

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.  
“Reaching for Success one star at a Time”  
April 2011

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EXTRA.....EXTRA.....READ ALL ABOUT TSOC  
**21st Century Community Learning Center**



For over 2000 years Easter has been a Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ. It is believed that Christ traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. On the final day of the celebration, Christ and his disciples took part in a holiday feast. The following day he was arrested. Two days following his crucifixion and death on what is now deemed Good Friday, Jesus Christ arose from the dead.

Easter Sunday-Originally Easter was celebrated two days after Passover, a time that celebrates the Hebrews' release from slavery. Due to the flexibility of the time frame in which Passover fell, Easter could be held on any day of the week. In 325 C.E. Roman Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicaea stated that Easter must fall on a Sunday. Since then Easter has fallen on the first Sunday on which there is a full moon following the Spring Equinox. This may occur anywhere from late March to mid April.

**Pagan Connections to Easter**-There is some speculation that the word "Easter" is descended from Eostre or [Esther](#), the Pagan Goddess of Spring and Fertility. In ancient Saxon culture, sacrifices were offered in her honour around the time of Passover. A connection between the sacrifices offered to the goddess and that of Christ is drawn as a

transition point between Paganism and Christianity. As a representative of

**Significance of the Easter Bunny and Eggs**-The rabbit is celebrated as a

representative of fertile life in Pagan religion. Around the 16th Century parents began telling their children that if they behaved, the Easter Bunny would come to their home on the eve of Easter and lay colorful eggs. Children created nests inside the home to entice the rabbit to visit. From this welcoming nest, we now have the tradition of the Easter basket.

Eggs have been recognized worldly as a mythological representation of birth. This close association to fertility explains its significance in terms of the Easter holiday. In early Christian tradition, the eggs were painted red to represent the blood of Christ. Over the centuries, the act of egg decorating has come to be an elaborate display of artistry.

**Why we Have Chocolate for Easter**-In the 19th century, chocolate makers began creating egg and rabbit shaped chocolate to aid in the filling of Easter baskets. This retail tradition was extremely well received, thus the current social obsession with chocolate goodness to celebrate the holiday

Read more at Suite101: [The History of Easter: A Historical Background of Easter | Suite101.com](http://www.suite101.com/content/the-history-of-easter-a220185#ixzz1K5ULnDWb)  
<http://www.suite101.com/content/the-history-of-easter-a220185#ixzz1K5ULnDWb>

**Think Smart**  
**Annual Easter Egg Hunt**



**(Barry and his mother at Egg Hunt)**

On Thursday, April 21, 2011, our program hosted our Annual Easter Egg Hunt from 4:30 pm-6:00 pm at our Erwin Site. This is always a huge event and something the parents and the students look forward to every year.

Before the games, the students received a special visit from the Easter Bunny. He went into the classrooms and greeted the students, shook their hands, and also got a “picture opt” from their families. The students were excited to see the Easter Bunny and glad that he came all the way from Bunnyland to see them.

After the Easter Bunny hid the eggs, the students were let “loose” to find the eggs along with the lucky egg. After the Egg Hunt, the students had various stations set up and every 15 minutes a station ended and they were directed to the next station. The stations consisted of: Dessert Walk, Balloon Toss, Egg Race, horseshoes, Face Painting, Egg Decorating, and Pin the tail on the Bunny.

After the stations, there was a cookout for the participants and their parents. This event was implemented as a part of our parental involvement program. The students, parents, staff, and volunteers had a great time!!

**What’s going on at Think Smart???**

(You can also check out our website at [www.thinksmartoutreach.org](http://www.thinksmartoutreach.org) under Upcoming Events for additional information)



Youth After school program meets Monday-Thursday from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm.

Pre-Collegiate Workshops (High School Students) meet the 1st Saturday of each month from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm and then attend trips as they become available.

High School After school program meets Monday-Thursday at our facility.

Think Smart's High School Radio Station airs every Wednesday from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm at 646-381-4846 or [www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undgrnd](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undgrnd)

Kids Café- A hot dinner is prepared nightly at our facility.

Family Reading Night is held Bi-monthly (see monthly calendar).

Male/Female Mentor Nights are held Bi-Monthly (See monthly calendar).

Family Movie Nights are held Bi-monthly (See Monthly Meeting).

Music Classes are held on Tuesdays

Thrilling Thursdays are held on Thursdays

Conflict Resolution Training held on Tuesdays and conducted by Johari’s Family Services.

African Dance Classes held on Mondays.

## From the After school Corner at Think Smart



(Some of our students enjoying National Kite Day).

