

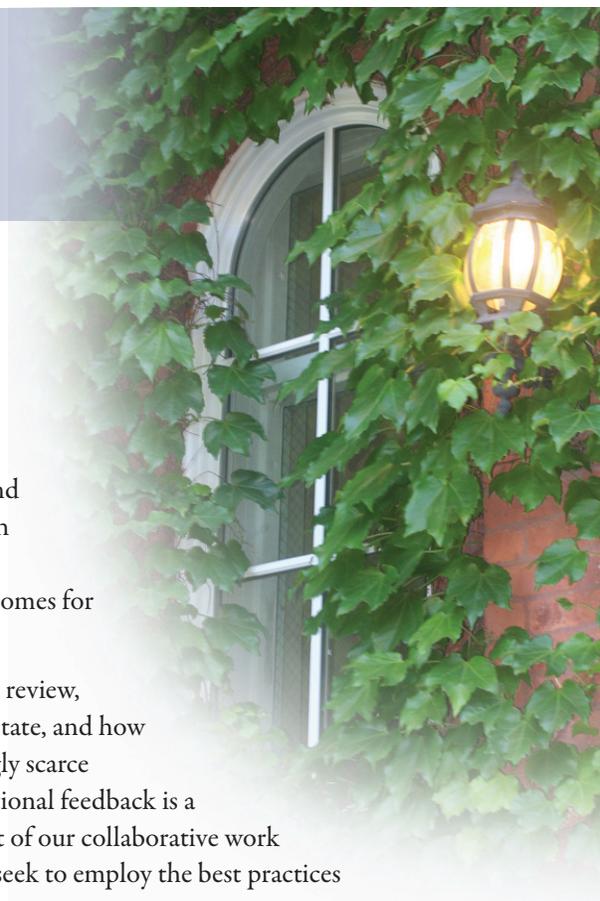
# LaSalle School

September 2012

## LaSalle School: A model of success Office of Children and Family Services finds excellence at LaSalle

In a recent review of the Residential Treatment Center at LaSalle School, the Albany Regional Office of Children and Family Services found LaSalle to possess exceptionally high standards in compliance with laws, regulations and very good standards of practice towards achieving positive outcomes for children and their families.

“We are extremely pleased with the results of this program review, especially given the comprehensive approach used by the State, and how challenged non-profits are during these times of increasingly scarce resources,” said Executive Director Bill Wolff. “The exceptional feedback is a tribute to the staff, of course, but also illustrates the impact of our collaborative work with the State, the University at Albany and others, as we seek to employ the best practices available.” *Go to [www.lasalle-school.org](http://www.lasalle-school.org) to see the full story >>*



## Back to School . . . Back to Basics Students gear up for the new school year

September signals the beginning of another school year for many youths. Returning to the classroom is a whole mindset for students and learning what they can do to develop productive, healthy and organized habits promotes their future success.

“Three years ago, LaSalle created an opportunity for students and their families to prepare for the new school year in a fun and experiential way,” said Cindy Gentile, Director of LaSalle’s After School Programs. “The goal was to support each youth’s efforts to develop positive relationships with their home schools and teach and promote skills leading to positive outcomes.”

The third Annual Back to School Family Night was held on the evening of August 23rd in the LaSalle gymnasium. The event was hosted by LaSalle’s Evening Reporting

Center working with staff from the local community based services that LaSalle provides.

Invitations to attend were sent to youth and families taking part in the Evening Reporting Center and the Juveniles Released Under Supervision Pilot (both Alternative to Detention programs), the Family Empowerment Prevention program, and LaSalle’s Day Services program. Families of recent or soon-to-be discharged residential youth receiving after care / family reunification services through LaSalle’s Community Connections Aftercare of the Capital District also received invitations. LaSalle’s Alternative to Detention and Prevention programs are partially funded by the Albany County Department of Children, Youth, and Families. >> *The entire story is on the back of this page.*



## Staff message informs and inspires Executive Director gives State of the Agency address

On September 4th, Executive Director Bill Wolff gave his annual State of the Agency address. This message is typically given the day before school begins to update all staff on what has occurred during the last year as well as what staff can look forward to in the new school year and beyond.

