
COLLINGTON SQUARE ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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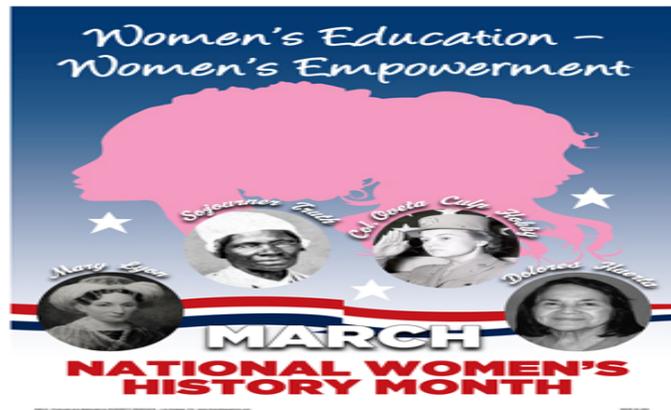
A Note from the Language Department : Staff, Parents, and Students in the last article we focused on test taking strategies and ideas. I would still like for you to continue to focus on key ideas in that article. This issue is going to focus on writing. Do you know that writing is one of our strongest areas of communication? Knowing how to express our thoughts on paper is something we all have to do in our lives at some time or another, especially when written performance is part of our National, State, and City exams. Whether it's an essay, brief constructed response, or a written answer, expressing your thoughts on paper is important. Parents we must start taking the time to read our children's writing. Instead of giving children verbal messages all day, let's start writing them sometimes, and allowing children to write back to you. This is a chance for you to see spelling errors, word usage, as well as sentence structure. Staff, we must incorporate more writing into our daily plans, in the form of journals, homework, and classwork. Remember practice makes perfect. Students remember, when you write in school that you are not using language or written words that you might use when texting or on Facebook. When you write, keep in mind to use your CUPS.(capitalization, usage, punctuation, and spelling.) Thank you everyone, remember to keep WRITING!!!!



Celebrating **32** Years and Growing

National Women's History Month **Women's History Month** is an annual declared month worldwide that highlights contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. March has been set aside as this month in the United Kingdom and in the United States. In India, this month is celebrated in October and corresponds with the celebration of Persons Day, which is October 18th.

The popularity of women's history celebrations continue to spread as more people are becoming aware of the contributions of women and girls. A President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America recently sponsored hearings in many parts of the country. The Women's Progress Commission will soon conduct hearings to promote interest in preserving areas that are relevant in American women's history. Some of the groups promoting this interest are state historical societies, women's organizations, and groups such as the [Girl Scouts of the USA](#). This year's theme is 2012: Women's Education – Women's Empowerment".



Higher Education Achievement: Congratulations to the five students that represented Collington at the Higher Achievement Love Out Loud Poetry Reading at Morgan State on February 27, 2012.

Hard at Work: Throughout the school, everyone has been very hard at work. Take a look!

Pre-K

Dixon's Language group is finishing Language For Learning.

K

In Ms. Armstrong's math class, 10 out of 11 students passed mastery test 2

In Ms. Lewis' ...Language group, 6 out of 6 students passed mastery test 18

In all of Mr. O'Bannon's language groups, all of the students passed their most recent test

In Ms. Porter's math group, 7 out of 8 students passed mastery test 5

In Ms. Stegman's math class, 8 out of 8 students passed mastery test 7

1st

In Ms. Gervasio reading group the "Teachers" group, they tested into Sig. 1, all of the students in the "Police" group passed lesson 95.

In Ms. Olstad's "Phythons" group 8 out of 8 students test.

2nd

Ms. Barnes' groups "Africa", 4 out of 4 students passed test 85 , in the "England" group 10 out of 10 passed language test 1

In Ms. Kelley's reading group, 19 out of 19 students passed check out 90 and mastery test 90, in math all but one student passes test 6.

In Ms. Walker's class students just moved into Connecting Math Concepts C.

A huge thank you to the parents who:

-organized the Valentine's Day dance for student's in grades PreK- 2nd.

Students enjoyed hot dogs and chips while dancing and having lots of fun

-decorated our auditorium for the awards assemblies

Black History Month Volunteer, Ms. Regina Tate, to correlate with our story: Along with our Teacher Read audio in order to get the character's tone, mood, spoken dialect and comparing and contrasting it with the book.



Project: Thanks to our Parent we will be Crocheting an African Quilt Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt. Aloud of the book, we will listen to the complete essence of the main character's tone, mood, spoken dialect and comparing and contrasting it with the book.

We are learning how to make the straight stitch. Ms. Tate will demonstrate the square stitch and ruffles. We can't wait to share our finished product.

Welcome Ms. Tate and thank you for sharing your beautiful gift of Crocheting with our learning community—Thanks for being willing to do the interview for the students—we will NEVER forget this special experience!!! We love and appreciate you very much!

The Club: The Club at Collington Square is doing great things this Spring Semester. **On the elementary side**, we have added some new components to the program. In addition to homework time, art, dance, and STEM; we now also have reading club, math club, and team builder club. I think the students like the team builder club best because they get to use K'nex and Leggos.

Other exciting news is that our STEM program is in full swing. Each month the students work on a different project that helps build their leadership and team work skills. Also it helps with deductive reasoning and critical thinking.

