The LaSalle Early Literacy Program has been funded for the second year through the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund. The grant follows The Little Bookshelf program to help parents prepare their children for success in school through a family literacy program. Parents with infants receive twelve books for the first year of their child’s life. Parents of two and three year olds receive two books for their children. The LaSalle Parish Health Unit partners with Evans to enroll the parents and assist in the distribution of books.

Parenting workshops were conducted at local schools and the Head Start Center for parents.

Financial information is available on topics including credit, savings, and consumer skills.

LaSalle Parish students in the LA-4 Program and the LaSalle Head Start program participated in a Character Education program, Character Critters. Students, as well as their parents, received information on Character Critters and parenting information.

Olla Elementary and Goodpine Middle School were a part of the Smart Bodies Program sponsored by the LSU AgCenter and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. Teachers and students worked to improve health through exercise and eating healthy. Coordinating the program locally is Kim Evans. Smart Bodies includes three components; the Take 10! Classroom Program, the Organ Wise Guys, and eating healthy. Alisha Duke at Olla Elementary and Stacy LaPrarie at Goodpine Middle served as school coordinators. A total of 768 students participated in the program.

LaSalle Parish Staff
January-June 2011

Kim Evans
Parish Chair
(Family & Consumer Sciences)

LaVone Boyd
Administrative Coordinator 3

Carli McClure
Assistant Extension Agent
(4-H & ANR)

Rodney Johnson
Extension Agent
(ANR)
(Part-time in LaSalle: also serves Rapides Parish)

Central Region

Dr. Ronnie Levy
Interim Regional Director

Tina Goebel
Regional 4-H Coordinator

Visit our Website at www.lsuagcenter.com

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
William B. Richardson, Chancellor

Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
John Russin, Vice Chancellor and Director

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
Approximately 553 LaSalle Parish Students are enrolled in the LaSalle 4-H program. The parish program focus for the 2010-11 year was “Safety”. LaSalle parish has 10 traditional 4-H clubs.

4-H Programs are designed to enrich the lives of youth through traditional 4-H Club meetings, clinics, workshops, camps and competitive contests.

The 4-H Clover Buds program is now underway with approximately 100 students in K-2nd grade enrolled. This program is presented to all Pre-K-2nd graders at Jena Elementary.

A Shooting Sports Program for LaSalle 4-H has been implemented with 30 registered participants. Nine shooting sports participants went to regionals with 1 advancing to state competitions.

Contests and Workshops offered to LaSalle 4-H’ers from January-June 2011:

- Egg, Poultry & Pecan Cookery
- Photography Contest
- Valentine Craft Contest
- Decorated Egg Contest
- Pet Care Clinic
- Penny Drive

41 LaSalle 4-H’ers attended the annual 4-H Day at the Capitol in June.

Several 4-H’ers participated in the 2011 State Livestock Show.

4-H Activities Day was held at Camp Grant Walker in May with 100 LaSalle 4-H’ers attending.

LaSalle 4-H youth participated in several camps and conferences that was offered from January-June 2011.

- Challenge Camp
- Jr. Leader Camp
- 4-H University

Approximately 50 parish residents were assisted with answers concerning various problems related to commodities, home grounds and gardens.

“Grow Your Own Garden Program” sponsored by the LSU AgCenter and funded by the Rapides Foundation was offered in LaSalle Parish.

- Farm to Fork Class-February 2011
- Spring Gardening Class-April 2011

The “Horticulture Hints” newsletter is mailed quarterly to approximately 140 LaSalle residents.

Parish residents were given soil fertility recommendations based on soil test analyses.

A “Vulnerability of Food Infrastructure Meeting” was held in January at the LaSalle Parish Courthouse, Extension Mtg. Room. LaSalle public officials with a strong understanding and knowledge of the food and agricultural industry in the parish were invited to serve on this committee to identify and assess the top agricultural and food related infrastructure in LaSalle Parish. This project is a cooperative undertaking between the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Dept. of Ag and Forestry.

Conducted 8 Child Care Provider Classes with 133 attendees. Classes were conducted for Class A, Class B, Registered Family Providers, LA-4 teachers and teacher’s aides, and Head Start personnel. Classes have been offered to providers in LaSalle, Grant, Catahoula, Concordia, Rapides, Avoyelles, and Winn Parishes.

The “Living Well” newsletter is mailed quarterly to approximately 105 FCS residents.

“Lunch and Learn” educational programs are presented, along with a healthy meal, so parish residents can learn during their lunch hour. Program topics have included Stress, Safe Food Storage, Cooking with Cast Iron, & Nutritional Guidelines. Kim Evans presents the bi-monthly programs.

Conducted In-Service Training for the Head Start staff in six parishes.

Conducted two Parenting Skills classes with two participants and conducted two “Children in the Middle” classes for eight parents going through a divorce. Referrals are made through the Judge’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office, the FINS officer, and other sources. Classes are open to the public.

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is conducted in LaSalle Parish. This program receives federal funds to help low income families utilize their food dollars wisely. Nutrition programs have been conducted at several of the local schools, LaSalle Head Start Center, Council on Aging, Dixie Center, and the LaSalle Health Unit.

The Parents Preparing for Success Program is being conducted for clients with the Office of Family Support. Any parent with a child under the age of 12 months is required to attend a series of six classes on Parenting Skills and Financial Management.

Nutritional information is given to clientele on a variety of topics including special diets, food safety, food preservation, and healthy lifestyles. Information is distributed parish wide.