

# PROJECT

# PEN PALS

# 2010 - 2011



United Way  
of Racine County



Youth As Resources  
Project Reflection Book

Jerstad-Agerholm & S.C. Johnson

Elementary Schools

**Educational objectives:**

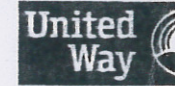
1. Learning parts of a friendly letter
2. Addressing an envelope correctly
3. Improve written language skills
4. Develop different purposes and enjoyment through writing
5. An awareness of new technology
6. Develop friendships
7. Experience meaningful social interactions
8. Recognize individual differences and similarities amongst each other
9. Practice acceptance and appreciation for others





### PROJECT PEN PAL GETS GRANT!

Mrs. Mikaelian's Project Pen Pal has been given a grant from Racine County Youth As Resources of the United Way. The grant will be used to defray some of the costs of their project with pen pals from S.C. Johnson Elementary School. Youth As Resources (YAR) is a community investment committee of United Way of Racine County that gives grants to fund youth-designed, youth-led community service and service learning projects. It empowers youth to make positive differences in their own community.



United Way  
of Racine County

Dear YAR,

Thank you for putting children first and helping to instill many positive memories of Project Pen Pal with our students. With your help Project Pen Pal definitely met our goals and expectations even more than we expected! Thank you for giving our students a learning experience which will have a positive impact on them becoming better citizens in their community.

Our students' awareness of appreciating others, accepting differences, developing friendships, learning acceptable social interactions, as well as meeting the writing goals were all made easier through the grant. It was also important that the students realized they shared some of the same problems as well as many similarities.

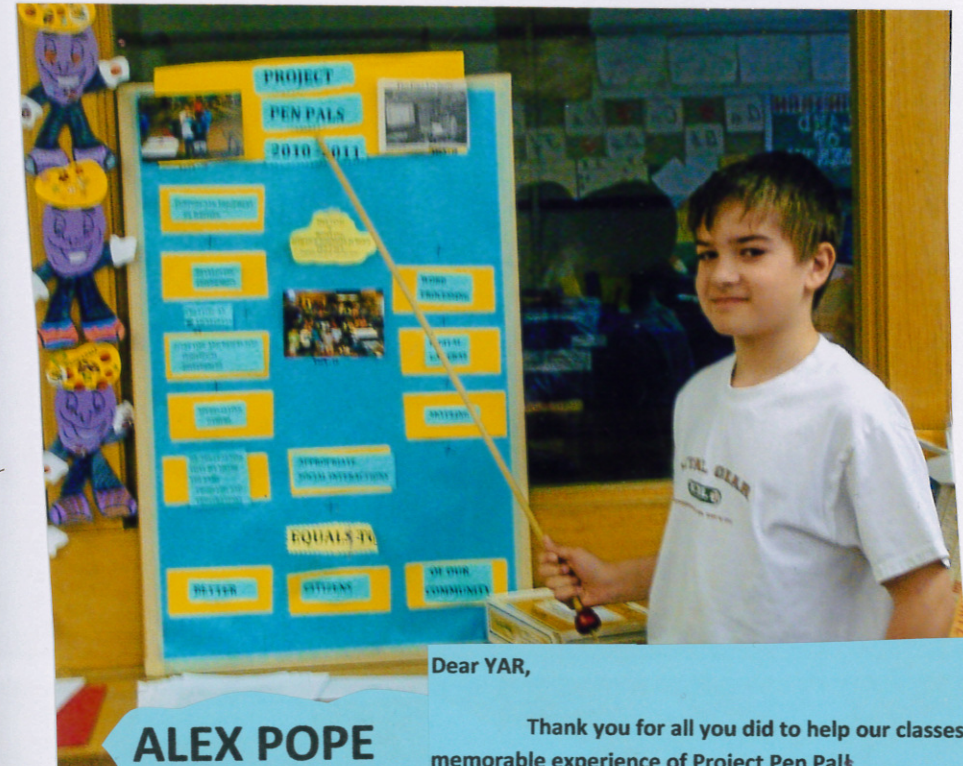
As teachers, to see the enthusiasm, anticipation and many other positive outcomes of this project was our reward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Roselyn Mikaelian*  
*Debi Schwartz*

Roselyn Mikaelian & Debi Schwartz

AND OUR STUDENTS WHOSE LIVES WERE TOUCHED!



