

# The S.A.G.E. Pages



Senior Adults for  
Greater Education

"generations educating generations"

Fall 2009

Senior Adults for Greater Education • 203 Anselm Road, Richboro, PA 18954

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Dear Friends of S.A.G.E.:

As the Founder of Senior Adults for Greater Education, I am proud to announce that together we have reached another milestone. In June of 2009, we celebrated 10 years of "generations educating generations." S.A.G.E. is sustainable due to your collective efforts. Thanks to all who have supported us with your various contributions. I want to publically acknowledge my family - Kal, Staci and Mike. Without their constant cheerleading and encouragement S.A.G.E. would have remained a dream.

This first issue of our multi district newsletter, produced by our volunteer editorial board, will serve to let readers know about activities in all the districts where our volunteers share their time and talents.

Please let us know if you would like to help with content, photos, or any other ideas.

Also, if you would prefer to receive this electronically, kindly email us at [beasage08@comcast.net](mailto:beasage08@comcast.net) and provide us with your email address.

As always, thank you for sharing your time, energy, skills, passions with us so that together we can "***unite youth and seniors in their quest to enrich education and leave a legacy for future generations.***"

Fondly,

215-357-2332

### 2009-2010 School District Start Dates

Bensalem - September 8  
Council Rock - August 31  
Neshaminy - September 1  
Pennsbury - September 2

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If you would like to contribute an article to the next edition of the S.A.G.E. Newsletter, please e-mail it to Kathi at [beasage08@comcast.net](mailto:beasage08@comcast.net) by December 1st.

### S.A.G.E. NEWSLETTER

This is the first edition of a newsletter that we hope will be a regular part of S.A.G.E. It was thought that those people involved in S.A.G.E. might like to see what others are doing in their volunteer time in the various schools, whether working with students or in some other capacity and also learn when other school districts join us.

If you have any interest in writing an article which we could use in our next issue, please let us know. We will welcome any and all input!

The Editorial Staff of S.A.G.E.  
Nancy Korecki  
Bea Langman  
Ruth Hauler

**S.A.G.E. is now present in the Council Rock, Neshaminy, and Bensalem School Districts, as well as Archangels Academy in Bristol. The Pennsbury School District will be joining us in the fall. We are very happy to be sharing ideas and experiences to enhance the true meaning of reaching out to educate all generations.**

## ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

### NOTES FROM ARCHANGELS ACADEMY



Bonding with S.A.G.E. has brought two highly qualified professionals to our school. A single phone call to Archangels Academy in the spring of 2008 began a partnership in education between S.A.G.E. volunteers and the students and staff of Archangels Academy,

School of Special Education in Levittown, PA.

In a school for students with special needs, dedication, loving patience and creativity are key ingredients needed for adults to be successful in helping students learn new skills. In addition to the reality that each student learns differently, the entire school program is individualized to meet the needs of each student. The S.A.G.E. volunteers who have gifted us with their time and presence during this past school year clearly possess these qualities.

In addition to being extremely pleasant and energetic, the high levels of professionalism and service exhibited by the wonderful S.A.G.E. volunteers who come to our school are exceptional. Their interest and enthusiasm in working with the teachers and students far surpasses all expectations. Both students and teachers alike have benefitted from the gift of S.A.G.E.

Archangels Academy has been blessed in having S.A.G.E. become part of our learning community. We look forward to working with S.A.G.E. volunteers in the future as they have truly enhanced our educational program.

Thank you, S.A.G.E. May God bless Beryl, Kathi and all S.A.G.E. volunteers as you continue on the journey of serving others.

*Sr. Angela Mastrangelo, A.M.*  
Principal

*While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.*

## NEWS ABOUT S.A.G.E. IN BENSALEM

### MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

S.A.G.E. has been actively involved in three of our elementary schools this past school year and it is expected that three new elementary schools in our district will partner with S.A.G.E. The testimonials of those involved clearly demonstrate that this innovative educational program has positively impacted the lives of students and seniors alike. Volunteers have worked with our students to improve basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics.

