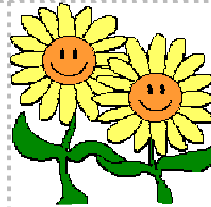


The BAE Newsletter

The Latest Update on BAE News, Coming Events & Projects

Brought to you by:



Spring 2006



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Thank you for viewing the Buffalo Alliance for Education's E-Newsletter! We are a non for profit organization whose goal is to connect resources in the community with WNY schools. Whether you are a business person or an educator, you will find valuable information to help the students in our community succeed.



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The Enterprise Charter School Youth Mentoring Program

(Funded by the U.S. Department of Education)

Students in fourth through eighth grade at the Enterprise Charter School are benefiting from the Reading and Social Skills Youth Mentoring Program – a new, innovative partnership with the Enterprise Charter School, Learning Disabilities Association of WNY, Literacy Volunteers and the Buffalo Alliance for Education.

The program focuses on one-to-one mentoring experiences, centered on building student reading and socialization skills. The mission of the program is twofold: a) improve students' ability and enjoyment of reading, providing students with the essential skills they need to be successful in school, and b) improve students' ability to form and maintain productive relationship with others – providing students with positive role models, people they can count on, and people who will help them develop the social skills they need to succeed in life.

During mentoring sessions, students play games, get help with homework, read books, and learn about others' lives that are outside of their school and home environment. Mentors are provided training on reading instruction, child abuse prevention, and developing social skills in children during a three-hour training session. Mentor chat brown-bags are offered to mentors as a means of providing ongoing, additional guidance and support for mentors throughout their mentoring experiences.

There are also activities that mentors and mentees can attend outside of the school: This month, we have arranged a field trip for mentors and mentees to see the Big Friendly Giant at the Theatre of Youth! The last event featured David Blackburn, a spoken word artist, who talked about the importance of the Underground Railroad and Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

*****We are recruiting volunteers on an on-going basis. Join us and directly make a tremendous difference in a child's life – for just one-to-two hours a week! Demonstrate your care for education and the community to your employer and gain valuable skills and experience! You can meet with a student either sometime before school, during your lunch break, or after school. Mentors must be at least 16 years old.**



Scholarship Connection Update and Sponsors

[The Scholarship Connection](#), created by the Buffalo Alliance for Education, has reached an exciting new turning point. The BAE is working diligently to promote the website database and actively searching for corporate sponsorships to help make the project even bigger and better.

The BAE is currently recruiting volunteers to help the students navigate their way through the search program and apply for scholarships. This pilot volunteer program will be held at City Honors High School in Buffalo next semester. Students will have the opportunity to sign up to meet with a volunteer during their lunches or study halls.

In conjunction with the Scholarship Connection, the BAE is recruiting volunteers for a Youth Mentoring program. Volunteers are encouraged to meet one-on-one with students (4 to 8 grade) at the Enterprise Charter School in Buffalo. The sessions last for about two hours per week for one year. If you are interested please contact the BAE or email Project Director Christine Mattison at cmattison@buffaloalliance.org.

Dalai Lama Coming To Buffalo

Now Available! The 2005-2006 Educators & Parents Resource Guide



The Buffalo Niagara Parents & Educators Resource Guide is distributed to 750 schools in Western New York and is displayed prominently in school administrative offices, school libraries, teacher's lounge facilities, and purchased by parents at school book sales. It is also made available on our website, providing constant information on field trips, family services and educational enrichment activities year round.

The guide is now available for \$8.00 from the Buffalo Alliance for Education. Copies are also being sold at Talking Leaves Bookstores and the Buffalo State College Bookstore.

[Contact us](#) to order your copy!

Materials Reuse Project Update



by Jason Myers, Project Manager

The Materials Reuse Project has had a busy New Year. Following a short lull during the holiday season, the MRP has recently benefited from a flood of donations from area companies. We would like to thank Reliable Mailing Services, Ansel Press, Quebecor Printing, Air Products Healthcare, Schaper Associates, Frontier Lumber, Fantastic Sam's, The Farthing Press, The Printing Prep, Quality Bindery Services and the Zenger Group for their generous contributions in the New Year.

The Dalai Lama will be visiting Buffalo as part of the University at Buffalo's Distinguished Speakers Series Sept. 18 – 20, 2006. A weekend of events is planned for this visit throughout Buffalo. Katie Biggie, field trip fund coordinator and project manager of the BAE, is working with UB to create activities in the local schools in coordination with the event.

The UB Learning and Instruction students are currently creating an education component. The component features curriculum appropriate to each grade level. In Pre K through second grade, students will make peace flags, a derivation of Tibetan Prayer flags. In addition they suggested reading Tibetan children's stories to introduce them to the culture of Tibet. Third through fifth grade students will also make flags, and be introduced to Tibetan cultures and communities. Sixth through eighth grade students will learn about Tibet in terms of the culture geography and economy of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will also learn about the Dalai Lama, who he is and what he means to Tibet and the world. Ninth through twelfth grade curriculum will include the U.S. and UN resolutions and initiatives about Tibet. All lesson plans and curriculum will align with NYS Social Studies standards core curriculum guidelines.

