

2011-2012

Brush to Crush Cavities Program



Collaborating Organizations:

Cayuga County Health Department

Cayuga Community Health Network

East Hill Family Medical, Inc.

Genesee Elementary

Auburn Enlarged City School District

This report was completed by:
Deanna Hoey, Public Health Educator
Cayuga County Health Department

A special Thank You to the following businesses, organizations and individuals:

Monetary Donations

Xylem, Inc. (ITT Corp/Goulds Pumps) & Marchael Heitmann
Lansing Trade Group
Cayuga Community Health Network from Mind, Body, Spirit Luncheon
Cayuga Community Health Network from Healthy Sliders and Siders event
Wal-Mart

Donations of Supplies

Lifetime Care & Lisa Gabel – Vice President, Provider Relations
United Health Care & Jolene Stoutenger
Patterson Dental & Geoffrey Snyder
Beautiful Smiles CNY, Dr. Nangle & Dr. Ohnezeit
Simmonds, Brady & Loi
Lesch & Lesch Family Dentistry
Skaneateles Dental Associates
Kinney Drugs
Kinney Drugs & Vin Gleason
Tops & Pete Ely, Auburn Store Manager
Walgreens Jim Monahan – Store Manager
Wegmans
Cayuga Community Health Network
Shreyas Patel, D.D.S

Your support of this program is greatly appreciated by the Brush to Crush Cavities Committee, school administrators, school staff and most of all by the students.

Your donations and support played an influential role in assisting us with the implementation of the Brush to Crush Cavities Program.

Organizational Background

Cayuga County Health Department –

Our mission is to promote and protect the health and well-being of the individual families and the community we serve.

For thirty years the Health Department had administered the School-Based Preventive Dentistry Program, funded through the New York State Department of Health. A dental hygienist and dental assistant visited every public elementary school in the county each year. Services provided by our staff include; dental screening on specific grade levels, sealants and referral to dental providers should a child need treatment. The Health Department did not reapply for the School-Based Dental grant in 2011. East Hill Family Medical applied for the grant with full support from the Health Department.

Cayuga County Community Health Network –

Founded in 1997, CCCHN, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, one of 37 Rural Health Networks funded under the New York State Rural Health Network Demonstration Program. The Network strives to improve the overall health of Cayuga County residents by addressing access and service needs of the community. The Network also develops and sponsors prevention and health promotion programs that reduce barriers to health care services. The Network achieves these goals through development of collaborative strategies to assess and articulate the nature and extent of county healthcare needs and securing the resources to address them.

East Hill Family Medical, Inc. –

At East Hill Family Medical, our mission is to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality health care for every individual. East Hill Family Medical provides comprehensive dental services for children and adults, including preventative services, extractions, restorations (fillings) and dentures. All services are provided on a sliding fee scale. An on-site facilitated enroller is available for health insurance consultation.

Beginning July 2011, East Hill Family Medical was awarded the School-Based Preventive Dentistry Program grant. East Hill Family Medical will be conducting dental screenings in County schools, including Genesee Elementary.

Genesee Elementary, Auburn Enlarged City School District –

Genesee Elementary is a Title I School-Wide Plan building serving approximately 300 children k-5 (2010-2011) and 360 children k-6 (2011-2012). The Title I, School-wide Plan designation allows the school to receive additional federal funding. The school is also required to construct a School-wide Plan designed to meet the educational needs of students and their families. A large part of the Genesee Elementary School-wide Plan is membership in the No Excuses University Network of Schools. No Excuses schools implement 6 exceptional systems in their schools. These systems include: *Culture of Universal Achievement, Collaboration, Curriculum Alignment, Assessment, Data Analysis, and Interventions*. Another requirement of the School-wide Plan is the coordination with federal, state and local agencies. The school's involvement with the *Brush To Crush* initiative meets the criteria for this requirement, and will be included as a formal part of Genesee's School-wide Plan as the partnership continues.

Brush to Crush Cavities Program History

Based on oral health statistics gathered through the Cayuga County Health Department School- Based Preventive Dentistry Program, Genesee Elementary School was identified as a high needs school with a history of significant oral health issues in its students.

