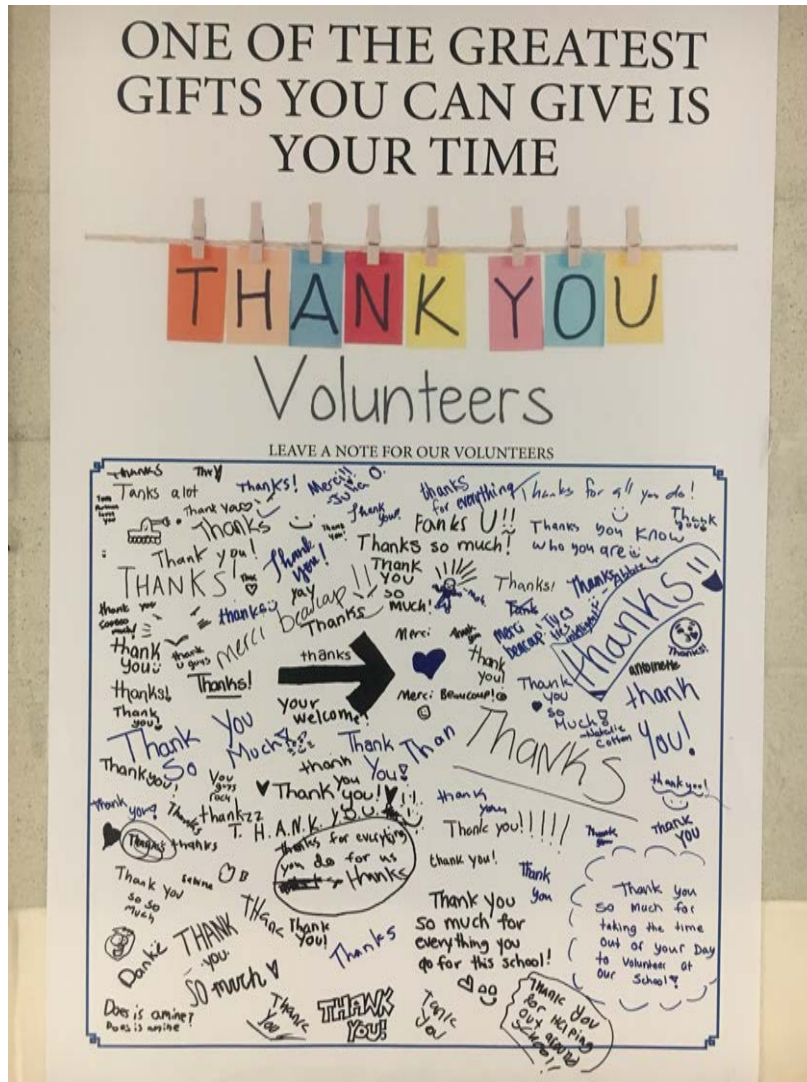


CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS VOLUNTEER REPORT 2016-2017

JOHN HOLDRIDGE

VOLUNTEER AND EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES COORDINATOR



Poster Design by CEHS Student Volunteer Cole Spencer

As I conclude my second year in the position of Volunteer and Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator I continue to be amazed by the number of volunteers and volunteer hours that add value to our school system. On a daily basis we have student, parent, guardian, and community volunteers serving in and around our schools in capacities that include general classroom assistance, 1:1 student tutoring, mentoring, copying, parent association work, fundraising, field trip support, and event planning and facilitation. Our schools would not be what they are without the efforts put forth by our dedicated volunteers.

This annual report is intended to present a broad overview of the volunteering that occurs inside and outside of our school walls. I will make note of the two major initiatives that fall directly under my direction; volunteer policy and practice and CEHS student mentors at PCES and CEMS. I will also provide notes from collaborative efforts and/or initiatives that I am aware of but may not be directly involved in organizing. It is my hope that this report will serve as a recognition and celebration of the volunteer effort in and around Cape Elizabeth Schools.

This report does not include information related to athletics

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

a snapshot of volunteering in and around Cape Elizabeth Schools

- 3** CEHS entrepreneurs who presented at the CEMS Think Forward career conversation series
- 7** Months spent planning for the CEMS Festival of Curiosity
- 11** Trips by the CEMS volunteer club to Preble Street Soup Kitchen to serve evening meals
- 18** Volunteer orientations offered to the community
- 20** 8th grade students who lead the new CEMS Volunteer Club
- 20** Members of Peace Jam who facilitated bully prevention workshops with 7th and 8th graders
- 25** CEHS student tutors who assist their peers in the Achievement Center
- 36** CEHS students who served in the CEHS Mentor Program
- 62** Companies represented by volunteers at the 7th Annual Cape/SOPO Career Fair
- 86** New volunteers registered to serve in Cape Elizabeth Schools this year
- 250** Juniors and Seniors who volunteered at community sites for Service to Earth Day 2017
- 300** Volunteer hours logged by CEHS seniors in the Senior 2 Senior project
- 346** PCES students served by Cape Elizabeth Land Trust volunteers in Spring experiences
- 500** Volunteer hours logged by Juniors, Seniors, and staff on Service to Earth Day 2017
- 1000+** Returning volunteers registered to serve in Cape Elizabeth Schools this year
- 1500+** Individual volunteer visits to PCES, CEMS, and CEHS
- 1900** Volunteer hours contributed to produce the CEMS Festival of Curiosity

