

To reach school district personnel by email please visit our website at www.keshequa.org, click on the Dalton Elementary, Nunda Middle School, or Nunda High School link, scroll down the page and look for the link that says Faculty Directory. For questions please call 468-2541 ext. 1105.

Chronicle

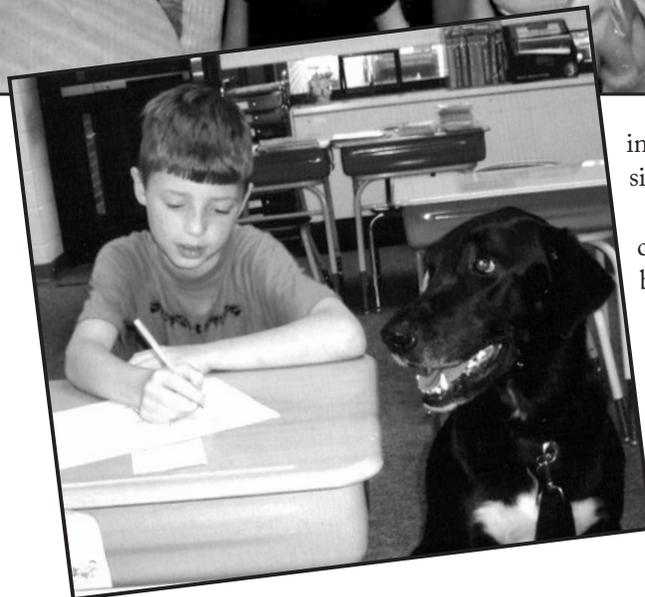
Reading with Ross

Honor

Wisdom

Leadership

Truth



It has long been said that dog is man's best friend, but Sharon Canteberry's students could have their own interpretation. For the past few years, Canteberry has provided her third graders with man's best reading partner – a four-legged, floppy-eared dog named Ross.

Canteberry's four-year-old Labrador/Great Dane mix visits the class monthly, staying all day to allow each student 30 minutes of reading time. Each student picks a book prior to the dog's visit to read aloud to him. The visits allow students to practice their reading fluency without being

embarrassed if they make a mistake. Ross simply sits next to them and listens.

"They're not worrying about reading because they won't be critiqued," said Canteberry.

The experience is getting the students excited about school and reading. Ross' visits are highly anticipated. Canteberry created a 15-piece Ross puzzle in order for students to work towards the privilege of having him visit. Students are rewarded

The mission of the Keshequa Central School District is to provide opportunities to empower all students to be cooperative, self-directed lifelong learners, prepared to responsibly meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Message from the Superintendent

by Marilyn Capawan, Superintendent

What a difference a year makes!

Last fall, the Board of Education made a commitment to increase our graduation rate and decrease our dropout rate to zero by the year 2012. We created long and short term plans to address the problem, and formed two committees to examine root causes, interpret data, identify students at risk of not graduating, and create strategies to help keep those students in school. Our school counselors, administrators, teachers and board members worked as a dedicated team, guided by the vision of "Keshequa Cares" to make a significant, positive difference in exit outcomes for our students. The data from our class of 2008 tells the story.

Of the 70 students in our last graduating class, 31% received a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation, 52% received a Regents diploma, and 14% earned either an IEP or local diploma. The dropout rate was 3%, and as of this writing, those students have reenrolled, with plans to graduate in 2009. When we compare this to previous years' dropout rates above 10%, we can see that our efforts are working. Our goal is to have all students graduate from high school, earning a diploma that represents the most challenging and rigorous coursework they can master. Of last year's eligible seniors, 79% planned to attend college, up from 68% the previous year. While we have already made progress, we know there is still much work to be done – and we are doing it.

The philosophy and goals of "Keshequa Cares" are being implemented at the middle and high schools. We have developed a unified system of pupil services, dedicated to closely monitoring students and identifying those whose attendance, behavior, social and/or emotional issues, or academic performance indicate that they might be at risk. This team, comprised of counselors, administrators, a psychologist, and our home-school liaison, meets weekly and works with students, families, and teachers on an individual basis to create the support needed for the successful completion of high school. Strategies may include mentoring, the development of learning and graduation plans, adjusting schedules or program, connecting with outside agencies, and working closely with families in any way needed.

