

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.

“Reaching for Success one star at a Time”

April 2010 Volume VIII Issue XIII

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

Happy Easter



Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Rabbit Rituals for Christians

Christian rituals continue outside the church with Easter egg hunts and a visit from the Easter bunny. For Christians, the eggs and rabbits symbolize new life in Jesus Christ

Both of the Easter egg and Easter bunny have roots in European Paganism, where rabbits and eggs are fertility symbols of spring. In the Middle Ages, Pagan symbols often became incorporated into Christian religious traditions, a pattern popular not only with Easter but also with Christmas, where evergreens, Pagan symbols of eternal life, are connected with Jesus' birth.

Christians celebrate new life in Jesus Christ during Easter and rejoice in their belief that, through Jesus death and resurrection, they, too, will live forever.

<http://protestantism.suite101.com/article.cfm/easter-meaning-and-purpose#ixzz0lBC8yps2>

Our Community Easter Egg Hunt 2010



The purpose of our program is not only to assist the students that receive services from our organization but to also do various events for the community. We feel in order to make a community a better place; we have to take the time out to help others.

Every year our program hosts our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. The event is held at our center. We have various games, food, fellowship, and a GREAT time! The Easter Bunny also comes to visit each of the classrooms and greet the students. After the Easter Bunny greets the students, the bunny takes time to take pictures with the children before he has to hop back to Bunny land!

This is a huge event that the children and their family enjoy participating in each year. We make this a great event for everyone in attendance. After the Easter Bunny left we had an Easter Egg Hunt which consists of plastic colorful eggs along with designer eggs (basketball, football, and soccer eggs), and we also had a lucky egg. After the Egg Hunt, we had activities and games for each age group. This year's games consist of Egg Race, Water Balloon Toss, Cake Walk, Egg Decoration, Easter Bingo, and Bubbles Walk. The student's rotated from station to station with their assigned group.

**Happy 9th Birthday
Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.
21st Century Community Learning Center**



Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st Century Community Learning Center will turn 9 years old on April 24, 2010. We are so excited that we will celebrate for 9 days straight. The birthday celebration will be from April 23-May 1, 2010. All events are open to the community (excluding the Staff Retreat) and we are encouraging everyone to come out and help us celebrate our birthday.

Please check out the events for the 9 days:

- **April 23-Relay for Life at 6:00 pm-** We are a proud sponsor of Harnett County Relay for Life. So we will be supporting this event and the fight against Cancer. Help create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.
- **April 24-25-Staff Retreat-**Our staff will enjoy a weekend Staff Retreat that will consist of Leadership Styles, Management, Team Building, Strategic and Operational planning, and brainstorming. This is a time for reflection and then time to focus on the 2010-2011 term.
- **April 26-Game Night- at 5:30 pm.** We are going to have games and activities for parents and children at our center.
- **April 27-Think Smart Radio Thon at 4:00 pm.** We are going to have the after school students in our program hosting our High School Students Think Smart Underground Radio Station. Parents and others are encouraged to call in or listen to the

show on this date at 646-381-4846 or www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undrgrnd

- **April 28-Senior Night** at 5:30 pm we will be having an event for the Class of 2010 and their parents in reference to their “final” days before college.
- **April 29-Old Skool vs New Skool Basketball Game** at 6:00 pm Erwin Elementary School. We will be having a basketball game which will be New Skool (14-19) vs Old School (20 & up). If you are interested in playing, please contact our office.
- **April 30-Youth Block Party** at 5:00 pm at Williams’ Recreational Center. We will be having a Youth Block Party which will consist of live entertainment, food, inflatables, DJ, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, and much more.
- **May 1-Battle of the Borders Step show** at Triton High School. Doors open at 3:00 pm and show starts at 4:00 pm.
- To celebrate our birthday, we will be hosting our Battle of the Borders Step show again this year. Teams from NC, VA, SC, and GA will perform. Tickets are \$6.00 in advance and \$9.00 at the door. You can purchase tickets at Think Smart or from a Think Smart Participant.
- You can also purchase tickets by calling our program by using your credit card (you can pick the tickets up at Will-Call)
- Listen to advertisement on 88.3 FM
- This event will sell out!