As an outside experiential bonus, the Buffalo Museum of Science will be creating a field trip component for the visit in their Connections Gallery on the third floor. Connections houses one of the only intact Tibetan Sand Mandala's IN THE WORLD. A Tibetan Sand Mandala, or sand painting, is a two dimensional representation of a Tibetan Buddha and his home. The Mandala takes weeks or months to create as the monks lay the sand down grain by grain, slowly building the layers up. This program will be a permanent addition to the Connections program after September 2006.

Curriculum and lesson plan materials may be available to schools by May 15, 2006. The materials will be available on a variety of websites, including the BAE's. If you have any questions about the materials, you can call Biggie at the BAE, at 845-6500 or you can send her an email at kbiggie@buffaloalliance.org. Visit http://www.buffalo.edu/dalai_lama/ for more information on the visit.

Dedicated Volunteers Needed to Benefit Students in Need



Great communities need great organizations to help them grow and improve. Those organizations also need great people to help them get the

job done. The Buffalo Alliance for Education is one of those organizations. We need smart, motivated people to help organize classroom materials, update our website, help with clerical work and/or register as a Career

Speaker. Whether it is to fulfill community service

requirements for school or just to get involved in volunteerism, your help means our success. Come and make a difference in our community at the Buffalo Alliance for

Education.



Visit [our website](#) for more information about these as well as other opportunities in your area.

Scores of educators from WNY schools and community organizations have braved the cold and visited the MRP warehouse. In an attempt to allow equal access to all Buffalo Public Schools, a select group will continue to be contacted for each shopping day. For our latest BPS shopping day, public schools # 42 – 81 were notified and invited to shop. Once our inventory has been replenished, we will be contacting the next group of schools for a shopping day. Please check our website or look for notices in your school's main office.

The Materials Reuse Project would again like to thank all of our contributors and communicate that we are always seeking new donors. We are also looking to acquire a larger warehouse facility from which to conduct operations. If you would like to donate or otherwise contribute to the efforts of the MRP, please contact Jason Myers at (716) 845 - 6500 or jmyers@buffaloalliance.org. Thank you once again for your support.

The Materials Reuse Project (MRP) is a public/private partnership in which area businesses donate surplus supplies that can be creatively reused in classes. MRP has supplied more than 750 tons of needed items annually, benefiting students, teachers and administrators.

If you are interested in taking advantage of these free resources please contact Jason at 716-845-6500.

Welcome Patrick!

The Buffalo Alliance for Education would like to welcome Patrick Meier as its newest staff member. Patrick, originally from Rochester and currently a University at Buffalo second-year MBA student, is helping the BAE with its accounting and bookkeeping duties.

In addition to school and work Patrick spends his time working out and reading books on business and investment. He would like to pursue his CPA qualification as well as open his own business down the road.

The BAE thanks Patrick for all of his hard work with numbers, as the rest of us are knowingly not good with them.

Featured Partnership: EDS



Electronic Data Systems, a leading global technology services company, has gone above and beyond its duty in the 15 years it has partnered with North Park Middle Academy. Since October 1990, EDS has contributed thousands of volunteer hours, hundreds of ideas to improve education and donated thousands of dollars in supplies and assistance to make NPMA the school it is today.

EDS's most significant and lasting contribution is its mentoring program. In March, four students in the program received a merit award from the school for achievement. That was the highest total of children receiving awards in the partnership's history.

In addition to mentoring EDS sponsors many programs for NPMA, most run by various employees of the company. EDS works to provide the school with books for the children, and this month donated 98 books with titles including *The BFG* by Roald Dahl, *The Soldiers Heart* by Gary Paulsen and *Fifteen* by Beverly Cleary, amongst others.

EDS also works to encourage leadership and career exploration including "Take Your Child to Work Day" where 10 to 15 students from NPMA who are the most improved overall, have the part to participate. EDS is also looking to bring the Jason Project to fruition. The Project is a math and science education program with integrated components keyed to the national content standards for science, math and geography and well as technology through the use of advanced telecommunications. A school newspaper, science fair and tutoring also contributes to students' success.

EDS has also created an awards program to honor the achieving students. EDS challenges the classes to raise their math and science scores to 95 or higher to be invited to a pizza party. At the end of the school year, savings bonds are awarded to those who have achieved and met those requirements for the year. Individual students are awarded certificates as well each quarter.

"The (employees) are very generous in their giving of their money and time, and the faculty are very supportive and students and parents have responded with enthusiasm," said Betty Tomlin, spokesperson for the EDS partnership. The company provides an excellent template for any business or group wishing to start a fulfilling partnership.

*****If your group would like to update us on new or interesting programs within your partnership, please email us at information@buffaloalliance.org.**

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