

Mary Johnston, school nurse-teacher at Blackrock, recently applied for and received a \$2000 grant from the Coventry Substance Abuse Task Force. The money was used to provide each of the Coventry elementary schools' fifth graders with a performance by Diane Postoian, the former director of Looking Glass Theatre.

She performs using the persona of "Ask Olga"; using humor, storytelling, and visual aids to discuss issues such as smoking, self-esteem, body image, tolerance, expressing feelings, gender stereotypes, bullying, and violence. She discusses the hype and subliminal messages found in the media that influence children and adolescents' decision making regarding those issues. She performed in the Coventry schools during the week of March 13th. Students, teachers and school nurse-teachers reacted enthusiastically to the performances.

Ms. Postoian also does programs for reading and literacy. Title 1 and 4 funds might be able to be utilized for those programs, or your PTA might be interested in providing funding for them. For more information, her website is dianepostoian.com or call 461-1322.