This year’s presentation was entitled ‘Looking to the Future.’ Wolff’s message focused on several topics including notable achievements, statistics and information impacting Agency program enhancements and the expansion of services, cultivation of referrals and placements, and the elevation of LaSalle’s profile. *Go to [www.lasalle-school.org](http://www.lasalle-school.org) to see the full story >>*

## Back to School . . . Back to Basics

### Students gear up for the new school year

September signals the beginning of another school year for many youths. Returning to the classroom is a whole mindset for students and learning what they can do to develop productive, healthy and organized habits promotes their future success.

“LaSalle’s Back to School Family Night is just one example of strategies we employ to impact each parent’s ability to effectively nurture a pro-social and positive perspective in their children,” said Associate Executive Director Anne Moscinski. “Our ERC, as an alternative to detention, strives to keep kids safe, and enable them to remain at home despite their involvement with Family Court and the Juvenile Justice System. We’re finding our program is successfully achieving those goals set by the County, while also providing for the child’s best interests at the same time!”

Last month, the third Annual Back to School Family Night was held on the evening of August 23rd in the LaSalle gymnasium. The event was hosted by LaSalle’s Evening Reporting Center working with staff from the local community based services that LaSalle provides.

Invitations to attend were sent to youth and families taking part in the Evening Reporting Center and the Juveniles Released Under Supervision Pilot (both Alternative to Detention programs), the Family Empowerment Prevention program, and LaSalle’s Day Services program. Families of recent or soon-to-be discharged residential youth receiving after care / family reunification services through LaSalle’s Community Connections Aftercare of the Capital District also received invitations. LaSalle’s Alternative to Detention and Prevention programs are partially funded by the Albany County Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

LaSalle’s Back to School Family Night is just one example of the strategies we engage in with parents to impact each one’s ability to nurture effective pro-social and positive behaviors in their school-age children,” said Associate Executive Director Anne Moscinski. “As an alternative to detention, our Evening Reporting Center strives to keep kids safe and enables them to remain at home despite their involvement with Family Court and the Juvenile Justice System.”

Teachers, social workers, and administrators guided youth through an obstacle course that was as much fun as it was educational. The obstacles along the course were arranged so students could practice what they will need to do from the time they wake up in the morning to the hour when they enter their classrooms.

“Mine was the first stop on the obstacle course,” said Dominic Cataldo, LaSalle’s Challenge Course and Experiential Program Coordinator. “To add a little humor to the evening, it was my job to help the kids dress into oversized shirts that were bigger than the kids who wore them.” After dressing in the large, loose fitting shirts, the students picked up morning hygiene supplies at another station, and signed an attendance book at another. Trying to beat the clock, each student made quick decisions on which color backpack, notebooks, pocket folders, pens and pencils to choose. Special prizes were awarded to those completing the course in the shortest time.

LaSalle’s challenge course included several tasks to prepare parents and guardians for the helpful and supportive roles they will play to help their

children get ready for the school day. It is essential that a student’s physical and nutritional needs are met and a well-balanced diet is important. In the Back to School Family Night’s “practice” atmosphere, parents and guardians packed brown bag lunches with a variety of healthy sandwiches, salads, chips, cookies, and beverages prepared by LaSalle’s Food Services and served by staff and volunteers.

In addition, CDPHP and Assurant Dental provided families handouts with helpful hints for maintaining their child’s health and wellness during the school year. Representatives from the Journey Mentoring Program distributed registration brochures and explained the advantages of student mentoring.

Community businesses and volunteer organizations eagerly supported the program. They included Superior Business Products, Lodge’s Department Store, and the Forrest Pointe Women’s League. For the second year, the Gear for Grades program created by Citizen’s Bank participated in the program.

At the end of the evening, students went home outfitted with backpacks full of essential school supplies, and each family left with helpful information and some very good reasons to feel better prepared for the upcoming year. Plans are already underway for next year’s Back to School Family Night.

“We’ve proposed a major expansion to our already highly successful Evening Reporting Center for 2013 and are very excited about the possibilities,” said Moscinski.