

CROP - CREATING
RURAL OPPORTUNITIES
PARTNERSHIP

The Harvester

CROP — CULTIVATING THE MINDS OF TOMORROW

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

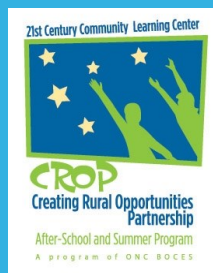
Looking to the future!

Community Connections

- Partner Highlights
- Community Service

Updates from CROP sites

CROP Interns



Program Manager's Corner

We are very thankful to be operating in-person this year at most of our CROP schools. CROP staff has done a fantastic job this year keeping the lights on after-school, given continued COVID restrictions and variable daily conditions. Sites have been able to blend a traditional in-person program with some of the virtual pieces that worked well while being remote.

This means students have been able to take advantage of homework help and engage in enrichment activities while having that socialization with their friends that was missing or cut short while being totally or partially remote.

Community partners are back and offering programs in-person, remotely, and through activity kits as situations warrant. This is allowing students to interact with artists, museum educators, nutritionists, primitive skills instructors, and alcohol and drug educators to learn new things about themselves and the world around them in fun ways.

Thank you to school administrators, staff, community partners, and CROP families for your ongoing resourcefulness and support of CROP during this unique time.

We are excited to share with you what has been going on at CROP this year!



Chris DeCesare
Prog. Manager



Carolyn Cooper
Prog. Support



Liz Forster
Data/Budget
Coordinator

Looking to the future

We are completing the final year of the current 5-year grant for CROP in June and are happy to announce that we have received continued funding for the next 5-year grant period starting July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2027. We are very excited that CROP will continue without interruption!

These next five years of CROP are a chance to really make this program awesome! What are your needs? What would you like to see in CROP? Do you know of someone who would like to work or volunteer for CROP?

Parents/guardians: Are there programs that you would like to see to improve your knowledge or skills in a particular area? Are there programs that you would like to see for families?

Let us know!

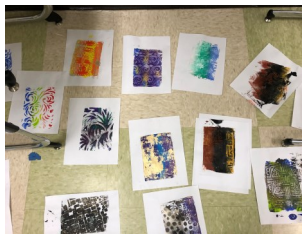
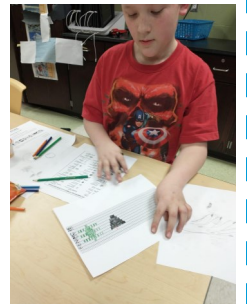


CROP COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Partners

CROP students are visited by a number of community partners throughout the year. Here are just a few of the activities that they have been able to do.

- Learning primitive arts/skills - Hawk Circle
- Printmaking, learning about music genres - CANO
- Family cooking and nutrition - Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Native American History - The Farmers' & Fenimore Museums
- Tree-to-product and fossils - Hanford Mills Museum
- Character education- SCCASA and ADAC
- Creative writing - Roxbury Arts Group



Community Service



CROP strives to give students the opportunity to connect with their community in some small way. It could be sharing letters with nursing home residents, thanking Veterans for their service, walking dogs at the local shelter, decorating a tree in the community green, or simply collecting tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charity.

CROP kids make a difference!



NEWS FROM OUR SITES, PAGES 3- 7



Andes

Andes students have spent the year doing a number of neat things. The 5-8 group participates in Wellness Wednesdays and Archery Club, part of the Archery in the Schools program. The K-4 group often learns about science and nature, taking time to get outdoors.



Roxbury

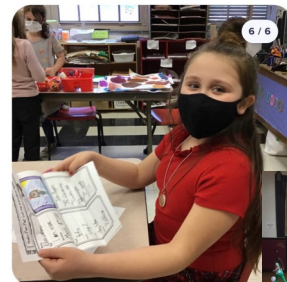
Roxbury students have had a lot of fun this year participating in STEM challenges like building the tallest tower from spaghetti and marshmallows, making healthy snacks in the kitchen, and learning nature skills and games from community partners like Hawk Circle.

Hunter-Tannersville



Hunter 3rd graders having been engaged in a writing project to share letters with pen pals in Seattle, Washington. They were so excited to have their own mail that they began writing back immediately.

Having some time for recreation is also an important part of afterschool, too. These Hunter students love their indoor recreation time.



