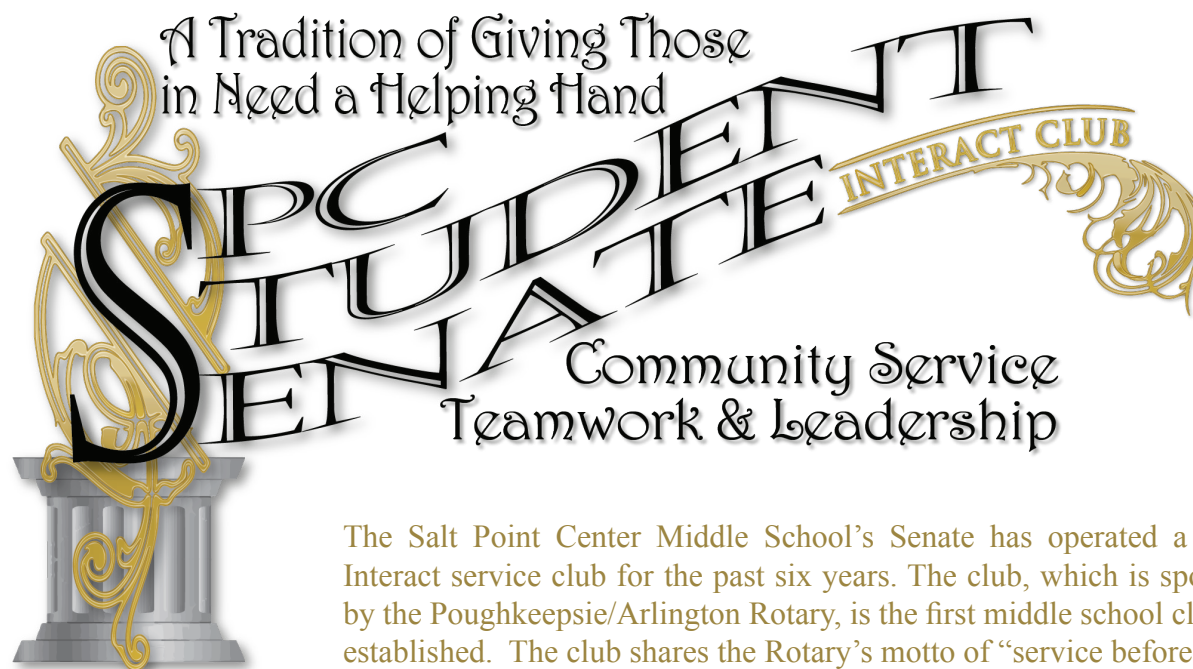


LIBOCES SPOTLIGHT

October 2015



The Salt Point Center Middle School's Senate has operated a Rotary Interact service club for the past six years. The club, which is sponsored by the Poughkeepsie/Arlington Rotary, is the first middle school club ever established. The club shares the Rotary's motto of "service before self."



The SPC Middle School Student Senate got off to a great start this year with unique leadership training to help them move forward with the goal of helping others. The Senate members learned the particulars of how to conduct a formal meeting and make decisions about the activities they plan for this year.



The first activity is a Yankee Candle fundraiser, which will benefit student activities at SPC and also support the Blue Butterfly Foundation. Funds donated to the Blue Butterfly Foundation will help provide a well-rounded education to those in need in the area of earthquake-ravaged Nepal.



Other activities will include a food drive for the local food pantry, a holiday gift drive for children in the Oncology Unit at Westchester Medical Center, and a pet supply drive for the SPCA.



After their first organizational meeting, SPC Senate members were given the opportunity to participate in an all-day team-building/leadership program at Camp Tommy located at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill. This field trip was made possible by a grant awarded to Dutchess BOCES from Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.



Team-building through “challenge education” is an exciting way of discovering and using human potential. Students were given team-building opportunities, each with its own particular focus, to develop different skill sets.

Each challenge was followed by a “debriefing” in which the group discussed topics such as communication, leadership, gender issues, peer pressure, tolerance, and accountability. Team-building exercises offered the students a striking new awareness of their own personal capabilities, allowing them to grow beyond their accepted role in the group, and encouraged cooperation and genuine concern for the well-being of others.

