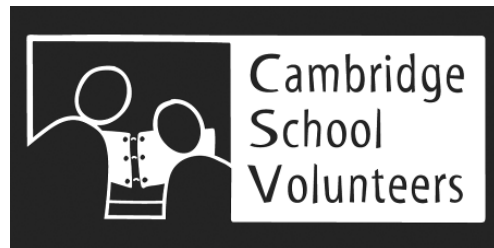


# CSV NEWS



Supporting the academic success of Cambridge Public School students for 40 years

WINTER/SPRING 2006

## Getting to Know Some High School Tutors...

Every CSV volunteer brings something unique to the task of tutoring. According to CRLS Principal **Sybil Knight**, "Volunteers give more than just their support for improving a student's academic skills. They also build a special relationship with someone with whom they can share ideas and time." And who are some of these dedicated Tutoring Center tutors who share their expertise and energy with our high school students?

For one, there is **Jean Little**. Now in her third year of tutoring, Jean tutors one student in math and uses her skills as a technical writer and former teacher in her work with another CRLS student. As Jean says,

it is exhilarating to work with students and bring them new ideas, and that she gains so much from her students, and especially those from other cultures. Jean helped one student through the college application process and delights in the fact that she has already been admitted to a 4-year college. She now hopes to take on another student for the spring term. (And should we mention that Jean continued to tutor when wearing a full body cast a few years ago?)

Or, take the example of **Charles Christalin**, another tutor in his third year at the Tutoring Center. Charles, who emigrated here from Haiti, arrives at CRLS before work to tutor a senior in algebra. When that student has completed his work, Charles often tutors other students in



Four pairs of tutors and students working together on a typical day in the Tutoring Center.

algebra, geometry, trigonometry or A.P. calculus, depending upon who needs his help. Caring math tutors who have time to give their help to others are hard to come by. According to Charles, the students work hard with him, but they also find time to talk and get to know each other. Building a relationship is key to the tutoring, he says.

**Jim Peters** comes in three mornings a week to help ESL students learn English, or to assist with their science, history or math coursework. Now in his third year, Jim describes how he has seen shy, reticent students blossom during the school year. He recalls this

particularly during the 4-week bilingual Summer Discovery program where he tutored for two summers. "I tutored one student who found it difficult to talk at first, and I wasn't sure what she understood. Over the summer, I worked at drawing her out, and a great voice came out of her! She had been learning all along."

As tutors know, many students hold after-school jobs through necessity, or have been through life-changing experiences moving here or in their native countries. No matter what the situation, however, the common thread for all is the desire to succeed. To become a part of this extraordinary pool of talent, contact Rene Meshon, Tutoring Center Manager at 617-349-4873.

## After-School MCAS Support for Elementary Students

Ask Louise Flannery, a 2nd grade math and science teacher at the Baldwin School, and you'll get nothing but high praise for the CSV volunteers who have been assisting teachers there with after-school MCAS preparation classes.

Begun in the fall with the strong backing of the CPS administration, after-school MCAS support is now up and running at all elementary schools. The classes are not the same as the Homework Center support available at most schools.

At the Baldwin, for example, the program is offered to 3rd to 8th graders, three afternoons per week. Students focus on English/Language Arts and Math, as well

as Science for those grades taking the science MCAS test.

Volunteers assist by working with students in small groups or one-to-one. Approximately 15 volunteers are now involved in the structured after-school program, which boasts one classroom per grade. Emphasis in all classes is on facts and skill building as an extension of the regular school day but with fewer students and lower teacher to student ratios.

For CSV volunteers, MCAS support is yet another way that they can help build on the academic success of elementary students, one at a time.

For information about volunteer opportunities, call Kasey Appleman, Director of Elementary Volunteers, at 617-349-6794.



## CSV STAFF

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## From the Executive Director



Forty years ago, Mary Samp, a Cambridge Public School parent, was asked by the superintendent of schools to organize some mothers to assist with a school library project. When that was successfully completed, she was asked if the same group could help teach English as a Second Language to students. This was the beginning of Cambridge School Volunteers.