Local statistics on oral health show the prevalence of tooth decay in 3rd grade children to be 72.2% in Cayuga County. This is compared with New York State percentage being 54.1% and the United States percentage at 53%.

The Brush to Crush Committee was established in the Summer of 2010. Meetings took place with committee members to develop a plan to address the oral health issues of the students. Ron Gorney, School Principal was involved in the planning process and welcomed the program. Sandy Lalonde, School Nurse mentioned that many of her students have reported to her that they did not have toothbrushes of their own or at all.

A goal of this committee was to develop a model that would provide a more comprehensive intervention that would address the oral health issues children at Genesee Elementary were facing.

A pilot project, Brush to Crush Cavities was created. The emphasis of this program would be to incorporate daily brushing into the school day. Monetary donations and donations of supplies were sought. Supplies were purchased and some services were offered in-kind.

The program would incorporate:

- Screenings (K, 1 & 2)
- Referral for treatment and follow-up
- In-class education by County Health Department Public Health Educators
- Daily brushing in school
- Reinforcement of brushing at various times throughout the year
- Sending children home with dental packs at the beginning and the end of the year

Brush to Crush Cavities Program
Year #1 Results
September 2010 – June 2011

In September 2010, a brochure and letter was sent home with all of the children notifying parents of the Brush to Crush Cavities Pilot Program. Parents of children in grade levels identified for being screened were asked to send a form back if they did not want their child to be screened. We used this reverse consent method which was recommended by school staff as this method was identified as working best for getting a response from parents at this school.

Screenings were performed on children in grades K, 1 and 2 at Genesee Elementary School in September by Joanne Elser, Dental Hygienist with the School-Based Preventive Dentistry Program (Cayuga County Health Department).

Results of screening:

- 115 children were screened
- Of the 115 screened, 63 (54.7%) had decay and needed treatment.
- Of the 63, with decay and needing treatment, 12 (19%) were identified as needing immediate care.
- Other information gathered through this screening was that 33 children (28.6%) had one or more fillings and 52 children (45.2%) had no decay or fillings.

The 12 children needing immediate care had an average of 8.75 cavities/child.

Follow-up was conducted by the School Nurse and Health Department staff. Genesee Elementary sent the screening information home and requested parents return the letter to notify the school of what they were doing about their child's teeth. There was very little response with letters being sent back, so Cayuga County Health Department staff called the families of the 12 students identified as needing immediate care. Our focus was to get these children in for care ASAP.

Follow-up was conducted on the other 51 children needing treatment after follow-up on the 12 immediate cases was conducted.

We found that there were four children who needed to be referred to Syracuse (1) and Rochester (3) for more extensive treatment. The parents of these children expressed their concerns for their children's oral health needs, but had limited means for transportation. While Medicaid will transport, they will not if the family has a car that is broken down. Paying for gas and taking time off from work to take their child were two big factors that parents considered.

In the future we would like to develop a plan, so that if this occurs again we will have a plan that outlines our role in providing transportation or reimbursement for gas.

Brush to Crush Cavities
Year #2
September 2011 – June 2012
Program Overview

After year one of the pilot program we surveyed and spoke with school staff members at the teacher recognition luncheon to determine what their barriers were to implementing the daily brushing and any other issues they may have had with the program.

When asked what suggestions teachers had to improve this program, the answers included:

- Make sure new toothbrushes are given out at certain times during the year
- How are parents involved in the responsibility
- More sinks, link to lunch or breakfast
- Have kids do it at home and log it, get parents more involved
- Have supplies ready to go on the first day of school

One request was made to have the brushing supplies available the first day of school to make it easier to incorporate into the daily routine.

Monetary donations and donations of supplies were sought for year two of the program and the brushing supplies were available for all students on the first day of school.

In September the Cayuga County Health Department had a table at the Genesee Elementary Open House to promote the Brush to Crush Program amongst students, teachers and parents.

Also, in September oral health education including how to properly brush and floss was provided to each classroom at Genesee by Public Health Educators working at the Cayuga County Health Department. All students were able to participate in the oral health education sessions.



