

LASALLE SCHOOL

Celebrating 160 Years in 2014



September 2014 eNewsletter

New website unveiled; new look to eNewsletter

Last month, we told you to expect LaSalle's redesigned website in a few days. Well, it's here and we're very excited. If you attended last the ACEs conference at UAlbany's downtown campus last March, you'll be able to view each presentation under the 'News and Knowledge' tab as well as all upcoming educational videos and LaSalle's new virtual tour. If you are interested in referring a youth to one of LaSalle's programs, the pathways from overview to referral information are more direct.

Go to www.lasalle-school.org to surf the entire site, and email us your questions and comments >>



Youth in detention program exceed expectations

When the Albany County Juvenile Reporting and Family Center (JRFC) first started on March 1, 2013, administrators at the three collaborating JRFC agencies – LaSalle School, St. Catherine's Center for Children, and St. Anne Institute – proposed four key outcomes and goals for participating youth and families. In September, a Performance and Quality Improvement assessment showed that these youth have improved upon their predictions for each of the outcomes.

During one 10-month period, on average, youth have responded positively to the model in all four outcomes.

Turn the page to read the entire story >>

Back to School event equips 70+ for first day of school



The Fifth Annual Back to School night for youth and families participating in the collaborative Albany County Juvenile Reporting and Family Center (JRFC) program was held at LaSalle School on August 28th. With over 100 attending, more than 70 school age kids from 20 families got what they came for - good advice, school supplies, and a delicious meal that simulated a typical school lunch topped off with ice cream donated by Stewart's Shops!! One of the most important aspects of preparing for the school day is the development of a healthy, well-established routine. This year's Back to School Night emphasized the

importance of following a solid routine on students and families with a format that was educational, functional, and fun. The entire story can be found on the reverse side of this page >>

Asian leaders visit LaSalle School

On September 3rd, a group of five individuals from Turkmenistan, and two translators, came to LaSalle School as part of their 18 day tour of the United States. Albany hosted them for four days. This International Visitor Leadership Program, designed to build capacity, brought this diverse group of Turkmenistan leaders together.

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One of the most important aspects of preparing for the school day is the development of a healthy, well-established routine. This year's Back to School Night emphasized the importance of following a solid routine on students and families with a format that was educational, functional, and fun. Upon arrival, students and parents received 'passports' at the registration desk. Their assignment was to walk around the room, visit at least five different display tables, collect completion stickers from each table visited, and then redeem their 'passports' for backpacks they filled with school supplies.

Community organizations participating included Liberty Partnership, the Albany Police Department, the Albany Pride Group, Cornell Cooperative 4H, the Counseling Center at LaSalle, Equinox, Trinity, Fidelis Healthcare, and Planned Parenthood. LaSalle School, Saint Catherine's Center for Children, and Saint Anne Institute worked together to secure backpacks and items to fill them including pens, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, folders, and notebooks.

While their older siblings armed themselves with good advice and school supplies, the pre-school kids participated in well-staffed coloring, puzzle, and face painting activities. Designed to keep youngsters busy, these creative exercises mirrored what their big brothers and sisters learn in the JRFC program about their own decision making instincts, personal preferences and choices, and assertiveness. There were also special raffle drawings for gift cards from Walmart and Target for families.

The Juvenile Reporting and Family Center is supported by Prevention funds provided by the Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families, and is a collaboration with sites at LaSalle School, Saint Anne Institute, and Saint Catherine's Center for Children. The JRFC provides a holistic approach to building and enhancing protective factors for youth and families involved in the Juvenile Justice System while maintaining the youth's connections to his / her community. It is an effort by the three agencies to work together to serve more youth at risk of formalized detention lowering the cost to Albany County.

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Their time at LaSalle was spent meeting with program leaders in an effort to learn about how clinicians work with special needs populations. An overview of our programs was presented followed by a question and answer session, and campus tour. In addition, the Asian group received various handouts regarding our services, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and the Service Outcomes Action Research (SOAR) project. It was a lively exchange, and they were most appreciative of our efforts.

Turkmenistan is one of the Turkic states located in Central Asia. It is bordered by Kazakhstan to the northwest, Uzbekistan to the northeast and east, Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south and southwest, and the Caspian Sea to the west.

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During one 10-month period, on average, youth between the ages of eight and 17 responded positively to the model LaSalle, St. Catherine’s, and St. Anne’s proposed to the Albany County officials. Ninety-nine percent of all youths have kept court appointments (95 percent was expected), 98 percent were able to remain living in their homes and communities (90 percent was expected), 98 percent had not committed new offenses (80 percent was the goal), and 96 percent of families connected with services in their communities (90 percent was anticipated). Upon closer observation, monthly measurements indicated that there was only one month in one category that the goal was not achieved.

Albany County has been pleased with the results of the JRFC and continues to use the program as an alternative to detention.

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