Today is October 1st and I am just getting to my summer wrap-up and fall preview. Although it was a very busy summer, that is not entirely the reason for the delay. Several grants will not be confirmed until later this month, which it makes it hard to make a formal announcement, but I will do my best!

**UMASS/4-H Summer of Science . . . . .**

Thirteen students traveled to the Summer of Science at University of Massachusetts from June 24th – 26th with me and another teacher from the TNT program at Barnstable High School. We spent two days performing a variety of scientific discoveries, complemented by experiential and inquiry based learning techniques and fun in between. Our TNT girls learned a few techniques in the Photography workshop and took some amazing photographs. Our middle school team scored the highest number of points in the Balls & Tracks activity. We all enjoyed the Robotics demonstration at the end of camp, where teams took turns showing off their inventions! Who knew how much you could learn doing taste tests, using magnets to find iron in cereal, and making gummy worms? The Food Science lab was definitely a huge hit! Veterinary Science was also engaging, and evaluations reflected how much participants enjoyed the hands-on learning activities with horses and sheep!

This trip would not have been possible without the cooperative efforts of Bobbi Moritz and Principal Karen Stonely (BIS), Colleen Kadar and Principal Pat Clark (from BHS), the NYSD Science award money from two years ago and the 21st Century Learning grant, which paid for the round trip bus transportation!

It is never too early to start planning for the next camp, which will be in June of 2013. If you have turned 12 by January of 2013 and currently in a 4-H Afterschool program or club, you are eligible to attend. Please contact Kerry, as we are working on some fundraisers to help us get there!

**Stars, Stripes and Saddles . . . . .**

We kicked off our 1st Cape Cod OMK Equestrian camp on July 16-20th. Thanks to a number of grants that we were able to acquire, fourteen military youth attended the camp at no cost. Although we were targeting youth undergoing a current deployment, we were also able to include a handful of youth from Mass. Military Reservation from families who serve with the Coast Guard. It was an incredible week, not to mention hot, and I recently put together a slideshow, which you can watch by clicking this link capecodextension.org.

Thanks to Operation Military Kids, the Cape & Islands Youth Community Development Council, the students at Harwich Elementary School (who raised almost $400.00 for OMK!), the Youklis Foundation and Smithfield Farm for their generosity and empathy for military families.

**2012 Sewing Camp . . . . .**

The following week, we launched another summer camp called “Sew Many Choices”. This year, we offered a variety of sewing projects (a chicken sewing cushion, a make-up/toiletry bag, a beach cover up, and embellished hair accessories). Students had the choice of signing up for one,
two, three or four days! Altogether, we had 8 students, along with two Mother-helpers and two new volunteers, under the direction of veteran instructor Lorraine Fraser. One of our new volunteers, Kay Rockwood taught Home Economics for many years at Chatham High School, and we feel particularly fortunate to have found her!

We were also honored by a visit from Sean Gonsalves, a well-known reporter for the Cape Cod Times. Mr. Gonsalves visited with us for over an hour and we were thrilled with the article and photos that appeared in the paper the following day (click on this link to read article: http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120724/NEWS/207240325/-1/NEWS31). As a result of the article, we had fourteen youth sign up for our 2-day (that turned into a 3 day class!) Sewing class at the Hyannis Library in August, where participants made their own denim book bags in preparation for back-to-school!

**RAP program funding at Barnstable Intermediate School . . . . .**

Whew! In between these efforts, I also worked with Bobbi Moritz, from the Barnstable Public Schools to search for funding to continue the successful RAP program that had been implemented with 21st Century Grant monies no longer available. UMASS Extension/ Barnstable County 4-H have been a nine year partner in this work, and have known many of these students since they entered Kindergarten at the former Hyannis East Elementary School. As a result of a heroic effort by Retired Judge Joseph Reardon, President of Cape Cod Justice for Youth, we were able to come up with the $54,000.00 we needed collectively from the Lombard Trust, the Cobb Fund, the Larusso Foundation, and an anonymous donor. I cannot, as of this deadline provide you with any further details, as this effort is currently still in progress. What I can do is say is that it takes a village to raise a child, and this village came through for a lot of children in a BIG way. Thanks to all who somehow contributed to this effort.

**September 2012 . . . . .**

Somehow the summer flew by faster than it ever has before and September was here, whether we liked it or not. I found myself frantically planning fall activities, and writing a detailed annual report (that is published by the county), and an ES237 report that is due to the state.