The committee realized that by only screening a few grades (K, 1 & 2) in the first year, we were not capturing the oral health status of all students. We also recognized that it would be difficult in tracking the oral health status of the students from year to year if we did not screen all students each year. Stipulations of the School-Based Preventive Dentistry grant prevented the committee from being able support the dental hygienist's time to screen all the students.

It was determined that the committee would seek funding to support the dental hygienist's time to screen the remaining grades. This school year was the first year that sixth graders would be housed in the elementary buildings due to the closure of West Middle School. Screenings would be performed on all students in grades K-6.

Funding was secured and screenings were performed in October 2011.

Brush to Crush Cavities
Year #2
September 2011 – June 2012
Screenings

A brochure (refer to next page) and letter was sent home with all of the children notifying parents of the Brush to Crush Cavities Program and that we were planning to screen all grades this year. Parents were asked to send a form back if they did not want their child to be screened. We used this reverse consent method which was recommended by school staff as this method was identified as working best for getting a response from parents at this school.

Results of the screenings:

- 265 students screened
- Of the 265 screened, 124 (46.7%) had decay and needed treatment.
- Of the 265, 13 (4.9%) were identified as needing immediate care.

This year we took a close look at the screening evaluations and included information on the students who were determined to be in need of better brushing.

- Of the 265 screened, 112 (42%) were identified as in need of better brushing.

We also decided to compare grade levels to determine what grades may be having more oral health problems. It was determined that **55.8% of second graders were identified as having a problem** and **55.5% of sixth graders were identified as in need of better brushing**. Please refer to the chart below for more information.

Grade Level	Total # Screened	Total # with a Problem	% with a Problem	Total # in need of Better Brushing	% in need of Better Brushing
K	37	14	37.8%	15	40.5%
1	46	22	47.8%	17	36.9%
2	43	24	55.8%	17	39.5%
3	30	15	50%	13	43.3%
4	42	17	40%	15	35%
5	34	15	44%	15	44%
6	36	17	47.2%	20	55.5%

**Children
NEED
Oral Health for:**

- Freedom from pain and infection
- Ability to study & learn
- Normal facial development
- Ability to eat nourishing food
- Self-esteem



Children's teeth are
meant to last a lifetime!

**Brush to Crush
Cavities!**

A collaboration between:
Auburn Enlarged City School District
Genesee Elementary
Cayuga Community Health Network
Cayuga County Health Department
East Hill Family Medical, Inc.

A special thanks to our sponsors:

- Xylem, Inc.
- Lansing Trade Group
- Wal-Mart
- Lifetime Care
- United Health Care
- Patterson Dental
- Beautiful Smiles CNY
- Simmons, Brady & Loi
- Lesch & Lesch Family
Dentistry
- Skaneateles Dental
Associates
- Kinney Drugs
- Tops
- Walgreens
- Wegmans
- Shreyas Patel, D.D.S

**Brush to Crush
Cavities!**



**An Oral Health
Initiative for Genesee
Elementary School**

*A Healthy Child has a
Healthy Smile!*

Brush to Crush Cavities!



Brush to Crush Cavities!

This oral health initiative is a collaboration between:

- Auburn Enlarged City School District
- Genesee Elementary
- East Hill Family Medical, Inc.
- Cayuga Community Health Network
- Cayuga County Health Department



The program will feature five components:

- Education (K-6)
- Supervised daily brushing
- Screening and evaluation*
- Referral for follow-up care
- Options for treatment
- Screening and evaluation will be provided to students in Kindergarten-6th grade and conducted by the dental hygienist.

If a problem is found, parents will be notified and a referral can be made to their private dental provider or East Hill Family Medical, Inc. with parental consent for restorative work (X-rays, fillings, and tooth extractions).

Who is eligible for the educational demonstration?

* All students (K-6)

Who is eligible for the screenings?

* Students (K-6)

Who is eligible for treatment?

* Students (K-6) and students who have been identified by the school nurse.

Where can the child be treated?

* If a child has dental insurance, they will be referred to their private dental provider. If the child has Medicaid, they can be seen by East Hill Family Medical. If the child does not have dental insurance, East Hill Family Medical will work with families to provide treatment at low cost or no cost to the families

**A mascot was introduced to the students,
Max Molar.
Max would make announcements about brushing on the school
intercom. Posters with pictures of Max Molar were posted
throughout the school to
remind students to brush their teeth at school
each day.**

**The poster is included on the
next page.**



Max Molar says,
AT GENESEE
ELEMENATRY
Make sure you.....