### Primary Class

The Primary Class is focusing on improving their writing skills. They are working on short sentences, using word wall to increase their vocabulary, reading short stories and having the children tell the sequence of events, telling main ideas, writing independently using correct grammar, etc. They have not put “aside” using their math skills they are also doing addition and subtraction (one and double digits), multiplication, and telling time and figuring arrival times.

### Elementary Class

The Elementary class is “aiming for the top”. They are working on multiplication factors which include but not limited to: flashcards, memorization, and homework help. They are also focusing on fractions which consist of improper fractions, mixed numbers, simplifying, addition/subtraction, and long division. They are still focusing on Ruby Bridges and Segregation, etc.

### Middle School Class

The Middle school class has EOG on the brain. The students have begun reviewing and working on their EOG packets. They also are playing academic games such as Math and Science Relay, Spelling Bee, and Math and Spelling Races to help them prepare for the EOG. Additionally, they are continuing to learn Black History Facts daily. Hip Hop Dance Classes was recently added to their Special Session activity. During their music class, the students wrote and performed their own rap.

Monthly school observations have been completed on all after school students.

## Our Mentoring Program at HCHS Mrs. Catina Autry-Mentor Director



(Ms. Pam and her Mentee Lillian during the Skating Field Trip)

The mentoring program at HCHS is coming to an end. It has been fun and interesting for the mentors and the mentees. It was great to hear what the mentees had on their minds and to see the mentors help them develop to their full potential.

During their “Straight Talk” Forum, the mentors shared with them why they chose to be mentors and gave them background on their lives “before they became adults”. It gave the young ladies some time to understand why the mentors do what they do and to see them as a person that has been down the road they are currently on so they understand they have not been “grown” all their lives. The group enjoyed an outing to the Carolina Skateland and had a lot of fun.

Mrs. Catina also conducted school visits with the mentees teachers in order for us to help and serve them better.



Mrs. Linda Holiday a retired English and French Educator that volunteers at our Center three times a week helping students with Language Arts and Introduction to French.

**Promoting Excellence through  
Sisterhood  
Mrs. Catina Autry-Mentor Director**



**(Mentor and Mentee African Dance Performance)**

The Mentors and Mentees are enjoying themselves a lot and look forward to the meetings and workshops with their Mentors/Mentees. This month the Mentors/Mentees finished their African Dance Class and performed their routine at our Night with the Stars Event on April 16<sup>th</sup> at HCMS. It was fun and the girls and Mentors did a wonderful job.

They also played the Smartie Game this month. The ladies enjoyed eating the smarties and discovering that it is not good to judge a book by its cover.

We were recently informed that our Mentoring program will be extended through April 2012. The new program will offer Mentoring activities for both Males and Females ages 9-16. Anyone interested in serving as a Mentor or being a participant should contact Mentor Coordinator, Catina Autry, at [910-814-8762](tel:910-814-8762).



**(Tianna and Rosalind at Skateland)**

**Night with the Stars 2011**



**(Some of the NWTs Honorees)**

Weaknesses, setbacks, and failures are all a part of life. Wanting something is not enough. You must yearn for it. Your driving force must be absolutely compelling in order to overcome the obstacles that will invariably come your way. Despite the cards we have been dealt, Think Smart Outreach Center's Directors have shown courage, determination, and willpower to make our dreams a reality. That is why we are pleased to announce that on April 24, 2011, celebrated 10 years of service to the Harnett County Community.

First, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being a part of our dream. As a result of your faith in us and our organization, we have been able to accomplish more than we could have ever imagined. As a means to commemorate this great accomplishment, we decided to "celebrate" those who made it possible. Our task for this year was to select businesses, organizations, and/or individuals who selflessly gave their time and talent to improve the quality of programming offered by Think Smart. Because of their involvement and caring spirit, we recognized them during our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Night with the Stars Awards Ceremony to show our deepest appreciation.

The Honorees for the 2011 Night with the Stars were as following:

Krstyal Surles  
 Catina Autry  
 Pastor Craig Robinson and Green's Chapel  
 FWB Church  
 Erwin Parks and Recreation  
 Caprice Brown (NC Food Bank)  
 Margaret McNeill  
 Annie Williams  
 Darlene Maynard (Dunn Housing Authority)  
 Nancy Blackman (Triangle South Enterprise  
 Center)  
 Timothy McLean  
 Denise Williams  
 Crystal Baker  
 Theodore Robbins  
 Dr. Ed Bell  
 Lois McLean  
 Doris McDougald  
 Terry Price  
 Harnett County Schools  
 Della McMillian  
 Joan Lanier

The Night with the Stars Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:00 pm at Harnett Central Middle School located at 2529 Harnett Central Road, Angier, North Carolina. This was a semi to formal event. Despite the storm it was a packed house and it was a huge and successful event. We had tributes, entertainment, awards, presentations, performances by our students, and so much more. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was the "talk" of the weekend. People are asking about next year!



