

## BCP Featured on Baltimore Internet Radio



BCP President Laura Doherty talks about Direct Instruction, Restorative Practices, NWEA, Core Knowledge

and conversion charter schools in a recent interview on Baltimore Internet Radio.

Baltimore Internet Radio is an internet radio station and website that provides a local, national and international showroom for the

promotion of Baltimore.

We would like to thank David Custy and Baltimore Internet Radio for featuring our organization.

Listen to the interview at: [baltimoreinternetradio.com/education.html](http://baltimoreinternetradio.com/education.html)

## Book Bank Supports BCP

In December the Baltimore Reads Book Bank delivered over 900 free children's books to the BCP schools. City Springs Elementary/Middle School received 415 books; Hampstead Hill Academy received 360 books; and Wolfe Street Academy received 165 books. Students will get to keep the books.

This is the second school year that BCP schools are participating in a new program that helps build home libraries and encourages reading at home. We would like to thank Director of Book Bank Operations Mark Feiring for supporting our students.



### BCP Principals Lead the Way (continued from p. 2)

purpose artificial turf field for football, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse, and a running/walking track.

The athletic complex supports Rhonda's broader vision of a Scholar-Athlete School that will capitalize on the strength of the coach/athlete mentoring relationship in order to change student attitudes about healthy living, school attendance, and academic success.

#### True Partners

We would like to recognize our principals for their outstanding leadership. They are true partners in our efforts to provide an outstanding education for all Baltimore City students.



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BALTIMORE CURRICULUM PROJECT'S

# CLASS NOTES

WINTER 2014  
[www.baltimorecnp.org](http://www.baltimorecnp.org)



## ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A BCP 5TH GRADER?

Watch the best Quiz Show in town as local celebrities match wits with BCP fifth graders on Friday, April 25, 2014 from 5:30PM to 9:30PM at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

Actor and Baltimore City School Board Commissioner Robert Heck will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Last year our students bested Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, former City Schools CEO Andres Alonso, Actress Maria Broom and Economist Anirban Basu.

Enjoy dinner, drinks, a silent auction, the quiz show, and live music. Purchase tickets online: <http://bitly.com/smarter2014>.

Sponsored by:



Top Row (Robert Heck with students)  
Bottom Row (Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Dr. Andres Alonso, Maria Broom and Anirban Basu)

## BCP Principals Lead the Way...

BCP principals are more than instructional leaders. Not only do they embrace the idea that students need highly-effective teachers who deliver research-based curricula with the support of ongoing training and coaching; they also understand that students need wraparound services to support their physical, emotional and social well-being.

The following BCP principals

are visionaries who strive everyday to bring their students and teachers the tools and resources they need for success.



Mark Gaither, Principal  
Wolfe Street Academy

**Mark Gaither,**  
Principal of  
**Wolfe Street**  
Academy be-

lieves that if "a student arrives at school needing eye glasses, hungry or worried about family issues, if a school cannot provide a rich depth of extracurricular activities, it will interfere with her ability to succeed." (Baltimore Community Schools Initiative webpage: <http://www.baltimorecommunityschools.org/>)

**That's why, in 2005, Wolfe Street Academy partnered with the Y of Maryland to become a community**

*continued on page 2 ...*

## Legg Mason Expands Partnership with BCP

We would like to thank Legg Mason for their very generous gift of \$30,000 to support City Springs Elementary/Middle School, Hampstead Hill Academy and Wolfe Street Academy.

Legg Mason has been a steadfast partner with the Baltimore Curriculum Project for over eight years, providing volunteers and support for a variety of



programs and initiatives.

Last year Legg Mason hosted a fundraiser at their Harbor East Tower to support the City Springs Athletic Complex and provided \$15,000 to support the project. CEO Joseph Sullivan spoke at the event.

For over eight years, Legg Mason has supported Hampstead Hill Academy's participation in nature programs at Patterson Park Audubon Center with an annual matching grant of \$7,000.

In October Legg Mason employee Carolyn Funsch organized a Jeans Day Fundraiser to benefit Wolfe Street Academy. Carolyn is part of the Business Volunteers GIVE team supporting Wolfe Street Academy, which includes Legg Mason employee Mallory McDonald.

These are just a few of the ways that Legg Mason supports our schools. We would like to thank Legg Mason for being such an outstanding partner.

## BCP Principals Lead the Way... (continued from page 1)

### school through the Family League of Baltimore's Community and School Engagement Strategy.

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources.

Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone.

Today, Wolfe Street Academy's community school strategy is managed by Community School Coordinator Connie Phelps, through a partnership with the Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) at the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Mark also knows that a critical component of any community school strategy is extended learning time.