Stamford

Students have enjoyed having partners come in-person again! Stamford CROP has welcomed Cornell Cooperative Extension back into the school following COVID guidelines. Several families joined in the family meal cooking program. CROP has even made a community connection by hosting local girl scouts so that they can earn their cooking badges. Recipes and pictures of their cooking nights are posted on their Facebook page.



Morris



CROP students are encouraged to share their interests and involvement in community. One example is Otsego County Dairy Ambassador, Kristena Barringer, who shared her experience and information about the program with her CROP classmates at Morris. She also handed out a coloring booklet that she went over with them.

2nd grade CROP students built a pyramid using 100 cups to celebrate the 100th day of school with Ms. Mitcham. They really had fun with this.



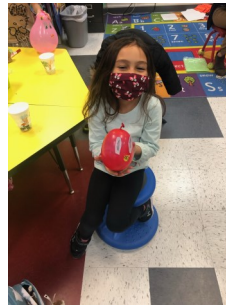
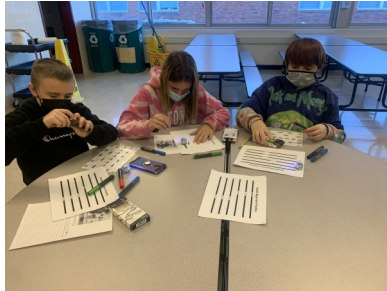
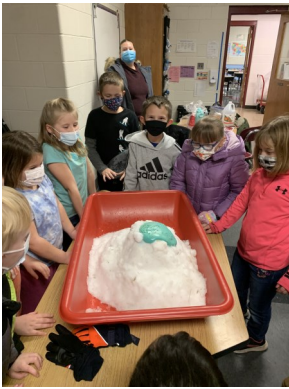
Jefferson

Jefferson CROP has been doing activities this year organized by weekly themes. Students explored many different STEM activities during STEM week including learning about balloon air pressure, pendulums, and radio transmitters. Hands on learning is awesome!



Charlotte Valley

CV students have enjoyed being in person and having fun learning. Second graders experimented with a snow volcano. The K-1 group did a STEM project using balloons that they REALLY enjoyed. The fifth through eighth graders learned to code.



Milford

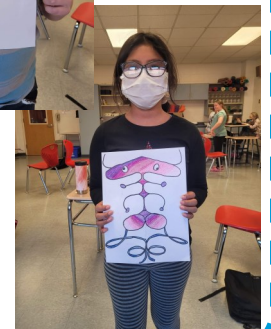
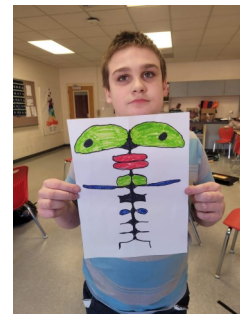
Milford students have learned about colors while doing science with Skittles, about math by creating and counting paper chains that were bigger than themselves, and about nutrition by making and eating healthy snacks with Cornell Cooperative Extension educators.



Laurens

Students at Laurens have enjoyed having partners like the Community Arts Network of Oneonta (CANO) visit this year. Local artist, Celia Buchanan showed students how to do printmaking.

Academic skills are sometimes combined with art and science in really creative ways. Here, the 5-8 group made mirror-image cursive aliens.

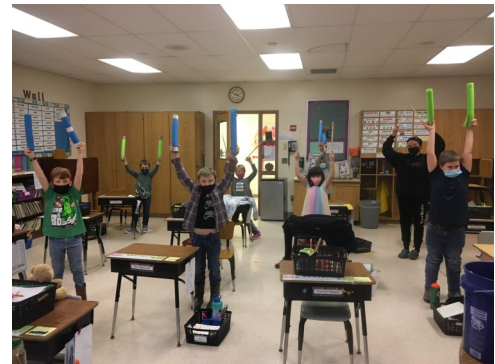




South Kortright

Fourth graders read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett and created their own mittens and colored animals that hide in the mitten. They researched facts about one animal to hide in their mitten. Using those clues, students tried to guess which animal others chose to hide. In the end, they had their own mitten with all of the animals in it.

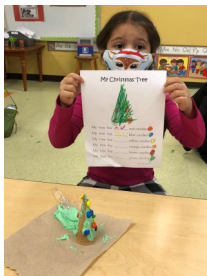
Students have also enjoyed cardio-drumming this year. Sometimes they use foam noodles and their desks and sometimes drumsticks and large balls. It is definitely a favorite activity for everyone!



