

"By its very definition, civic responsibility means taking a healthy role in the life of one's community. That means that classroom lessons should be complemented by work outside the classroom. Service-learning does just that, tying community service to academic learning."

Senator John Glenn

Twenty-One OCPS Teachers Are Awarded OCPS Service Learning Mini-Grants

Congratulations to the OCPS 2006-2007 Service Learning Mini Grant recipients! Their innovative projects will be conducted with OCPS students in elementary, middle, and secondary schools. The following teachers were selected to receive mini grants to implement service learning projects: Cheryl BeMent, Arbor Ridge School, "Literacy Without Boundaries"; Tammy Sexter, Discovery Middle School, "Builders Building Self-Esteem"; Nicole Moitoza, Cypress Creek High School, "Memory Portraits"; Tommy Tucker and Colleen McElroy, Dr. Phillips High School, "Be a Winner, Read!"; Tricia LaChance, Sunrise Elementary School, "Quilts Delivered"; Jennifer Bohn, Evans High School, "Everyone Has a Story to Tell"; Gail Przeclawski, Grand Avenue PLC, "Welcome, New Students!"; Diana Eagles, Clay Springs Elementary School, "From Wonder to Wisdom: Creating a Classroom Museum"; Arlene Ginn, Maitland Middle School, "Manor Care Senior Citizens Initiative"; Richard E. Buhl, Freedom High School, "Freedom Garden"; Lee Ann Spillane, University High School, "Reading Lab/Service Learning Council"; Sharlan Eng-Wilmot, Fern Creek Elementary, "Share the Care"; Christina Woods, Avalon Middle School, "Welcome Buddy"; Chris Shirk and Jennifer NeSmith, Cherokee School, "Revitalize: Body and Soul"; Susan Leeds, Howard Middle School, "Food for the Homeless"; Jennifer Celentano and Heather

Service Learning News

Young, Castle Creek Elementary School, "Castle Creek Math Night"; Deborah DeJesus and Casimira Alexandre, University High School, "The Project at Wentworth"; Jill Reimer and Christine Morano, Winegard Elementary School, "Winegard Butterfly Memorial Garden"; Latanya Nichols, Hiawassee Elementary School, "Learn and Serve Club"; and Barbie Schessler, Silver Lake Elementary School, "A Gift of Reading".

The projects represent a wide variety of subjects areas including language, arts, math, technology, social studies, history, science, special education, ESOL, and foreign language. Thousands of student servers and student and community recipients will benefit from the service learning projects being funded by the mini grants!



TCHS Service Learning Academy American Sign Language students and teacher Elise Perez facilitated Fall Festival activities with hearing impaired students at Lake Sybelia Elementary School.

12th Annual Florida Learn and Serve Conference November 2006

Thirteen OCPS teachers were trained as Service Learning Trainers at the 12th Annual Florida Learn and Serve Conference. The teachers, many of them NBCTs, were trained over three days by California service learning practitioner, consultant, and author Cathy Berger Kaye. Each new Service Learning Trainer will be leading service learning workshops in their respective learning communities. They will also be assisting teachers with planning and implementing service learning projects, and will lead by example with their own service learning projects at their individual schools. The Service Learning Trainers are: Cheryl BeMent, Arbor Ridge School; Sharlan Eng-Wilmont, Fern Creek Elementary School; Christina Woods, Avalon Middle School; Carol Goehring, Evans High School; Dwana Dye, Cypress Creek High School; Susan Leeds, Howard Middle School; Nicole Martinez, Cypress Creek High School; Gail Przeclawski, Grand Avenue PLC; Lee Ann Spillane, University High School; Barb Staggs, Windy Ridge School; Nicole Deuter, Glenridge Middle School; and Coni Carpinelli, Lancaster Elementary School.

The Training of the Trainers Session was just one of four sessions offered to teachers and students at the conference. OCPS teachers, administrators



Joe Follman, Executive Director of Florida Learn and Serve, with Timber Creek High School student, Mariam Zeini, Keynote Speaker at the Opening Plenary of the Florida Learn and Serve Conference.

and students also attended the New Project/Beginner Track, the Veteran Project Track and the Youth Track..

The Opening Plenary of the conference featured two special presentations by Orange County Public Schools students. The talented Blankner School Choir provided the music with several beautiful songs that related to service learning. Timber Creek High School Service Learning Academy student, Miriam Zeini, delivered the keynote speech. Miriam is the President of Students for Peace, the Service Coordinator for the National Honor Society, and the President of Beta Club.



The Blankner School Choir performed at the Florida Learn and Serve Conference under the direction of Music Specialist Maudrie Fleming.

“The end of all education should surely be service to others.”
- Cesar E. Chavez

Service Learning Teaches More Than Subject Matter

“In a democratic society we must live cooperatively, and serve the community in which we live, to the best of our ability. For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

While it has been proven that service learning is an excellent teaching method for increasing students' academic knowledge and performance, it does much more than that! Service Learning is a valuable tool for instilling qualities and skills related to social justice, humanity, compassion, diversity, and civic responsibility. These important developmental assets are not merely by-products of quality service-learning projects, but are deliberately connected to academics by experienced service learning practitioners:

Citizenship and Social Justice: Service learning is not volunteerism or charity. Through service learning students learn about social issues that impact and shape their communities. They develop an understanding of how poverty, homelessness, violence, racism, and other community social issues affect community members at all levels. They analyze what they can do to be a part of the solution. Students perform on a higher level than students who are volunteering or performing charitable acts.

