

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

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www.thinksmartoutreach.org

admin@thinksmartoutreach.org

telephone number: 910-814-8762

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



The celebration of the New Year is one of the oldest holidays. Many believe it was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago it marked the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox. The Babylonian New Year celebration lasted for eleven days. How did New Years Day move from the summer to the winter? A good question, especially since the spring is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. Today New Year's Day is January 1st.

The month of January was named for their god, Janus, who is pictured with two heads. One looks forward, the other back, symbolizing a break between the old and new. The Greeks paraded a baby in a basket to represent the spirit of fertility. Christians adopted this symbol as the birth of the baby Jesus and continued what started as a pagan ritual. Today our New Year's symbols are a newborn baby starting the next year and an old man winding up the last year.

Not all countries celebrate New Year at the

same time, or in the same way. This is because people in different parts of the world use different calendars. Long ago, people divided time into days, months, and years. Some calendars are based on the movement of the moon; others are based on the position of the sun, while others are based on both the sun and the moon. All over the world, there are special beliefs about New Year.

The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. It is a holy time when people reflect on the things done wrong in the past, with a promise to do better in the future. Religious services are held in synagogues, and an instrument called a Shofar, which is made from a ram's horn, is played. Children are given new clothes, and New Year loaves are baked and fruit is eaten to remind people of harvest time.

The Chinese New Year is celebrated sometime between January 17 and February 19, at the time of the new moon, and it is called Yuan Tan. It is celebrated by Chinese people all over the world, and street parades are an exciting part of their New Year. At the Festival of Lanterns thousands of lanterns are used to light the way for the New Year. The Chinese people believe that there are evil spirits around at New Year, so they let off firecrackers to frighten the spirits away. Sometimes they seal their windows and doors with paper to keep the evil spirits out.

The traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. Making a resolution to change some part of one's life also dates back to the early Babylonians. Today most people promise to lose weight or quit smoking.

Our ancestors thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends.

New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. Some put coins in black-eyed peas and the person who gets the coin in their meal will be prosperous in the coming year. Source: <http://new-years-day.com/new-years-history.htm>

### **What do those foods really mean for the New Year?**



Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the New Year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its

meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm>

### **What did you do to bring in the New Year?**



People over the world celebrate New Year's different ways. Some people attend a party, some people go to church, and others just sit home and watch the ball drop. So we asked some of the students around Think Smart what they did to bring in 2011.

Josh in our Middle School Program stated the he spent New Year's Eve at his step-father's house and he was fast asleep when the clock struck midnight.

LeShawn in our Elementary School Program stated that she and her cousin were popping firecrackers at midnight to bring in the New Year.

Anisha in our Primary School Program stated that her family and she prayed when the New Year was coming in and they were praying for good things to come their way in 2011.

### **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-undrgrnd](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undrgrnd)

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).

Think Smart's Middle School Radio Station airs on Mondays at 5:00 pm.

Music Classes are held on Tuesdays

Creative/Edible Arts are held on Thursdays

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

Sports Practice/Games- See your Coach.

### **From the After school Corner at Think Smart**



Picture of: Conflict Resolution Training

#### **Primary Class**

A new year but the same results which is EXCELLENCE. The students are learning the months of the year, their sight words, writing alphabets correctly on the line, making skills, writing paragraphs and metric table conversions. They have created a word wall in their classroom to enhance their learning. They along with the Elementary Class will do an 8 week Mardi Gras Curriculum and will create their own celebration at the end of the 8 weeks which will be held during the same time they will be celebrating the "real" Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

#### **Elementary Class**

The Elementary Class is also doing some great things in the New Year. They are still focusing on multiplication which will help the students understand division. They have also been focusing on Madlibs, Masterpieces Sentences, and Charades-Act that focus on root words, prefixes, suffixes, and so much more.

#### **Middle School Class**

The middle school group is starting 2011 off with a bang. The students are learning about the Japanese Heritage. This will be an eight week project. They will start with learning about Origami and concluded by visiting a Japanese restaurant. They have also worked on various science projects to help with their Science Fair Goals at their local schools along with math and language arts.

All classes will be heading to the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, NC in honor of The King Holiday.

## Welcome HCHS



We would like to take this opportunity to thank HCHS and their Freshman Academy for allowing our program to be placed at HCHS to provide services for their students in order for them to be exposed and for us to empower, inspire, and educate. Thank you!

### Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood Think Smart Mentoring Program Ms. Je Toya-Mentor Coordinator



Excellence thorough Sisterhood, Think Smart's Mentor Program, is still working hard before their program ends. The young ladies and their mentors are coming to the site weekly and taking part in some wonderful sisterly relation activities.

The young ladies in our after school program are extremely excited on the days that they know they will spend time with their mentors.

The program has started a singing group as well. The girls had their first performance on January 8, 2011, at our Divine 9 Panel Event. The young ladies and some of the Mentors sung Happy Birthday to Dr. King which was written by Stevie Wonder.

## 2011 "United We Serve" Greek Panel in Honor of King Day of Service



Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center's Pre-Collegiate Program sponsored a Divine 9 Greek Panel on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at the Harnett County Governmental Complex. The event was a huge success with over 100 people in attendance. The Pre-Collegiate program is one of our components here at Think Smart that assists students in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> to go to college. The program has a 97% high school graduation rate in which all of those students were accepted to college. The purpose of the event was to Observe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service-- "United We Serve". The King Day of Service is a way to transform Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service that helps solve social problems. That service may meet a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, or it may meet a need of the spirit, such as building a sense of community or mutual responsibility. On this day, Americans of every age and background celebrated Dr. King through service projects that:

- **Strengthen Communities** Dr. King recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. Through his words and example. Dr. King challenged individuals to take action and lift up their neighbors and communities through service.