Worcester

The WCS 6-8 group planned and put into action a Fall Scavenger Hunt for all CROP students. The students had a list of riddles to solve by finding the pictures that went along with them. All students received a prize at the end. A great time was had by all!!

The 3-5 group learned about the *Legend of the No Face Doll* then made Corn Husk Dolls. All materials were provided by the Farmers' Museum.



The K-2 group had a “delicious” time with this Math activity! They frosted a cone shaped tree (ice cream cone) then added decorations (M&Ms) This activity included sorting, counting, and practicing color words.



Gilboa-Conesville

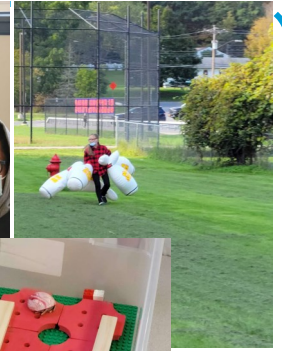
Gilboa students have had many opportunities to use their creativity this year. They made disguises for eggs at Thanksgiving, did an All about Me project, designed cardboard sleds to test friction, and engineered vehicles with Kinects sets.



Margaretville



Margaretville CROP has explored STEM topics, SEL, and teamwork in interesting ways. They learned about hermit crabs and designed obstacles courses for them. First graders made “Why I’m Lucky” shamrocks. Students worked together to engineer a marble roller-coaster out of paper to complete a STEM challenge. A favorite activity for all was the giant inflatable bowling pin relay race.



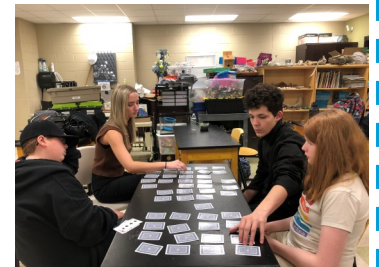
CROP INTERNS

This year CROP has made a great connection with the Human Development and Family Studies program in the Department of Human Ecology at SUNY Oneonta to host interns. These students are studying to work in the field of human services. Some go into the field right after graduation working in community organizations in a variety of roles. Others will pursue master’s degrees to become school counselors, licensed social workers, and therapists.

Intern projects and work are mutually beneficial and based on their interests and future goals. Projects have included:

- making binders of community resources for each of our CROP schools
- researching and designing lessons on subjects such as movement and dance and social-emotional learning
- helping out as activity leaders at an afterschool program

Thank you Jackie Macaluso, Sapir Riskovich, and Olivia Nelson for your help this year!



For more information about internships at SUNY Oneonta, contact: Dr. Karen Joest at karen.joest@oneonta.edu

Evidence of CROP Program Success

One of the requirements of our grant is that we receive an evaluation from an external evaluator each year. Bluepoint Consulting performs 56 site visits each year and analyzes surveys, attendance data, and other outcome data for this report. Our 2020-2021 report from Bluepoint Consulting concluded:

“Despite the many challenges and obstacles brought on by the pandemic, the CROP programs continued to offer a large variety of engaging lessons and activities that helped students increase academic achievement and develop skills of social and personal responsibility while improving emotional well-being. Students report satisfaction with CROP programming as 85.71% reported finding CROP activities interesting while nearly 91.43% tried at least two new things during the year. Parents also felt CROP was beneficial to their students as 95.74% reported they felt that CROP helped their students do better in school and 90.91% saw an improvement in their students’ grades. At the same time parents were able to see the positive social impact CROP had on their students, as 95.65% indicated CROP helped their children get along better with classmates, while 100% noted their students made new friends as a result of attending CROP. The Evaluation Team of Bluepoint Consulting concludes with certainly that despite the challenges associated with the COVID pandemic, CROP programming had a discernible and measurable positive impact on the academic and social performance of CROP participants.”

21st Century Community Learning Center



CROP
Creating Rural Opportunities
Partnership
After-School and Summer Program



CONTACT US:

Chris DeCesare, Program Manager
Carolyn Cooper, Program Support
1914 County Rte. 35, Milford, NY 13807
607-286-7715 ext. 2610
cdecesare@oncbores.org
ccooper@oncbores.org

Follow us on Twitter!
@CROPAfterSchool