Brush to Crush Cavities!

*** Brush your teeth two times a day! ***

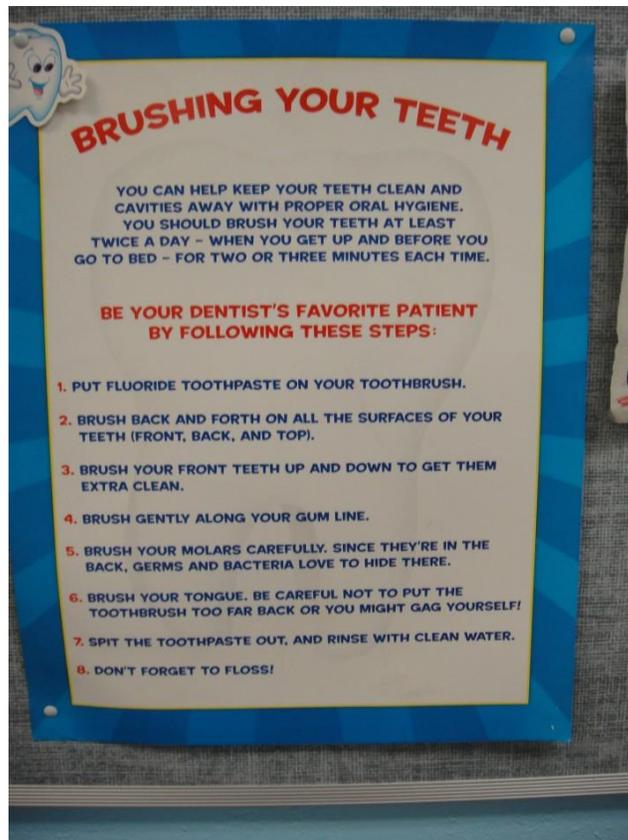
*** Floss your teeth one time a day! ***

*** Visit the dentist two times a year! ***

Take good care of your teeth... They are meant to last a lifetime!

NO EXCUSES for not taking care of your teeth!

Bulletin Board located in the School Nurse's Office



National Children's Dental Health Month

February is recognized as National Children's Dental Health Month. An article promoting oral health, the Brush to Crush Cavities Program, thanking our sponsors ran under Elane Daly's People's Health Column. Elane is the Director of Cayuga County Health & Human Services.

PEOPLE'S HEALTH

Tuesday February 7th, 2012

Diet, dental visits sustain child's dental health

The Cayuga County Health Department, Cayuga Community Health Network, East Hill Family Medical and Genesee Elementary School have teamed up to offer the Brush to Crush Cavities program to all students in grade kindergarten through six at Genesee Elementary.



**Elane
DALY**

This is our second year offering this program to the students at Genesee Elementary. This initiative incorporates oral health education, dental screenings, referral for treatment, follow-up care and, most importantly, the daily in-school brushing campaign.

This oral health initiative is not funded through a grant and functions solely on the generosity of community members, local businesses and organizations that recognize the need for this program and have made donations to continue this program.

This initiative would not have been possible without the generous donations and support from the following community organizations and individuals.

Thank you to these agencies whose monetary donations were greatly appreciated:

- Xylem Inc. (formerly IIT Corp/Goulds Pumps)
- Lansing Trade Group
- Walmart

Also, we would like to recognize the generosity of the following organizations and individuals whose donations of supplies were greatly valued and needed:

- Lifetime Care and Lisa Gabel
- Patterson Dental through East Hill Family Medical
- United Health Care and Jolene Stoutenger
- Beautiful Smiles CNY, Dr. Nangle and Dr.

Ohnezeit

- Lesch & Lesch Family Dentistry
- Simmonds, Brady & Loi
- Skaneateles Dental Associates
- Kinney Drugs on State Street
- Kinney Drugs on Owasco Street, and Vin Gleason
- Walgreens
- Wegmans
- Cayuga Community Health Network

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health.

