



## Summer of Discovery a Success

Forty-plus students in grades 4-8 attended After School Discovery's pilot summer learning initiative "Summer of Discovery". The program was developed in order to not only help curb the learning loss that is evident over summer... but also to create a community of excited learners - students that will testify that learning is fun.

Summer of Discovery offered many activities including i-Pad technology learning, book club, art club, and Adopt a Beach curriculum where the students explored our local beaches, and environmental issues. Students performed

community service at the beach and working in local gardens.

Students also experienced local Ashtabula River hiking, a visit to Deer Park in Jamestown, PA, KSU-Ashtabula (for career exploration and technology experience), a trip to Pymatuning Lake to witness the fish hatchery and where the fish "walk on water" and an informative college visit to Gannon University.

Throughout the whole camp session, students, mentors and staff created a sculptural "river of fish" representing their individuality as well as their understanding of being part of a diverse and vibrant community.

The fish were displayed July 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> at the TABS community event. (See more about this event in TABS article).

The students not only brushed up on their academics but learned what it takes to become an active and contributing part of a community and why that is important.

They "experienced" community and practiced being part of a tightly knit team giving them a memorable "Summer of Discovery".

-By Rebecca Stowell



Theme for our Summer of Discovery 2014.



### Special points of interest:

- Club 212 starts September 15th. Homework Help for Athletes Begins August 27th
- Discovery Cove & Kinder Cove Begins: August 27th
- Still Accepting Kinder Cove Applications

## E-Giving



With the excitement of a new website comes the option to accept online donations. This is important for us as we become more technically advanced. It allows us to receive donations from our supporters at any time during the year that is convenient to them.

Simply go to our website, and click on the "Invest" tab. You will be given an option of how much you would like to contribute and then a simple check out process. You can pay with Credit or Debit Card, as well use PayPal.

We encourage you

to stop by every so often and make a donation. Since it may be easier to give small amounts frequently rather than one large lump sum, this new feature will allow you to do so.

-By Melinda McNutt

I remember adults during my childhood [circa 1970] saying, “the world sure is changing.” And they were right. Computers, Cell Phones, iPads – and many other things we now consider ordinary were barely dreamt of at that time.

Some likely regard me as an ‘Adult’ now and I find myself saying the same thing in 2014 as I heard in 1974. Things are changing. Yes, technology is still evolving, but the real change is just starting to unfold. The push for decades was to go ‘global’ and, in many respects, it has been an exciting and healthy evolution to shrink our world and become closer to and better understand other parts of the world, their cultures and customs.

Today, I think, we are beginning to appreciate that ‘global’ isn’t really meaningful and enriching unless we are equally vested in our own local communities – our families, our neighborhoods, our schools, and – at the risk of sounding like an Oregonian – our watersheds.

If I could summarize the work ahead for After School Discovery in these times, the same word applies to our entire community: Transformation.

We cannot serve the same population of students in our programs, while the number needing them grows beyond our capacity. Our Lifelong Learning commitment can’t end at age 18. There are many other ‘enrichment’ lessons that are needed now than those that we taught when ASD was founded 20 years ago. Relative to the cost of living, we have far less resources today and yet we are asked to do exponentially more work to improve our community.

Before we can become ‘Globally Competitive’, we need to come together as a Cohesive Community. That is the Transformation that After School Discovery is embarking upon, using our mission to promote Lifelong Learning as a vehicle to draw this community closer together.

Can we afford it? The easier question might be, ‘Can we afford to keep doing things the way we’ve always done them?’ And the answer is a resounding, “No!”

Grab a friend or a relative and join us this year. It is going to be a fun and rewarding adventure.

-By Rich Recker



*This is 1970's Rich Recker. Just like this black and white photo, even my hair is a thing of the past.*

## River of Many Fish Young Adults Learning Program



*ASD Mentors with their teacher, Lynne Versaw*

The ASD River of Many Fish Summer program included an experimental mentorship program. The mentors ranged in age from future Lakeside High School Juniors to a recent college graduate. These mentors began their employment with ASD by filling out an application for the position. Each mentor was put through an extensive interview process with two ASD staff members.