That's why he supplements the Family League's \$127,000 after-school grant with funds from his general operating budget in order to serve additional students and employ full-time Director of Extended Student Services Kathy Stroup.

Wolfe Street's after-school program provides 135 students with academic instruction, STEM, Robotics, Jazz Dance, Mexican Folkloric Dance, Chess, String Instruments, Soccer, Radio Broadcasting and other offerings.

In conjunction with SWCOS and the Baltimore Curriculum Project, Wolfe Street Academy has over 25 partners providing everything from sports and arts enrichment to mental health services and academic tutoring.

Wolfe Street Academy has become a model for Baltimore's community schools.



Matt Hornbeck, Principal  
Hampstead Hill Academy

**Matt Hornbeck, Principal of Hampstead Hill Academy,** supports the idea that healthy food and nutrition are essential to student success.

That's why, in 2004, he launched Hampstead Hill's "Food for Life" program.

Food for Life is a multi-faceted, sensory-based food education program that encourages healthy food choices by providing students and families with enjoyable experiences growing, cooking, and eating nutritious foods.

The program has received national attention as a model of holistic nutrition education programming in a public school setting.

Food for Life has grown to touch every student at the school during the school day and in after school clubs and events.

A full-time, teacher-level Food for Life educator is a permanent position at the school, and a kitchen classroom serves as a base for the classes, clubs, and activities that comprise the program.

Matt also knows that modern, supportive school facilities enhance academic achievement and teacher retention.

That's why, years before City Schools launched its 21st Century Buildings initiative, Matt decided to invest in an early learning wing renovation for PreK and K students.

The \$2 million project, which was completed in the summer of 2010, in-

cludes a prekindergarten addition providing two oversized classrooms with restrooms for our youngest students, an art room, library, a new canopy over the main entrance and a green roof.



Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal  
City Springs Elementary/  
Middle School

**Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal of City Springs Elementary/Middle School,** understands that students and teachers need research-based

tools to strengthen relationships and resolve conflict.

That's why, when BCP brought Restorative Practices to its schools in 2007, she fully embraced the model.

Restorative practices is an approach to conflict resolution that favors positive relationships over punishment.

In 2010, City Springs began the International Institute for Restorative Practices' (IIRP) Whole Change Program.

The program is an effective way to achieve lasting change that enhances and builds relationships between students, staff and parents, improves student behavior, reduces violence and bullying and creates a sense of community.

City Springs has become a model restorative school and has been featured in Time Magazine, Education Week and on Voice of America.

Rhonda also knows that children need a safe place to exercise and play sports in order to improve health, school attendance and academic achievement.

That's why in 2008 she launched a campaign to build a community athletic complex for her students and their families.

With the help of Baltimore City Schools and other funders, this vision will soon be a reality.

The facility will include a multi-

continued on page 8 ...

## WOLFE STREET ACADEMY

### Business Volunteers GIVE Team Supports WSA

We would like to thank Business Volunteers Maryland and the members of the Business Volunteers GIVE team for supporting career and college readiness at Wolfe Street Academy (WSA).

The Give team worked with WSA Community School Coordinator Connie Phelps to arrange a Career Day at the school on October 16th and a college tour of Towson University on October 22nd.

The team also raised \$1,400 for transportation for the college tour!

We would like to thank the following GIVE team members for making these activities possible:

- Trent Zivkovich (Team Captain),

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP

- Carolyn Funsch, Legg Mason
- Mallory McDonald, Legg Mason
- Aaron Nodar, M&T Bank
- Joseph Rabinowicz, Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP

#### About the GIVE Program

GIVE is a 10-month program designed to raise awareness among the next generation of civic leaders about the growing need for volunteerism in Greater Maryland.

Through a series of learning seminars and volunteer experiences, the program educates classmates on key community issues, inspires them



Business Volunteers GIVE Team Career Day at WSA

to make a meaningful difference in the community, and develops the necessary skills for success.

For more information visit:  
<http://businessvolunteersmd.org/volunteer/give-program/>

## Mayor Speaks at WSA After-School Event



Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
and Wolfe Street Academy Student

On November 7th the Family League of Baltimore and Maryland Hunger Solutions celebrated *Lights On Afterschool* at Wolfe Street Academy (WSA).

The event highlighted WSA's model after-school program, which provides academic instruction, enrichment and supper for 130 students.

Mayor Rawlings-Blake and other leaders spoke about the importance of after-school programs for children, families and communities.

