

CROP - CREATING
RURAL OPPORTUNITIES
PARTNERSHIP

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

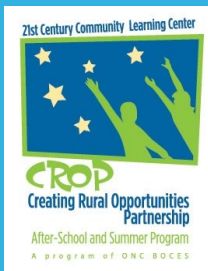
CROP School-
closure
programming
highlights!

CROP
Partnership:
Hanford Mills

NASA STEM
Projects

Updates from all
fourteen CROP
sites

Visit from NYS
Congressman An-
tonio Delgado



The Harvester

Schools are closed... but CROP still serves communities!

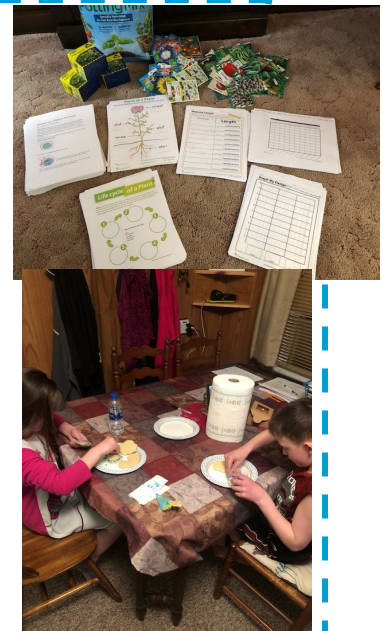
Morris and Gilboa CROP Programs are pivoting to provide out-of-school support for students and families during afterschool hours.

Morris

Morris CROP Site Coordinators Caitlin Smith and Diane Turner got 35 positive responses to their survey about family needs during school closures. They are providing interested families with weekly fun activity kits and small-group Zoom homework support while schools are closed.

We came down off of the mountain ...and the girls had a package from the CROP program (Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership). Their little faces lit up knowing that people missed them and that they love them. It was so sweet, they did not mention how much they loved the things as much as they mentioned how much they knew people were thinking of them. So everyone who had a hand in this.. thank you! Everyone in this community makes it a special place to raise little ones!

-Morris CROP Parent, April 2020

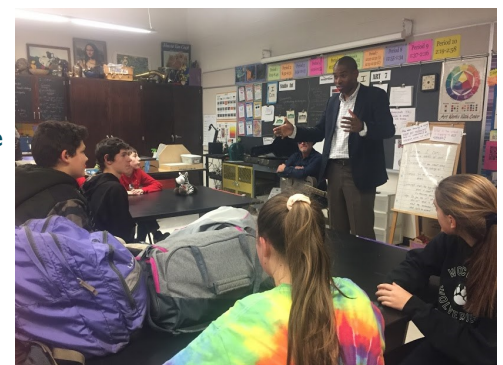


Gilboa-Conesville

Gilboa- Conesville's Site Coordinator Peg Cammer is calling CROP families to assess their needs while schools are closed. She is delivering requested school supplies, STEAM activity kits, and CROP ipads with school meal deliveries. She will begin Zoom homework support sessions for CROP students this week.

Congressman Antonio Delgado Visits CROP!

On January 22, Worcester CROP hosted a visit from Congressman Antonio Delgado. The Congressman saw firsthand the impact of 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding on our students, who welcomed him warmly! Students in grades 2-5 posed questions of Mr. Delgado, including the favorite and least favorite parts of his day, his path to the legislature, and his own family. They also shared a gift they made for him: a colorful poster highlighting their dreams for the future. The kindergarten group sang "happy birthday" to Mr. Delgado and shared a hands-on science lesson with him about the insulating properties of animal blubber. The middle school group talked with him about their leadership and STEM opportunities. Thanks to Worcester CROP staff for preparing the students for this engaging visit and to students for their enthusiastic welcome! The Congressman's visit was a great opportunity to showcase our CROP program's support for local working families and students.



Program Manager's CROP Corner

CROP welcomes new Assistant Program Manager Chris DeCesare! Chris comes to us from **CROP** community partner Hanford Mills Museum where she has been doing outreach programs during the school day and afterschool. This work has given her a great understanding of the **CROP** program from a partner perspective through developing engaging, hands-on programs for our students. In addition to her work as a **CROP** presenter, Chris has a master's degree in environmental education and worked for many years at Rogers Environmental Education Center doing teacher training programs and outreach programs for schools and the general public. Chris has also worked as a substitute teacher and teaching assistant in the Oneonta City School District. We are eager for Chris to work with our staff on science and outdoor education programs to bring the learning outside this spring and summer. Welcome aboard, Chris!



Former Program Manager Liz Forster continues to work for **CROP** part-time as data & budget coordinator. Thanks for your ongoing service to **CROP**, Liz!



Carolyn Cooper
Prog. Manager



Chris DeCesare
Asst. Prog. Manager



Liz Forster
Data/Budget
Coordinator

Calling all Parents! Support Your CROP Program!

When schools re-open, make plans to visit CROP. Let's show funders how much we value this program in our region!

Volunteer— or Visit!

