



Shamar Watson, director of Mount Vernon After School Academy; Nina Ross, WJCS board member and Sarah Kayle, WJCS board member

Children in two Mount Vernon elementary schools are reaping the rewards of two enrichment programs in the After-School Academy, sponsored by Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), one of the county's largest human services agencies.

Activities in the "Amazing Afternoons" program at the Edward Williams Elementary School, for grades 1 to 6, and the "Off the Street" program at the Hamilton Elementary School, for grades 2 through 6, begin with a healthy snack for the approximately 120 students in each program. The fun continues with music, books, sports, STEM learning, occasional field trips, and even homework assistance to help the children excel. The storybook hour, co-chaired by volunteers Sarah Kayle, Nina Ross and Cynthia Samwick, is just one of the quality activities popular with kids and their parents. The joy of story improves literacy, encourages discussion, and exposes young people to the world beyond their classrooms and neighborhoods.

Assisting with the programs are trained high school students from Mount Vernon and Scarsdale, Westchester Reform Temple volunteers, neighborhood moms, and former students. More volunteers are always needed.

Office hours: Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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