Our long term approach includes

early identification and intervention for students who give indications of being at risk. Supports that are in place include our pre-k program, Response to Intervention model, and increased focus on literacy at the elementary and middle levels. Another long term strategy is the creation and maintenance of a caring KCS community, where students, parents, and school personnel share the vision of preparing our students for the future they deserve. Through effective character education programs at the Elementary and Middle Schools, we work to establish a sense of caring and respect among students.

You are an essential partner in our students' futures! October is filled with many activities and opportunities for parents and community to become involved. Whether you attend our fall athletic events, or visit us during our upcoming Elementary and Middle/High School Open Houses, we look forward to seeing you and celebrating our students' successes. The Board of Education also welcomes community participation through its Policy Committee. If you are interested in sharing your input and viewpoint in our review of policies throughout the year, please call Tammy Clark at 468-2541, ext. 1105.

KCS Excelsior Scholar Attends Camp



Jessica Steidle

Keshequa student Jessica Steidle is one of 45 students from the Rochester area chosen to attend summer camps as part of New York State Excelsior Scholars Program. Students who completed the summer program, funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Education, will be named Excelsior Scholars by Governor David Paterson.

New York State Excelsior Scholars are students who have completed seventh grade, maintained a GPA of 90 or above in Math and Science in grades 5-7, and scored a four in state exams in Math in grades 5-6. Students had to

fill out applications and also collect teacher recommendations. A committee of administrators reviewed the applications and chose one student to nominate.

Students attended one or both of the following weeklong camps: the Biotechnology Experience and the Microelectronics Engineering camp. Each week provided students with hands-on explorations, activities, and experiments that helped them enhance their understanding of career pathways in math and science. Jessica attended the Microelectronics Engineering camp at the NYS Infotonics Center of Excellence in Canandaigua and Rochester Institute of Technology.

"I thought it was really helpful to learn about the different jobs you can get in engineering," said Jessica. "Hopefully, I can do it again next year."

The Excelsior Scholars grant application was initiated by the Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Math and Science (RAC-CEMS). RAC-CEMS coordinated this grant proposal with the RIT Center for Biotechnology Education and Training; the RIT Department of Microelectronics Engineering; and the Infotonics Technology Center. Student nominations were solicited from 25 school districts in a six-county area.

Reading With Ross *continued...*

for good behavior with a piece of the puzzle.

"The students are planning ahead what they're going to read," said Cantleberry about the students' excitement before a visit.

The visits also provide the opportunity to discuss pet care. Cantleberry stresses to students the importance of caring for an animal. In one recent visit the class discussed brushing Ross' teeth.

"You can use a dog in so many different ways," she said

This past January, Ross became a licensed therapy dog through Therapy Dog International, Inc. Along with obedience lessons, Ross also had to pass an eight week dog therapy course. Ross had to prove he could function in chaotic and distracting environments. Therapy dogs go into places like schools, nursing homes, and hospitals to provide emotional support. This should not be confused with a service dog that helps a person who needs medical assistance.

As Ross gets older, Cantleberry hopes to have him visit nursing homes and hospitals. She was motivated to get Ross certified by her grandfather's love of dogs. When her grandfather was placed in assisted living, Cantleberry knows he would have enjoyed a visit from a dog like Ross.

**US Postal Inspectors
to conduct a
consumer education
presentation on fakes,
frauds, and scams.**

*Learn how to better
protect yourself and
your loved ones
against financial
predators!*

The public is invited to attend the presentation on Thursday, October 16, 2008. The session will be held in the Keshequa High School auditorium and begins at 7:00 p.m. It is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nunda.

This presentation is designed to present information on scams such as FAKE LOTTERIES, PHONY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, WORK AT HOME SCHEMES, and more. Identity theft prevention and protection strategies will also be discussed. The presentation will emphasize recognition and avoidance of fraudulent activity. Pamphlets, DVDs, and other educational materials will be made available to attendees.

In 2007, the US Postal Inspection Service, in collaboration with financial institutions, consumer advocacy groups and businesses, formed the Alliance for Consumer Fraud Awareness. Consumers can learn more about fraudulent activity at the Alliance website, www.fakechecks.org, and at www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com, another consumer education website formed in collaboration with businesses, consumer advocacy groups, and law enforcement organizations.