Humanity and Compassion: Service learning students are given opportunities to put faces on social issues. They don't have to imagine what a homeless person looks like; they interview a homeless person or serve one in a soup kitchen. They replace biases, stereotypes, and prejudices with compassion, humanity, understanding, and empathy.

Diversity: Service learning students exemplify tolerance. They are encouraged to promote diversity to create better social climates within their schools and communities. The students can effectively interact with people of different economic, cultural, religious, political, and racial backgrounds.

Civic Responsibility: Service learning students are participating members of their communities and considered valued partners with community agencies. Their service learning projects are worthwhile and have a positive impact on the community. Students learn that they can make a difference.

Service Learning Calendar

Here are some events that you, your students, parents, and partners can participate in to make a difference!

January 15, 2007

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a day ON, not a day OFF by creating a special service learning project to commemorate this day. Join students and people from across the nation in creating or participating in community projects.

<http://www.mlkday.gov/>

February 3, 2007

3rd Annual OCPS District

Service Learning Conference

Join teachers, administrators, students, parents and community partners in an all-day service learning conference at Timber Creek High School from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The conference features workshops for adults and middle school students, community partner displays, and networking opportunities! Register by completing the form in this newsletter.

March 31, 2006

Cesar Chavez Day of Service

Honor the legacy of Cesar Chavez by joining students, parents and community organizations to participate in beautification projects, programs to harvest fields of excess crops, or other meaningful service learning projects. <http://www.chavezfoundation.org/resource-library.html>

April 20 - 22, 2007

National Global and Youth Service Day

Join millions to change the world! Create a unique project or register your project for this event, as the youth let the world know that they are community leaders.

<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/partner/profile/login.cfm>

May 5, 2007

Join Hands Day

Youth and adults join to create projects that will benefit their community. Why not partner with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) or Seniors First? <http://www.joinhandsday.org/scripts/home.cfm>

Third Annual Orange County Public Schools District Service-Learning Conference

What is the OCPS Service-Learning Conference?

The conference is designed to bring together teachers, administrators, students, parents, and partners throughout Orange County and Florida to share ideas, learn new methods, and provide beneficial training in service learning. The conference will feature a wide variety of interactive workshops and activities. There will be booths and displays showcasing service-learning projects and programs implemented by OCPS teachers, students, and our service learning community partners. There are two planned workshop tracks. One for middle school students with workshops prepared and led by TCHS Service Learning Academy students and teachers, and another track for high school and adult participants with workshops featuring well-known presenters who are experts in the field of service learning. The conference is free and breakfast and lunch will be provided!

Who should attend?

All teachers, students, administrators, parents, and partners interested in learning more about service learning are invited to attend. This conference is mandatory for all 2006-2007 Orange County Florida Learn and Serve grantees, all OCPS Service Learning Trainers, and all OCPS mini-grant recipients.

Where is the location?

The conference is hosted by the Service Learning Academy at Timber Creek High School located at 1001 Avalon Park Blvd., Orlando, FL 32828. TCHS is located between East Colonial Drive and Alafaya Trail in Avalon Park, East Orlando.

When will the conference take place?

The conference is Saturday, February 3, 2007 from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

How can I obtain more information?

If you have specific questions, please contact Wendy Doromal, OCPS Service Learning Coordinator at doromaw@ocps.net.

What about registration?

Registration is free! The deadline to register is January 26 2007.

Send or e-mail the attached form to:

Wendy L. Doromal
OCPS Service Learning Coordinator
Timber Creek High School
1001 Avalon Park Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32828
doromaw@ocps.net

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL OCPS DISTRICT
SERVICE LEARNING CONFERENCE**

Name _____

Check One: Student ___ Grade Level ____ (Grades 6 - post-secondary)

Service Learning Liaison ___ Grant Recipient ___ Teacher ___ Administrator ___

Partner ___ Parent ___ Other (Specify) _____

School or Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

You are encouraged to bring a display and/or handouts. Describe your display below:

Deadline to register: Registration form must be received by January 29, 2007

Send or e-mail this form to:

Wendy L. Doromal
OCPS Service Learning Coordinator
Timber Creek High School
1001 Avalon Park Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32828
doromaw@ocps.net

If your plans change and you will not be able to make it to the conference, please help us by canceling your registration to allow another person to attend.

**"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world."**

-Anne Frank

The OCPS Service Learning Program gratefully acknowledges funding from
Florida Learn and Serve

Register today for the
**3rd Annual OCPS District
Service Learning Conference!**

**Saturday, February 3, 2007
8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
Timber Creek High School**

**“The future belongs to those
who believe in their dreams.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt**

**Do you need cash for your
service learning project?**

Check out grants at:

[http://www.nylc.org/objects/newsletterGFX/
ExchangeGrants](http://www.nylc.org/objects/newsletterGFX/ExchangeGrants)

**“You may never know what results come
from your action. But if you do nothing, there
will be no results.”**

- Ghandi

**For more information on the
OCPS Service Learning Program
Please contact:
Wendy L. Doromal
OCPS Service Learning Coordinator
doromaw@ocps.net**