Additionally, senior volunteers have shared oral histories that have added meaning to events that

have happened in the past. This has given students greater appreciation for the contribution senior adults have made in our society. Most importantly, the collaboration strives to eliminate the potential for ageism to exist in our community. Bensalem Township School District looks forward to continuing our partnership with S.A.G.E. and expanding the program throughout all our schools in the coming years.

William J. Gretzula, Ed.D., Superintendent

### S.A.G.E. IN BENSALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ALIVE AND WELL AND GROWING

This school year was a wonderful year for S.A.G.E. and our schools. We added two new schools that are lucky to have S.A.G.E. volunteers in their buildings. Struble and Cornwells Elementary Schools joined Faust in having a meaningful program which benefitted our volunteers, our teachers and especially our students. At Faust, our 16 volunteers have touched the students' lives in our school. To see them walk down the halls and see how the students and staff react to them is wonderful. Everyone says hello, gives them a high five or a hug.

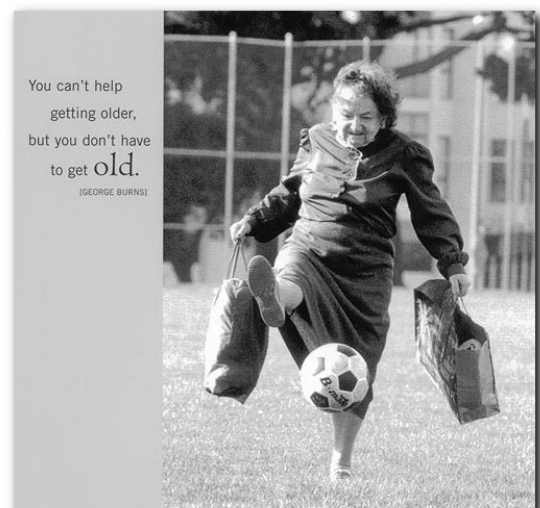
Besides their regular attendance, many of our volunteers came to coach students who were participating in our First Annual Spelling Bee. Eileen Swank coached a 4th grader diligently and it paid off since the student she worked with won the Spelling Bee. Faust is looking forward to another year where the S.A.G.E. volunteers add to the educational program and the Faust community.

This is the first year for Cornwells and the volunteers are enjoying the interactions with the students and staff. One of their volunteers, Barry Huret, expressed his concern as to having the ability to teach the youngsters with whom he would be working. But after working in the classroom with Chris Heine, his cooperating teacher, Barry was relaxed and confident in what he was doing. He

gave great advice to any new S.A.G.E. volunteer. "Listen to the youngsters, hear what they think, see what they do, and in coordination with the teacher you are working with, add your own experience and expertise. Don't rush it, but over time, you will come to love the kids and the teaching." The Cornwells staff is looking forward to expand their program and welcome back their S.A.G.E. volunteers.

Bensalem Schools are lucky to have the S.A.G.E. program and we look forward to the upcoming school year.

Submitted By Eileen Silver



*I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.*

## NEWS ABOUT S.A.G.E. IN COUNCIL ROCK

### COUNCIL ROCK HAPPENINGS — INTERESTING EVENTS SHARED BETWEEN S.A.G.E. VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS!

In January, the third grade students at Hillcrest Elementary were treated to a visit from two S.A.G.E. volunteers, Lillian Pappas and Hedy Zudrow. The students were captivated by the journey Mrs. Pappas had to make from Cuba to the United States all by herself without speaking any English, at the young age of only



14. The third graders were also enthralled with Mrs. Zudrow's story of immigrating to the United States from Germany by boat. The students were surprised

to hear that Mrs. Zudrow and her husband sailed on a cruise ship, quite an enjoyable experience. The students thoroughly enjoyed listening to both of the women's experiences and made many insightful connections to what they were learning in class regarding immigration. Memories that Mrs. Pappas and Mrs. Zudrow shared about their own journeys brought history to life for the students and created meaningful and lasting impressions that exceeded what could simply be learned through textbooks!



**B**y 9:30, on April 22, at Holland Elementary, all players and students were seated and ready to play.

**I**n the game room/gym, the audience was eager and ready to start hearing the numbers eloquently called by Fred Stewart.

**N**o European Cruises or Brand New Cars were among the fabulous prizes, but those who did win enjoyed their moment in the sun.

