

PROJECT SHARING DAY: A Local Exploratorium

Melinda Greenblatt
Program Director,
Library Connections
Melinda.Greenblatt@archny.org



What is Library Connections?

A dynamic multi-year program for revitalizing inner-city elementary school libraries in the Archdiocese of New York. Conceived of by the Altman Foundation, Library Connections began with 3 schools in February 2000.



Who We Work With...



- 32 Schools in 3 Boroughs
- 608 Library Teachers, Teachers, and Administrators
- 11,332 Students
- 14 current schools

Our Mission

- Develop exemplary school library programs and collections
- Integrate library programs with curriculum, classroom activities, and children's learning
- Support active planning and collaboration among library, computer, and classroom teachers and administrative leaders in each participating school
- Increase use of library programs and collections by students and teachers

Sharing through Dialogue



- 6th Annual Summer Institute
- 33 workshops throughout 2005-2006
- Project Sharing Day
- Presentations at Teacher's Institutes
- Outreach to Other Dioceses

Project Sharing Day

- Held every May
- All schools in Library Connections participate
- Teachers and Library Teachers present their best collaborative unit
- Students may also present



Why Should Educators Share?

- To learn about best practices
- To deepen collaboration
- To think about future adaptations
- To see how curricular content, information literacy strategies and technology can be integrated



Elements of Presentations

- Oral description of planning and implementation
- Resource Displays – books, magazines, websites, video streaming, etc.
- Examples of student work
- Clear documentation on collaborative unit template



Single Class/Grade Units



- 7th Grade United Nations Unit
 - History of the United Nations
 - Debate on a current issue
 - Poetry component
 - Immaculate Conception School (Gun Hill) Bronx, NY

Multi-grade Units



- Gr. K-3 Unit on Butterflies
- Interdisciplinary –
 - Language Arts
 - Science
 - Mount Carmel/Holy Rosary
 - East Harlem, NY

Cross-Grade Units



- PreK and Gr. 5 Unit on Sea Animals
- Gr. 5 prepares PowerPoint to share with PreK
- Interdisciplinary
 - Science
 - Art
 - Ascension
 - Upper West Side, NY

Whole School Units



- Romare Bearden: A True Homecoming
- PreK-8
- Museum Visits
- Interdisciplinary
 - Art
 - Language Arts
 - St. Aloysius
 - Harlem, NY

Inter-school Units



- First collaboration between two schools
- Gr. 7-8 Unit on Immigration
- Visit to Ellis Island
- Joint sharing day
 - Immaculate Conception (SI)
 - OLMC/St. Benedicta
 - Staten Island, NY

Immigration Unit



Additional Units



- Gr. K Multicultural Unit
- Interdisciplinary
 - Language Arts
 - Social Studies
 - Art
 - Music
 - St. Elizabeth
 - Washington Heights, NY



Student Presenters



- Gr. 3 Unit on the Solar System
- Interdisciplinary
 - Science
 - Language Arts
 - Arts
 - Santa Maria
 - Bronx, NY



Evaluation of Projects

- Collaborative Unit Template requires teacher/library teacher reflection and evaluation
- Questions include: How would you change the unit in the future? What was the impact on student learning?