Proclamation

Whereas, each year, School Board Recognition Week is observed by the more than 700 school boards in school districts throughout the Empire State; and

Whereas, the men and women serving as members of school boards are dedicated to children, learning and community, and devote many hours of service to elementary and secondary public education as they continually strive for improvement, excellence and progress in education; and

Whereas, the members of New York's local school boards are community leaders who provide an invaluable resource as local decision makers, responding not only to the respective educational needs of their communities, but also serving in the interests of schoolchildren and their future; and

Whereas, during the week of October 20-24, 2008, special activities and programs will be held in communities across New York State in recognition of this observance and it is fitting to join in acknowledging the commitment and contributions of members of local school boards;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 20-24, 2008 as

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK

in the Empire State.



Do I under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifth day
of August in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

GOBY
Secretary to the Governor

Fall Brings Change

by Ami Hunt, Dalton Elementary Principal

Our warm, sunny days are slowly dwindling while our faculty, staff and students are gearing up for another terrific year at Dalton Elementary. I am delighted to join such a wonderful school community. As I walk around the building I have observed students engaged in learning, working on becoming PeaceBuilders and interested in being a part of the many after-school clubs that are offered. It is easy to see that the faculty and staff at Dalton are very focused on providing a top-notch educational experience for your children.

I began my new job here in the middle of August at about the same time that the front entrance construction started. I was a bit apprehensive as to how we could develop a smooth process for people to get in and out of the building during construction. I soon found out that there was no need to worry, as everyone has been very cooperative and accommodating. I want to thank the parents, students, faculty, staff and community for their patience and willingness to change their usual routine.

I believe that the parent-school partnership is very important to our students' success. We have several events coming up that promote that partnership. On October 22, we will be hosting the school's annual Open House. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and see the different classes that they may attend. While you are here, you will also be able to sign up for parent conferences, which will be held on November 24 and 25. I look forward to getting to know all the students and families this year and hope to see you at our Open House.

New Principal Feels At Home in Dalton



Ami Hunt

Ami Hunt is familiar with the closeness of a small district and community. That sense of closeness she compares with the sense of family. Coming from the small community of Canaseraga influenced the new Dalton Elementary Principal to become an educator.

"I went to a school where faculty and staff knew who the students were," said Hunt. "There was a close community feel. That atmosphere of education was what influenced me to get into the (education) field."

Hunt found herself in the same situation although in different surroundings after being hired this summer.

"I loved the Dalton building. It just felt like home," said Hunt. "Everybody was very friendly and welcoming."

Hunt came to Dalton from Canaseraga Central School District after working 12 years in elementary and special education. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from SUNY Geneseo and a master's degree from Alfred University in reading. She did her administrative work at St. Bonaventure University. Hunt interned at Canaseraga and spent a few years as the school's athletic director.

Hunt believes her experiences in elementary and special education, along with coming from a small community, are positive attributes. Her primary goal is to become acquainted with the school's programs and the community. She is already impressed with the elementary curriculum and the time that has been dedicated to it.

"I'm looking forward to being at Keshequa and working in the district for a long time," she said.

Hunt resides in Canaseraga with her husband Dave and her children Ashleigh and Adam. In her spare time, Hunt likes to spend time with her family, ski, and travel. Her family recently traveled to Florida and Virginia Beach.



Music News...

Music teacher Kim Coffey and senior Lindsay Gunn have accepted a fellowship with the Rochester Oratorio Society for the September through October cycle. Both sopranos had to audition for the director of the group, Eric Townell. Rehearsals take place at Asbury First United Methodist Church on East Avenue in Rochester. The concert for this cycle of music will take place on Sunday, October 19 at 3 p.m. Selections include Benjamin Britten's *Noyes Fludde*. Visit www.rossings.org for more information.

Kim Coffey also accompanied Colleen Proctor's Life Skills class and seventh graders to the U.S. Army's production of *The Spirit of America* held at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester on September 12. The show combined music and history to tell of the evolution of the U.S. Army. The students witnessed live war reenactments, the army orchestra, marching band, drum & fife corps, and a few singers. It was a very captivating show and everyone had a great time!