**OMK/Massachusetts Military Reservation . . . . .**

I was honored to take place in a send-off ceremony for the 181EN out of MMR in early September. We handed out somewhere close to 200 baby blankets, pre-school bags, hero backpacks, and teen survival kits (which had $25.00 CVS gift cards in them) to the children/family members of those deploying. It is hard to describe the joy on their faces as they received these gifts, and the heaviens of our hearts as we tried to show our support and gratitude for the sacrifice they are all making. This time it was even more personal for me, as one of my little guy’s BFF’s since Kindergarten was saying good by to his brand new and BELOVED step-dad. My thought and prayers will be with Charlie and his family, as well as all the other heroic families who will need all our support over the next year.

Two weeks later, I was back at Otis, only this time it was a bit more uplifting: Family Day at the 102nd Wing! We were there to offer activities to dozens of children and families as they enjoyed a day of food, fun, festivities, and recognition for their service. This young man and his Dad bravely posed for a photo, after spending about ½ hour at our table creating buttons! Many thanks to Lt. Col. Sean Riley and Keegan for letting us use this wonderful picture in our newsletter!

**Art Classes for Military Children . . . . .**

We are also offering OMK funding to help families pay for art classes at Three Fish and a Ram gallery in Mashpee. For more information about this, please contact Kerry at kbickford@barnstablecounty.org. I can send you a list of classes and the process for scholarships.
**Fish prints Workshop on Columbus Day Week-End . . .**

On Saturday, October 6th, we will be hosting a Fish prints workshop at Three Fish and a Ram to help celebrate Columbus Day weekend. Just come to the gallery between 11-3 with a plain white t-shirt, and we will help you make a beautiful fish-prints shirt for you or someone else in your family (only one per person please). Cost is $5.00 and payable at the door.

**Cape Youth Force . . . . .**

In my last newsletter (June, 2012) I mentioned that Cumberland Farms was generously hosting a fundraiser to benefit Cape Youth Force, a philanthropy program of the Cape Cod Foundation with whom we have partnered since 2003. The fundraiser helped us to procure an additional $2000.00, which this year’s participants will help decide where to go. Students design RFP guidelines and areas of focus that are important to them. They also read the proposals and decide whom to give the money to, based upon the information they are able to glean from the application process. It is a lot of fun and Kristin O’Malley (CCF) and I are looking forward to meeting with this year’s group later this month. Although this year’s program will take place at Barnstable High School, anyone in high school is invited to participate! Call me at 508-375-6695 for more information.

**Barnstable High School- 4-H After-school Scientists . . .**

Speaking of Barnstable High School, Colleen Kadar and I are targeting former 21st Century participants to become involved with our NYSD (National Youth Science Day) experiment. This year’s project is the 4-H Eco-Bot Challenge and, as you recall, Robotics was one of the tracks we offered at the SOS Camp at UMASS. Our plan is to have these students practice the experiment and then present it to groups of interested youth. The Robotics club at BHS will also be taking the Eco-Bot Challenge on Wednesday, October 10th under the direction of Mary Anne Farley, the advisor to the group.

**Science Clubs . . . . .**

Science Clubs are being established at BHS, Ezra Baker School and Centerville Library. Ezra Baker will be kicking off this year’s yearlong program on October 16th with Allyson Bizer-Knox who will help conduct the NYSD Eco-bot Challenge! For more information on the challenge, or to watch a 3-minute video outlining the steps, go to [http://www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/](http://www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/).

**December Sewing Project . . . . .**

December 4th is a half-day of school, so Lorraine Fraser has arranged a fleece workshop at the Barnstable Senior Center that will run from 11-4. Participants can walk over from the Intermediate School upon dismissal and eat their lunch (not provided) prior to making a fleece hat and neck warmer to keep or to give away as a gift. We will also have a few small holiday community service activities for anyone who finishes early and we will provide snacks and drinks to keep up your energy! Cost is $5.00 (for materials) and register by calling Chris at 508-375-6690 or email estpierre@barnstablecounty.org.

**21st Century Exemplary Program Grant . . . . .**

We won’t know until mid-October about the status of this grant through the DESE, but we have several programs and teachers ready to go at Hyannis West with some wonderfully enriching and engaging and FUN projects. Let’s keep our fingers and toes crossed.

*It is hard to squeeze it all into a newsletter, as you probably know, so please call, email me or check our website for updates on anything that might be happening. Enjoy this beautiful season and remember to take the time to appreciate all the gifts in your life!*