

**A Foundation
for the Future**



**Greenwich
Alliance for
Education**

May 2010, Volume II, Issue 2

Making the Grade

Greenwich Alliance For Education

Newsletter

Dear Ashley,

The Alliance is having a busy spring! Please read on to see what's new...

Educate-In!



Let Us Bring The Party to You!

Please reserve Friday, June 4th, for a night at home with your family, and we will supply the food and entertainment. Support the

Alliance and relax at the same time: dinner or snacks, books, games, and DVDs will be delivered to your home. Not going to be home that night? Consider sending the gift of food and fun to another family in town. For more information, and to Rsvp, please click on the "Educate-In" link.

[Educate-In](#)

New Children's Orchestra to Play at Lincoln Center!

Demand for Tuning In to Music (TITM), the Alliance's program of free private music lessons for promising young student musicians whose families can not afford them, has always been high. A waiting list has been in place from the start, but this year decreased funding resulting from the economic downturn has made the Alliance turn away more students than ever.

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In a creative effort to meet the needs of those kids who are on the waiting list, Ken Kuo, president of the CT School of Music that administers TITM for the Alliance, has established a new orchestra that allows them to play and learn as a group. Like TITM, the CT Children's Orchestra in Greenwich is made up of student musicians in grades four to eight. While some students pay to participate, others receive full or partial scholarships from the CT School of Music, and several of these are the younger siblings of our TITM students. Many of our current TITM students are also playing with the group.

We're excited to bring you the news that, in celebration of his school's tenth anniversary, on Father's Day, June 20, Ken has arranged for his children's orchestras from Greenwich and Westport to put on a concert at one of the world's great concert halls - Jazz at Lincoln Center! Playing side by side, teachers and students will entertain with a repertoire that includes music from Star Wars, Pirates of the Caribbean and other famous movie and Jazz tunes. For concert details and information about how to purchase tickets, please click on the "CT School of Music" link below.

[CT School of Music](#)

We do not like turning away any aspiring young musicians who need our support ! Please consider sponsoring a TITM student for the 2010-2011 school year; just \$1,400.00 provides 30 weekly lessons (\$46/week) and a recital! To learn more about TITM and to make a donation, please click on the "Donate" link below.



[Donate](#)

Reading Champions Grows Exponentially!

Talk about impressive growth! Just a "little idea" during the summer of 2008 and a pilot program for 24 children last year, the Reading Champions program now utilizes eighty-one volunteer tutors and reaches 300 Greenwich public elementary school students at nine different sites. Wow! Started by Joan Lowe, a retired Greenwich High School Guidance Counselor, in partnership with Greenwich Youth Services Coordinator Jenny Byxbee, Reading Champions pairs volunteer tutors, many of them retired schoolteachers, with students for in-school, one-on-one reading instruction. Literacy Specialists at each school also contribute by preparing curriculum and working with volunteers to tailor the program to each student's needs.

A 2009 *Reaching Out Grant* from the Alliance provided funds used to purchase books and supplies for this winning program. Congratulations to all!

A



Joan Lowe (l) and a few of her Champion tutors!

Sea Art With SoundWaters



Twenty-two students from Cos Cob Elementary School recently celebrated their SoundWaters Arts to Life after school program with a culminating art gallery opening for their families and friends. Funded by an Alliance *Reaching Out Grant*, this five week program brought students to outdoor sites in Greenwich to inspire art projects ranging from water colors to 3-D representations of the sea animals that inhabit Long Island Sound.

Extremely popular from the start, Arts to Life was oversubscribed (spots were limited due to bus capacity). Parents at the art show were impressed with how much information their children absorbed about the sea creatures they studied. A second Arts to Life program began May 7 at New Lebanon School.

This marks the third year the Alliance has teamed with SoundWaters to provide creative after school science programs to public school students. Effective, ongoing partnerships like this one are a hallmark of our Reaching Out Grants program!

Frogsickles and Bunny Buttons?

Do you know ...

What a frogsickle is? (The frozen form of a wood frog, a local species that can freeze and unfreeze again.)

That bunny buttons are poop with a message? (Reading nature's smell messages can tell us part of a story.)

Making science relevant and fun was one focus of this year's Saturday Enrichment Academy at Hamilton Avenue. Funded in part by an Alliance *Reaching Out Grant*, this

eight-week, half-day Saturday program offered intensive assistance in reading and math as well as science enrichment, provided by Ted Gilman, an Audubon Environmental Education Specialist, to a group of 24 students in grades three to five.

On a cold Saturday in spring, participating students and their parents enjoyed a culminating field trip to Audubon Greenwich, designed to reinforce science topics covered in the program and to provide an opportunity for them to experience nature first hand. Excited cries of "it's a hawk!" rang out as students, armed with binoculars, scanned the sky for birds before being led on a hike to visit the Audubon's ponds and vernal pools, fields and woods, learning as they went about the plants and wildlife that inhabit them. The morning concluded with refreshments and presentations of student-made posters on local wildlife, and each family took home a goody bag that included a one-year membership to Audubon Greenwich!



Ted Gilman and students scan the sky for birds

The Greenwich Alliance for Education is a local, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Greenwich Public School students.

Friends,

We encourage you to help us get the news out about the important role the Greenwich Alliance is playing in our local education community. Forwarding this email is easy; just scroll below, click on "Forward to a Friend," and input the email addresses of the friends you would like to receive this email newsletter. Their addresses WILL NOT be kept, so you are merely forwarding this email.

Thanks!

Julie Faryniarz

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