

## Cambridge School Volunteers Honored During Annual Recognition Event and Mack I. Davis II Awards

On May 14, Cambridge School Volunteers honored more than 900 volunteers who served in grades K-12 of the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) during the 2006-07 school year at a reception hosted by Harvard University at the Harvard Faculty Club. Together, these volunteers provided more than 50,000 hours of individualized academic services to Cambridge youth. After a welcome by CPS Superintendent Thomas Fowler-Finn, Cambridge Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, and CSV Board Chair Louise Adler, longevity certificates were awarded by CSV Executive Director Harriet Finck to those who had volunteered for four, five, 10, and 15 years.

Awards honoring the late Mack I. Davis II, who was a Harvard administrator with an extraordinary record of public service, including membership on the CSV Board, were presented to the following outstanding CSV volunteers: **Leslie Cohen** (Graham & Parks); **Linda Pollitz** (Fletcher-Maynard); **Kate Wilson** (CRLS); **Richard Levine** (CRLS); **Dorrie King** (Fletcher-Maynard); **Lee Robbins** (Graham & Parks); and **Edith Elder** (Fletcher-Maynard). The Kenneth S. Neal Award, honoring an educator with exceptional commitment to CSV and its programs, was presented to **Kathy Malone**, Technology Integration Specialist at the Kennedy-Longfellow.



(L to R): Kathy Malone (Kennedy-Longfellow); Leslie Cohen (Graham & Parks); Linda Pollitz (Fletcher-Maynard); Kate Wilson (CRLS); Richard Levine (CRLS); Dorrie King (Fletcher-Maynard); Lee Robbins (Graham & Parks); and Edith Elder (Fletcher-Maynard).

Awards were also presented to the following corporations, whose employees participate in CSV team-based projects in the Cambridge Public Schools: Broad Institute, Cambridge Police Department, Cambridge Systematics, Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Genzyme

Corporation, Grace Performance Chemicals, Harvard Graduate School of Education, IBM, M.I.T., Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Stride Rite Corporation, and Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.

### SAVE THE DATE

The 2008 Annual Volunteer Recognition and Mack I. Davis Award Event will take place on **Wednesday, May 14, from 4:00-6:00 pm** at the Gutman Library of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

## CSV Staff

Harriet Finck  
*Executive Director*

Kasey Appleman  
*Director of Elementary Volunteers*

Diane Hirshberg  
*Literacy Trainer*

Rose Madsen  
*Director of Intergenerational Math Program*

Laura Margosian  
*Director of High School Volunteers*

Rene Meshon  
*Tutoring Center Manager*

Martha Osler  
*Director of Volunteer Recruitment*

Marina Seevak  
*Coordinator, Pathways to Educational Success*

Daisy Rodriguez  
*Office Manager and Program Assistant*

Lisa Van Vleck  
*Director of Corporate Programs*

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## From the Executive Director...



This is CSV's 42<sup>nd</sup> year and we continue our strong relationship with the public schools and our partnerships with numerous foundations and corporations to recruit, train and support 900+ individuals who volunteer each year to help Cambridge Public School students.

CSV staff are matchmakers—putting together kids who need help and adults who offer wisdom, constancy and commitment...and everyone benefits. Some pairings last for several years between a student and a tutor, some for a decade or more between a teacher and a volunteer classroom assistant.

Who gets more from the relationship? It's hard to tell; student evaluations speak to the concrete help received in addition to the mentoring aspect of the pairing and volunteers refer to seeing academic improvement as well as improved self-esteem. Volunteers also speak of the sense of fulfillment they receive from the experience. As long as everyone gets something positive, CSV staff feel rewarded.

*We thank you all for making a difference.*

Harriet



*Girl Power: Cambridgeport 7<sup>th</sup> graders Xia Rondeau and Menli McCreight share their Science Expo project on venus flytraps with Novartis scientist Janetta Dewhurst. Novartis employees have worked with CSV as NetPals for three years.*

## Science Olympiad Competes for a 9<sup>th</sup> Year

For nine years, CRLS, in conjunction with its Science Department and many volunteers from CSV, has fielded an enthusiastic Science Olympiad (S.O.) team. The S.O. is a rigorous academic competition consisting of team events in various science disciplines including, biology, chemistry, physics, computers and technology. For the first time the S.O. was captained by two young women, Becca Evans and Suzanna Shrestha. About 20 volunteers affiliated with local bio-tech, pharmaceutical and science-focused businesses and academic institutions participated, offering consultation with problem-solving, research and more. Thanks to their hard work and that of CSV staffer Laura Margosian, 17 students took part in more than 20 events. Kudos to all who participated, students and volunteer advisors alike!