Don't miss out on our Birthday Celebration- It is going to be a HUGE event!

What Going on at Think Smart???

(You can also check out our website at www.thinksmartoutreach.org) and check Upcoming Events for additional information



Kinder Prep (2 years old to 5 years old) meets Monday-Friday from 6:30 am-6:00 pm. We also have 2nd shift available until 11:45 pm

After School Program Meets Monday-Friday from 3:00 pm-6:00 pm. We also have 2nd shift available until 11:45 pm.

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

Tumble Bus (for the Kinder Prep Program) comes to the center the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am

The Storyteller (for the Kinder Prep Program) comes to the center the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:45 am

Think Smart's Radio Station airs every Wednesday from 9:00 pm-10:00 pm at 646-381-4846 or www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undrgrnd

Family Reading Night meets Bi-monthly (see monthly calendar)

Male/Female Mentor Night meets Bi-Monthly (See monthly calendar)

Our Jamaica Fundraiser Cruise Payments are due the 1st working day of the month (we have NO more cabins available)!

From the After school Corner:

Mrs. Anitra-Site Director
Ms. Norma-Enrichment Counselor
Ms. Christy-Enrichment Counselor
Lennie-Part-time Dietary Technician/Floater
Tatyana-Part-time Graphic Designer

Students during the Fire Department Field Trip in Erwin, NC



The students in the after school program at our site is setting off some great “educational rays”.The students are working on material that they need help with the most. They are also using the assessment results to help them prepare for the EOG.

The younger students in the program are working on telling and reading time. They all are working on reading, math, and spelling. With Spelling, the students are doing Jeopardy Spelling in which they are working on unscrambling words.

The students also identified buckets made with initials on it. They also made dog puppets, and flags out of popsicles sticks,

They also did a field trip to the Erwin Library so that they will know all programs offered at the library.

The students are working hard on their Poetry that they will recite at Think Smart “Snaps Café” which is a night at the center in which we will turn the classroom into a Poetry Lounge and invite the parents and family to attend. If you are not busy, please put this on your To Do List and come out to support the “Snaps Café.”

From the Kinder Prep Corner

Ms. Chona-Lead Childcare Specialist
Ms. Shontavia-Assistant Childcare Specialist
Mrs. Brenda-Asst. Childcare Specialist

Easter Bunny coming to visit the Kinder Prep Program before the 2010 Egg Hunt



Kinder Prep is kicking it in "high gear" for the Spring. The Kinder Prep students are learning the alphabet in Spanish and French. They are also learning their colors in Spanish.

Another thing they are proud of is they are learning to count to 100 and reading and writing short sentences as well as reading short stories.

They are beginning compound words for their sight words. Next month they will begin learning colors in French. From January 2010 to April 2010, the students have read 150 books. Not only are the students doing some educational activities they are also doing some arts and crafts and social activities as well.

In the month of April, they made box bunnies, made kites, box turtles, a volcano, as well as Balloon Plants. Later in the month, they will have a picnic lunch to celebrate National Park Day and also they will participate in Bring a Friend to Kinder Prep Day. In which they will have Fun Friday, Fun Friday will which will consist of making homemade Pizza, Pool time, and Movie Day.

The Bring a Friend to the Program Day will allow other parents to see what activities that our program offers and it is our hope that this day will help with recruiting for our organization.

The Kinder Prep Staff would like to thank the parents for a great job they are doing at home and they appreciate all their hard work and effort.

Night with the Stars Fundraiser Picture from last year event



Think Smart Outreach Center Inc. will be hosting its 4th Annual Night with the Stars Community Awards ceremony on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 6:00 pm at Triton High School. Kevin McCrimmon, Director of Operations for the Rozeana Group Inc. and Margaret McNeill, Teacher at Dunn Middle School and 2007 Night with the Stars Awards Winner, served as Master and Mistress of Ceremony.

The color of the event is Black and Silver. Tickets to attend this event are \$5.00. Entertainment will be provided by: Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. Participants, Sensational Friendly Five of Bunnlevel, NC and Joy Sisters of Faison, NC

The formal event, honors businesses, organizations and individuals that selflessly give their time and talents to improve the quality of life for people in the community.

