## Middletown program offers homework help

By AMY ASH NIXON Courant Staff Writer

on the door at 635 Main St. right about 4 p.m., when The Homeroom first opens for the day. MIDDLETOWN — Little hands start knocking

month, and has no shortage of kids who come in search of help with homework and a few hours of aπer-school fun. free learning center began its second full year this Operated by the Community Health Center, the

What The Homeroom is short on is volunteers.

down with him, asking him questions and giving him working on school work. If someone were sitting year-old sitting alone and asked whether he was get, the more they will benefit, said Diana Christinson, coordinator of the program. She pointed to a 12-The more individual attention the children can

encouragement, it would make a difference, she said. Luckily, Christinson's husband, Jeff, arrived af-ter his workday, and she quickly assigned him to the

computers." with our homework and let us play games and with room this fall but who plans to make it part of her daily program. "It's fun and stuff. They help us out

day afternoon: "One time, I really made someone feel special, because she was sad." For her daily journal entry, Roshani wrote Tues-

to her future. Although still in elementary school, Roshani has no problem connecting her third-grade school work

"When you grow up and go to college you have to be smart so you can get yourself a good job,"

several workstations are loaded with programs that let kids play games, learn geography, or create their After spending an hour doing her homework, Roshani was eager to hit the computer lab, where

youngster. Soon, the pair were going through the own cities and towns, which they add to every day, boy's work together.

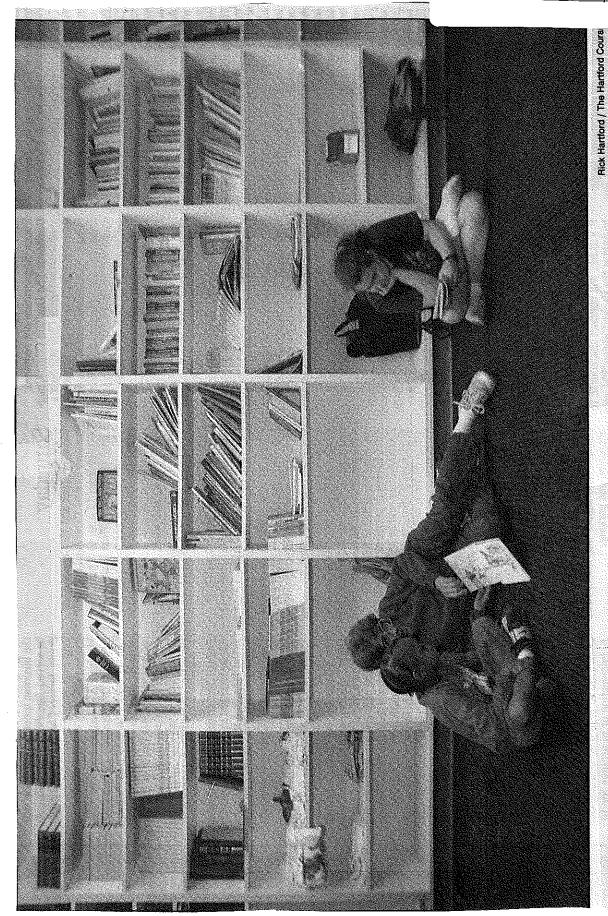
"I like to come every day," said Roshani schedule, but are in the neighborhood and know the Pettway, 8, a third-grader who is new to The Home-importance of giving kids a positive place to be. The school work. demonstrate a craft or talent or help youngsters with importance of giving kids a positive place to be. The center needs about 20 people willing to volunteer, schedule, but are in the neighborhood and know the Many of the volunteers who stop in aren't on a

When he was raised in Bridgeport, Lopez said, he keep out of trouble. danced competitively to keep busy and it helped him in the state, is one such visitor to The Homeroom. Elixon Lopez, 27, once rated a top break-dancer

ing on a Jerry Lewis telethon to help raise money for children's charity, he said. and has appeared on television several times, includ-Lopez danced as opening act for many bands

Lopez performed for the kids at The Homeroom last week. When he came through the door Tuesday afternoon, Ray Rivas, 7, lit up, shouting out that the

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# Mary Glass, a volunteer at The Homeroom in Middletown, reads "Fossils Tell of Long Ago" with Jessica Jones, 7, and Teresa Rustek, 11.