 1-8. Dos escuelas que tienen el mayor número de alumnos "anticipado" fue la Escuela E.N. White con el 53 % de sus estudiantes, y la Escuela McMahon

#### Localizador de Zona de Asistencia en la Web

Este sitio interactivo puede ayudarle a encontrar su zona. Vaya a la Página Web de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke [www.hps.holyoke.ma.us](http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us) y hacer click "en HPS"

El localizador fue desarrollado por Tighe y Bonde y el Departamento de Tecnología de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke - HPS.

# El Programa de Alfabetismo de Familia celebra el cuarto año de programación

La sociedad America's Choice (Opción de America) en la Escuela Lynch se está llevando a cabo. Los estudiantes del Taller del Escritor/Lector en grados 6, 7, y 8 están en el proceso de redactar informes principales en temas de su propia elección. Steve Shevlin, maestro del Taller de Escritores/Lectores de 8<sup>vo</sup>. grado dice, "estamos en transición del **que, como y cuando**", refiriéndose "a las mini lecciones" que son una parte integrante del método Selecto de América enseñar.

Las mini lecciones para el informe cubrieron todo de subtítulos en la literatura de no ficción al control de ideas y organización de estructuras en los propios informes de los estudiantes. El Sr. Shevlin continúa diciendo, "Vemos el progreso con los estudiantes, y el personal se ha adaptado a los bloques de lista de 100 minutos asociados con America's Choice. Esperamos con mucha ilusión para los próximos tres géneros e incorporamos la información de resultados de pruebas estandarizados en nuestra enseñanza."

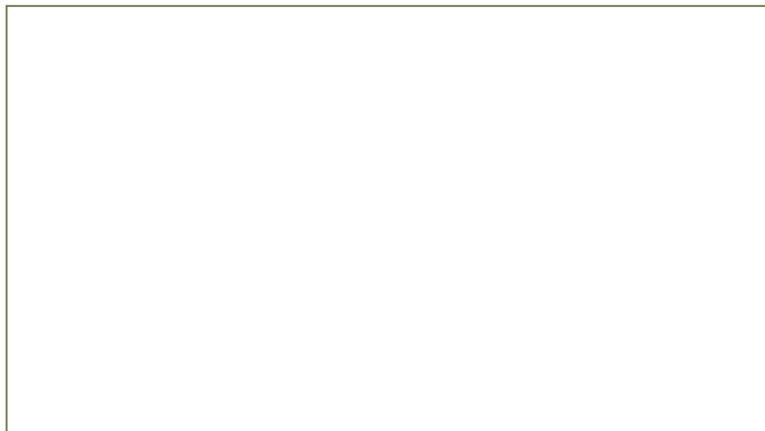
La matemáticas es otra área afectada por la Opción de América en la Escuela Lynch. Los estudiantes de sexto grado que están más de

un nivel de grado bajo de sus compañeros en matemáticas están en un programa llamado Ramp Up – Rampa Arriba. Sandy Helliwell, que enseña las clases de la Rampa, nota que este programa es diferente de muchos programas remediadores en los cuales los estudiantes "hacen el álgebra" directamente desde el principio.

Una tercera faceta del programa Selecto de América es la Campaña del Libro #25: cada estudiante y empleado en la escuela son animados a leer 25 libros durante este año escolar. La escuela trabaja mucho para promover la campaña y poner libros a disposición de los estudiantes. La Escuela Lynch tenía un acontecimiento de saque inicial de diversión el 3 de octubre en el cual los estudiantes de cada nivel de grado se encontraron en la cafetería para una explicación del programa. La escuela ofrece algunos incentivos: después de que seis libros son leídos y documentados, un cupón de helado gratis es repartido; después de 12 libros, los estudiantes reciben un cupón para la tienda escolar especial: un cuaderno, una pluma, un lápiz; ¡para 18 libros, los estudiantes recibirán una camiseta de la

Escuela Secundaria Lynch, y un certificado de regalo será concedido para encontrar el objetivo del libro #25! Los niños fueron presentados a Maria Pagán, la Directora de la Biblioteca Pública de Holyoke. La Sra. Pagán habló de los servicios ofrecidos en la biblioteca e invitó a los estudiantes a visitar la biblioteca para conseguir tarjetas nuevas de biblioteca o sustituir tarjetas perdidas.

A consecuencia de la invitación de la Sra. Pagán, los estudiantes de la Escuela Lynch y los miembros de la facultad caminaron a la biblioteca como grupo el martes, 18 de octubre para recorrer la instalación y obtener tarjetas para la biblioteca. Además, la Bibliotecaria de la Escuela Lynch, Nancy Stenberg, trabajó con un grupo de estudiantes para organizar la Feria de Libro de la Escuela Lynch del 11 al 14 de octubre. La familia de la Escuela Lynch compró el valor de aproximadamente 1,500 dólares de libros y materiales relacionados a la Feria de Libro. Los estudiantes ahora tienen el acceso a libros de la biblioteca escolar, la biblioteca pública, y sus propios libros comprados. Deseamos leer juntos todo el año.



Holyoke Public Schools  
57 Suffolk Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Connections