"We call it Night with the Stars because they are stars in the eyes of the people whose lives they touch," states Pamela Williams, Executive Director. Ms. Williams said Think Smart organized the event as a way of honoring people who generally go unnoticed for their contributions to their community. The event was started by Nell Williams, Chief Executive Financial Director/Event Coordinator and its a huge success and one of Think Smart's biggest fundraisers.

The finalists for 2010 are as following:

Business Community Service Award
Jones Photography, Fayetteville, NC
Premiere Athletes of Clayton, NC

**PRI Counseling Services, Dunn, NC
Sanford Lee School of Barbering, Sanford,
NC**

Community Outreach

**Dunn Women's Club
Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action
Center, Lillington, NC
Kappa Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi
Clinton, NC
Zeta Phi Beta Sigma Grad Chapter
Fayetteville, NC**

Educators Making a Difference Award

**Carolyn Dorman of Triton High School
Erwin, NC
Rosa Herman of Harvest Prep Academy
Fayetteville, NC
Jaime Weeks of Plainview Elementary School
Dunn, NC**

Spiritual Leader Award

**McLean Chapel Church, Bunnlevel, NC
Pastor Shelia McKoy and Word of Life,
Newton Grove, NC
Zion Cathedral Christian Church,
Fayetteville, NC
Teach all Nations Ministries, Spring Lake, NC
Pastor Angelo Surles and St. James Disciple
Church of Benson, NC**

Outstanding Coaches Award

**Coach Laura Mulkey of Village Christian,
Fayetteville, NC
Coach Lashanda Brewington of Western
Harnett High School, Lillington, NC
Coach David Crane of Coats-Erwin Middle
School, Erwin, NC
Coach Kistal Marrara of Jack Britt High,
Fayetteville, NC
Coach Patrick Shaw of West Johnston High
Benson, NC**

Youth Outreach Award

**Prime Time, Fayetteville, NC
Harnett County Partnership for Children
(Teens as Parents) Lillington, NC
Noire Productions, Knightdale, NC
Dr. Melanie Stewart, Kipling, NC**

From the Pre-Collegiate Corner

Pre-Collegiate Director-Ms. Pam
Pre-Collegiate Assistant Director- Ms. Nell

**Some of our Students with the WSSU
Cheerleaders**



The Pre-Collegiate Program had its monthly workshop on Saturday, April 3, 2010. The workshop consisted of the "Real Deal about College" after the workshop a representative from Annie's Nursing Service came to speak to the students about careers in the Medical Field.

During the month of April, the students participated in two college field trips. On April 6, 2010, the students attended an event at Fayetteville State University and then did a tour of the campus. After the tour, the students were greeted by Mahogany, a 2009 graduate of our program that currently attends FSU. She also showed the students her door room.

On April 9, 2010, the students participated in Winston-Salem State University's Open House. from 9 am-2pm. During the event, Cieria and Destiny, 2009 graduates of our program that currently attends Winston Salem State University came to walk with us around campus and sat with us doing the Open House entertainment.

After the event at WSSU, we then went to tour NC A&T State University. William, a 2009 graduate of our program that currently attends NC A&T gave us a tour of the campus.

After the tour at NC A&T, we then toured UNC-Greensboro. After the three tours, we had a wonderful fellowship at a local restaurant and then headed back to Harnett County.

The Pre-Collegiate Program is proud to announce that the Class of 2010 has a 100% college acceptance rate as of April 2010.

They are working hard on various fundraisers.

From the HCPAL Corner

Ms. Nell-PAL Director
Mr. Walter-Athletic Director



The Athletic Department has been up to some “great” things. In March 2010, our 18 and under boy’s basketball team placed 2nd in the State of North Carolina in the SWAC Tournament. They put “Erwin” on the map!

We are now preparing for our nontraditional sporting teams. Our baseball season has begun for our 17 and under team. They will play their first scrimmage game on Monday, April 19, 2010, at 7:00 pm at Erwin. Park.

They are been coached by Coach Walter. They are still looking for players so if you are interested please contact Coach Williams at 910-893-2184. Their practices and home games will be held at Williams’ Recreational Center in the Riverside Community.

