



FALL/WINTER NEWS

SUCCEED2GETHER

BUILDING OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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Thanks to the Montclair Jewish Workshop, board members, and community donors for the holiday gifts and to Peter Rappoport for the food donations. Thank you to June Zimmerman, MHS students Margalit, Elana, Massimo, and Jameson for wrapping and delivering the gifts and food to our Succeed2gether families.

After-School Tutoring Program

Silver linings have long been our specialty at Succeed2gether. In pandemic times, clouds darkened student's daily lives and threatened learning opportunities as never before. We promptly moved our tutoring program online when schools closed last spring and managed to help our students shine brightly through it all.

Intensified need among our students and families meant that we intensified our services. Succeed2gether's after-school program now provides:

- Extra tutoring hours to those at risk of falling permanently behind
- Training for tutors in best practices and useful websites for working online
- Tips on combatting 'Zoom fatigue'
- Amplified tutoring for early readers and ESL students
- Extensive mentoring and support for college applicants.

The program has benefited significantly from a partnership with Montclair State University (MSU) formed earlier this year. Graduate students from the Speech Pathology program lent their expertise and energy to bringing our Early Learners along academically – and bonded with true warmth with their individual tutees.

Another group of MSU tutors will begin working with students in January and we hope and expect this to be a long-term arrangement.

Some additional silver-lining aspects of 2020 tutoring have been surprises:

- Unhampered by transportation challenges, students have improved attendance at S2G sessions
- Now accustomed to communicating with students online, teachers are more accessible for questions on material and assignments
- Our one-on-one sessions offer 'socialization' for students in a way that classroom Zooms often do not.

The one-on-one approach, tried and true for Succeed2gether over 10-plus years, has succeeded better than ever online during the pandemic.

Our professional teacher volunteers and our Succeed2gether Board Curriculum Committee have concluded that we should continue some of our Zoom sessions even after life returns to 'normal'.

Overall, we can be proud that we served our families well when their children needed us most. We look forward to 2021 with optimism and confidence that we will continue to Succeed2gether.

College Bound in 3, 2, 1...!



S2G's Toni Martin, College Essay Writing Tutor Arielle Eckstut, and grade 12 student and now college-bound Zaki

We are celebrating college acceptances at Succeed2gether!

Last year, on the suggestion of longtime tutors Arielle Eckstut and David Henry Sterry, Succeed2gether started a College Essay Writing/Prep program.

When Succeed2gether grade-12 student Zaki started with the program, he insisted that he couldn't write. With the support of Arielle, Zaki produced a sparkling piece of writing from the heart. Last week he received his acceptance letter from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). And this week he received two more acceptance letters from New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) and William Paterson University.

"Not to be overly dramatic – well, it is kind of dramatic – but I sincerely doubt I could have gotten here without you."–Zaki

Just this past spring, Soleil, a 12th-grade student, started working with College Essay tutor and local author, Laurie Lico Albanese. Soleil composed a piece about the role music plays in her life. Two weeks ago Laurie heard from Soleil: "Thank you for your help on the essay. I've already been accepted into three colleges."

Congratulations to Zaki and Soleil, two hard-working students who deserve their success.

Tutor Tales

My name is Safi Barry, and I am a senior at Montclair High School. I have been tutoring with Succeed2gether for about five years now and I am so grateful for the experiences I've had.

For the past few years I've been paired with the same girl and not only did I develop a bond with her, I've watched her grow as an individual and student.

The organization is a great addition to our community and helps many students get the support and resources they need at no cost.



Peer to Peer Fundraising

Succeed2gether now offers Peer-to-Peer fundraising. This is a great way for students to complete their own community service project. They can set up a fundraising profile, invite fundraisers, name their team, and encourage all their friends and family to donate.

It's as easy as three clicks. Go to our Winter Appeal page here <http://bit.ly/S2gwinter>. Click on Become a Fundraiser. Enter your name and email address, and you can add an image. Then you will be asked to add your personal campaign title (optional), fundraising goal, add your own story about why you are fundraising for Succeed2gether, and you're done.

Then you can share your fundraiser with anyone and everyone. If you need any help, please get in touch at info@succeed2gether.org.