Parents, teachers, community members and local dentists can work together to teach children the importance of developing good oral health habits at an early age.

Here are some tips to keep your child's teeth healthy:

- Clean your baby's gums with a clean, damp cloth.
- Don't put your child to bed with a bottle, or let them fall asleep while nursing.
- Take your child to the dentist by age 3, unless there is a problem.
- As soon as teeth come in, teach your child how to use flossers, which are specially designed for little hands.
- Brush your teeth with your child. Remember to use just a pea-sized dab of fluoride toothpaste.
- Help your child eat healthy foods. Limit sugary or starchy snacks, soda or juices.
- Don't wait until your child is in pain or has a problem before seeing the dentist. Keeping regular appointments will help ensure that such pain or problems don't happen.
- Ask your dentist about sealants, a cost-effective way to prevent cavities.
- If your child is playing sports, have your dentist make a mouthguard for your child.
- The use of fluoride is another proven and healthy way to prevent tooth decay. Some communities have fluoride in their water. Cayuga County does not have fluoridated water, which is why it is important that parents check with their dentist about fluoride treatment options for their children.

If you do not have dental insurance, don't worry. There are agencies in Cayuga County that offer dental services to the uninsured on a sliding fee scale: American Mobile Dental (515-3015); East Hill Family Medical (255-9294); and Port Byron Community Health (776-9700).

And remember, children's teeth are meant to last a lifetime. A healthy smile is important to a child's self-esteem. With proper care, a balanced diet and regular dental visits, their teeth can remain healthy and strong.

For more information, visit the New York State Dental Association website at www.nysdental.org or The American Dental Association website at www.ada.org.

Elane Daly is director of health and human services for Cayuga County. She can be reached at 253-1560 or cchealth@dfa.state.ny.us

National Children's Dental Health Month – February 2012

School-wide Brushing Challenge

In recognition of this, a month long school-wide brushing challenge was developed to re-energize the students and teachers.

Each student was given a calendar to verify the daily brushing took place during the school day. At the end of each week incentives were distributed to the classes who brushed the most.

The incentives included:

- mini-apples donated from Wegmans
- baby carrot sticks
- tooth- shaped silly bands and stickers.

At the end of the one-month challenge, pizza parties were held for classes that brushed the most during the entire month.

A copy of the calendar is included on the next page of this report.

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Brush All Week – Get an APPLE!	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11
12 Brush All Week - Get Carrot Sticks!	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18
19 	20	21	22	23	24	25 
<p>Max Molar says, “Don’t give your teeth a break... BRUSH & FLOSS YOUR TEETH ALL WEEK!”</p>						
26 Brush All Week - Get A Silly Band!	27 	28 	29 	1 	2 	3 Classes who brush the most get a pizza party!

Brush to Crush Cavities Spring 2012

In April, a SUNY Cortland Health Education Student Teacher gave classroom presentations on oral health and healthy eating. She reinforced the importance of daily brushing and helped coordinate the one-month school-wide brushing challenge.

Also in April, the Brush to Crush Committee applied to the Allyn Foundation for a grant to support the Brush to Crush Cavities Program for the 2012-2013 school year.

In June, bags were packed and included a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss for students to take home over summer break. It is important to provide the children with these supplies in order for the children to continue to value oral health and keep up a healthy habit.

It is important to the Brush to Crush Committee that we communicate with the school staff as they are the ones who implement the daily brushing. We want to know what challenges they face and if there are any problems so we can work to resolve them.

We asked that school staff complete a questionnaire prior to the Teacher Recognition Luncheon. The questionnaire is an anonymous tool that the Committee uses in order to obtain honest feedback from staff who may not feel comfortable expressing their thoughts or opinions in any other way.

The results of the questionnaire are listed on the following two pages.