VOLUNTEER POLICY AND PRACTICE REVIEW

In the fall of 2016 I began a review of current volunteer policy and practice in order to better understand the systems I inherited and to consider any necessary changes. My review consisted of research of best practices for school volunteers and conversations with building principals, parents, teachers, our local Chief of Police, directors of local organizations who serve youth, and my counterparts in neighboring school districts. In many conversations with my counterparts, I was pleasantly surprised to hear some version of, “We do what we do because of what you do.” I

and we have my predecessor Gail Schrader to thank for developing a solid volunteer program that is seen by many as an exemplary program.

Upon completion of the review I submitted a report that provided a summary and recommended changes to both policy and practices to interim superintendent Howard Colter and members of the school board policy committee. The submission of the report triggered a lengthy process of private and public meetings, multiple drafts, and readings of the amended policy that will be accepted by the board on Tuesday June 16, 2017.

Volunteer Policy Changes:

- * Volunteers will now be asked to submit to State Police CRC background checks every 5 years rather than once in a lifetime.
- * Volunteers who work 1:1 with students on a regular basis and/or chaperone overnight field trips will now be asked to submit to fingerprint checks.
- * Individuals will be prohibited from capturing and/or posting photographic or video images of students on personal devices while serving in a volunteer capacity.
- * Volunteer policy and practice will be reviewed with staff at all three schools annually.

Volunteer Practice Changes:

Adjustments to practice that will reflect the policy changes are currently being developed and will be implemented in September 2017.

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

All parents and community members wishing to volunteer in Cape Elizabeth Schools are vetted through a [registration process](#) that includes a criminal background check and/or fingerprint check depending on volunteer role (now every 5 years), an agreement to the volunteer philosophy statement (annually), and a volunteer orientation led by the district volunteer coordinator (once in a lifetime). The volunteer orientation includes information related to confidentiality, student and volunteer safety, expectations, and conduct within our schools. All volunteers are re-certified by the volunteer coordinator on an annual basis.

CEHS Mentors are vetted through a process that includes an application, reference checks, affirmation of the volunteer philosophy statement, and an orientation similar to that noted above.

High School students who participate in other volunteer initiatives are vetted and oriented through program specific procedures.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Jazz Musicians

CEHS Jazz Musicians often donate their time for community functions such as the Cape/SOPO Local Chamber of Commerce community mixer, fundraisers, and the Senior 2 Senior Jazz Brunch.



CEMS Volunteer Club

Supervised by co-advisors Andy Strout and Laura Tripp and run by 20 8th graders, the new CEMS volunteer club engages middle school students with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Students have made visits to area nursing homes during Valentines Day, volunteered at MS Basketball Bonanza, served meals at Preble Street Soup Kitchen, and worked with kids at Cape After School Care (Community Services).

CEHS Interact Volunteer Club

Led by advisor Chris Newel working in partnership with Cape Rotary member Tony Wagner, the Interact Volunteer Club serves numerous area organizations and initiatives including Turkey Trot, Harvestfest, Preble St. Soup Kitchen, the Root Cellar, Polar Express, Seniors at Village Crossing Used Teen-Book Drive for the Shelters in Portland, Cape Challenge, Family Fun, Strawberry Festival. This year interact members attended the Interact Conference at the UN in NYC, the Interact Conference of Southern Maine, and the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy.

CEHS Mentor Program

36 CEHS students participated in the High School Mentor program this year volunteering one hour (one study hall) of their time each week to meet the needs of students and teachers at Pond Cove and the Middle School. Mentors were placed in positions based on teacher requests, schedules, and interests and they served in 1:1, classroom, and recess settings.



Service to Earth Day 2017

As her culminating event for the Student Driven Learning program at CEHS, senior Emma Shedd led a team of peers who organized the Service to Earth Day for juniors and seniors. Students attended earth and sustainability related workshops in the first half of the day and contributed 2 hours of community service at sites in the greater Cape Elizabeth area in the afternoon.

Ft. Williams:First Person

In collaboration with the Ft. Williams Education Committee, student efforts were prominent in the mounting of Ft. Williams:First Person, a Veterans' stories documentary show at Thomas Memorial Library. CEHS senior Jojo Zeitlin volunteered her time as the lead designer for the show and students Ella Trout and Abbie Caswell volunteered their artistic skills to create an interactive map mural of the park. For the second year in a row, students in Betsy Nilsen's video production class created documentaries of Veterans that were featured in the show.



Culture Club

Led by CEHS senior Natalie Gale, a group of CEHS students continued for the second year to make weekly trips to Lyman Moore Middle School in Portland to volunteer in the Make it Happen program. This group also worked here in Cape Schools helping elementary students with homework and language acquisition.

Peace Jam Bullying Prevention Program

Led by Peace Jam president Tony Inhorn, a team of 20 CEHS students facilitated workshops for 7th and 8th grade advisories that use discussion based models to explore issues of bullying and prevention. The curriculum is created by the National Peace Jam organization. Peace Jam students also contributed time at Preble Street Soup Kitchen.