ALEX POPE

OUR  
YOUTH PROJECT LEADER

Dear YAR,

Thank you for all you did to help our classes have the memorable experience of Project Pen Pal!

Thank you!

*Alex*



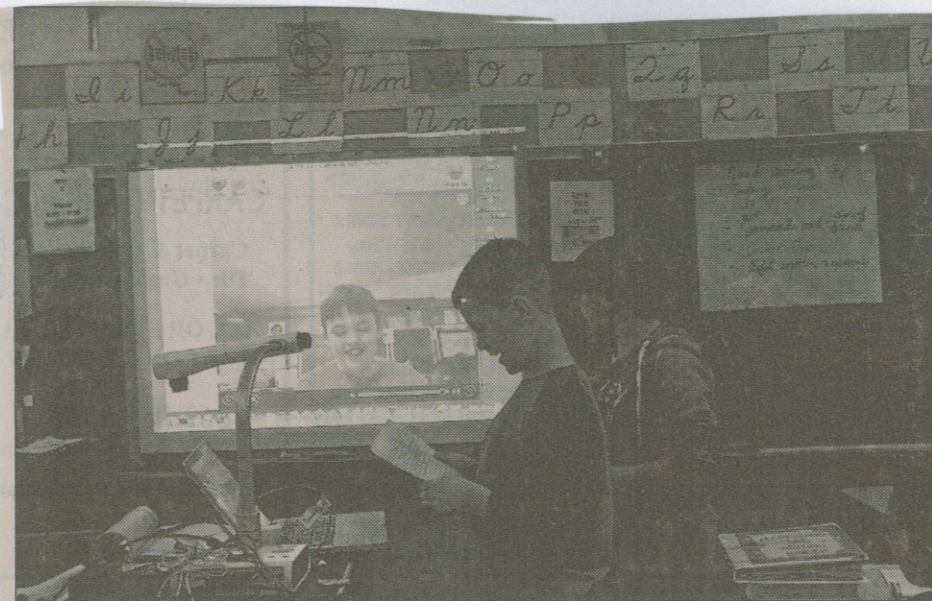
AWARENESS OF TECHNOLOGY

page editor: Jason O'Connell

SECTION B

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

PURPOSE AND ENJOYMENT  
OF WRITING



**Fifth-grade pen pals** from Jerstad-Agerholm Elementary and Johnson Elementary schools correspond using Skype.

## Local elementary school students become pen pals

**RACINE** — For the past five years, fifth-grade teachers, Roselyn Mikaelian of Jerstad-Agerholm Elementary School and Debi Schwartz of Johnson Elementary School have had their students become pen pals.

