

BASCOL celebrates 20 years of service



BASCOL Soule Road Writing Contest Winners Clockwise from back left: Candace B. Edwards, Executive Director BASCOL, Cameryn Lucia, Emma Maturo, Dr. Ethel Robinson, SFWC Writing Contest Chair, Joey Gravante, Lily Gravante and Erin Putnam.

Before and After School Child Care on Location, Inc. (BASCOL) has been providing the best possible before- and after-school child care for children in grades K through sixth in Onondaga County since 1992. BASCOL, a New York State licensed before- and after-school program, is celebrating its 20th anniversary of serving families in 13 locations in five school districts: Liverpool, Onondaga Central, Solway, West Genesee and Westhill.

BASCOL's program focuses on core areas including art, dramatic play, fine motor skills,

literacy, physical education, health and nutrition, social and emotional development and special events.

Candace Edwards, executive director, the former Little Learners owner, said "BASCOL has evolved into the premier before and after school program in Onondaga County."

Learning takes place at BASCOL with a mix of fun and recreation, and field trips are always exciting. BASCOL's professional staff provides a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn and play. BASCOL staff helps children

grow to their fullest potential by offering choices of a variety of activities.

BASCOL believes literacy is an important aspect in children's development. This year, BASCOL students participated in the Syracuse Federation Formers Annual Creative Writing Contest and came away with several winners in the poem and short story categories. BASCOL also believes in teaching about community service at a young age. This year BASCOL student's participated in a Jell-o drive for holiday baskets for

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needy families. The students collected more than 1,000 boxes of Jell-o.

Another special activity BASCOL students participated in was "The Ride for Missing Children" through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Soule Road Elementary location was one of the final stops for more than 100 bikers who took part in this event. BASCOL children cheered on the bikers and made signs for the event.

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, BASCOL will be holding open houses at all 13 locations. Families are welcome to come and visit and see what makes BASCOL such a great place for kids. Visitors will have the opportunity to get a sneak preview of BASCOL's exciting summer program "Passport to Adventure." It offers fun-filled themed weeks, field trips, guest speakers and quality programming to keep kids busy and happy all summer long. BASCOL will also be doing a summer reading program entitled, "Reading Adventure," to encourage reading.

Katelyn Calkins, a student at the Willowfield BASCOL site, said, "I would have never met my best friend if it wasn't for BASCOL!"

Devon Hassett, another student at Willowfield BASCOL, said, "BASCOL is a place where you make new friends and have fun all at the same time!"

Is your child a BASCOL kid? Call 622-4815 for more information or visit bascol.org for more information.