*Lights On Afterschool*, a project of the Afterschool Alliance, is a nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs. As a provider of after-school programs in more than 40 city schools in the city, the Family League wanted to highlight the important work done to give children access to after-school

meals, enrichment programs and other activities.

WSA's program is supported by a generous grant from the Family League of Baltimore. The Family League also sponsors the supper program.

We would like to thank the Family League of Baltimore, Maryland Hunger Solutions, and Kathy Stroup for organizing this event. Thank you to Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and City Councilman Carl Stokes for attending.

Special thanks to the student volunteers from Wolfe Street Academy and the Park School of Baltimore for serving as ushers.

## BD Diagnostics Supports STEM at WSA

We would like to thank BD Diagnostics for awarding Wolfe Street Academy a grant of \$10,000 to support the school's participation in the new Baltimore Area STEM Collective.

We would also like to thank Dr. Meredith Durmowicz, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Stevenson University, and Steve Kaiser, President of Kaiser Associates, for

including Wolfe Street Academy in the program.

Stevenson University and BD Diagnostics are creating the Baltimore Area STEM Collective, a program focused on promoting excellence in STEM education at the elementary school level.

They will combine high quality professional development for

elementary school teachers and the development of a professional learning community to encourage the sharing of best practices in STEM education, fostering students' natural curiosity and interest in STEM fields.



#### Class Notes

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# HAMPSTEAD HILL ACADEMY

Read more Hampstead Hill Academy News at [www.hha47.org](http://www.hha47.org)



## Leaders Go Places at HHA

Article By Geri Swann, Director of Community Outreach, Hampstead Hill Academy

HHA's Leaders Go Places (LGP) is a new middle school program designed to promote scholarship, citizenship and leadership.

The program is made possible by a generous \$10,000 grant from the Living Classrooms Foundation.



Leaders Go Places Students visited Hershey Park in October

Each quarter, students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to earn points for good grades and community service as well as attendance, work habits and behavior.

Points determine whether a student is on a particular leadership level – bronze, silver, gold or platinum.

Supports and incentives include an advisor for each student, weekly community meetings featuring informative speakers, special uniform shirts and jackets with the LGP emblem and exciting trips for top performing students to places like Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and Hershey Park.

We are grateful to Scott Raymond, Vice President of Education at the



Leaders Go Places Students were honored at a Ravens game in October

Living Classrooms Foundation, and his team at the Crossroads School for partnering with HHA to implement this program.

We would also like to recognize the following LGP Executive Committee members:

- Arleen Proto, Assistant Principal
- Chella Drew, Director of Restorative Practices
- Nicole Seymour, Guidance Counselor,
- Ben Slivnick, 7th/8th grade Team Leader
- Andrew Chapin, 6th grade Team Leader

## 3rd Annual HHA Homecoming Meets Its Goal

Article By Geri Swann, Director of Community Outreach, Hampstead Hill Academy

On Saturday, October 26 the 3rd Annual HHA Homecoming event took place.

Members of the Class of 2013 were invited to come back to HHA to join with our current 8th grade students.

Several HHA staff and administrators, including Sara Gerrish, Arleen Proto, Melissa Hayden, Katie Johnson, Laura Moyers Guitian, Stephanie Brown and Nicky Seymour attended as well.

The purpose of this event was to

learn from our alumni how they were doing in the 9th grade, and how we could have best prepared them for high school.

The turnout was excellent. Alumni talked about their school successes, struggles and perspectives.

Our 8th grade students listened attentively as the guests spoke of math, history, English and the difference between teachers from one class to another.

The students now in high school gave us some excellent advice on how

to provide a quality education for our middle school students who will leave for the wide and sometimes daunting world of high school.

We are glad to report that our graduates are experiencing lots of success. The morning concluded with a soccer game.

We are grateful to the Student Outcomes Committee for organizing the event, the students who attended and Mr. Matt Hornbeck, Ms. Arleen Proto and Ms. Chris Kotchenreuther.

## Legg Mason & BSO Give BCP Students a Musical Treat

On December 6th, Legg Mason and the BSO treated 40 students and teachers from Wolfe Street Academy to a performance of *The Snowman* at the Meyerhoff.

The BSO provided complementary tickets to Legg Mason's partner schools for this Midweek Education Concert and Legg Mason provided transportation.

The performance transported students to a winter wonderland come to life in a timeless story of a young boy's magical friendship with a snowman. As they traveled across the world together, students learned about the environmental impact of climate change.

The BSO Midweek Education Concerts provide an interactive experience for students in Pre-

Kindergarten through sixth grade. Each concert features exciting orchestral works and explores key arts integrated themes.