**G**ood kids and enthusiastic seniors mingled together and had a lot of fun.

**O**verall, a good time was had by all, and we look forward to another successful BINGO event soon.

PS: In the interest of full disclosure, the author did not win anything,

Sylvia Rosenberg - S.A.G.E. Volunteer

### ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL SPELLING BEE

Fourteen S.A.G.E. members plus residents from Chandler Hall were paired with 7th grade students for a friendly competition at Newtown Middle School. When the students were asked to introduce their partners, one 7th grade boy introduced his 112 year-old partner, who happened to be Fred Stewart. My partners thought he looked great for his age!!

The audience was comprised of the entire 7th grade class and their teachers. It was wonderful to see how into the program everyone was (participants as well as the audience). After the lead alternated between the white and blue teams, it "magically" resulted in a tie. Of course, we appreciate the hospitality of the Newtown Middle School staff.

I don't know about anyone else, but I think I'll study before the next one!!

Submitted by Enid Waldman

#### Upcoming Council Rock Events 2009-2010

- Thanksgiving Feast, Richboro Middle School, November 19
- Intergenerational Spelling Bee, Newtown Middle School, January 7
- Dinner Theater, Holland Middle School, March 17

## COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT Continued

### Students and Seniors Learning From Each Other



On Friday, April 3rd, I had the opportunity to be a subject for an Oral History Report. The student who conducted the review was Reyne Wong, a seventh grade student from Newtown Middle School.

Reyne is a Chinese girl whose parents were born in China and have no family in America. Reyne's teacher suggested that she contact S.A.G.E. to request if a volunteer would be willing to be her subject for the report. Arrangements were made between myself and Reyne's mother to meet with Reyne in the school library for the interview. Reyne arrived with books in hand, note pad full of questions and her tape recorder ready to conduct the interview. This was my second Oral History Report and I'm amazed how focused the students are and directness of the questions.

After the interview I asked Reyne about her family culture and traditions. She was happy to explain and therefore, I had a better understanding of a different culture. The afternoon was a rewarding experience, a perfect example of the S.A.G.E. slogan: "Generations Educating Generations".

Submitted by Matt Korecki

### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER**

S.A.G.E. volunteers from Council Rock, as well as those from the Bensalem and Neshaminy districts, enjoyed a very special dinner at Spring Mill Country Club on June 9, 2009. Archangels Academy, a special needs school in Levittown, has also joined S.A.G.E., and it was represented by its principal, Sister Angela Mastrangela.

The occasion was the tenth year that S.A.G.E. has been a part of our schools, and it was truly a cause for celebration. The guests were welcomed by the music of Richboro Middle School's band, and treated to a delicious meal. It also offered a perfect opportunity for S.A.G.E. volunteers to get to know one another.

Submitted by Ruth Hauler

### **IN MEMORY OF JIM ANDREWS**

We are deeply saddened to share with you the great loss of our devoted Council Rock SAGE member, Mr. Jim Andrews, this spring. Mr. Andrews, together with his wife, Sue, served as a dedicated and valued founding and active member of the CR SAGE Senior Advisory Board. His gentle wisdom contributed greatly to the growth and development of the SAGE program. Jim volunteered two days a week for eight years at Maureen M. Welch Elementary School, and his impact on students was inspiring. Dr. Jamie Young, who worked with Jim in her third grade classroom, shares how blessed and fortunate she and her students are to have known Mr. Andrews and how her students loved having him in their class. They often argued about who would get to work with Mr. Andrews, who helped students with their reading skills. Jim was a great listener, and he loved to listen to the students tell him stories about their interests and events, equally sharing stories of his family and his own failures and successes as a student. Jim's greatest gift is that he gave students confidence and inspired them to work towards their goals.

Jim Andrews will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those of us who have been touched by his kindness, his wisdom, and his love. He will surely be missed.

### **Sharing With High School Students**



When S.A.G.E. asked if we would talk to Nancy Olsen's entrepreneurial class at CRHS North, we agreed to do it because we thought we might have some tips to share, even

though it had been more than 30 years since I taught English and theater and Bill had taught speech and theater, and together we had also taught real estate mandatory continuing education. The class was comprised of sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Although 7:20 A.M. wasn't the optimum time for a class, and 50 minutes is barely enough time to skim the surface of being a business owner, the students really were courteous and attentive, asked many questions and seemed to appreciate our information. Throughout our time there, we emphasized the importance of honesty in business dealings, following the Golden Rule. It was a good experience for us, and maybe - just maybe - some of the students picked up a morsel of information which they will apply in their lives someday. One never knows for sure.

