

Kamryn Trepanier, Grade 7
Kingdom Kids Afterschool Program at Sutton Town School
Caledonia North Supervisory Union
Program Director: Diane Janukajtis, djanukajtis@cnsuschools.org

My name is Kamryn Trepanier. In the four years that I have been attending the Afterschool Program at Sutton Town School, I have learned so much from the teachers, peers, and even the younger group. During the Afterschool Program, my two sisters and I get to cook, play, learn, and have fun. In the two hours and fifteen minutes we have here, we learn about teamwork, survival, friendship, and collaboration.

We create fun art like bird houses, draw snowman pictures, learn to use technology like I-pads, and carve walking sticks. For example, during TechWizards, the older students worked together to build rockets, while the younger students worked on their tech skills by using I-pads to record the firing of the rockets.

A big part of the Afterschool Program at Sutton is giving the students "Voice." As students, we are asked to lead meetings, activities, and provide assistance during enrichments. Because of this chance to use our voice, we are able to ask questions, imagine, and show our creativity each day that we meet. It is for those reasons that I like the Sutton Town School Afterschool Program so much.

Janizer Diaz-Cartagena, Grade 8
New North End Youth Center/ Sara Holbrook Community Center
Hunt Middle School, Burlington
Program Director: Kathy Olwell, nneyc@yahoo.com

Spirals after-school was a program that opened doors to see the reality of what really happens in the city. We were able to ask questions about different groups in Burlington, their lives and how they get their food. Asking these questions helped me to see how different people look at what being healthy means to them. In this program we looked at businesses we thought might be sustainable. Asking ourselves questions we discovered that some really weren't sustainable. These discoveries made me angry and surprised. I thought the government was doing more to protect us, people think they are buying organic food and in some cases they really aren't. We had the opportunity to go to ECHO during in-service day and explain our findings, I felt proud that we got to tell people what was really going on. Besides spirals I've got to do many other programs such as Zentangles, beading, and felting that allowed me to explore many things I might not have been able to try especially if I still lived in Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico you would have to spend a lot of money for these programs and my family could not have afforded it. Plus many of these programs would not have even been offered.

Shawn Baker, Grade 8

Essex Middle School

Program Director: Cathy Printon, Printon@vsac.org

I have attended many after-school programs, from 4-H to Odyssey of the Mind to yearbook club. I have also enjoyed DI (Destination Imagination), the play, chess club, track and field, and homework club. I've enjoyed every one of them, and I still will do most of them. After-school programs are things that I look forward to at the end of a long school day. I get to have fun and do what I enjoy and just forget about school and homework for an hour or two. Of course, I still put school work first, but after-school programs are a break from school. I do sometimes attend homework club, and I get to ask my teachers for help on homework. In DI, I get to imagine things like puppets coming to life or unicorns that throw around glitter. In the play, I get to create the role that I become, I create a character and make it in my own way, and get to be someone that I don't normally act like. I have had many opportunities in after-school programs, and many enjoyable times doing the program and hanging with friends. After-school programs have benefited me in many different ways and I am glad that my school has them.

Katelyn Brown, Grade 5

E.L.O. @ Caledonia Central Supervisory Union

Danville School

Program Director: Donna Gaston, donna.gaston@ccsuonline.org

Hello, my name is Katelyn Brown and I have been attending my school's after school program for two years. Danville School has a program called ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) after school every day for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. My experience in ELO has been amazing. During the after school programs I have learned to work as part of a team, how to achieve goals, advocate and dream.

The Drama program, in which we have been preparing for a play, has helped me socially and academically. There are many lessons that I have learned while on the stage and working together with the rest of my cast to make a beautiful performance come to life. All my life I have had a hard time with the courage to stand in front of a crowd and speak, but now that I have performed and done something I love in front of many people I have conquered that fear. Also having conquered that fear I am not afraid to be myself anymore. I know that being different is what makes beautiful people shine brighter than ever before.

Girl Talk another part of ELO is my favorite after school activity, due to how great it makes me feel. Girl Talk has taught me to love who I am, my body and my life. It has taught me how to build my confidence and gave me courage to do things I would have never done before. It has inspired me to be the person I am and to follow my dreams.

ELO Has been such a great experience for me that I know now that I will succeed in life, having learned so many good things from my Middle school career. I am grateful that the Danville School has given me this opportunity.