Partnership with Montclair State University

From September 2020, Succeed2gether has partnered with two programs from Montclair State University, the Bonner Leader Program (BLP) and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Graduate Program Speech Language Pathology (SLP).

Assistant Director at the Center for Community Engagement, Krystal Woolston, provided us with four Bonner Leaders from the BLP. Bonner Leaders commit an average of 10 hours per week to the community.

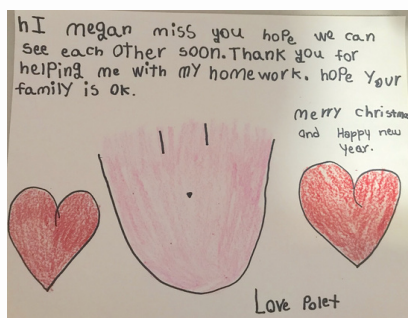
These students can assist with tasks such as capacity-building projects, training and program development, research, fundraising, and communications.

The Bonner Leaders have made a great impact at Succeed2gether, breathing new life into and inspiring the staff. Many have helped on a weekly basis by directly tutoring and monitoring students. One, Mikaela Guzman, also taught a Voice enrichment class for students, grades 1 to 3. Another, Valerie Chica, is helping with marketing, publicity, and outreach so more organizations know about Succeed2gether and the valuable services available.

Succeed2gether also worked with Dr. Lesley Sylvan, who taught a Community-Engaged Learning Class, and assigned 12 graduate students from her SLP class to assist with S2G's tutoring program.

These students have also made significant contributions to our students and program. They built our students' confidence, broadened their horizons by taking them on virtual trips around the world, and improved their academic foundation by reinforcing basic Math and ELA skills. They have provided extra weekly tutoring sessions, new skills and energy to the program.

We plan to continue this collaboration next semester by expanding the services provided by the SLP students. They will observe sessions and provide us with feedback and resources, tutor students one-on-one, and run training sessions for our current tutors on engaging and motivating students, time management [organizing an effective one-hour session], and best practices for beginning readers.



Polet loves her Speech Language Pathology tutor, Megan



Image, courtesy the DeFrank Family

Enrichment Classes

This Fall Succeed2gether provided two shorter cycles of enrichment classes – one in October and one in November. This allowed students to try something new but with a shorter commitment than in the past.

From September through December we had a total of 11 different classes, focusing on grades 2 to 12. Classes offered ranged from ELA with poetry for our youngest participants to a debate class with middle schoolers as well as Poetry and Creative Writing classes for middle and high school students. Violin, drumming, drawing and singing were also enjoyed by elementary to middle schoolers.

Both the October and November enrichment cycles were filled with great opportunities and experiences. A student in poetry said, he 'never knew that poetry was so free'. A violin student was so excited to collect her violin. She said to her mother, 'I have never held a violin before'. Two students in the creative writing class produced wonderful short stories, and the teacher announced to one student that he was creating a novel.

Succeed2gether also partnered with Rutgers University 4-H Extension Program. They provided families with STEM Kits that contained five STEM-related activities. This was a family project that was hands-on and tech-free fun for the whole family.

We have another exciting line-up for our winter classes starting on January 19th. Classes, times, and dates listed on the flyer below.

Image, courtesy the Sementi Family





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WINTER ENRICHMENT CLASSES

SIGN UP TODAY

- Classes are FREE to students who qualify.
- Classes begin Tuesday January 19, 2021.
- All classes run for four weeks – exceptions noted.
- For more information, visit:

www.succeed2gether.org
info@succeed2gether.org
973-746-0553



MONDAY

- 3:00-4:00pm, Health & Wellness, 13 years–Adult
- 4:30-5:30pm, Creative Writing, Grades 7–9

TUESDAY

- 3:00-4:00pm, Math, Grades 6–8
- 4:30-5:30pm, Drumming, Grades 3–5 (8 weeks)

WEDNESDAY

- 4:30-6:00pm, Polar Scientists, Grades 6–8 (5 weeks)

THURSDAY

- 3:00-4:00pm, Violin, Grades 4–7 (6 weeks)
- 4:30-5:30pm, ELA, Grades 2–4

Behavioral Health Support Session

How are you coping with the ongoing isolation from friends and family? Is working from home with a full house placing a lot of stress on your relationships?