Our sites are always looking for parents to volunteer at their child's program or just stop by to see what is going on ever day! Read a book, help with homework, teach students how to make a healthy snack, share your experience climbing a mountain, share something from your family history or culture, your work, or help chaperone a field trip! Contact your Site Coordinator for more information.

Attend an Event— Or Suggest One!

In addition to providing a safe, afterschool learning environment for your child, the **CROP** grant also seeks to connect you with your child's education. When **CROP** is in session, make plans to attend an event such as a spaghetti dinner, literacy event, an Empty Bowls hunger awareness event, Math & Movement night, or Catch Me Cooking with Cornell Cooperative Extension. Let your Site Coordinator know about programs you would like to see!

Advisory Council Meeting

CROP hosts evening Advisory Council meetings at each of our 14 sites to discuss topics chosen by the Site Coordinators. Last year's topics ranged from student mental health needs to student behavior, family engagement, and connecting with school-day teachers. We need parent input and advice on all of these topics to make **CROP** run smoothly! Please watch for more info about these meetings or **contact** Carolyn Cooper at cooper@oncbores.org to learn more.

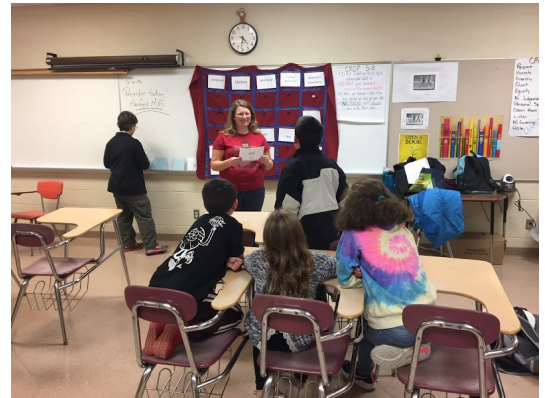


Partner Highlight: Hanford Mills Museum

CROP students love visits from Hanford Mills! Hanford Mills Museum programs often highlight the history and resources of a working water-powered sawmill and gristmill. Their inventive programming engages students in hands-on explorations of simple machines, life at the mill, teamwork, water, and trees. Learning often takes place at our school sites, but field trips to the mill can also be taken during the season when they are open (Mid-May to Mid-Oct). One of the special events at Hanford Mills is the Annual Ice Harvest Festival, held the first Saturday in February. CROP students of any age get free admission.



Photo caption: Hanford Mills staff engages middle schoolers at Stamford with a trivia game about New York State history and geography.



NASA Initiative

Through an opportunity with the U.S. Department of Education, CROP and other 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs across the state are partnering with NASA to bring engaging and authentic hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Design Challenges to our students.

CROP 3rd-8th grade students at Hunter-Tannersville, Jefferson, and South Kortright worked hard on their STEM challenges for many hours this fall. Students participating in the Engineering Design Challenges (EDCs) develop solutions to challenges similar to real-world problems that NASA scientists and engineers face.



Students and their teachers have had the unique opportunity to interact with NASA scientists and engineers to discuss their EDC solution and learn about educational pathways involving STEM as well as exciting STEM careers! Participating CROP staff also had unique opportunities for training and access to technical assistance in relevant STEM topics.

NEWS FROM OUR SITES, PAGES 3– 7

Worcester

In December, Worcester CROP students and staff hosted families at a hugely successful Grinch Kindness Family Night to support the Worcester Food Pantry. Middle school students researched the food bank and held a supply drive to collect personal care items and diapers. Families, friends, and school staff attending the event enjoyed research displays about the food pantry, a coloring contest, crafts, games, and of course, the Grinch movie, which reminds us all to be kind all year round. Thanks for your hard work, Worcester CROP students and staff!



Roxbury

Roxbury CROP students in the Gardening Club prepare for summer by making signs to label plants that will grow in different sections of the school garden.

Andes

Andes CROP students have taken over a program that provides healthy snacks to students in grades pre-K-8. For many years, members of the Cabin Hill Church and Andes Presbyterian Church oversaw an arrangement that provided healthy snacks to Andes students to ensure their nutritional needs

were being met; however dwindling volunteers made this program challenging to run. This fall, the middle school group at Andes took over the project and now provide 47 snack bags for their fellow students. Jen Finkle (Andes Site Coordinator) and Grace Bacon (5th-8th grade Activity Leader) note an improvement in the CROP students' organizational and math skills since taking on the project. Students must place equal amounts of food items (two vegetables, two fruits, a protein and a grain) in each bag. Kudos to Andes CROP for stepping up to the plate to maintain this important program!

-(Adapted from Brian Sweeney's December 6 article in *The Mountain Eagle*)



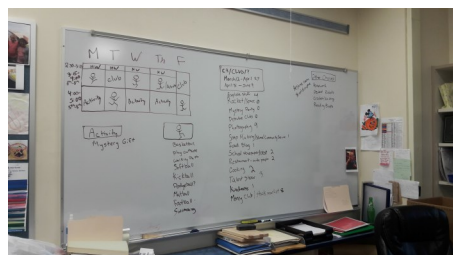
Morris

Morris CROP staff and students hosted a Fall Festival for Lights On Afterschool in October. The festival interested students, parents, community members, and school staff in fun, hands-on activities and highlighted the importance of the CROP afterschool program for families in Morris.