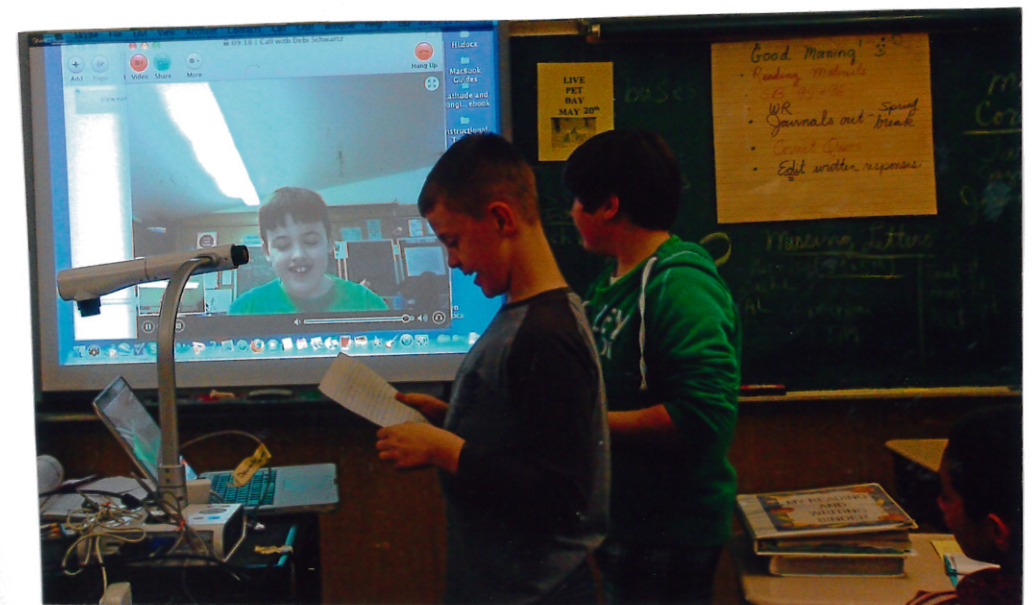
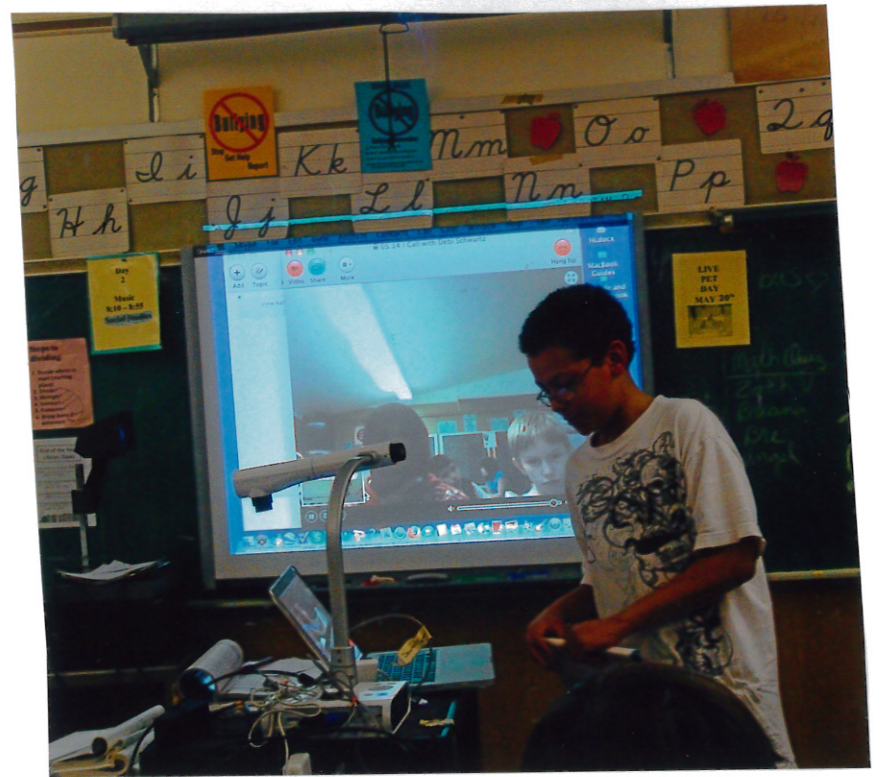
Students were matched and the writing began in October. Students wrote about their likes, dislikes, hobbies, favorites, other topics they wished to share and their school name's history.

This project was made possible through a grant from the Racine County Youth As Resources of the United Way. The grant was used to defray some of the costs of their project. Youth As Resources is a community investment

committee of the United Way of Racine County that gives grants to fund youth-designed, youth-led community service and service-learning projects. It empowers youth to make positive differences in their own community. The objectives achieved were: development of friendships, meaning social interactions and recognizing similarities amongst the students. In addition, this experience helped to improve written language skills, develop a purpose and to have enjoyment through writing. Also, students developed new skills in technology such as the use of a digital camera, computer programs, smartboard and the Skype program.



# SKYPEING





**MEETING  
&  
BOWLING  
WITH OUR JOHNSON SCHOOL  
PEN PALS**

Hopefully our paths will cross again!