Spending the Summer with Science

While most teachers and students were enjoying their summer vacations, 25 regional teachers and 40 local high school students were learning about new developments and high tech careers available in the life sciences field.

The programs were made available through a joint effort put forth by several local partners including the Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC), Genesee Community College, Genesee Valley BOCES, the Business Education Alliance and the University of Buffalo.

The GCEDC recently received a \$500,000 workforce development grant through the Department of Labor. Those dollars were paired up with a \$200,000 WIRED grant that was awarded to GCC to fund a summer training program in which students and teachers learned about the newest developments

A small sampling of career paths in math and science: software design ~ aerospace engineering ~ medical/scientific research ~ sound analysis and synthesis ~ statistician ~ surveying and mapping ~ pharmaceutical manufacturing ~ insurance ~ securities ~ telecommunications ~ environmental engineering/research ~ movie/television industry ~ geologist ~ meteorologist ~ oceanographer ~ forestry engineering ~ agricultural engineering ~ chemist ~ zoologist ~ horticulturist/botanist ~ educator ~ toxicologist ~ nutritionist ~ geneticist ~ entomologist ~ robotics

in the life sciences, which is defined as any science that helps improve the human condition. While that is a broad definition, the program focused on developments in pharmaceuticals, medical devices and biotechnology with participants taking tours of places like Gaymar Industries in Erie County and Pyramid Prosthetics in Genesee County.

Teachers spent three weeks at the University of Buffalo and may be eligible to become certified to teach GCC's Intro to Biotechnology in area high schools, while the students took classes at GCC and received seven college credit hours for their participation.

Keshequa Science teacher Mr. Robert Schwegler participated in the three week program for teachers at the University of Buffalo.

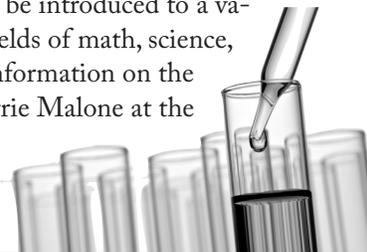
As students and teachers head back to school in the fall, the grant will help produce classroom materials that promote careers in the life sciences. The material will include fun facts about WNY like...*Did you know that the country's first cancer center is based in Buffalo? Or The implantable pacemaker was invented in North Tonawanda?*

To find out more about the life sciences, log onto www.isciwny.com.

Science on the Seneca

Amanda Reichard, Rebecca Pierce, and Kaylie Buckel joined students from across the region on September 17 for the Business Education Alliance's Bridge to Employment program. Students boarded boats at the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for the educational outreach program entitled *Science on the Seneca (S.O.S.)*. The day introduced students to environmental field studies using Seneca Lake as their laboratory. Students tested water and conducted experiments which included the chloride content, PH, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, sentiments, plankton, and zebra mussels. The S.O.S program was recently awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Quality Award for Environmental Education.

On September 26, the trio traveled to the American Red Cross Blood Service Department in Rochester and then off to work with their mentors in Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics through Johnson & Johnson. Students were selected into the Bridge to Employment program and made a three year commitment to be introduced to a variety of careers within the fields of math, science, and health care. For more information on the program, please contact Carrie Malone at the BEA or Shawn Bielicki at the high school.



Sixth Graders Work to Help the Environment



Keshequa sixth graders are taking a step towards helping the environment – one sneaker at a time. To coincide with their study of resources and conservation in science class, sixth graders collected old sneakers in an effort to save landfill space and reduce CO2 emissions. Students, faculty and staff could bring in their old sneakers through September 30.

The program is in conjunction with Nike, Inc., the National Recycling Coalition, and the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services. The Avon Webelos Cub Scouts initiated the project and opened it up to the community. Special Education teacher Holly Adams received notice through the Livingston County Youth Board.

The recycled sneakers will be used to make tennis and basketball courts along with playground surfaces. It takes about 5,000 recycled sneakers to create playground surfaces and 2,500 to make a basketball or tennis court.