Submitted by Jean Brenner

COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT Continued

HOLLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL DINNER THEATER



Wednesday, March 18 was a welcome evening for S.A.G.E. members at the Holland Middle School. We were greeted by student volunteers and served a pasta dinner ending with lots of luscious desserts. Several students played their instruments while we enjoyed our dinner. When dinner was over we watched a play called Guys and Dolls put on by the students. The performance was outstanding. It was a most enjoyable



and entertaining evening. Hats off to all the volunteer students and the performing cast.

Submitted by Helene Morton

NEWS ABOUT S.A.G.E. IN NESHAMINY

MESSAGE FROM DR. LOUIS T. MUENKER

SUPERINTENDENT, NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Senior Adults for Greater Education Program, started in 1999, is "alive and well" in the Neshaminy School District. This volunteer effort spearheaded by founder Beryl Katz has helped support classroom teachers and students; especially in our elementary schools.

S.A.G.E. volunteers help students in classrooms by reading to students, listening to students read, as well as assisting with activities and programs within the school setting. These opportunities provide an opportunity for seniors and young children to connect and benefit from life's experiences.

Here in Neshaminy we are seeing volunteers that care to become involved in our community. We are asking you to share your time with students who will indeed benefit from your wealth of knowledge and experience. In turn, it is hoped that you will gain a better understanding of today's children and youth. In addition, the experience can be "lots of fun!"

An extension of thanks goes out to all who have participated to date in this valuable program and we look forward to your involvement in the new school year.

NESHAMINY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Marcia Ames has been a S.A.G.E. volunteer in my classroom since its inception here at Neshaminy and I really lucked out. Marcia comes with an impressive business background and has excellent computer and math skills. It's been just wonderful having her to assist with many classroom projects and activities. Her personal dedication to the children has been reciprocated many times over... they can't wait to "sign-up" to have the pleasure of Mrs. Ames to help them share in the activities.



teaching for Neshaminy School District at Albert Schweitzer Elementary School... our rooms were next door to each other! Eileen taught fifth grade, and I was a long-term substitute for a fourth grade teacher on sabbatical leave. Eventually, I **did** end up returning to that exact same room, and once again we were "neighbors." Last year, when I saw Eileen's name on the S.A.G.E. volunteer list, I snatched her up right away once I got the go-ahead that two S.A.G.E. volunteers would not be **too** greedy. She's been a terrific help and both the students and I know we can count on her to make wonderful choices. Eileen has helped by reading to and listening to students read in the classroom, as well as assisting in other classroom projects... she never really did take off her "teaching hat."



Submitted by Amy Neff

Eileen Saks and I go back many years, in fact we were next door "neighbors" when I first started

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT Continued****TAWANKA LEARNING CENTER STUDENTS****Donated nearly 1000 lbs of food to Bucks County Housing Authority Community Pantry**

Tawanka Learning Center students were the recipients of funds from a local businessman, Eugene Epstein. Mr. Epstein's Civic Engagement project encouraged students to work independent of adults and make the best decision possible for either themselves or their community. Each TLC student received ten dollars from Mr. Epstein. The TLC students swiftly agreed to pool their money together and grant those in need, and after several organizational meetings with class leaders, the teens, dubbed *Gene's Cash Kids*, decided to purchase necessities and donate to the Bucks County Housing Authority Community Food Pantry located in Pennel.

In total, the TLC students purchased and donated 990 pounds of food to the pantry. Students were accompanied by S.A.G.E. (Seniors Adults for Greater Education) volunteers. With the assistance of our SAGE volunteers, students also created handmade greeting cards. They increased the original donation of \$600 to \$850. Cards are sold in packs of three for five dollars. Cards can still be purchased through the TLC office. Funds will be utilized to support future Gene's Cash Kids service projects.