## AVID Program Spreads its Wings

What program, now in its third year, involved 65 elementary students from five schools and 23 volunteer tutors last year? The answer? AVID, or Advancement Via Individual Determination.

Based on the concept of having college undergraduate and graduate students conduct tutorials in inquiry-based learning and critical thinking with middle-schoolers in grades 6-8, AVID has caught on rapidly within the Cambridge Public Schools. And CSV's Director of Elementary Programs, Kasey Appleman, has risen to the occasion. Kasey has been actively matching and training AVID volunteers who guide students in their class tutorials, the mainstay of the AVID program. Through tutorials and the use of small collaborative study groups, students develop better communication skills and problem-solving techniques. Using

a methodology of asking questions of students rather than giving them answers, AVID tutors empower students to think more deeply and critically about what they're learning.

Kasey, along with CPSD teachers and coordinator Kathy Greeley, attended a week-long summer institute for AVID site teams in June, 2007. Her work with other AVID coordinators from around the country provided her with additional insights and skills for implementing tutorial sessions at this year's participating middle schools.

As an example of the success of the program, a graduating 8th grader from the Peabody School's AVID program, Kenny Duval, spoke at CSV's Mack I. Davis Award II and Recognition Event last May, and before a packed audience, thanked CSV for the opportunity to have



*Kenny Duval, Peabody School graduate-to-be, addresses the audience about his experiences in the AVID program.*

participated in the program. Kenny spoke eloquently about his experiences with CSV tutors. His moving comments about appreciating the tutors as role models and their help in finding solutions to his questions truly engaged the several hundred attendees at the event.

## "Investigations" Training Event

Veteran and new Intergenerational Math Program (IMP) volunteers joined Fred Park, CPS K-3 Math Coach, as he led a workshop on Investigations, the math curriculum currently being used throughout the CPSD. This exciting collaboration between CSV and the CPSD Math Department is one of the latest highlights of the IMP, managed by Rose Madsen and now in its eighth year

engaging young elementary students in a better understanding of math.

The 2-hour session in mid-October, the first in a series of math workshops, was an examination of the newly revised system-wide curriculum. In addition to a video presentation and discussion, Fred spoke of the organizational aspects of the new syllabus and its differences

from previous math curricula. The tutors then engaged in a process as if they were second graders trying to solve an addition algorithm, using their own methods based on understanding the number system. There were lively discussions all around. These volunteers feel well prepared to work with their second and third grade students.

### Did You Know...

- that the following events are listed on the *Event Calendar* portion of our website: Elementary Orientations, High School Orientations, and Trainings?
- that CSV has begun its 8<sup>th</sup> year having volunteers assist students with College Planning and Essay Writing?
- that CSV, in cooperation with the CRLS Guidance and Social Studies Departments, and Harvard University, sponsored 7 students for a 4-day Harvard Model Congress conference? They joined thousands of students from across the country and got an opportunity to practice public speaking and debate skills.

# Workshop for K-2 Literacy Volunteers

CSV's new literacy trainer, Diane Hirshberg, initiated CSV's fall workshops with a 2-hour training on October 25 entitled "What is Reading?" Diane's hands-on workshop allowed participants to examine their own reading processes, and then use what they discovered to explore ways to enhance their literacy volunteering with beginning and/or struggling readers.

A second workshop in the series was offered on November 8 for new literacy volunteers. It focused on the logistics of getting started with a student, including management issues and "breaking the ice," what to expect during a literacy block in a classroom, specific examples of the kinds of work students might need help with, a look at leveled books, and hints for communicating with teachers.

A third workshop took place on December 6 and examined the process of writing. It focused on the components of a Writer's Workshop, stages of children's writing development, the mechanics of writing, and more. Contact the CSV office to register.

**C**aring staff and volunteers helping youth

**S**ucceed and achieve their goals, giving

**V**alue to the community and to society's future.

## I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CSV

**THE CSV CIRCLE** is an opportunity for our donors to make a more significant commitment to the organization, both as an ambassador – promoting the strengths and successes of CSV – and as an annual contributor. Donations in the amounts listed below will be acknowledged in our semi-annual newsletter and in our annual Mack I. Davis II Volunteer Recognition event program. Donors may always choose to be listed as "Anonymous." The CSV Circle is a great way to increase the visibility of CSV and to expand its base of support, ensuring that CSV can continue its important work for many years to come.

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You can also donate on-line at:

**[www.csvinc.org](http://www.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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