Windham-Ashland Jewett

The middle school CROP group at Windham is designing and leading their own projects. Here, students tackle a science experiment proposed by one of their peers.



Charlotte Valley

Thanks to CROP's partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Charlotte Valley CROP hosted a very successful Catch Me Cooking program this fall with 13 families enrolled! Parent and youth teams had a blast building their cooking skills while learning to prepare healthy and delicious meals and snacks together.



Milford

This past November, Milford CROP hosted their second annual Empty Bowls Dinner. In this service learning project, students and staff planned a community event to fight hunger by making ceramic bowls, preparing soup and bread, and seeking donations from local businesses. Guests at the event were invited to make a donation and select a hand-crafted bowl representing a family, a child, or a student who experiences hunger. Guests filled their bowls with soup and bread hand made by students. This year, proceeds benefited Milford's Food Pantry and Rotary's Project India.



Laurens

Laurens CROP students engage daily in enriching math and ELA activities afterschool. At right: K-I students play math BINGO to practice number recognition.

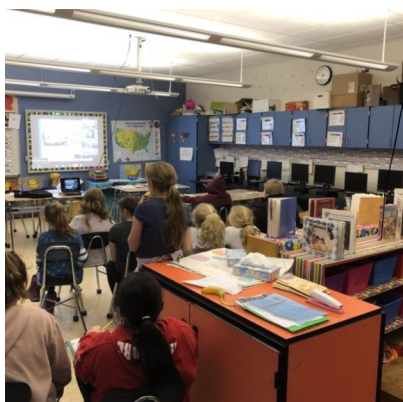
At left: The middle school group is planning, writing, and illustrating their own children's book that they will share with younger CROP groups.



Gilboa-Conesville



For Lights On Afterschool this past October 24, Gilboa-Conesville students presented an original play about the history of Old Gilboa. Students visited Old Gilboa Museum to research the story of the town's 1926 flooding to create the Schoharie Reservoir to supply New York City with water. CROP students wrote an original script, created their own props, costumes, and scenery, and rehearsed to present the play for parents, school staff and community members. Thanks to Gilboa CROP for this student-driven, engaging project!

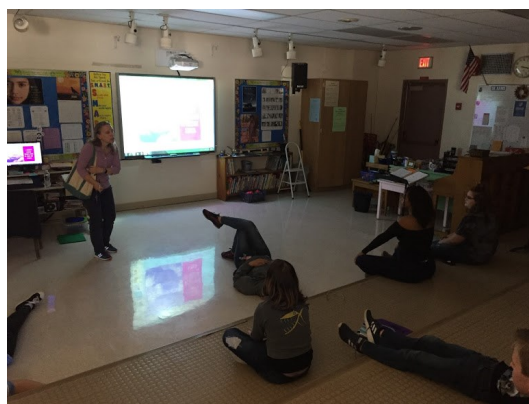


Hunter -Tannersville

Fifth and sixth graders at Hunter CROP are working with technology teacher George Bain on their NASA STEM project. Students are involved in a study of drag and resistance through hands-on projects. Their goal is to develop a drag device to slow a spacecraft for entry, descent, and landing. In January, they enjoyed a video call with a NASA engineer who spoke with them about STEM careers and helped them troubleshoot their designs. They look forward to sharing their final product at the NASA showcase in Albany.

South Kortright

This fall, CROP groups at South Kortright continued regular mindfulness meditations as a way to transition from the school day to afterschool time. One of the seventh graders in the group pictured called this time "the best part" of her day.



Margaretville

In October, Margaretville CROP hosted a fantastic Light up the Night celebration as part of Lights On Afterschool. Lights On Afterschool is a national rally highlighting the importance of afterschool programs for families and kids. As part of the celebration, middle school students created their own video to explain what they love about CROP. Families and community members participated in crafts, enjoyed snacks, and shared their ideas for CROP in a "bright ideas box" as part of the celebration.



Jefferson



In December, Jefferson CROP continued their annual holiday dinner tradition with 85 family members attending! The project is a great example of project-based learning by students. Each year, students in the 5-8th grade group learn to plan a large-scale event, shop on a budget, create gifts, prepare food, and clean up. This year, the middle schoolers mentored the 2nd-3rd grade group in learning to plan a meal on a budget, and the two groups hosted families together. Congratulations, Jefferson CROP staff and students on your most successful annual holiday dinner yet!



Stamford

CROP Students at Stamford love clubs that allow them to experience new things through hands-on learning! One of the most popular clubs this fall was Forensic Science which engaged students in solving imaginary crimes through science experiments.



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21st Century Community Learning Center



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Creating Rural Opportunities
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