**DIGITAL**

**CAMERAS**







DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS



## APPRECIATING OTHERS



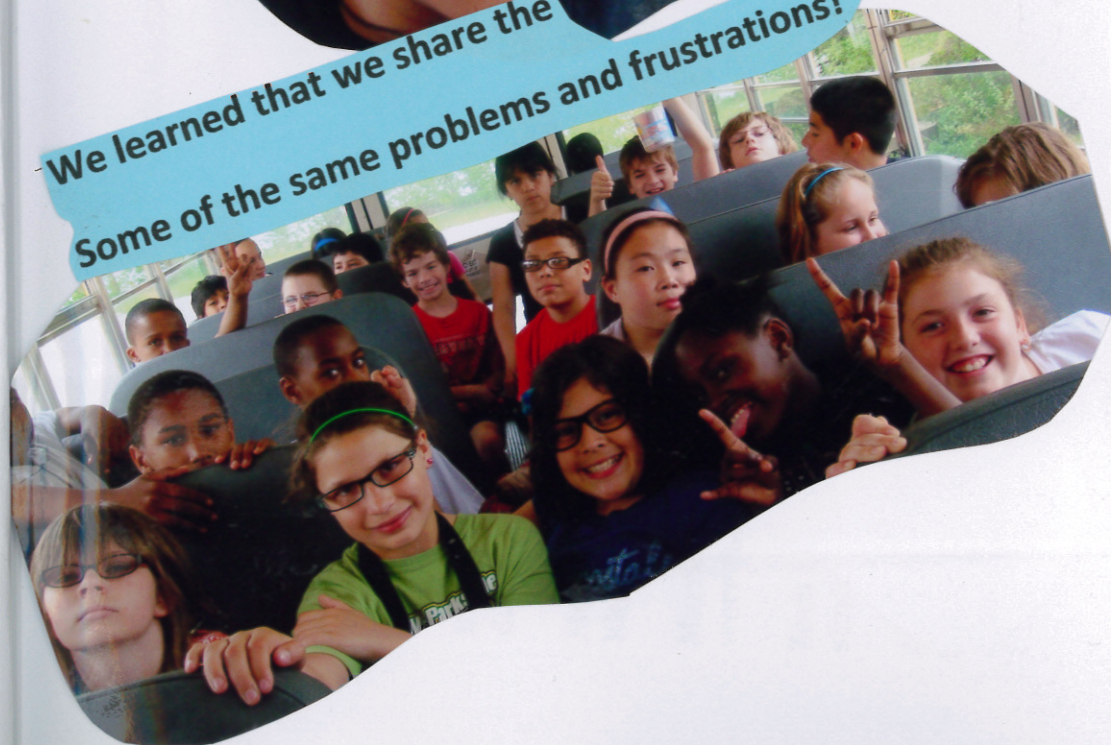




# APPROPRIATE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS



We learned that we share the  
Some of the same problems and frustrations!







Accepting and Respecting  
Individual Differences



MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS:

**Deron Jones:** "We made new friends, had fun and learned how to SKYPE."

**Tarek Sherid:** "I liked Skyping and seeing and talking to my pen pal. He likes football even if I didn't."

**Al Rivera:** "I enjoyed the letter writing and learning the similities and differences my pen pal and I had."

**Breanna Phillips:** " I had fun writing letters and that my pen pal liked and disliked the same things I did."

**Meriona Marsh:** " I enjoyed the SKYPNG because I saw what my pen pal looked like. "I also like making stamps and learning how to address a letter."

**Marrisa Cartagena:** "I got to get to know her better in person." The letters were fun to read, too."

**Zach Leger:** "I like that we got to meet new people and discovering our similiarities and differences."

**Angel Guzman:** "I enjoyed answering my pen pal's letters and finding out that we both like the same kind of music."



**Juan Ramos:** "I liked my pen pal's letters and I was surprised that we both like football a lot and we had differences too!"

**Jaecee Kober:** "I enjoyed going bowling with my pen pal and discovering that we both like "hanging out" with our moms and the color blue."

**Joshua Kaestner:** "My favorite part was the letter writing, receiving his letters, looking forward to replies as well as answering his questions."

**Donald Bostick:** "I really liked it because this was my first pen pal and we both found out we like Lebron James and we are the same age."