The basketball season is not over. They are still playing in the AAU Division. The basketball team will have a Fundraiser Car Wash on Saturday, May 1, 2010. For more information, please contact Walter Williams at 910-893-2184.

Mister and Miss Think Smart Fundraiser



Our program will be crowning our Mister and Miss Think Smart at our Night with the Stars Event on May 15, 2010.

Participants: Destine, Nathan, Ariana, Bryce, MaKayla, Jo Daysa, Omari, and Ahriyaahn

21st CCLC-Think Smart at Overhills Middle School

From the After school Corner

Mrs. Terrie-Site Director
Ms. Jalissa-Enrichment Counselor
Mr. Lee-Enrichment Counselor

Some of the Students in the Hip Hop Dance Club



We are excited about adding Overhills Middle as a site for our program. They had 102 students to complete an application for enrollment at this site for our 21st CCLC Program.. The students are excited about the program as well as the staff. Other teachers at Overhills Middle School stop by the cafeteria and the hallway on a regular basis to see what activities they are doing for the day!

Since this is a new site, the students are focusing on Introductions and getting to know each other. They are also focusing on academics. They are working on EOG activities in the EOG practice books to help them prepare for the EOG at the end of the year.

Since making learning fun is our main priority, they are doing some fun educational activities during academic group game time. They are doing some hands on reading passages activities, math basketball, Green Grass Doors, Word Problems, and fun tips to help with Reading Comprehension.

They are also working extremely hard on their Hip Hop Dance routine due to the fact they will perform it during the Night with the Stars Event.

We would like to welcome Overhills Middle to the Think Smart Family!

Church Website



Think Smart 21st CCLC will be adding a new edition to our program. We will be setting up a website for faith-based organizations. It will feature local churches, activities at the church as well as church events. If your church is interested in being featured on this website, please contact our office for additional information.

Now Accepting Donations

In order for us to continue to assist the youth of Harnett County, we are seeking your help! We are currently welcoming any monetary/In-Kind contributions that will assist us with the vision that God has given to us. You can pay with cash, personal checks, credit/debit card. Monetary donations are needed! We are also seeking Sponsorships and any In-Kind Donations such as (books, arts and craft materials, playground equipment (balls, bats, hula hops, sandboxes, etc.), food (for our cooking classes), old newspapers, old bottles, empty paper towel rolls, paint and paintbrushes, etc.), keeping up the lawn maintenance, planting flowers at the facility, screen-printing services, etc.

Think Smart's April Events:



Staff Meeting	1
Pre-Collegiate Workshop	3
Community Easter Egg Hunt	5
College Tour	6
EOC Financial Aid Workshop	6
Library Trip	8
Triad Tour	9
AAU Basketball Game	10
Tumble Bus	15
Story Teller	15
Booth at Community Event	15
“Snaps” Café	22
Think Smart Birthday Celebration	23-May 1
Happy Birthday Think Smart	24
Community Advisory Leadership Meeting	27
All money for all fundraisers all due	28

Community Leaders Advisory Board



We are seeking your help! We would like to get more community leaders involved in our program and with the youth in Harnett County. We will be hosting a Community Leader Advisory Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at DeBorah's Restaurant located in Dunn, NC at 1:00 pm. The Community Leaders Advisory Board will provide support and counsel to our agency's Leadership Team. The purpose of the board is to help staff get the word out to the Harnett County community about what Think Smart offers and to provide feedback from the community about how we are doing. **The cost of the meal will be \$8.50 per person. You will be responsible for your own meal. It is our hope that you will join us for this meeting and be a part of our Advisory Board that will meet once a month for an hour. Please RSVP by Monday, April 19, 2010, so we can get a headcount. We look forward to seeing you soon.**

Welcome



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. JeToya to the Think Smart Family. She will be the Mentor Coordinator here at Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. thanks to the National PAL Mentoring Grant. She is a graduate of Fayetteville State and has 7 years experience in the mentoring/counseling field. When you see Ms. JeToya, give her a BIG Think Smart Welcome!

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



Newsletter Prepared by Ms. Pamela Williams

Chief Executive Director
Ms. Pamela Williams

Chief Financial Director
Ms. Nell Williams

Chief Executive Assistant/Site Director
Mrs. Anitra Hart

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