Brush to Crush Cavities Program
Genesee Elementary
Feedback from Teachers
13 Surveys Completed

1. This is the second year of the Brush to Crush Program, are you familiar with the program and its purpose?
 - Circle: **YES (13) / NO (0)**
2. Did having the supplies available to you the first day of school help you to incorporate the daily brushing into your schedule?
 - Circle: **YES (9) / NO (2) / Didn't answer question (2)**
3. Are you aware of the oral health needs of the students of Genesee?
 - Circle: **YES (13) / NO (0)**
4. Do you feel school staff should play a role in providing students with this daily brushing opportunity?
 - Circle: **YES (10) / NO (0)**
 - **YES/NO (3 circled both)**
 - If **NO**, why not?
 - It is great for kids who can do it themselves, but too time consuming for younger grades.
 - It is difficult to monitor inside the classroom
 - Don't mind doing it, but shouldn't be a requirement of the teacher.

Teachers that said **YES** had the following comments:

- Helps students, families and the community in the long run
- At younger grade levels where the bathrooms are located in the classrooms
- When it works for them

5. Did you implement the in-school daily brushing?
 - If **YES**, how did you implement it in your classroom?
 - Every morning
 - Every day after lunch (2)
 - At the end of the day
 - In-class 1 at a time once work was completed.
 - Rotated 2 students at a time during the morning activities
 - Students were divided into two groups, one group brushed in the morning, the other group brushed in the afternoon
 - Tried difficult to maintain
 - If **NO**, what was your reasoning for not?
 - Time constraints, difficulty getting all students into bathroom and monitor behavior
 - Not a classroom teacher (2)
 - Not enough time in the day to help primary students
6. Did you incorporate oral health education lessons into your classroom activities throughout the year?
 - Circle: **YES (9) / NO (2)**
 - **(2) were not classroom teachers**
 - If **YES**, what activities did you conduct?
 - Student teacher from Cortland conducted 5 lessons centered around oral health
 - Dental health month with a focus on healthy dental lessons
 - Discussions, worksheets, book read out loud
 - Demonstration by Student Teacher on brushing and flossing
 - How to brush, how often, results of not brushing

Teachers that said **NO** had the following comments:

- Not throughout the year, just at the beginning
- Mentioned the benefits of good dental practice

7. What did you like most about this program?
- Introduced the concept and routine of oral health
 - Watching children take pride in their teeth
 - Students seem to enjoy it, they look forward to it, seems to increase their awareness of the importance of brushing
 - Students feel good, can sit at a close range and there not be any bad breath
 - Started students on good habits/routine
 - Bring dental health a bigger role in their lives
 - Great idea
 - Free stuff for kids
 - That the children were brushing
 - Kids get good practice
 - Wish there was one when I was in school, being from an alcoholic family dental care was not a top priority
 - Helps students develop good health habits
8. What did you like least about this program?
- Some students could not handle it and were using the time inappropriately
 - I can't think of anything negative
 - Time constraints during class schedules
 - Organization/storage (that is my issue, however)
 - Maintaining the cleanliness of the sink area and storage containers
 - The containers – for the past two years there has been at least one or more students that uses someone else's toothbrush or dumps the whole drawer of toothbrushes on the floor
 - It can be messy and this year the toothbrushes were a little long for the containment unit
 - Lack of time for brushing/supervision/accountability
 - Not having the adult support/time to implement daily brushing
 - Trying to replenish supplies, brushes should be changed every quarter at least
9. What suggestions do you have to improve this program?
- Give teachers a case of toothpaste so we don't have to bother the nurses
 - At the beginning of the program, supply extra tooth pastes (case) for the classroom teacher so we don't have to bother the health office
 - Tailor it to each teacher's schedule so it works for them
 - Just the storage units, but I hope the more we do this the more the students will get used to using the units
 - I wish there wasn't a need for this program (good habits formed at home, parent's responsibility), but I am thankful the need was recognized and a solution formed.
 - More communication to parents on a monthly basis, because dental focus has to continue at home
 - Change brushes more frequently

Teacher Recognition Luncheon

The Brush to Crush Committee acknowledges that the success of this program is in the hands of the Genesee Elementary School staff. We recognize the efforts made by classroom staff to incorporate the daily brushing into the school day, janitorial staff for having to clean excess toothpaste out of the sinks, health office staff for distributing supplies and being a resource for students and staff and school building office staff for distributing information on the program.

On June 20, 2012 the Brush to Crush Committee hosted a luncheon to recognize the efforts made by the school staff in implementing the daily brushing into their classrooms. We also took this time to thank them for their continued support of this program.

