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From: Ann F.

To: New York Advisory Members

Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2005 11:01 AM

Subject: AITC Is Alive

Fellow AITC Advisory Members;

If you don't think AITC is alive and well in New York, you should have accompanied my 70 TOTALLY inner city 6th graders and me to Chris Fesko's Discovery Center this Thursday and Friday. There were so many experiences I thought I would share some with you. I hope these will renew your love and involvement in the whole AITC mission.

1. First of all, the Onondaga County Farm Bureau sponsored our students at the tune of about \$500. To them we are truly thankful or we never could have gone at all.
2. We installed 6 bluebird boxes, which we had made in class through John Rogers of Bluebirds Unlimited. Chris came one entire day at school to help, give guidance and make the connection.
3. Chris did an entire simple machines unit to reinforce what I had done in class. Even my "big" kids slid down her hay slide.
4. I had the privilege of sharing her animals with the students downstairs in her barn. We had already, at school, incubated successfully eggs from her coop, so kids got to see "The real thing." Close your eyes and try to imagine kids collecting eggs from underneath a hen, holding a week old lamb or kid. Letting a calf suck on their fingers. I could go on and on.
5. Finally, we visited their production dairy facility where Chris worked her magic. Once the kids got past the "poop" thing, conversations stemmed around a cow's life cycle, cud chewing, giving birth, artificial insemination, disease and more. Taking older kids this time allowed for much more advanced topics, which they were ready for.

Hope this note renews your faith in our mission. For all of you, I am truly thankful that you believe so strongly as to try and ensure that all kids in the state of New York have similar opportunities.

Ann