We are partnering with Mountainside Family Practice to provide support to our families with an interactive Zoom discussion on Friday January 22 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.



Hackensack Meridian
Mountainside Medical Center

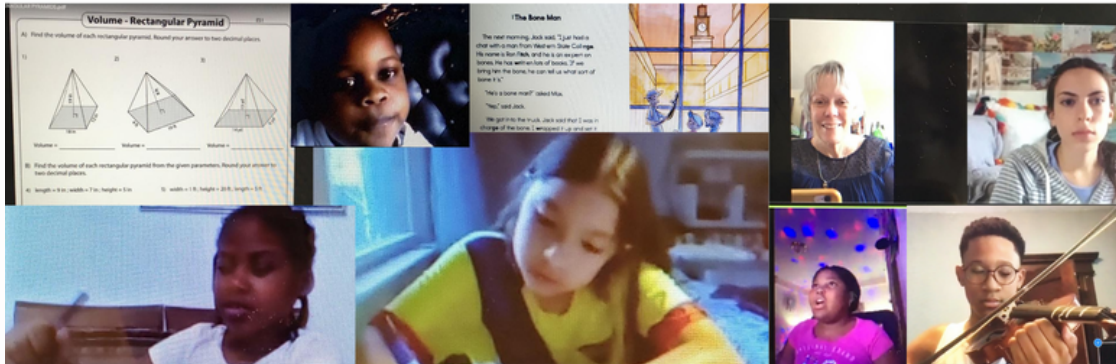
Doctors will talk briefly and then answer your behavioral health questions. Families are asked to submit their questions in advance of the discussion.

To register and send questions for the session, please email info@succeed2gether.org or call 973-746-0553.



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ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING VIA ZOOM



- **FREE** for low- and moderate-income families
- All students' grades K-12
- Weekly – Monday through Thursday
- Sessions hourly, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm
- September 14, 2020 to May 27, 2021

SIGN UP TODAY

- Qualified, caring, experienced tutors
- Students matched with tutors
- Math & Book Buddies for K-3

For more info:
www.succeed2gether.org
info@succeed2gether.org
973-746-0553

Thank You to all our 2020 Supporters

We would be unable to do all of the things we did during this difficult year without the generosity of our community.

Thank you to our Partners and in-kind Donors:

- Montclair Public Library
- Township of Montclair
- Toni's Kitchen
- MFEE
- Montclair State University
- Watchung Booksellers
- Studio Montclair Inc.
- Elefante Music & School for the Performing Arts
- Reaching Out Montclair
- Michal Salanon
- Teams Tackling Covid – Ben Grunther, Amy Grunther, Hallie Goldblatt, Betsy Schwartz, Zach Weinhouse, and Jessica Isser
- Laptop Upcycle
- Verizon
- Succeed2gether Board Members

Thank you to our amazing volunteers.

Thank you to our 2020 Major Funders:

- County of Essex, Community Development Block Grant
- Township of Montclair
- Small Business Association's Paycheck Protection Program
- Montclair Fund for Women
- The Northern New Jersey Community Foundation
- The Montclair Foundation
- The Schumann Fund of NJ
- Susan & Robert Kramer Fund
- The Korones Family Foundation

Thank you to our 2020 Major Funders (cont):

- The Nachtigal Family Fund
- The Colbert Family Fund of Coastal Community Foundation of SC
- Angela Cali
- Pramod Chakravarthy
- Rose Cali
- Susan MacLaury and Albie Hecht
- Christina Axelrod
- Whole Foods Market

Thank you to our 2020/21 Literary Festival Sponsors:

- Rao's Homemade
- West of Hudson Realty Group
- Jill Williams, Ameriprise Financial
- Montclair State University
- County of Essex, Local Arts Program
- Liza Cohn and Bill Wallach
- Mona Jha and John Ashbrook
- Lee Heh Margolies and Kenneth Maiman
- June Zimmerman and Bela Schwartz
- Melissa and David Deutsch
- Suna Chang and Michael Potenza
- Carolyn Gould
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- Ferguson Dental Associates
- The Korones Family Foundation
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- John & Claudia Baker
- Jennifer Bell
- Mary-Kate Mellow
- Phoebe Pollinger
- Sylvia Cohn
- Cherry Provost
- Pauline Panza

