

## EXTRA.....EXTRA.....READ ALL ABOUT TSOC

21st Century Community Learning Center

Tis the Season to be Jolly



Christmas is almost here and we know that you have a busy schedule ahead of you. We know this is also the time that a lot of people go into debt and we would like to provide you with some tips that will help you avoid overspending this holiday season.

### **Tips to avoid overspending:**

Here are a few things you can do to avoid overspending this Christmas:

#### **Set up your Christmas budget early:**

Often we don't even think about the Christmas spending that we'll do this year until November or December rolls around. When it does we quickly realize that we haven't saved enough to buy the gifts that we wanted to give. Add a "Christmas gifts" line item to your family budget, and save for it in small increments, all year long!

**Do your research:** When you're searching for that perfect gift, make sure that you do your research and find the best deal on that item. Search websites like [fatwallet.com](http://fatwallet.com), [blackfriday.info](http://blackfriday.info),

[slickdeals.net](http://slickdeals.net), [retailmenot.com](http://retailmenot.com), [techbargains.com](http://techbargains.com) and others to find the best deals, and money saving coupons for when you do buy. Find out the best time to buy, (black Friday -the day after thanksgiving – for a lot of items) and buy it before the price goes back up! Be creative with your gift giving: Instead of giving someone a \$100 gift card, be creative and find a way to give them a nice \$25 gift instead. Make them something handmade (like a themed gift basket or cookies), cook them dinner, etc.

**Make a plan and stick to it:** Make a Christmas spending plan, and stick to it. If you had planned on spending \$50 on your spouse, stick to it. Don't decide at the last minute that you would really like to get them that iPod they wanted, or that new Diamond ring. Stick to the plan!

**For extended families, draw names from a hat:** To cut down on expenses for our extended family we choose names from a hat. That way you only have to buy a gift for one member of the extended family, instead of 10-20. If you want to, you can also set a dollar limit in order to make sure no one spends too much.

Source:  
[www.biblemoneymatters.com](http://www.biblemoneymatters.com)

## What's Going on at Think Smart??



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 Friday from 11:00 pm-12:00 am at 646-381-4846 or [www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undrgrnd](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undrgrnd) (new airtime and date in 2010)

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

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

Modeling Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm.

## From the After school Corner:

Mrs. Anitra-Site Director  
Ms. Norma-Enrichment Counselor  
Mrs. Barbara-Enrichment Counselor  
Tatyana-Part-time Dietary Technician/Office Assistant



It is a short month but that does not mean that the students have not been busy. Based on their grade level the students have been doing the following:

Math-Students are doing subtraction, addition, and multiplications

Spelling-Students are learning how to spell various words by using the scrabble technique and then changing it to make new words.

Reading-Each student reads a book to a teacher for 20 minutes to assist with the DEAR (Drop Everything and Read Program) they are doing at school.

Elements-Students are learning the Elements by doing group assignments

State Map-Students are learning the directions (North, South, East, and West)

Students are also exercising and learning to eat healthy. As well as learning the proper way to greet people.

From the Kinder Prep Corner  
Ms. Chona-Lead Childcare Specialist  
Ms. Shontavia-Asst. Childcare Specialist  
Mrs. Brenda-Asst. Childcare Specialist



**Tis the season to** Learn! The Kinder Prep Program is not letting the holiday season stop them from learning! They are doing the following:

The 2-3 years old are learning to spell and recognize their names, learning how to recognize numbers and alphabets, and learning to tie their shoes,

The 4 years old are learning to write their name

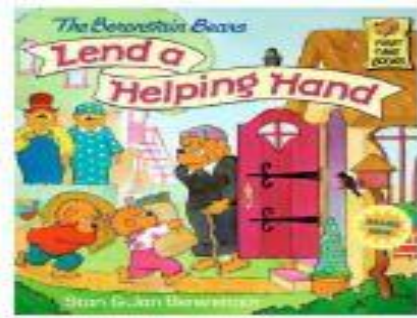
The 5 years old are learning how to add and subtract

The Reading Program that the Kinder Prep Program has implemented is a HUGE success. You can walk in the classroom at any given time during the student's Center Time and you will see them running to the library center to pick up a book.

All the students are also learning their colors in Spanish and are now working on numbers 11-15 in Spanish.

The Kinder Prep staff would like to thank the parents for the items on their wish list that were donated to their class.

