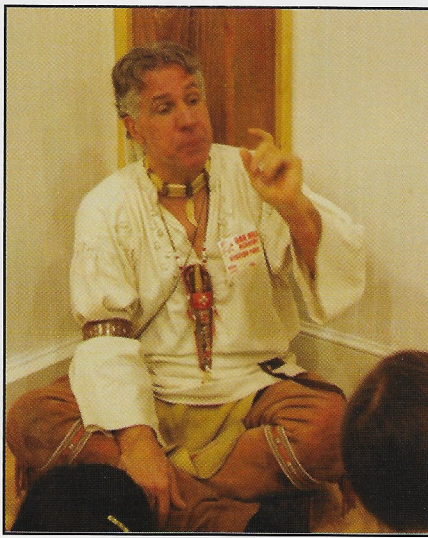


ditional clothing, while others held the masks, ground the corn flour into the clay pot, or lifted the warriors' wooden club. During the question and answer portion, the students and teachers asked numerous questions of Mr. Kraft. Two students shared what they felt about the program. One of the girls said she didn't know the Lenape shared their possessions with one another. One of the boys was fascinated with the way marriages were handled by the Lenape. All of the students expressed their enjoyment at being able to touch the artifacts displayed on the tables.

Mr. Kraft thanked the students for taking good care of the artifacts, for their interesting questions, and for being so well behaved. Mrs. Tolleth and the fourth grade classes thanked and said goodbye to Mr. Kraft using the Lenape/Delaware language.

For further information about the Lenape Lifeways Educational Programs, visit www.lenapelifeways.org or call (973) 691-2316.



John T. Kraft was dressed in Lenape Indian costume during a question and answer portion of the program he presented to fourth grade students at Oak Hill Academy on February 3, 2009.

RANNEY FIFTH GRADER HELPS LAUNCH FOODBANK'S "KIDS CHANGE HUNGER" DRIVE

When Ranney School fifth grader Ashleigh Conroy from Holmdel was determined to do something to combat hunger in her community, she went to Patricia Marshall, head of Ranney Lower School, with a proposal for a community service project.

"A lot of people are hungry and homeless because of the economy," Ashleigh wrote in her plan, "...and no one should go a day without anything to eat."

Unbeknownst to Ashleigh, her idea was about to get a boost from the very organization she sought to promote!

Ashleigh's proposal called for a school-wide canned food and coin drive to benefit the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, a charity Ashleigh said "helps so many people in the community." Her written plan, which is required of any Lower School student seeking to involve other students in an outside community service project, included important statistics about hunger in the region, as well as tips for sponsoring and promoting a food drive. Ironically, Ashleigh's suggestion came just as the FoodBank prepared to launch its "Kids Change Hunger" cam-

paign with TD Bank. The campaign featured TD Bank distributing cardboard FoodBank truck "piggybanks" to students throughout the region, where they could deposit their spare change to donate to the hungry.

Mrs. Marshall called the two initiatives a wonderful coincidence, adding that it was only natural for Ashleigh to lead the program at Ranney School.

"From the earliest age, students at Ranney School are taught that caring for humanity, serving others, and embracing social commitment are fundamental aspects of a purposeful life," she said. "Therefore, when our students desire to take the initiative and make a difference in their community, we do our best to support that desire."

Today, More than 300 of Ashleigh's schoolmates, from first through fifth grade, filled the school's RSPA Panther Hall for a special assembly to help kick-off the "Kids Change Hunger" campaign in Monmouth County, and to launch their own canned food drive.

Mrs. Marshall began the program with a short discussion on "empathy versus sympathy." She explained to the students that "empathy takes great courage because it requires the ability to put oneself in someone else's shoes...to understand their needs and wants," and that "when you understand someone, you are better able to help them."

Ashleigh presented a short power point presentation about homelessness and hunger to the gathering, stressing that "there are more hungry people than ever before." Barbara Scholz, development director for the FoodBank, agreed with Ashleigh, and asked students to give their support to this very important cause.

Ranney School has a long tradition of supporting the Food Bank. Upper School students volunteer each month at the Food Bank, sorting and packing food supplies. A canned food drive in the Lower and Middle School this past holiday season netted an incredible 2,000 pounds of food for families in the local community. Last spring, the Lower School Community Service Club and Outreach Proposal Program earned the students the Monmouth-Ocean Community Spirit Award.



Left to right, Patricia Marshall, head of the Lower School; Barbara Scholz of the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties; fifth graders Ashleigh Conroy and Aeslyn Vlahos; and representatives of TD Bank show their "Kids Change Hunger" piggybanks.

