



SPRING

EDUCATING TODAY'S STUDENTS

"DIG" OUR NEWS



2011

PROTECTING TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

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"I'm glad we had the times together just to laugh and sing a song, seems like we just got started and then before you know it, the times we had together were gone."

Dr. Seuss

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KRIS'S "KORNER" - YOU'RE ON VACATION!! (WELL ALMOST!!) State tests are done and some of you just have to make it through Regents before it's time to kick off your shoes, sit back and relax. It was another wonderful year visiting schools and meeting lots of great students plus seeing many of you. It was great and now it's time for a little, actually this year a lot, of that June "sadness" - as each year passes, more of you are retiring and, like last year, budget cuts are affecting some of our great teachers. Even schools are closing- I must say good-bye to the Pre-K Center in Newburgh. I started going there not too long after the school opened and now the plan is for offices to be in that building and for the classes to be housed in other schools around the District.



So with the end of school there are "highs" and "lows" but thank you all for the welcomes, the kindnesses and for making our conservation education program a part of your lessons. To our retirees- you will always be remembered!!

Part of my summer will be spent working on our **20th** (WOW!!) annual Conservation Field Days program- can you believe it's been going on that long? With the cuts in school field trips and agency budgets in recent years, we've been fortunate that some schools and presenters have still been able to take part in our Field Days program. As of now we have 4 schools who have sent back their forms so still have room for another school or two- get those forms in before you leave on summer vacation! We just finished a "first" for our education program- we organized a fifth grade Conservation Field Day for the Otisville Elementary School (see article on p. 3).



So as the sun sets on another school year, have a wonderful summer vacation- hope you have fun wherever you go and whatever you do.

HAPPY DAYS!!

HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL ENVIROTHON UPDATE

For the first time in many, many years Orange County had teams participating in the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon. This competition for high school students begins on the local level, then progresses to the State level and finally to the Canon Envirothon. On April 15th four teams- 2 from the Academy at Fox Hill, Walden, and 2 from Warwick Valley High School, Warwick- participated in the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon held at Sharpe Reservation, Fishkill. Thirty-three teams from seven counties (Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester) tested their knowledge in five environmental categories: aquatics, soils, wildlife, forestry and current events. Each team also gave an oral presentation that was a "practice" for the State Envirothon event- the top scorer from each county is eligible to participate on the state level. When all was said and done, the 2011 Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon Champion was from Orange County- one of the Academy at Fox Hill teams. Not only did this team of sophomores capture the Regional event but they went on to compete in the New York State Envirothon against teams from counties all across New York and- they are the New York State Envirothon champions. So now it's on to Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada where they will compete from July 24-29 against teams from the United States and Canada.

We want to thank all the Academy at Fox Hill and Warwick Valley students who participated in the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon and to wish the Academy at Fox Hill's team the best of luck in July when they compete in the Canon Envirothon.



The 2011 Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon and NYS Envirothon winning team members are: Royce Durgin, Carmen Maendel, Harmon Gattis, Mailene Kleinsasser, Kenneth Greenyer.

GOOD LUCK ACADEMY AT FOX HILL

CUB SCOUT DEN 5's PLANTING PROJECT

Once again this year the Cub Scouts of Den 5, Pack 77, Warwick, did a community planting project with seedlings they received from our annual tree and shrub program. Their planting project was at the Methodist Church in Warwick.



It's always nice to get the grownups involved too!



One down, more to go!

THANKS to all the Scouts and adults who helped make this planting project a success.



After their seedlings were planted the Scouts took time for a group photo Great job Scouts!!

CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

Well it doesn't seem possible but our sixth grade Conservation Field Days will be twenty this September. This long running program would never have endured without the support of the schools and agencies/ individuals/groups. Right now we have applications from four schools but still have room for more attendees— get your form in before you leave for summer vacation. Plus we have talked with some people who have been presenters— one group for all nineteen years- and they're ready to go for #20.

Our dates this year are Tuesday, September 20 and Wednesday, September 21 and the location will be, for the twentieth year, Thomas Bull Memorial Park.

If you have any questions, please email or call me.

OTISVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S FIELD DAY

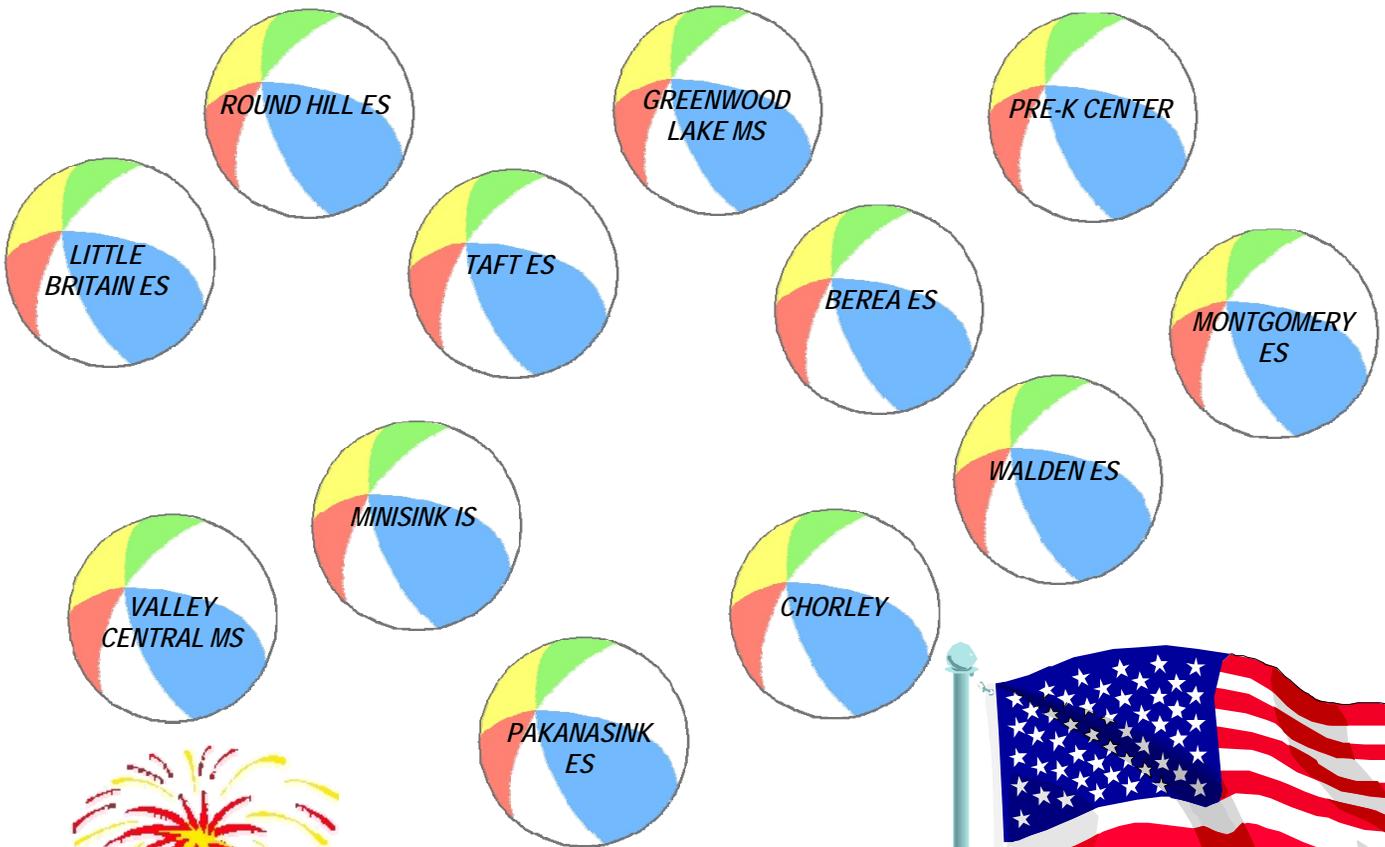
On June 15th the fifth graders at Otisville Elementary School participated in a Conservation Field Day sponsored by the school, the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town of Mt. Hope. The day was "modeled" after our larger Field Day program. The students visited six stations where presenters talked about dairy farming, aquatic life, spin and fly casting, groundwater, bats and composting. After visiting the stations the students were treated to lunch provided by the Town and then a presentation by the Town's Historian, Mrs. Goldsmith. The weather was wonderful but there was some concern as it rained the night before- the weatherman did say it would clear for Wednesday but sometimes their time frame is off.



Fortunately not this time! The presenters were: Aquatic Life- Gary Keeton, Orange County Land Trust; Dairy Farming- Julie Vreeland, Freedom Hill Farm along with three young helpers; Spin and Fly Casting: Bob Rueter, Bob Ewald of the Southern Catskill Anglers of Pine Bush and Ryan Coulter, NYS DEC; Groundwater- Sarah Archbald and MaryLynne Malone, OC Water Authority; Caroline Byrne and James Preisendanz, Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge; and Composting- Master Gardeners, Cornell Cooperative Extension. Thanks to all who made this day a wonderful experience for the students!



FOLLOW THE BOUNCING BALL TO SEE THE SCHOOLS I'VE VISITED THIS YEAR!



HAVE A GREAT JULY 4th and A SUPER SUMMER!!