*Debby Spadaccino, Secretary to the Superintendent of Neshaminy School District*

**NEWS ABOUT S.A.G.E. IN PENNSBURY****MESSAGE FROM CEO**

Dear Pennsbury S.A.G.E. volunteers,

It is my honor to welcome you to our inaugural year of the S.A.G.E. program in the Pennsbury schools. As you know, we are piloting this volunteer effort in two of our elementary schools – Penn Valley and Fallsington. We have already had an enthusiastic response from teachers and principals of these schools, and I am certain you will sense a positive reaction from the students.

We at Pennsbury value your presence in our classrooms and your contributions to the learning of our students. Your life experiences, personal wisdom, shared warmth and enthusiasm will contribute to a beneficial experience for everyone at Penn Valley and Fallsington.

Once again – welcome to Pennsbury, and thank you for volunteering!

Paul B. Long, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer

**S.A.G.E. Comes to Pennsbury**

The Pennsbury District, sponsored by the Pennsbury Partners Program, is happy to announce that Fallsington Elementary and Penn Valley Elementary Schools will be participating in the Senior Adults for Greater Education (S.A.G.E.) Program in the 2009-2010 school year. S.A.G.E. representatives presented the Program and its benefits to teachers at both schools in June, and a volunteer recruitment breakfast for interested senior citizens was also held.

Participating teachers are awaiting the start of the school year to meet their volunteers. Volunteers will be given their classroom assignments in early September, and will begin working with students by late September.

Christine Zervos, Ph.D., District Liaison  
Community Partnerships and Grants Coordinator

**PENNSBURY RECRUITMENT**

Beryl and I are excited to be welcoming the Pennsbury School District to the S.A.G.E. family. We held our recruitment breakfast on June 12th and had the pleasure of meeting many of our future volunteers. As a Pennsbury resident and parent, who at one time volunteered in the classroom of a

teacher who will be joining us as a S.A.G.E. volunteer, it is most gratifying to see the program launch in my home district. I look forward to coordinating the efforts of our volunteers, teachers and administrators during the school year.

Kathi Sherzer, Associate Director

*Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest. "Mark Twain"*

## ***You Can Help S.A.G.E.!***

**S.A.G.E.** is seeking volunteers to help the organization grow and flourish.

We would value your expertise in finance, publishing, journalism, web design, business, fundraising, etc. Please contact: Kathi at [beasage08@comcast.net](mailto:beasage08@comcast.net) or Beryl at 215-357-2332.

We are looking for current S.A.G.E. volunteers to serve as mentors to newer S.A.G.E. volunteers. Through your volunteering, you have learned what it takes to make the most of this time with the students. Help newer volunteers by sharing your experience and tips with them. This can be done through a phone call, email, or over coffee. No one knows about this like YOU do! To volunteer to be a mentor to a newer volunteer, please contact Kathi Sherzer, Associate Director at [beasage08@comcast.net](mailto:beasage08@comcast.net).

## **S.A.G.E. Funding Comes from Donations and Grants**

### ***YOU can help!***

To make a donation

**By credit card** (Visa and MasterCard)\*

Online: [www.beasage.org](http://www.beasage.org) (click on "Donate Now")

or Call: 215-357-2332

**By check\***

Send check payable to:

Senior Adults for Greater Education  
to: 203 Anselm Rd., Richboro PA 18954

**Memorial and Honorary contributions\***

Please specify name of person being honored and name/address of person to receive notification



### ***CHANGE OF ADDRESS***

***If you have had a change of home address, phone number or e-mail, please let us know.***



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*Senior Adults for Greater Education is devoted to uniting youth and seniors in their quest to enrich education and leave a legacy for future generations.*

**Yes! I want to make an impact in my community! Please send me more information about volunteering through Senior Adults for Greater Education!**

**Please Print Clearly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ School District \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate the type of volunteer work you would be interested in (check all that apply):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading with students               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing a talent or skill                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with student written work   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing an experience<br>(history, travel, culture, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping in the library              | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with community service projects                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) _____                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practicing math facts with students | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with computers              | _____   |



**THANK YOU for helping to shape the future!**

**You will receive further information from Senior Adults for Greater Education.**

Please mail to Senior Adults for Greater Education at the address above.