On April 24th, 44 students and teachers from Hampstead Hill Academy will take in a performance of Mahler's *Titan*; part of the 2013-2014 Legg Mason Open Rehearsal Series.

This series offers serious music students in middle, high school and college a "behind the scenes look" at a working BSO rehearsal.

Legg Mason is also providing transportation for this trip and another trip on February 5th for City Springs Elementary/Middle School.

Students will enjoy *America the Beautiful*, a concert that explores geography and geology while



Image provided courtesy of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and republished with the BSO's permission

showcasing the beauty of the American landscape.

We would like to thank Legg Mason and the BSO for their generosity and commitment to providing outstanding cultural enrichment experiences for City Schools students.

For more information about the BSO's education programs visit: [www.bsomusic.org/bsokids/](http://www.bsomusic.org/bsokids/)

## WSA Students Take Virtual Field Trip to Aquarium

On December 5th, fourth graders in Wolfe Street Academy's after-school program took a virtual field trip to the National Aquarium, courtesy of the U.S. Department of State, Google and the World Trade Center Institute.

Through Google's Virtual Field Trip program, students visited the National Aquarium's Animal Planet Australia exhibit and got an up-close look at a Monitor lizard, a Tawny Frogmouth and other animals.

National Aquarium educator Heather Doggett and General Curator Jack Cover fed bananas to giant Lungfish; explored the elements of a typical ecosystem found in the river gorges of Northern Australia; and fielded a variety of student questions. For many of the students, this was the first time they had ever visited the National Aquarium.

More than 200 representatives at a U.S. Department of State-sponsored workshop tuned in for this field trip to see how Google Hangouts might be used to facilitate virtual exchange opportunities for foreign professionals

and leaders.

These virtual exchanges would enhance the traditional exchanges offered through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and other exchange programs, whose participants are hosted in local communities by organizations like the World Trade Center Institute (WTCI).

For over 20 years, WTCI's Professional Exchanges Program department has designed and delivered exchange programs for foreign professionals from around the world. Topics cover a wide array of technical and educational subject areas.

The Baltimore Curriculum Project has partnered with WTCI and the U.S. Department of State to host delegations of educators from a variety of countries including Vietnam, Brazil, Iraq, Egypt, and Mexico.

We would like to thank the following people for making this virtual field trip possible for

our students:

- Janine Branch, Manager, Professional Exchanges & Program Development, World Trade Center Institute
- Nabila Chami, Social Media and PR Coordinator, National Aquarium
- Diane Crow, Chief, Community Relations Branch, Office of International Visitors, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Jack Cover, General Curator, National Aquarium
- Heather Doggett, Educator, National Aquarium educator
- Kate Hendrickson, Media Relations Manager, National Aquarium
- Lisa Jiang, Head of Google+ Education, Google
- Kathy Stroup, Director of Extended Student Services, Wolfe Street Academy.



Every student who participated in the virtual field trip received an International Visitor Leadership Program Gold Star medallion

# BCP Develops New Middle Grades Curriculum

BCP's new Middle Grades TECK (Teaching Effective Core Knowledge) Initiative is underway.

The goal of the TECK Initiative is to create a rigorous middle grades curriculum for language arts, history and geography.

Three teachers at City Springs Elementary/Middle School are currently writing and field-testing the new curriculum: Nick West, Elani Odeyale, and Lauren Stoltzfus.

BCP would like to thank these three teachers for the hard work it takes to not only write lessons, but to revise them through the field-testing process.



## TECK combines four elements:

- 1. Core Knowledge:** BCP is working with the Core Knowledge Foundation to create a middle grades curriculum based on the Core Knowledge Sequence - a core curriculum that is coherent, cumulative, and content-specific in order to help children establish strong foundations of knowledge, grade by grade.
- 2. Common Core Alignment:** TECK will be aligned with the new Common Core State Standards - a set of educational standards adopted by 45 states, which outlines the knowledge and skills that young people need for success in college and career.
- 3. Common Curriculum:** TECK will utilize the Common Curriculum web-based platform, which allows teachers to access the curriculum online, create lesson plans, communicate with parents, develop a class website and easily update material

- 4. Effective Teaching, Assessment and Support:** Everything BCP has learned about effective instructional design will be incorporated into TECK. Lessons will be field tested for two years and revised based on new student performance assessments. Teachers will receive intensive training and support so that they may focus on teaching to mastery instead of instructional design.

## You Can Help!

We have invested \$22,000 in this initiative so far and the Core Knowledge Foundation together with The Abell Foundation are providing \$25,000 in training and materials for the project.