Representatives from the Brush to Crush Committee were present including Health Department staff members Joan Knight, Director of Community Health Services, Deanna Hoey, Public Health Educator and Kim Abate, Senior Public Health Educator. Irving Lyons, Executive Director from the Cayuga Community Health Network was also present.



An overview of the program was shared with school staff including oral health statistics gathered this year. Staff members were asked to share their thoughts, suggestions and feedback on the Brush to Crush Program.

Staff expressed their gratitude for the program and appreciated having supplies available for the first day of school. Some suggestions were offered about the oral health supplies and the storage containers.

Kelly Voll from the Citizen newspaper was also present at the luncheon. She featured the article in the paper on Thursday June 21, 2012. The full article is on the following page.



Michelle Bixby photos, The Citizen

Public health educator, Deanna Hoey, thanks the faculty and staff of Genesee Elementary for their efforts to promote good dental hygiene to students during school.

CAVITY CRUSHERS

Genesee Elementary dental health program making progress

Kelly Voll
The Citizen

AUBURN | For two years, students at Genesee Elementary School have been learning about the importance of oral health and brushing their teeth in school.

The Brush to Crush Cavities program, which kicked off at the school in 2010, is a school-based preventative dentistry program that uses a combination of in-school dental screenings, dental health education, supervised daily brushing, referrals to a health facility and treatment options to get children the dental work they need.

On Wednesday, a teacher rec-



LEFT: Irving Lyons, Executive Director of Cayuga Community Health Network, thanks this year's Genesee Elementary faculty and staff for promoting good dental hygiene to their students.

Health Department and Human Services Department, also announced Wednesday that the Brush to Crush program received a \$3,000 grant from the Allyn Foundation to use toward next year's program.

Irv Lyons, executive director of the Cayuga County Health Network, spoke about his own experiences with dental problems when he was a child. With two busy parents trying to support a large family, oral health was not a priority.

"My mom and dad were just so busy trying to make sure we had food ... and a roof over our heads,"

work and many local businesses that donated money, toothbrushes and floss to the program.

ognition luncheon was held at Genesee Elementary's cafeteria to thank teachers, administrators, the school nurse and representatives from Cayuga County Health Net-

Deanna Hoey, public health educator with the Cayuga County

See Dental, A2

Dental

Continued from A1

he said. "You don't feel like learning if your mouth hurts or you have self-esteem issues."

Hoey shared some statistics from the program's first two years with the luncheon guests, saying that in 2010, 115 students at Genesee were screened and 63 had dental decay and needed treatment. Of the 63 students who needed treatment, 12 needed immediate care.

In 2011, 265 students were screened and 124 had decay and needed treatment; 13 needed immediate care.

Hoey noted that this year's fourth-graders, who received intensive dental education and brushed a lot in school, were the least in need of treatment.

School nurse Sandy Lalonde said oral health determines so many other things.

"It's a lifelong skill," she said. "Oral health is so tied in to physical health and mental health, socialization and social skills. People underestimate how valuable our teeth are — teeth and oral care!"

Staff writer Kelly Voll can be reached at 282-2239 or kelly.voll@lee.net. Follow her on Twitter at [CitizenVoll](https://twitter.com/CitizenVoll).

The Future of Brush to Crush Cavities Program

A special thank you to Auburn Enlarged City School District Superintendent J.D. Pabis who retired at the end of the 2011-2012 school year and to Genesee Elementary Principal Ron Gorney, who is leaving Genesee Elementary to become Principal at Casey Park Elementary. We must recognize these two individuals for their commitment to the oral health of students and for continuing to offer this program to students.

For the 2012-2013 school year, we are fortunate enough to have received a grant from the Allyn Foundation to support the Brush to Crush Cavities Program. This funding will allow us to support the dental hygienist's time to screen all of the students and purchase supplies for the brushing kits.

Two brushing kits will be given to each student in September, one kit for school and the other for home. Toothbrushes will be replaced periodically and toothpaste and floss will be replenished as necessary.

Education will be provided in the fall by the Health Department and screenings will be provided by East Hill Family Medical.