Tis the Season to Give



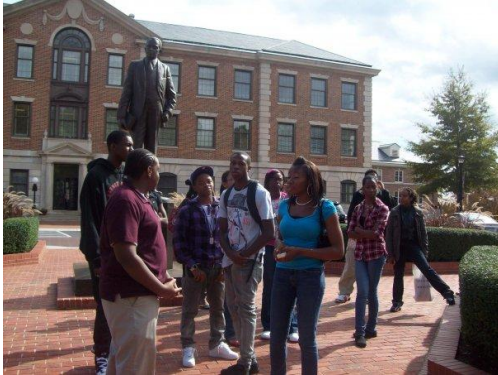
It is the time again! Time for the Holidays!

However over the years the Christmas Season has changed drastically. Please do not get wrapped up into the “commercializing” of Christmas. We should teach our family, friends, co-workers, children, etc. that Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and also to show love, peace, happiness, joy, etc. during the season and throughout the entire year. Let them know that it is not to see how many gifts you can get or how much money a person can spend on you!

This is also a time for everyone to understand that some people in the world as well as people in our community will not have one gift to open this holiday season so they should be grateful for whatever they find under the Tree and if they do not find anything to be thankful that they are blessed to see another day!

This Holiday Season I challenge you and your Family to “lend a helping hand” by assisting a family that might not be as fortunate as you during this season. It does not have to be a monetary donation, you and your family can serve a meal at a local shelter, visit the nursing home, teach a family how to make a Christmas Dish, sing Christmas Carols, adopt a family, or just be a ear to listen. Every gesture, rather big or small helps.

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



The Pre-Collegiate Program had its monthly workshop on Saturday, December 5, 2009. The students got first hand experience in reference to which college fits them perfectly. The students also did a group project that was informative and creative. The project was entitled “What Issues are today’s Youth facing and what you feel are the Solutions. The student's chose their own topic and then they came up with a skit, rap, speech, etc. to get their “points” across. The topics they chose were drugs, teen pregnancy, shoplifting, peer pressure, media influence, etc.

The projects were really good and the discussion that we had after the projects was wonderful!

After the workshop, the After School and Pre-Collegiate Students went out to eat as part of our fellowship and then enjoyed the Holiday Step show in Clinton, NC. that was sponsored by Rho Omega Omega of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Numerous students have already been accepted to college. Congrats!!

From the HCPAL Corner  
Ms. Nell-PAL Director  
Mr. Walter-Athletic Director



We have a HUGE announcement to make but we will NOT let the “cat out of the bag” quite yet! We have some finish touches to do with this new project. We plant seeds in our children and we sit back and WATCH them GROW! Check us out next month as the announcement will be REVEALED!!

Basketball and Cheerleading (ages 14-18) will start next month. If you are interested, please contact our office!



We asked some of the students at our center-If you could give one gift to anyone in the world who would it be and what will you give them?

Bradley-States he will give his mother a new car

Nathan-States he will give Rodjane (another student in our program) a doll

Tyrone-States he will give his mother love

### Shop with a Cop



Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. sponsored its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shop with a Cop event on December 12, 2009. The Think Smart Outreach Center and the Harnett County's Sheriff Department established a joint venture to make the holiday season brighter for less fortunate families. We were very excited that this year Erwin's Mayor Patsy Carson and Erwin's Town Manager Bryan Thompson joined us for this wonderful event.

We realized that most people do not know what it would be like to not have warm winter clothing or at least one toy under the tree at Christmastime.

Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas. Thus this event allows selected disadvantaged youth to participate in a shopping spree where he/she will be allowed to shop for their desired holiday gifts.

The participants received a "country style" breakfast at our site prepared by our staff and volunteers then they received a visit from Santa Claus himself and after the visit they rode in the Sheriff Patrol cars heading to Wal-mart to go shopping. The event was a HUGE success! Thanks to all that assisted!

### Think Smart's December Events:



Staff Training	1
HS Report Card	2
Pre-Collegiate Workshop	5
Parade (we will have a float)	5
Step Show	5
Elementary Progress Reports	7
Tumble Bus	8
Storyteller	10
Shop with a Cop	12
Ginger Bread House Day	14
National Brownie Day	15
Muffins with Mom	17
Special Session Event	17
National Bingo Day	18
Christmas Parties	18
Program Closed	23-27
Program Closes at 2 pm	31
21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC	Closed Dec.18-Jan.
3	

\* On all the special day above students do hands on activities\*



From Our Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Family to yours, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



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**

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[www.thinksmartoutreach.org](http://www.thinksmartoutreach.org)**

**We were established on April 24,  
2001. Eight 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!!**