



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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STUDENTS INVESTIGATE AND HELP SOLVE REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES

HOLMDEL (May 5, 2017) – Eighth grade students from the William R. Satz Middle School had the chance to share some major accomplishments with crowds of district parents as they participated in the “Making the World a Better Place” action research project in their English classes. The project asks students to identify an issue they feel is important and interesting, whether it’s local or global, and after careful and thoughtful research, take steps to remedy that problem.

After completing their projects, parents were invited to the Fourth Annual 8th Grade Fair where students were able to showcase what they had been working on, including providing background information about the issue and the steps each student took to help alleviate the issue.



Over 200 eighth grade students shared their accomplishments at the Fair.

Nearly 150 parents were on hand to check out the amazing work done by the eighth graders. The students addressed an incredibly wide range of issues, from animal abuse and rights to helping those who might be homeless, hungry, or in poverty; from wildfire prevention to water, air, and beach pollution; from obesity to cancer; from veteran’s issues to illiteracy; from helping alleviate depression and loneliness among the elderly, to helping newborns stay warm with student-knitted caps. This is just a small sample of the topics that were addressed by these thoughtful and involved middle school students.

Parents were invited to talk to the students about their projects both to let the parents know what kinds of learning activities Satz students are taking part in as well as to give the students an authentic audience with whom to share their hard-won knowledge.

Some of the goals of this unit are to promote social awareness among the students and to help the students connect the skills they learn in school, like researching a problem and writing about it, to real-world situations, like writing letters to their local and federal politicians or to groups that

are attempting to deal with the issue of interest. Many students continue their philanthropic work long after the classroom project is over because they see that they have the power to make a difference in the world. In this way, the teachers at Satz are hoping to encourage students to be active members of our democratic society, and to realize that their actions can affect the world!