We are excited to be observing our 40th Anniversary on April 25, 2006 by honoring Mary Samp, founder of CSV, and Henri Termeer, President, Chairman and CEO of Genzyme Corporation. Termeer will be feted for his broad commitment to promoting public education and encouraging employee volunteerism through the Reading Buddies program at the Fletcher Maynard Academy.

I am now in the midst of my second year with CSV, and I can honestly say that I enjoy coming to work every day! My co-workers, the staff who introduce you to the opportunities available to work with students and who are there to support you throughout the year, are dedicated, hard-working and a lot of fun.

CSV staff always want to make things work better, to be responsive to teacher, student and administrator needs, to facilitate volunteers' placements and to enhance the educational experience of Cambridge Public School students.

CSV takes the time to thank and honor our volunteers at our annual Mack Davis Volunteer recognition event, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Daisy, Kasey, Laura, Lisa, Marina, Martha, Rene and Rose for all that they do to make CSV a success.

And thank you for all of your support over the last 40 years,

Harriet L. Finck

## CSV Onboard with AVID and the Science Olympiad

CSV is teaming up with the M.L. King Jr. School to bring tutorial support to all 6-8th graders through the nationally acclaimed AVID program (Advancement Via Individual Determination). AVID prepares students early on who are in the academic "middle," specifically the B, C and D students who are often missing the tools for college eligibility and success. Teachers and volunteer mentors will be working together to teach students the study skills, organizational methods and cognitive approaches necessary to be on a college track. Recent college graduates and current undergrad and grad students are already onboard as volunteers.

In the science realm, CSV has assisted CRLS, and more recently the Tobin School, in recruiting volunteers to support students competing in the annual state-wide Science Olympiad (S.O.). Each year the S.O. brings science to life for students, by promoting hands-on teamwork while creating exciting science projects. Recent events have included: Bottle Rocket, Bridge Building, Robo Billiards, Designer Genes, and the Wright Stuff, to name a few. If you are passionate about science education and would like to help advise either the middle or high school teams, contact Kasey Appleman or Laura Margosian at CSV.

## Volunteer Training Update

Close to 60 volunteers attended CSV's first training session on November 29, an evening devoted to specific topics for math, literacy and ESL tutors at the elementary and high school levels.

For **elementary volunteers**, ILP Director Marina Seevak presented a Writing Workshop, now part of the CPS literacy curriculum. Using many examples from student writing, Marina informed the group about the stages of children's writing development in the early grades, starting with inventive spelling. Lisa Van Vleck, CSV's Director of Corporate Programs, shared the benefits of reading aloud to children - the basis for the many Reading Buddies programs she manages in several elementary schools. Her workshop centered on everything from how to choose and preview the books to managing the one-to-one book discussions with students. A third elementary presentation by Barbara Fox, math coach and teacher at the Tobin School, focused on the *Investigations* math curriculum used throughout the CPSD, grades K thru 5. As part of her workshop Barbara had participants "think like a child" as they

went through a series of steps to solve a math problem. The well-received session confirmed the multiple ways that children problem-solve regarding math.

**High school tutors** were treated to a workshop on strategies for helping ESL students by Maria Athanassiou, teacher-in-charge of the CRLS International Student and Family Center. Maria's dynamic style and expertise describing the phases of acculturation for new English speakers and the process of gaining language proficiency kept the volunteers engrossed. Kathy Moore, a CRLS math and MCAS prep teacher, gave a workshop on how to build success in mathematics, specifically the strategies needed for problem-solving, studying math as a subject, taking math exams, and more. Attendees found her advice useful for their one-to-one tutoring. And finally, Liz Zucker presented her timetable and suggestions for the college application process, including tips on writing college essays. An independent college admission consultant, Liz is also a CSV volunteer.