**Student Dedication to Charles and Tatyana for being the "backbone" of Think Smart for 10 years!**

**From the Pre-Collegiate Corner**  
 Pre-Collegiate Director- Ms. Pam  
 Pre-Collegiate Assistant Director- Ms. Nell



Time is winding down for the Class of 2011. As we are preparing for closure of this term, we are also making sure they have everything they need in order to have a successful life beyond high school. This month has been extremely busy for our Pre-Collegiate Students. On Saturday, April 2, 2011, we conducted a workshop entitled "7 Ways to make College the best Experience in your Life". The students also took part and helped with our Annual Night with the Stars Event that was held this month. The seniors were recognized during this event and were escorted by their loved ones to the stage and received a standing ovation for their hard work, dedication, and acceptance into college.

The students took a college tour of Winston Salem State University and North Carolina A&T State University at the end of the month. Also, the students are preparing for their "last" bang which will be the Honoring Achievement and Promoting Success Gala which will be in June. The seniors, their escorts, and our program's underclassman will be performing at the event and is extremely excited about the Gala.

The Pre-Collegiate Advisory Board is accepting donations at our site for those that were affected by the tornado that hit our county. Donations can be made during our office hours. They are in need of non-perishable food, toiletries, and household goods. Thank you in advance!

## From the HCPAL Corner

Ms. Nell-PAL Director

Mr. Walter-Recreation Director

Mr. Alex-Recreation Assistant



It is Spring Time... Which Means a New Season a New Sport.... We are now gearing up for T-Ball and Baseball. The interest forms have been completed and games will start the first of month. We are excited about this new venture in our program and we are glad to have dedicated volunteers assisting with our Athletic Component.

The Athletic Booster Club is still seeking members to join their organization. This group is responsible for providing support to the athletic department of Think Smart. Tasks range from soliciting participation for sporting activities to organizing fundraising events. The Booster Club will meet on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 7pm at Williams Income Tax services located at 1406 South Main Street Lillington (beside the Pantry). All interested parties are encouraged to attend.



We will be accepting donations (canned goods, clothes of all sizes, and shoes) for those individuals in Harnett County that was affected by the tornado on Saturday, April 16, 2011. Drop offs can be made Monday-Thursday from 10 a-7 pm. You never know when it might be you!

## End of the Year Banquet



### (Picture from last year End of the Year Banquet)

On May 16, 2011, at 5:30 pm at Harnett County Governmental Complex, we will be hosting our Annual End of the Year Banquet. The purpose of the banquet is to honor all of our participants for their hard work. The banquet is a HUGE event that is open to the students, their families, friends, and their supporters. Each class/group will do a presentation on this evening and then each teacher/coordinator will give each child a “personal” certificate and a medal to acknowledge them being “winners”. This is a way for us to show them we are proud of their accomplishments and everything that they have done during the 2010-2011 term at our center.

The event also has entertainment as well as a keynote speaker that speaks to the students and the audience about the importance of education and goal setting. This event also gives the teachers/coordinators the opportunity to give “personal testimonies” for the students in their classroom.

Since this is our seniors “last go around” we have a special tribute to them and their families as well. We are asking everyone that will be participating in the event to RSVP by May 11, 2011.

## Spring Fling End of Grade (EOG) Camp



We will be hosting our Annual Spring Fling End of Grade (EOG) Camp. The week of May 2-6 will focus on Math, the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> will focus on Reading and May 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> will be a combination of Math and Reading and students will get hints on how to “ace” the EOG. There will also be a Mock EOG test. Participants will be given stress relief balls, smarties, etc. to help them reach for a 3 or 4.

We will host our “No Stress; a 3 or 4 will be on my Test” Event which will be a countdown to the EOG and fun activities and a workshop for the parents on “How to Help your Child Succeed on the EOG”. The 3 week Camp is open to the students at our Erwin Site and Harnett Central Middle School Site. The EOG Camp will be held at our Erwin Site and will be Monday-Thursday from 4:00-6:00 pm. **Call for Transportation Information.**



Where our aim is “Reaching for  
Success one star at a Time”



**Newsletter Prepared by Ms.  
Pamela Williams**

**Chief Executive Director  
Ms. Pamela Williams**

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**We were established on April 24,  
2001. TEN Years and Still Growing  
Strong!! We would like to say a  
Special Thank You to our Wonderful  
Staff and our Volunteers. You  
complete the puzzle at Think Smart  
Outreach Center, Inc. 21st Century  
Community Learning Center.**