

Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle Community School

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Ms. Crystal Ashe, Principal

NEWSLETTER



February 2007

Hot off the press, the 1st issue of the Dunbar Middle Community School Newsletter. Ha-ray! This is an exciting time for Dunbar Middle School, read all about it.

Dunbar Middle has become a community school. What is that you ask? A community school is a place where education and community resources meet. Neighboring businesses and organizations partner with local schools to provide services to students and their families. By making supportive services readily available, all are more likely to use them. As a result, the students' primary needs can be addressed; teachers can focus on teaching and students can return to the business of learning.

Expression of the Month

My People

The night is beautiful,
So the faces of my people.

The stars are beautiful,
So the eyes of my people.

Beautiful, also, is the sun.
Beautiful, also, are the souls of my people.

Langston Hughes



In honor of February-Black History Month celebration, the Dunbar Middle Community School will be hosting a Hip Hop Poetry Slam contest.



Date: February 28, 2007

Place: Our Auditorium

Time: To Be Announced

The Department of Health & Human Services Director, Mr. Reginald Scriber was extremely helpful with assisting a Dunbar family recently. When called upon, Mr. Scriber responded. The family was in need of emergency housing due to a scheduled eviction. The Dept. of Health & Human Services met with the family that same day and is currently assisting them with gaining new housing. Our neighboring office is located at Dunbar High School. Other services offered by Housing & Human Services include;

- **Housing Applications**
- **BG&E Energy Assistance**
- **Tax Preparation**

Coming Soon

PBIS store scheduled for opening. The Positive Behavior Incentive Support Program will soon open their doors to students who earn “Dunbar Bucks”. Students who display positive behaviors such as, arriving to school on time appropriately dressed in school uniform, can earn Dunbar Bucks, valuable reward coupons, which can later be traded in for a great gift. Ms. Wilson, our school social worker, said the store will be located on the second floor; she’s currently stocking the shelves; so save your bucks!



DUNBAR'S TEACHER OF THE MONTH

*Drum roll-- it's Ms. Johnson, our art teacher, Surprise!

Reported by Brittany Backmon Class 806

If you ask the students of Dunbar Middle who has influenced them the most, many will tell you its Ms. Johnson. Any time of the day, you can find her and students hanging new drawings fresh from the art class. Her great work can be viewed throughout the historic halls of our school. From the front entrance to the back stairwell, her presence is felt. Ms. Johnson, a graduate of Morgan State University, said she became a teacher because she liked working with children. Once a teacher at the Gifted and Talented Program in Baltimore County and Art Camp, Ms. Johnson is now a first year instructor here at Dunbar Middle. Her favorite type of art is called Expressionism; it allows the artists to express themselves. Thank you Ms. Johnson for making Dunbar Middle Community School a pleasant place to work and visit. (* Note: each month a teacher will be selected; he or she will be given a certificate and prize)



THE COORDINATING COUNCIL CORNER

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We at Dunbar Middle are very fortunate to have the best partnerships any school could ask for; this includes our honorary guest Reverend Beverly Simpson, from the 12th district office of City Councilman Bernard “Jack” Young. Rev. Simpson, an alumnus of Dunbar Middle, shared her admiration and support for the community school initiative. She brings high regards from the desk of Councilman Young whose dedication to the Dunbar Middle Community School is so sincere that he asked his two daughters to volunteer with our Raising Strong Sisters Mentoring Program. Our next Coordinating Council meeting will be held on Friday, February 23, 2007 @ 10am.

When we come to it
 We must confess that we are the possible...
 We are the miraculous,
 the true wonders of this world
 Free to choose our ends, and our new beginnings
 That is when, and only when...
 We come to it.

—Maya Angelou

****We acknowledge you, Dunbar Middle Community School Coordinating Council Members****

NAMES:

ORGANIZATIONS:

1. Nicole Watford iAspire, Inc
2. Rev. Beverley Simpson Baltimore City Council
3. Rachel Wallach Baltimore Connections
4. Denise Bell Girl Scouts of Central Md.
5. Angela Bullock YMCA Afterschool Program
6. Michael Newhouse School Improvement Team
7. Curtisha Wilson School Social Worker/ PBIS
8. Ann Thacker MCCPI
9. Anthony Veniey Sojourner/Douglass College
10. Dr. Fred Strieder U of MD/ Grand-parenting
11. Brittany Blackmon Dunbar Student
12. Aaron Overton Dunbar Student
13. Rodrick Bingham H.O.P.E Associates
14. Shirley Crawford-Gantt Big Brothers Big Sisters Program
15. Katrina Brooks Community School Monitor
16. Bradley Alston YMCA
17. Michael Jones Goodwills Industries
18. Roxanne Allen-Walton Community School Coordinator

THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON....



February's featured Coordinating Council member is Ms. Nicole L. Watford; Founder/ Executive Director of iAspire, Inc., an Educational Resource for Minority Youth.

Reported by Aaron Overton class 806


Ms. Watford, a young, energetic, visionary started iAspire, Inc. in 2005 after a five-year career as a kindergarten teacher. She said as a child, her teachers use to call her a dreamer, this lead to her desirer to help other young “dreamers” reach their greatest potential. If you ask, Ms. Watford will tell you God gave her the vision. She stopped teaching in 2006 to focus all her time and talents on iAspire, her non-profit organization. Her organization educates young people through empowerment. The curriculum includes money management, college prep, and self-awareness. To learn more about Ms. Nicole L. Watford visit her website at www.iAspire.org.

Note: Each month a different Coordinating Council member and their organization will be featured.

It's Your Birthday, Let's Celebrate!!

February's Birthday List

**Feb 12th -Ms. Shirley Crawford-Gantt
of Big Brothers Big Sisters**



Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, Mr. Mark Byrd, has shown a great deal of interest and support for Dunbar Community School. Mr. Byrd's has introduced two mentoring programs for young males; **Youth on the Horizons** and **Lion's Heart** are schedule to meet with our Community School Coordinator this month. Both programs offer leadership skills, character building, higher education preparation,

career awareness and peer support. Most important, they offer a sense of camaraderie. We look forward to having a lengthy relationship with both of these organizations.

YMCA BOOST AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM



FRBRUARY EVENTS

Feb 9, 2007- Morgan State University

Feb 12, 2007 Forum Banquet Hall

Feb 19, 2007 Day in Annapolis

Feb 27, 2007 National Aquarium

Coming Soon

Chess Club
Girls Scouts of Central Maryland
Read Please
iAspire

If you have any questions about our after-school program, please contact Site Director Ms. Angela Bullock@ 410-396-9296.

Programs currently offered at Dunbar Middle include;

- **United Way- Raising Strong Sisters Empowerment Program** - Empowerment/ self-esteem group
- **Baltimore Clay Works** - Art enrichment
- **"Do you know were your kids are?" Program** - Provide positive reinforcement for kids
- **PBIS** -Positive Behavior Incentive Support program
- **East Baltimore Mental Health Partners**-Individual counseling services for students
- **Johns Hopkins Nursing Program** - Stepping Up -tutoring program

COME JOIN US!

Our Reporters



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Dunbar Middle
Student



Brittney Backmon
Dunbar Middle
Student



Katrina Brooks
Community School
Monitor

Writer/Editor



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