In Jan, kindergarten-8th grade students worked on a project entitled "Heating a House and a Oven". The basis of the project is to show students how the process of heating a house occurs and how that process is similar in an oven. The students have made their own "houses" from cardboard boxes. They have had the opportunity to insulate the homes with either felt and/or foil, and use different wattage light bulbs to produce the heat. At the end of the project the students convert the house into an oven and get to bake cookies. YUM!

Hopefully after this project the students will now understand parents when they say, "close my door you're letting all the heat out." For February, the students will be learning about momentum and building their own roller coasters as well as about buoyancy in a project called Sinking and Floating.

On the Middle School Side: We have started a female centered class focusing on what it means to be a young woman and health choices both mentally, physically, and relationship wise. Their video journals will be part of an exhibit located at [D: Center Baltimore @MAP](#)

OPENS MARCH 3rd, 2012 6-8pm

218 W. Saratoga Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

The young ladies would love for everyone to come out support all the work they have done with the project.

Also, for the middle school boys and girls we have class facilitated by BCPS that focuses on peer pressure, decisions making, communication (with parents and friends) amongst other things youths minds.

Upcoming Events- March 3, 2012 students from **The Club** will be performing with a Griot. The Griot will be sharing African folktales that center on Bully and Teamwork.

We would love families to come out and support the students.

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Mark Your Calendar:

- 3/2 TCP Pizza Party
- 3/5 3:30 Climate meeting
- 3/6 Elev8 Parent University
- 3/7 Elev8 Assembly
- 3/11 Girl Power STEM Event in Laurel Maryland 3-5...FREE
- 3/13 & 3/14 Reading MSA
- 3/15 & 3/16 Mod MSA
- 3/15 School Family Council Meeting
- 3/16 Dave and Buster's Trip for Saturday School Participants
- 3/21 Elev8 Lunch and Learn
- 3/23 Elev8 Family Fun Night
- 3/27 Elev8 Breakfast Bar



INTERMEDIATE TEAM NEWS



Collington Square
Marvelyn Johnson,
Academic Coach

February 29, 2012

Grades 3 - 5 STARS

MSA Preparation

Greetings Parents and Students,

We are just a few days away from the MSA. Our teachers are working diligently to teach the skills and strategies that students need to be successful not only on the assessment, but in life. Please ensure that students are completing their reading and math homework daily. Also, students should take advantage of the after-school coach class provided by each teacher weekly. In addition, here are some tips to help you get prepared for the assessment.

- **Get plenty of rest the night before and eat a good breakfast**
- **Take time to skim the test first**
- **Read all directions and test questions carefully**
- **Use the process of elimination**
- **Go back and review your answers if you finish early**
- **Look for and analyze the question stem**
- **Use all your test time**
- **Bring your materials and be prepared**
- **Recheck all your math computations**
- **Label all of your math work**
- **Do not give up!**

Welcome!

We would like to formally welcome two new team members to the Intermediate Team. It is with great pleasure that we welcome, Mrs. Phyllis Wyman to Fifth Grade 05-02 and Mr. Donald Jones to SLE. Our newest team members are off to a great start! Congratulations and Welcome to the team!

Second Quarter Awards

Assembly

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, we celebrated our students' achievement during the Second Quarter Awards Assembly. Students received awards for their academic achievement and improvement during the second quarter. The categories of awards were Principal's Honor Roll, Honor Roll, Reading Achievement, Math Achievement, Citizenship, and Perfect Attendance. Awards were also given out in Art, Vocal music, Instrumental music, National Academic League, and Physical Education. Congratulations to all of our Awardees. Students' group pictures were displayed during the program.

During the Awards ceremony, we were delighted by a musical performance from our Intermediate Band Members. The band played three selections and was directed by Mr. Soto. It was a great performance and enjoyed by all! Congratulations to Mr. Soto and the band! We would also like to congratulate our many parents that were in attendance for the ceremony. Our Charter School Operator President, Dr. Berkeley and other Baltimore Curriculum Project staff were also in attendance. Parents were also treated to a small reception with cake sponsored by BCP.

Please join us for the Third Quarter Celebration. In the mean time, encourage your child to work hard, stay focused, and ask for help when they needed. We want to see even more students receive awards for this quarter.

Principal's Honor Roll Awardees



Classes represented: Mrs. Young, Mrs. Wyman, Mr. Gorby, Mrs. Eldamaty, Ms. Chambers, and Ms. Makle

Reminders to Parents

It is time to refresh the following supplies for school:

1. 3 spiral notebooks
2. 2 boxes of pencils
3. Erasers/sharpener
4. folders
5. lined paper
6. red pens for correcting work

(Please see your child's teacher for other supplies.)



Thank You Parents for your Support!

Ten Lessons the Arts Teach

Elliott Eisner, a Professor of Education at Stanford University, has identified 10 lessons which are clarified through the study of art in schools.

1. The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships.
2. The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.
3. The arts celebrate multiple perspectives. One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.
4. The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem-solving purposes are seldom fixed, but change with circumstance and opportunity.
5. The arts make vivid the fact that words do not, in their literal form or number, exhaust what we can know.
6. The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects.
7. The arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means through which images become real.
8. The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them feel, they must reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job.
9. The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling.
10. The arts' position in the school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults believe is important.