Qualifying candidates were offered

the 6 week summer school positions if they could agree to the terms of commitment for the entire six weeks, willingness to take a weekly drug test, and adherence to all expectations presented in the ASD Mentor job description.

The mentors proved themselves each day in a most excellent manner. They assisted the students during their academics, on field trips they helped supervise the students as they hiked, weeded gardens and cleaned our beaches. During art projects, they supervised students as they created sculpted fish for the TABS parade.

In addition to these responsibilities, the mentors also participated in a classroom piece to this program. Each mentor took a career assessment and chose a career path to research extensively. They learned what post-secondary education was required for their chosen career as well as the income and job expectations. They practiced

searching jobs online and filling out applications. To be sure they were ready for upcoming interviews; the mentors practiced weekly with “mock interview.” The mentors recorded their experiences in the program via a weekly journal. Once the mentors received their first paycheck from ASD, they were required to create a budget using a spreadsheet that would help them plan specifically how their money was being saved and spent. Lastly, the mentors composed professional cover letters and resumes based on their current education, experience and skills.

The mentors went above and beyond our expectations. We are so proud of the work they performed during summer school. These four mentors shined as outstanding employees of ASD!

- By Lynne Versaw

## TABS Festival

ASD was well represented at the second annual TABS festival (The Arts on Bridge Street).

Despite the ugly weather many of the students rallied and came down to parade, display and admire their "River of many Fish" sculptures which represented the unique personalities of each of our Summer of Discovery students and mentors.

In addition, ASD supported the community ART VILLAGE at the event and many young visitors made a clay tile representing their colorful and distinctive footprint on Ashtabula – part of a community art project which will later adorn the pavilion at Walnut Beach.

The weather at last cleared for the second day of the event and the students had many more admirers of their work and an equal number of eager tile makers from the community visiting the art village. The ASD mentors volunteered their time and were absolutely invaluable and tireless – devoting their entire day to the event and to creating a fun and creative environment for the visitors...Kudos to them!

All in all, a very successful and satisfying culminating event to the "Summer of Discovery".

-By Rebecca Stowell



Students parading during the TABS festival.

## August 2014

In the fall, Club 212 will be offering After School Homework Help for all Fall athletes. This program is offered so the athletes can remain in the building after school until their coaches arrive. They will have a snack and be given time and teacher assistance to complete homework and projects while waiting for their practice to begin.

Homework help is available for



students who also come to school at 6:30 am. Club 212 offers homework help to those students who would like to stay after school and get their homework done.

We will have many different guests from around the county coming to present vital information to the students. Clubs are offered for students to pick from Monday—Thursday. The options are as follows:

**Cooking Club** - the students will be going to the Food Lab at the High School to prepare recipes, learn proper kitchen techniques, measure ingredients and learn about table manners and etiquette.

**Fundamentals of Art** has always been a popular club and is coming back.

**Martial Arts** with a black belt instructor.  
**STEM Learning** - Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math will be used with the iPads, school newspaper, building using different materials, and Adopt a Beach Curriculum.

**Recess club** - play a variety of recess games like four square, jump rope, kick ball, etc... This is the only "recess" time you get in junior high.

**DDP yoga** - Learn the basic yoga techniques and poses while following along with Diamond Dallas Page (DDP)

**Glee Club** - Sing and Dance and prepare a number for the school talent show.

**Fashion Design** - Learn to make an outfit from scratch. Design it, cut the pattern, and sew it all together.

By Stacy Gancos

## Sustainable Discovery - An Excerpt from the Ashtabula Wave

"Give youngsters the tools and permission to pursue their passions, and they'll build a sustainable community." This quote came from Executive Director Rich Recker during a recent interview for the Ashtabula Wave, a new digital newspaper which promotes the positive things happening in Ashtabula County. This article was shared on our Facebook page where almost 1,400 people read the story. In case you hadn't read it yet, we wanted to share it with you here.