Science teacher Susan Coffey arranged for the sixth graders to attend the Conservation Field Days on September 23. The teachers challenged the students this year to bring a "no trash" lunch to help conserve resources and cut down on garbage. Students who came with reusable lunch containers and had their food and drinks in a reusable container were presented with a prize.

Meet the Fresh Faces at KCS



Name: Ryan Almeter
Home: Bliss
Family: Wife Sarah and two kids Noah (3) and Maggie (1).
Position: I teach math 9, Integrated Algebra, and a math survey class.

Graduate of: SUNY Geneseo for mathematics

Hobbies: I enjoy traveling and sports

Prior to KCS: I worked for Rochester City Schools and Genesee Valley BOCES

Involvement with after-school activities? I am going to be the High School Math Competition advisor.

Additional comments: I did my student teaching here with Jack Morgan and I am very happy to be back in Keshequa.

Name: Loren Kersher

Home: Dalton

Family: Wife Nicole, son Greg

Position: Night Cleaner

Graduate of: Dansville

Prior to KCS: Worked in manufacturing

Hobbies: Tinkering



Name: Melanie Bishop
Home: Piffard
Family: I am married with two sons, Conner and Zachery.
Position: tenth grade special education teacher

Graduate of: St. John Fisher College with a master's in adolescence education: social studies and special education.

Hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my family hiking to various waterfalls, fishing, swimming, and traveling.



Name: Nancy Cross
Home: Castile
Family: Two daughters
Position: Teaching Assistant
Graduate of: Letchworth Central

School District, Roberts Wesleyan College, Alfred University

Prior to KCS: Substitute teacher at Letchworth Central School District

Hobbies: Camping, playing the piano and organ



Name: Ashley Smith
Home: Dansville
Position: Spanish teacher
Graduate of: Genesee Community College and Alfred University. Studied abroad in Mexico

Prior to KCS: I taught for one year as a maternity leave position in Honeoye.



Name: Danielle Merrill
Home: Conesus
Family: Two cats (Tabby and Chloe)
Position: Elementary School Psychologist

Graduate of: I completed my undergraduate studies at SUNY Geneseo, after transferring from Finger Lakes Community College. My grad work was through Alfred University, where I completed two years of coursework and a full-time, full school year internship. My internship was completed at the Canisteo-Greenwood CSD last year.

Hobbies: I enjoy spending time outdoors and reading in my spare time.



Name: Kurt Schneider
Position: 11th grade social studies and 12th grade government
Graduate of: SUNY Brockport with my B.A. in history

and received my masters from Roberts Wesleyan in education.

Hobbies: Golf, softball, watching movies

Prior to KCS: I last worked in South Florida (2007-08) at Pembroke Pines Charter School and also at G.V. BOCES (2007) in the Alternative Education Program

Additional Comments: I am from York, NY and extremely happy to be back in the area and working at a small community based school such as Keshequa.

Name: Laurie Rodwell

Home: Dalton

Family: Husband Ted, son Teddy

Position: Afternoon Cleaner

Graduate of: Mount Morris

Prior to KCS: Worked at SUNY Geneseo

Hobbies: Working around the house and garden



Name: Jessica Taft
Home: Nunda. I graduated from Keshequa in 2003.
Position: 7th Grade Social Studies
Graduate of: SUNY Brockport, studied history and secondary education

Hobbies: Quilting, crafts, reading

Additional Comments: I had the opportunity to study abroad in Ireland at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. It was an amazing experience and I look forward to going back!

Girls' Soccer and Volleyball Teams Beat Out the Competition



Pictured back row left to right are Sarah Gray, Stephanie Kreuzer, Coach Blair, Mariah Mahlendorf. Front row left to right is Melissa Preen, Ryann Gardner, Nicole Gross, Chelsea Beardsley, Courtney Curry and Emily Gibson.

The Girls' Varsity Volleyball team traveled to Harley Allendale Columbia to take part in an eight team tournament. Teams were divided into two pools, playing two games against each team in their pool. Keshequa faced and defeated HAC, Geneseo, and split with Marion. Their 5-1 record put them in the finals against the other pool winner, Dansville. The championship match consisted of a best of three format. The Keshequa girls went right to task, defeating Dansville easily in two straight games. This is the first time in six years the girls have come home with first place honors. Gaining individual awards for their outstanding play were Sarah Gray (All-tournament team) and Stephanie Kreuzer (tournament MVP).

