

## TOLERANCE

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To keep the youngsters on track, the women brought bright-colored books to read along with some props, and even sang songs to drive home the message.

Siegel said the group is made up of retired educators and other volunteers who visit public and parochial schools to read books and spark conversations about tolerance and prejudice.

It doesn't take long for the students to grasp the concept.

"I think children at this age are very open to recognizing that there are kids that are left out," Siegel said. "There are kids left on the periphery."

But with a little encouragement, young boys and girls are more than willing to accept one another without prejudice.

Braelyn Basham, 6, said she liked the stories about everyone coming together and sticking up for one another.

"I liked both of (the characters in the books) because they both had kindness in them," Braelyn said.

She and classmate Lillyana Davis, who will be 7 on Thursday, said all



**Harriet Inslar, of Mount Laurel, takes part in a group learning activity with first-graders at the Florence L. Walther School in Lumberton on Wednesday.**

[DAVE HERNANDEZ/ PHOTOJOURNALIST]

bullying does is "make people sad."

The girls recognized that it can't hurt to look out for one another.

"Being nice to people can make new friendships with people you don't know," Lillyana said.

Black credited the

school's new guidance counselor, Alison Shaughnessy, with bringing in the program.

"The goal is to improve

respect within the school, acceptance and talk about tolerance," said Shaughnessy, adding that the school will take part

in the Great Kindness Challenge later in the month. "It's kind of kicking that off, to talk about kindness and bullying."

## YMCA Camp Ockanickon exceeds fundraising goal for 2017 campaign

### Money helps facility fund facilities and donate scholarships for youths

Staff report

MEDFORD — YMCA Camp Ockanickon recently exceeded its goal of \$325,000 by more than

\$15,000 in its 2017 annual campaign.

"We are so humbled by the generosity and support of our community," CEO Mark Dibble said. "Our organization — through our summer camps, our School's Out program and our outdoor center — impacts so many

people throughout the year — about 12,000, at last count — and is such a huge benefit to the surrounding communities. It's very touching that people recognize this and are willing to donate to our cause."

Recently, more than 600 kids from areas like

Camden and Atlantic City were able to attend camp for free through Ockanickon's scholarship fund.

To become a partner or to learn more about the scholarship fund, call 609-654-8225, ext. 1509, or email suzette@ycamp.org.

## AUTHORS

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Rosy Wagner, teen services librarian, was inspired to put together the "authorfest" after the Cherry Hill Public Library in Camden County hosted a similar event last April. Wagner hopes the event will help young adults, especially those interested in writing, explore careers

beyond more conventional paths, such as becoming a doctor, lawyer or teacher.

"A lot of teens that come to the library are interested in writing and getting their work published," she said. "There's nothing more inspiring than meeting people in the line of work you're interested in who were successful at it."

For more information, call 609-267-9660 or visit bcls.lib.nj.us.

## Diabetes self-management addressed in workshop series

Staff report

PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP — The Quality Insights Innovation Network is partnering with the township Recreation Department to provide a free diabetes workshop series as part of the Everyone With Diabetes Counts program.

The six-week workshop will be offered at the Country Lakes Clubhouse at 69 Tensaw Drive from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 17-Feb. 21. All attendees must

register by the second session. Each participant will receive complimentary literature and resources.

The program is facilitated by Quality Insights, which is supported locally by Healthcare Quality Strategies Inc. It offers free self-management workshops that are open to people with Medicare who have diabetes, their family members and caregivers.

The free workshops are designed to educate individuals about diabetes and help them learn how to manage it and take control

of their health through various tools, behavior modification and coping techniques. Participants will learn about preventing complications, healthy eating, exercise, how to deal with stress and difficult emotions, managing medications, effective communication with health care providers, and other topics.

For information or to register, call Jarmaine Williams at 732-955-8168. To learn more about the program, visit qualityinsights-qin.org.

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