A MESSAGE FROM JOE

It has truly been wonderful working as HAND Co-chair this past year. I have been fortunate to have worked with two amazing Co-chairs, Marylin Sanchez and Jane Lauckner, and two diligent Boards. Their hard work helped shape HAND into the program it is now. I also want to thank Judy Kokesh. She has been a wealth of knowledge and a continuous source of energy and support for all of HAND.

During the last two semesters, we have watched the HAND program grow and expand. We’ve witnessed the addition of the America Counts program and look forward to watching it spread to every House-school pair. We have more volunteers than ever, including first-years. Every House program is at least as strong or stronger than it was a year ago. Volunteers are enthusiastic and eager to help despite the challenges. Leaders in the Houses are optimistic for the future despite past frustrations. It is an exciting time to be part of HAND.

Thank you all for the opportunity to have an important role in HAND’s history. I am happy to continue serving on the Board as one of Dunster House’s Co-coordinators. But most importantly, I am happy to be able to make an impact on kids’ lives as a HAND volunteer.

Sincerely,
Joe Johnson ’01

HAND Central would like to thank Joe for the dedication and leadership he has shown HAND and the many things he has accomplished during his time as Co-chair.

Contact the HAND Central Office
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or visit us at: http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~hand
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HAND continues clothing drive tradition

As the end of the academic year approaches HAND again prepares to involve the entire campus in its annual clothing drive to benefit Pine Street Inn. Last year HAND was able to collect clothes that undergraduates no longer wanted or needed, donating all it collected to the Clothing Enterprise program at Pine Street Inn. In all, five tons of clothes were collected in the clothing drive thanks to the work done by the many volunteers from the house HAND programs and the staff at Harvard Waste Management.

HAND took responsibility for publicity and working with House superintendents to indentify a site for the collection bins in the houses. Harvard Waste Management emptied the bins when full and transferred the clothing to a large collection dumpster provided by Pine Street Inn.

Rather than being thrown out and having to be sorted as waste by Harvard Waste Management, the clothing was sorted for resale by the Clothing Enterprise program at the Pine Street Inn, which reconnects clients with the workforce by developing skills in retail operations, inventory control, and warehouse management. Transitions, the retail operation of Clothing Enterprise, sold some of the clothes at one of its two stores in the Greater Boston area to raise money for Pine Street Inn.

Watch for signs and bins in the Houses in early May!
America Reads began its third year at Harvard this fall with HAND Readers making a strong showing. According to Laura Lee, America Reads Coordinator at Phillips Brooks House, 61 HAND Readers are working with Cambridge children to improve their reading and writing skills!

Of the 61 HAND Readers, 23 are work-study students. Several HAND programs this year are especially well represented by Readers. Kirkland HAND leads the group with 15 Readers at the Morse School, while Quincy HAND has 10 Readers at the Maynard School. Leverett HAND and Dunster HAND are also well represented with seven and six Readers respectively.

HAND Readers work in a variety of settings, depending on their schedules and the arrangements with their partner school. Some Readers work with small groups of children in after-school programs and learning centers. They often help with spelling or vocabulary homework or writing assignments. Other Readers work during the school day under the direction of a classroom teacher. They may read with small groups or individual children. Some of the children are just learning to read and others are only fluent in their native language and are just learning to read in English.

The Reader program tries to ensure that each volunteer receives training to help young children develop and enhance their reading skills. Several training sessions were offered this fall that provided strategies for helping reluctant readers, early readers, and children that are struggling for a variety of reasons. New Readers are required to take four hours of training in the fall and an additional two hours in the spring term.

In addition to a variety of books for children at different reading levels, HAND Readers have a selection of other materials to support their tutoring efforts available for check-out. These materials are especially useful to HAND Readers when working with early readers or children who are more “tactile” in their learning style. Materials include magnetic letters and words, word blocks, white boards with dry erase markers, and some simple word games. See Judy Kokesh in the HAND office for check-out procedures.

HAND holiday parties have always been among the most popular one-shots and the annual Halloween parties are no exception. This past October many of the HAND programs held Halloween parties and trick-or-treating in their houses or at their partner schools.

Volunteers from Quincy HAND visited the Maynard School to celebrate Halloween with the kids in the after school program. With the help of school staff, volunteers hosted a party with everything from face painting and cookie decorating, to a “chaotic” haunted house. According to Maynard’s principal, the party was especially important because many of the students do not go trick-or-treating to celebrate the holiday.

Kirkland HAND one-shotters headed to the Morse School to help with decorating pumpkins with yarn, feathers and cotton balls.

Cambridgeport students carving away in Dunster

The afternoon was filled with Frisbees and footballs flying through the air and piggy-back races across the Dunster courtyard. After trick-or-treating in the house, the kids participated in the inevitable trading of candy where chocolates and kit-kats went from being candy to commodity.

