



## Life Skills Lessons for HS Class

by Dianne Krulick

Students in High School teacher Karin Hopkins' class (at right, in picture, bottom left, with her class, and Efrain Vergona) had a special opportunity when they visited *Pilot Industries* in Ellenville on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. As a follow-up to lessons on work habits and skills needed for a job, she contacted Laurie Gallagher, School to Work Coordinator of *Ulster County ARC*, to arrange for the visit to explore possible job opportunities.

Efrain Vergona, Kingston Vocational Coordinator, spoke to the students, giving them an overview of the program.

During the tour of the workshop, provided by Production Coordinator Jane Taylor, students were informed that Ellenville is a training area, a "stepping stone" for job placement in the community. An emphasis is on communication skills, taking directions, and being punctual.

At the Ellenville site, there are 40 consumers, working in one of three work areas. These jobs are part of a subcontract program with major companies, such as a special 3-year contract with New York State for their Drug Force Kits.

Consumers in the workshop are trained on all machinery, some of which is adapted for either hand or foot control. It's a team effort, with consumers receiving their pay based on a piece production basis. A great emphasis is placed on safety issues. Machines are unplugged until they are used. Consumers have two 15-minute breaks and a 30-minute lunch break. A monthly recognition award is given with the winner receiving a special lunch.

Crystal Dawn, Service Coordinator, informed the group that her job is to get to know each client, figure out needs (e.g., interviewing skills), help with housing and transportation, conduct evaluations, and work with the vocational coordinator. The goal is to get consumers an evaluation and a placement in an employment situation. Opportunities for summer School to Work programs exist for the students.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Reading at EMS

by Katherine Lewin, School Library Media Specialist.

Ellenville Middle School grades 5/6 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Reading and 16<sup>th</sup> Annual NY State Great Read Aloud Celebration was held April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the **Middle School Library**.

Students participated in the reading of their haiku, cinquain, limerick, couplet, onomatopoeia, free verse, personification, and simile poems.

Participating teachers included Mary Brackman, Becky Burke, Toni Franza, Joyce Greenough, Robert Hanington, Theresa Hartnett, Bill O'Donnell, and student teacher Mira Fink. Introductions were done by Katherine Lewin, School Library Media Specialist.

Fifth grade student writer/readers included (photo above): Amanda Aponte, Cheyenne Chalarca, Ashley Chireno, Ivon Gonzalez, Cody Graziano, Tobey Kass, Rebecca Madison, Aqwasha Mandiville, Ashley Miller, Elizabeth Pace, Geneva Payne, Angel Pineiro, Timothy Rose, Soraya Sophia, and Justine Zukowski.

Sixth grade student writer/readers included (photo, top right): Halima Atker, Amanda Bell, Harley Bleitzhofer, Marissa Cohen, Cynthia DeHosson, Kirissa Durant, Christian Falk, Jessica Figueroa, Elyssa Garcia, Dustin Graham, Cheyenne Greene, Brennin Haugen, Gina Julian, Shamin Khan, Shawn Leland, Geneva May, Caden Otunu, Kyle Reilly, Angel Sanchez, Marissa Santiago, James Savage, Kaitlyn Sherry, Michael Stoeckeler, Jose Torres, James Velez, Barney White, Matthew Wilhelm, Mercedes Wilson, Michael Yerkes, and Colleen Zimmerman.



|                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>KITCHEN DESIGN CENTER</b><br/>Yorktowne<br/>Custom Kitchen Cabinets and Bathroom Vanities</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ELLENVILLE LUMBER</b><br/>A HERITAGE COMPANY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Building Materials • Lumber • Hardware<br/>Insulation • Molding • Rental Equipment<br/>Roofing • Siding • Doors and Windows<br/>Boom Truck Service Available</p> |
| <p>Call Today<br/>For A Free Quote On<br/>Your Next Building Project</p>                                                        | <p style="font-size: 1.2em;"><b>845.647.7700</b></p> <p>211 Canal Street • Ellenville, NY 12428</p>                                                                                                                                                                                |