## Peabody Netpal Wins Artistic Competition

Serina Gousby, a student in Elsie Murphy's sixth grade at the Peabody School, shows off her winning holiday card design to Cathy DeMaggio (L) and Susan Krabbe (R) of Cambridge Systematics, Inc. Serina created the Spirit of the Season holiday card while in Amy Sheaffer's art class. The card was sent to over 3000 Cambridge Systematics clients worldwide. The company has partnered with sixth graders for eight years in a Netpal program coordinated by CSV.



## Newest CSV Board Members

CSV welcomes its three newest Board members: Marc McGovern, Cristina Rodrigues, and Robert "Chip" Taggart.

McGovern, a lifelong Cambridge resident, CPS parent, and former member of the Cambridge School Committee, has been a licensed clinical social worker for over 10 years, concentrating in child/family issues and special education. Taggart, the COO of Cambridge Systematics, is also a CSV Netpal and has played a pivotal leadership role in sponsoring the e-mail communication and mentoring program that partners corporate employees with 6th graders at the Peabody School. Rodrigues has devoted most of her professional life to marketing, including a stint at the Framingham-based Staples where she helped implement the popular Teacher Rewards Program.

All three have hit the ground running, working hard to support the CSV mission and encouraging staff to take new initiatives throughout the organization.

## And Kudos to...

**Middle East Restaurant**  
Central Square, Cambridge  
**Star Market**  
Beacon Street, Somerville

...for providing CSV with tasty treats for November's training

**IBM Corporation**

...for goods and services

**Healthworks**

Porter Square, Cambridge

...for hosting CSV's 2-day recruitment visibility

## CVS Staff in the News

Check out the Winter 2005 edition of Ed. – The Magazine of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Lisa Van Vleck, Director of Corporate Programs, is prominently featured in an interview with staff writer Lee Fuoco. Congratulations Lisa! Your success at what you do is again appreciated by all those who work with you.

## Save the Dates

Plans are underway for CSV's gala 40th Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. Stay tuned for details about this very special event. And mark your calendars for the 16th annual Mack I. Davis II Awards & Volunteer Recognition event on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at the Harvard Faculty Club.

## Seevak Joins CSV Staff

Marina Seevak, an educator and teacher who has taught at the Baldwin School (formerly the Agassiz), Lesley and Tufts University, has

been named the new director of CSV's Intergenerational Literacy Program.

Marina brings many years of experience as an early childhood educator to her new position. She has supervised both undergraduate and graduate students in literacy and related subjects and has also consulted to the Somerville Public Schools through her involvement with the Somerville Community Partnership for Children. The ILP program currently includes more than 20 volunteers, all older than 55, at three Cambridge public elementary schools. Most volunteers work twice a week with first-graders identified as at-risk in reading. A fourth school has recently been added that will allow ILP volunteers to participate in Writers Workshop and bookmaking in grades K-2.

Marina, who used to have ILP volunteers in her elementary classroom, began her new post in September. "I've seen firsthand how volunteers can help shape the future direction for beginning readers," she said.



40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Celebration

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 25, 2006  
6:00 - 9:00pm  
Royal Sonesta Hotel  
Cambridge

Join us for an evening of cocktails, dinner, and live and silent auctions.

### HONORING

Mary Samp  
Founder of Cambridge  
School Volunteers

Henri Termeer  
President, Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer  
of Genzyme Corporation

For more information,  
contact Harriet Finck  
at [hfinck@cpsd.us](mailto:hfinck@cpsd.us)  
617-349-6794  
[www.csvinc.org](http://www.csvinc.org)

## Cambridge School Volunteers Pledge Form

### YES! I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CSV

Here is my gift of:

- \$30     \$50     \$100  
 \$250     \$500     Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail.  
 Please save a stamp and e-mail my gift acknowledgment. Here's my e-mail address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 My employer matches gifts; the form is enclosed.

You can donate online at [csvinc.org](http://csvinc.org). Click on "Support CSV," then "Make a Donation" and "Click Here" and follow the prompts.

Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc.  
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617-349-6794