Mather HAND hosted children from the King and King Open schools in the JCR. Children went trick-or-treating throughout the house. Afterwards, volunteers and children enjoyed donut-eating contests, applebobbing and cookie decorating. Good weather allowed games of “freeze tag” and “capture the flag” in the Mather courtyard.
Look in on after-school programs in three Cambridge elementary schools and you might catch children and HAND volunteers playing “Close to 100” and “What’s My Button?” Or, they might be puzzling over different ways to add two numbers to equal 20.

These 25 volunteers and the fourth and fifth graders they are working with are part of HAND America Counts, a new program developed by HAND in partnership with Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc. and the Cambridge School Department.

The goal of the program is to improve performance in and increase the enthusiasm of 4th and 5th grade students for mathematics. The program, funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Campus Compact, is a pilot program this year in the Haggerty, Fletcher, and Fitzgerald Schools.

Most of the HAND America Counts tutors work in after-school learning centers, providing homework help and skill development in the form of math games and lessons. Others are placed in classes to help teachers give special attention to students who may be struggling with difficult concepts.

Though only working 2-4 hours per week, volunteers are able to make a positive impact by concentrating tutoring on a particular need and pursuing clearly defined goals.

Because it is a grant-funded program, America Counts is able to provide resources to its tutors such as tactile materials, games, and activity ideas. Shaylyn Romney, America Counts Program Assistant is working to find additional resources and pre-package them for tutors to check out.

Training sessions have been focused on acquainting Harvard students with the curriculum used in Cambridge 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Investigations—a curriculum focused on mathematical reasoning and problem-solving—was developed by TERC, a Cambridge-based non-profit company working to improve mathematics and science education. Hopefully, by using materials and approaches with which the students are familiar, America Counts tutors are building on classroom learning and helping kids to exercise the specific thinking skills that they are developing in class.

Harvard HAND America Counts is still just getting started, but the response so far has been overwhelmingly positive. Many tutors feel that they are taking truly significant steps to help kids feel more comfortable with math both inside and outside the classroom—an objective that is increasingly important in American society.

For more information about Harvard HAND America Counts, please visit our website at http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~hand or contact Judy Kokesh at 495-3756 (jkokesh@fas)
Adams House
House- Alice Chen (alchen)
Readers- Ben Tolchin (tolchin)
Mentors- Trevor Dryer (dryer)
One-shots- Jenny Hoffpauri (hopp)

Kirkland House
House- Satyanand Satyanarayana (satyanar)
Tutors- Adam Johnson (johns3)
Readers- Daniel Kaganovich (kaganov)
Mentors- Andy Rice (drice)
One-Shots- Cathy Suarez (csuarez)
Molly Mackean (mackean)

Central HAND Team
Jane Lauckner (lauckner), Co-Chair
(Lowell House)
Josh Gewolb (gewolb), Co-Chair
(Mather House)
Judy Kokesh (jkokeshe)
Public Service Administrator
Alex Berrio Matamoros (berrio)
Work-study HAND office assistant
Shaylyn Romney (romney)
America Counts Program Assistant

Leverett House
House- Shai Sachs (sachs)
Tutors & Readers- Marlys Fassett (fassett)
Uni-Lu- Lara Jimmanus (jimmanus)

Lowell House
House- Lisa Stutius (stutius)
Tutors- Chris Meserole (meserole)
Wilson Chwang (chwang)
Special Events- Heidi Kim (heidikim)

Mather House
House- Libby Shani (shani)
Tutors- Kate Kraft (kraft)
Mentors- Alana Semuels (semuels)
One-Shots- Catherine So (csa)
MACK Sports- James Cha (jscha)

Pforzheimer House
House- Caroline Rothert (rothert)
Tutors- Mary Bridges (briges)
Mentors- Kamil Redmond (redmond)

Quincy House
House- Melissa Johnson (mrjohns)
Eli Kramer (ekramer)
Tutors- Danielle Li (dli)
Vicki Chou (vchou)
Readers- Beth Marino (marino)
Sherina Feliciano-Santos (sfelic)
Mentors- Sean Diskin (diskin)
Uni-Lu- Sarah Spiegel (spiegel)
Carol Garvan (garvan)

Winthrop House
House- Melissa Morris (mamorris)
Tutors- Jen Cobelli (cobelli)
Readers- Masako Irie (irie)
One-shots- Tom Withrow (withrow)
Peter Soderland (soderlan)
Alex Kuo (akuo)

Currier House
House- Robert Lindsey (rlindsey)

Dunster House
House- Joe Johnson (jjjohns)
Andrew Marcus (marcus)
Tutors- Tom Mercer (mercer)
Readers- Andrea Lee (alee)
One-shots- Anne McLaughlin (amclaugh)
Sam Kruger (kruger)

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