We need to raise additional money to complete the TECK initiative. We have approximately 900 lessons to write. A gift of \$100 will help us complete a full lesson. Donate online at: <http://bitly.com/bcpteck>

# Read-Alouds Enhance Reading Comprehension

This fall all three BCP schools began using Core Knowledge Read-Alouds in the classroom to enrich content knowledge and improve reading comprehension.

Every week teachers read content-rich fiction and non-fiction texts to their classes and ask questions in order to build vocabulary and background knowledge.

Research indicates that children can learn more content from listening than reading until around age 13.

The Core Knowledge Read-Alouds are organized into units called domains, such as Animals, Fairy Tales, Early Asian Civilizations and Colonial America.

Students spend two to three weeks learning about each domain, which gives them time to explore the topics deeply and master vocabulary.

"We have used read-alouds for many years, but now we have a tool that organizes read-alouds into a coordinated sequence that builds

vocabulary and content knowledge from lesson to lesson and year to year," said BCP President Laura Doherty.

We would like to thank the Core Knowledge Foundation and The Abell Foundation for supporting this project.

Core Knowledge Read-Alouds can be download for free at: <http://www.coreknowledge.org/ckla-files>



# Business Volunteers Inspires Students to Attend School Every Day

Business Volunteer Maryland's new INSPIRE program, in partnership with City Springs Elementary/Middle School, Child First Authority and the Baltimore Curriculum Project, is helping motivate City Springs students to attend school every day.

The INSPIRE program partners with schools and engages teams of business volunteers to incentivize and educate students on the importance of attendance.

The City Springs INSPIRE team of volunteers is led by Business Volunteers Maryland Manager of Business Engagement Tom Caron.

Since December the team has raised over \$1,000 to pay for attendance incentives such as raffle prizes and field trips. We would like to thank Tom Caron, Child First Community School Coordinator Simone Garrison and the following INSPIRE team members for supporting our students:

- Carolyn Dorsey, CareFirst
- Keisha Gibbons
- Makeisha Gibson, University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center
- Marlene Harris
- Nicole Lewis
- Chele Taylor
- Robin Ceasar, Northrop Grumman



# Turner Teaches Students about Construction

Since October, students at City Springs Elementary/Middle School have been learning about the construction industry, courtesy of Turner Construction



Turner Construction Community Affairs Director Dexter L. Hendricks with City Springs Students

Company's Youthforce 2020 program and Turner Construction Community Affairs Director Dexter L. Hendricks.

The Youthforce 2020 program adopts middle schools and high schools in Baltimore to educate students about the field of construction and engineering.

Mr. Hendricks meets with middle grades students at City Springs once a month to explore a variety of topics including: estimating the cost of a construction project; green building and design; Building Information Modeling; and project management.

As part of the course, students will visit a construction site and work

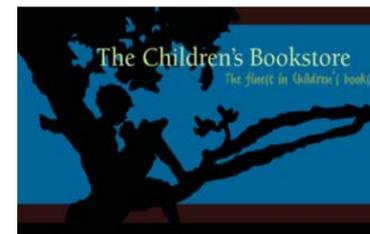
in teams to complete a construction project from budgeting to final presentation.

We would like to thank Turner Construction and Mr. Hendricks for providing this wonderful experience for our students.

*Youthforce 2020* was created by Turner, first as a company-wide program in 1989 and then brought to the Baltimore business unit in 2006 to expose minority students to the construction industry and encourage them to attend college and study civil, electrical, mechanical engineering, construction management or architecture. [www.turnerconstruction.com/about-us/community-involvement/youth-and-education](http://www.turnerconstruction.com/about-us/community-involvement/youth-and-education)

# Hippodrome & Children's Bookstore Deliver War Horse

We would like to thank the Hippodrome Foundation and The Children's Bookstore Educational Foundation for enriching our students' study of the book *War Horse*. In the fall the Children's Bookstore Educational



Foundation donated 85 copies of *War Horse* for seventh graders at City Springs Elementary/Middle School.

In February these students will take in a performance of the play *War Horse* at the Hippodrome, thanks to a generous discount provided by the Hippodrome Foundation.

Special thanks to JoAnn Fruchtmann, Owner of the Children's Bookstore, and Olive Waxter, Director of the Hippodrome Foundation, for supporting our students.

The Children's Bookstore Educational Foundation gives thousands of children in Baltimore City free books each year to enhance their classroom experience and foster a love of reading. [www.thechildrensbookstore.com](http://www.thechildrensbookstore.com)

The Hippodrome Foundation maximizes community access to the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center through free outreach and education programs. [www.hippodrome-foundation.org/](http://www.hippodrome-foundation.org/)