It's almost been a year since Rich has joined the ASD team, and while his accomplishments in his first year are many, I'm not sure that many people are aware of his personal mission statement, and why he fits perfectly with the work being done at ASD.

Since day one, sustainability has been his number one goal for our organization. From our funding sources, to the future achievements of the students that go through our program. As our students grow up and become accomplished adults,

we hope that they will remember ASD and support the organization as adults with their time and with monetary donations.

We hate to think what our community would be like had there never been an ASD, let alone what could happen if ASD isn't sustained into the future. I believe that ASD is a program that is not only needed, but should be replicated on a national basis. But not everyone is able to sustain the program for as long as ASD has.



Check out the article "Sustainable Discovery" at [www.ashtabulawave.org](http://www.ashtabulawave.org)

As we prepare to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we hope that with the support of our community, we celebrate many birthdays to come.

-By Melinda McNutt



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## A Farewell to Melinda

ASD has been fortunate to be a stopping place on a sky-rocketing career journey of Melinda McNutt. The look and feel of many of After School Discovery’s communication materials and online features trace back to Melinda, as she was asked to help us grow in this area. She approached the work in a way, unique for such a young professional. Yes, our media ‘looks’ better. But more importantly, all of our communication is now much easier to access, administer, and is designed to be able to grow alongside us as we seek to reach more students and their families.

Melinda is destined for graduate school and to be my boss one day, but in the



short term she will work on a fundraising campaign for the United Way of Greater Cleveland and for the Civic Development Corporation of Ashtabula County. There is no doubt she will make a positive impact in whatever community she serves, and has made such an impact in Ashtabula.

-Rich Recker

## Wade Avenue Campus Programs

The Wade Avenue Campus at AACSD looks to expand as it works to provide Kinder Cove to as many Kindergarten students as possible, continue Discovery and Reading Cove programs, and expand the popular program of Strive 4 Success for 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Long-time ASD advocate, teacher, and Visual Arts Coordinator Becca Stowell joins Lisa Schira as the Program

Management team that will build momentum for a growing number of elementary students.

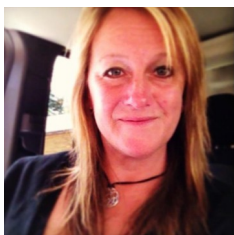
In this next school year, we encourage you to sign your child up for our Kinder Cove and Discovery Cove Programs.

For more information you can check our website, or call us at our ASD office at 440 -993-1060.

## Farewell and Hello to Staff

After School Discovery has carved out a unique niche in the Ashtabula professional community. The talent pool is deeper and wider than many might realize. ASD offers an outlet for talented, experienced and caring adults to make a difference, earn some income and [frequently] launch into something exciting in their next adventure.

Tracy Archuleta took the helm of the Lakeside Junior HS Club 212 program mid-year in the 2013-2014 program year and has been instrumental in solidifying its’ place as an essential resource for a select group of students who are in the process of building some personal and academic momentum.



Tracy is an Art Teacher by training [as are many of our staffers] and was offered a rare full time teaching position in her field in the Jefferson School District. We are pleased to have had her on our team and wish her well moving forward.

increasing our reach to include more students who could benefit from involvement.

Stacy Gancos and Debbie VanGorder are both seasoned veterans who fit the ‘talented and caring’ description quite well.

Each has been actively involved in the Club 212 Program and we’ve asked them to team up and share the duties as Co - Program Directors. While expanding and improving programs, they will also team with ASD Administrative Staff to secure resources and commitments necessary to continue the program beyond this – the final year of a multi-year Ohio Department of Education 21st Century Learning Center grant. Welcome to the team!



-By Rich Recker

ASD is working to reorganize our team to strengthen core program areas while building breadth of programming and