**Tacora Townsend:** "I enjoyed Skyping because I got to see what my pen pal looked like and when we went bowling I got to learn more things about her. We are both short, too."

**Paige Hansen:** "I liked having a pen pal because I made 2 new friends, and it helped me accept individual difference with one of my pen pals. She called me "sugar mama."

**Nicholas Shilhavy:** "I liked that my pen pal and I had some similarities and differences. His letters were written in tiny letters for such a high guy."

**Alex Pope:** "My favorite part was the letters cause it was funny. My pen pal had a sense of humor which was evident in his letters." Skyping was fun, too.

**Armoni Pearson:** "I liked the writing of the letters. I enjoy writing! Also we both have difficulties in the same subject areas in school."

**Briana Burman:** "I enjoyed the Skyping because it gave me the opportunity to see talk to her before meeting her. It gave me a better chance to better get know her before we actually met."

**Amber Mcallister:** "Writing the letters was my favorite part. I got to learn how to write a letter and I enjoyed meeting her on Skype and when we went bowling. We both like going to Monkey Joes'."

**Jazman Deleon:** "I enjoyed writing the letters because it taught me how to be a better writer. Skyping was fun too, especially when I got to read my journal to her about what I did on my spring break."

**Zach Vague:** "I like typing to my pen pal and receiving his letters. Bowling was fun because my pen pal was fun to play with!"

**Patrick Schell:** "I liked project pen pal for I learned how to accept differences."



Quynhtram: My favorite part was when we went bowling because it was fun to meet our pen pals.

Juan: I had a great time at bowling with my pen pal. It was great to spend time talking with him there.

Skylar: I had a fun time bowling and meeting my pen pal was great because we got to talk and see how much we had in common. The whole project was just really cool!

Ben: My favorite part was meeting my pen pal and bowling with him.

Alex: I thought it was fun meeting new people.

**THANK YOU!!!!**

Maverick: It was fun to meet my pen pals and bowl with them. I enjoyed writing letters to them.

Judy: It is really nice to meet someone I didn't know. She is my new friend.

Chris: I liked going bowling.

Raven: I had fun bowling and meeting my pen pal.

Tyler: I liked bowling. It was fun!

Enrique: I like having fun with my pen pal.

**THANK YOU!!!!**



What do I remember/think was great about the Pen Pal Project?

Nathan: My favorite part was getting and receiving the letters. I really liked typing up and sending my letters back to my pen pal.

Jaila: It was nice to meet my pen pal in person.

Cody: I enjoyed the project and really like to be able to meet them in person. I had a great time bowling with my pen pal.

Xavier: I think the project was fun because I got to know my pen pal better.

Alexis: It was fun to meet people you wouldn't normally get a chance to meet and now they are my friends. The fieldtrip to the bowling alley was fun.

**THANK YOU!!!!**

Irma: My favorite part was meeting my pen pal. We had a lot of fun bowling.

J'Quail: It was fun when we got to meet our pen pals and bowl with them. I like writing back and forth. It was fun to meet new people.

Sean: I loved the pen pal project because we got to meet and spend time with our pen pals. I wish I could do it again.

Karla: I loved the pen pal project because we got to meet new people and have fun at the same time. You learn how to socialize and not be afraid to meet new people.

Brian: I had fun when we went bowling and got to meet our pen pals in person. It was a fun learning project.

**THANK YOU!!!!**



## **THE PERFECT EQUATION!**

**LEARNING PARTS OF A FRIENDLY**

**ADDRESSING AN ENVELOPE CORRECTLY**

**IMPROVING WRITTEN LANGUAGE SKILLS**

**DEVELOPING DIFFERENT PURPOSES AND ENJOYMENT THROUGH WRITING**

**AN AWARENESS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY**

**DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS**

**+ EXPERIENCING MEANINGFUL SOCIAL INTERACTIONS**

**RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES**

**PRACTICING ACCEPTANCE AND APPRECIATION FOR OTHERS**

---

## **EQUALS BETTER CITIZENS!!!!**

# **OF OUR COMMUNITY**