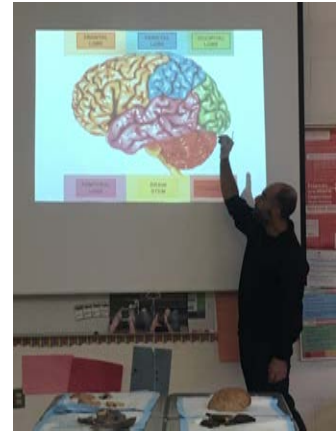
Senior 2 Senior

Led by CEHS staff member Tom Kohan, CEHS seniors donated volunteer time to benefit local senior citizens. Efforts included leaf raking, snow shoveling, and the annual jazz brunch.

PARENT, GUARDIAN, AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Skills Based Volunteering

While all volunteer efforts are appreciated and necessary in order for our schools to operate at the level they do, we often have the opportunity to implement “skills based volunteering” in our schools that make use of the specific professional skills of a volunteer. A sample of skills based volunteering in the 2016-2017 school year includes human organ/pathology presentation, filmmaking and editing, design help for the CEHS yearbook and TED Talk series, glaze mixing in the CEHS ceramics studio, editing in English classrooms, creative workshops at the Pond Cove Arts Day, and STEAM related workshops at the Middle School Festival of Curiosity.



Retire to the Classroom

We are fortunate to have connected with several retired professionals who do not currently have children in Cape Elizabeth Schools but who are eager to serve the common good as community based volunteers. These community volunteers contribute time and energy to our schools by sharing their professional experience in the roles of English Language and Physics tutors, art room assistant, library assistant, graphic designer, editor, and ceramics studio assistant.

Festival of Curiosity

The second annual CEMS Festival of Curiosity grew exponentially at the hands of a small but dedicated planning team led by parent Jill Abrahamsen. The day long festival engages 5th-8th grade students through hands on and highly interactive STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) activities led by CEHS student, parent and community volunteers from over 35 local organizations. Over 100 volunteers contributed 1900 hours of volunteer time to the success of this event.

Think Forward: A Career Conversation Series

The traditional career day at CEMS was modified this year into a conversation series. Over the course of two months, the [Think Forward](#) series invited 7th and 8th grade students to participate in casual conversations with professionals from a variety of fields who volunteered their time to share stories and answer questions about their work and career paths.



SOPO/CAPE Career Fair

For the third year in a row, 10th grade students (and 8th grade students for the first time) attended the annual [SOPO/Cape Career Fair](#) at South Portland High School that is now co-produced by CEHS, SPHS and the Cape/SOPO local Chamber of Commerce. Over 60 businesses were represented by employees who volunteered their time to talk with students about their companies and careers.

Parent Associations

Volunteer members of the three school based parent associations, [PCPA](#), [MSPA](#), [HSPA](#) contribute countless hours to plan and facilitate events that build community, educate, entertain, and raise and distribute funds that support innovative teaching and learning. The list below is a sample of the events sponsored and run by our three parent associations:

CLYNK Returnables
Hannaford Dollars
Arts Day
Movie Night
Cape Challenge
Scholastic Book Fair

Teacher Grants
Harvest Fest
Teacher Appreciation
Fruit Sale
Festival of Curiosity
Flashchat

PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the events noted above and the everyday support that volunteers provide to our teachers and students, the following are examples of unique partnerships between Cape Elizabeth Schools and local organizations or individuals.



Ft. Williams Education Committee

Members of the Ft. Williams Education Committee continue to play a huge role in planning and facilitating learning experiences with our teachers and students. Experiences this year include fairy house building, seed bomb creation and planting, seedling sprouting and planting, invasive plant workshops, CEMS Festival of Curiosity and local history presentations and walking tours of Ft. Williams.

Student Driven Learning Mentors

Numerous community members volunteered their time as [Student Driven Learning mentors](#) at CEHS. These professionals shared their expertise related to entrepreneurship, social media, filmmaking, editing, photography, engineering, and performance creation.

Cape Elizabeth Land Trust

Volunteers from CELT continue to play an important role in our schools leading workshops on various topics as well as regular tours and interactions at Robinson Woods. Some of the activities this year were Senior Transition Projects, 8th grade trail work, 1st, 3rd, and 4th Robinson Woods walks, 2nd grade plant study, and the CEMS Festival of Curiosity.

SOPO/Cape Rotary Club

The local SOPO/Cape Rotary Club maintains an active partnership with Cape Elizabeth Schools through the CEHS Interact Club. The Rotary Club provides support in the form of community connections as well as financial assistance that enables select CEHS Sophomores to attend various Interact conferences and the annual [RYLA Youth Leadership Training Academy](#) on full scholarship.

CONCLUSION

Plain and simple, we would not be the community we are or have the schools we have without the dedication and donation of countless hours of student, parent, guardian, and community based volunteer time. Lessons are learned, connections are made, and our community is strengthened by those who are able to give their time and energy to serve the common good.
THANK YOU!

Submitted by John Holdridge
June 12, 2017