The Girls' Varsity Soccer team hosted the Keshequa Tournament on September 11 and September 13 beating out Fillmore, Perry, and Cuba-Rushford to win top honors. The team defeated Perry in the first game and Fillmore in the final game. Catherine Mucha had a hat trick and was voted tournament MVP. The team is currently 7-2 for the season. Congratulations to both teams for their stellar play.

Students Learn the Fundamentals of Kayaking

High School physical education classes returned to the waters this year with their kayaks in tow. After missing out last year due to the shallowness of Keshequa Creek, students had the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of this lifetime sport.

For several weeks groups of students and seven kayaks were shuttled to Bailey Road where the adventure began. On a good day, students could travel in their individual kayak to Cooperville Road.

"It's relaxing, but it's challenging," said physical education teacher Martha Blair. "It's a great lifetime sport."

Blair, a certified lifeguard, spends class time beforehand going over safety rules. Students learn how to get in and out of the kayak safely and what to do if the kayak were to fill with water. In kayaking it's important to find the deepest part of the water, so students learn how to read the water current. They also discuss causes and effects of hypothermia.

Blair said kayaking is a very safe sport. She believes a big misconception is that a large amount of water is needed while in actuality 8 to 10 inches are sufficient. Along with the skills learned in class, students are also equipped with helmets and life jackets. It's a sport that students can enjoy into adulthood and don't have to travel far from home to experience.

"The kids, they're excited to go. It's right in their back yards," said Blair.

Congratulations!

Keshequa graduate Anna Mucha was recently notified by the American Red Cross that she is the recipient of a 2007-2008 High School Scholarship Award in the amount of \$300. Anna was nominated by KCS faculty based on her participation in various American Red Cross programs. The award will help Anna as she attends school at Genesee Community College.

Go Home Drill Friday, Oct. 10

Each year, school districts are required by Education Law to conduct an Early Dismissal "Go Home Drill" to ensure that we are appropriately prepared to transport all students to their homes, or other parent-designated area, should there be an emergency. The drill requires that we not dismiss students any earlier than 15 minutes from the normal dismissal time, and must account for all students during this time period.

On Friday, October 10, 2008, Keshequa Central will conduct this drill. As per our policy, there will be no change of bus pass issued on this day or any other. In addition, if you plan to pick your child up on this day to transport him or her home, we ask that your child participate in the drill first. After attendance has been taken on each bus, your child will be allowed to disembark and proceed home with you, provided proper notification has been received. We ask that these requests be made only as necessary in order to help minimize confusion during this drill. I'm sure you can understand the need for us to practice our plan in the event we should ever have to put it in place.

Most students will arrive home at their usual time even though they will be dismissed from their buildings fifteen (15) minutes early, as this time will be used to take attendance and account for every student. However, there will be some students who may arrive home earlier, particularly those who are dropped off before the buses arrive at the Nunda building. Please be prepared to receive them so that our drill may continue in a timely fashion.

There will be complete silence during this drill and it will be conducted in a formal manner. Please talk about the importance of this drill with your child(ren), as their safety and security are top priorities to all of us.

Important Dates in October

- 3..... Superintendent's Conference Day – NO SCHOOL
- 9..... Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 13..... Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
- 22..... Dalton Open House 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 23..... MS/HS Open House 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 23..... Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your support. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 468-2541 extension 1106, or contact the appropriate Building Principal.

Do you know a senior citizen who is...

...looking for something meaningful in his/her life; and ...would like to experience the joy and wonder of children?

Join other seniors who help children learn at a nearby school. Volunteer as a Foster Grandma or Grandpa in this program just for folks age 60+.

Earn tax-free income that won't affect Social Security, housing subsidies, H.E.A.P. benefits, etc.

Approximately \$40-\$100 per week stipend.

Minimum of 20 hours per week (school year).

Some transportation reimbursement available.

Must be income-eligible.

Please call for more information about the Foster Grandparent Program. 585-243-7520

Program Director – Deb Gage

Keshequa Central School

P.O. Box 517
Nunda, New York 14517-0517

October 2008

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