- **Empower Individuals** Dr. King believed each individual possessed the power to lift himself or herself up no matter what his or her circumstances - rich or poor, black or white, man or woman. Whether teaching literacy skills, helping older adult surf the Web, or helping an individual build the skills they need to acquire a job, acts of service can help others improve their own lives while doing so much for those who serve, as well.
- **Bridge Barriers** In his fight for civil rights, Dr. King inspired Americans to think beyond themselves, look past differences, and work toward equality. Serving side by side, community service bridges barriers between people and teaches us that in the end, we are more alike than we are different.

The welcome was given by Ms. Nell Williams, Director of HC PAL and the Purpose of the Event was done by Ms. Pam Williams Director of Think Smart. After the purpose Shalonda Pellman a Pre-Collegiate Student of our Program, read the purpose of Dr. King's Day of Service. After Shalonda read the information, Mr. Clay and Ms. Shelia Introduced the Mistresses of Ceremony which was Ms. Tyson Johnson and Ms. Jetoya Robinson. Ms. Johnson is an Educator in Cumberland County School System and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Ms. Robinson is the Mentor Coordinator at Think Smart. After the introduction the panel was introduced.

The panel consisted of members of the following sororities/fraternities: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Sigma

Gamma Rho Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Omega Phi Psi Fraternity. The purpose is for the students and the community to know the platform of each organization, each organization purpose, and how the students and others can give back to the community and serve others. After the panel did their presentations, the floor was open for a Question and Answer. After the Question and Answer the young ladies from Think Smart's Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood Mentoring Program performed Happy Birthday to You by Stevie Wonder that was written for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The goals of this event were for students and the community to know the platforms and purpose of each organization, to promote leadership and character building, and to encourage those in attendance to give back to the community and serve others. The panel consisted of undergraduate and graduate members and some of the groups had a surprise in store for everyone in attendance.

### Welcome to our Interns



We would like to take time this time to welcome Ashley A., Ashley H. and Crystal to the Think Smart Family! They are interns from Campbell University's Social Work Department. When you see them, give them a BIG Think Smart Welcome!

### **From the Pre-Collegiate Corner**

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



During the month of January, our Pre-Collegiate Program had their monthly workshop from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm. The workshop consisted of the Divine 9 Panel. We love to expose our students to various activities and things they will see when they walk on the college campus.

During our initial meeting, we asked the students what they wanted to know about college. Fraternities and Sororities was what most of them wanted to learn about during our 2010-2011 term. We did not want to be bias and wanted them to receive information on all of the Divine 9 Greek Organizations. So we decided to hold a Greek Panel for them during their January Meeting.

The event was a huge success and the students received a lot of good information. A lot of the students asked questions during the Question and Answer component of the program. Also at the end of the event a lot of the students went to various panel members to ask them one-on-one questions about the Greek organization.

January 28-30, 2011, the students will be going to Atlanta, GA where they will be attending the Battle of the Bands and visiting the Dr. King Museum.

### **From the HCPAL Corner**

Ms. Nell-PAL Director  
Mr. Walter-Recreation Director  
Mr. Alex-Recreation Assistant



As a highlight of National Mentoring Month 2011, **Thank Your Mentor Day** will be celebrated January 25. On that day, many Americans will reach out to thank or honor those individuals who encouraged and guided them, and had a lasting, positive impact on their lives. Think Smart Outreach Center will be honoring its Mentors on this day at 6pm. We would like to extend an invitation to you to join us as we celebrate the dedication and hard work of those who have volunteered to make our Mentoring Program a success. The event will take place at the Triangle South Enterprise Center located at 600 South Magnolia Avenue, Dunn. The guest speaker will be Dr. Melanie Stewart. The event is free and open to the public. Other event activities include a catered meal and entertainment. Anyone interested in attending, should call Think Smart to register.

Starting February 7, the Mentoring Program will implement a Dance Curriculum for its Mentors and Mentees. The curriculum will be taught by Brandie Meekins, owner of Nezziem Performing Arts Center in Fayetteville, NC. The curriculum will use dance, flag, acting, & singing with the incorporation of modeling and fitness to promote self-confidence, develop lifelong skills, and contribute to a healthy mind and body, motivated by proper value.

Anyone interested in being a Mentor should contact the Mentor Coordinator, Jetoya Robinson. All Mentors must be willing to donate 1 hour per week to

this cause. Mentoring sites includes our main facility in Erwin and Harnett Central High School.

The basketball season is underway. We are so proud of the Coaches and Players for their hard work and dedication. We are still seeking players for our 10 and Under Boys Basketball Team and our 13 and Under Girls Basketball Team. Registration is FREE and anyone interested in playing should contact the Athletic Director, Walter Williams at 910-984-6887.

**This season's basketball schedule can be found on our website under Sports Page. Come out and support the Mighty Cougars.**

**Beginning February 1, 2011, we will begin accepting registrations for our tackle football team. As well as Tee Ball, Baseball, and Softball for ages 5-17 years old. Anyone interested in playing can come by Think Smart to complete an application; download an application from our website; or contact Walter Williams, Athletic Director.**

#### Athletic Booster Club



Just a friendly reminder that the money for the doughnuts for our Athletic Booster Club Krispy Kreme Fundraiser is due on January 28, 2011. We are doing Pre-Orders so your doughnuts can be FRESH and GOOD when you get them! It is not too late to order. ONLY \$5.00 and its going to a GREAT cause.

#### Family Game Night



Game of Uno with Mom on Family Game Night

On January 4, 2011, our program held our Monthly Family Event. This month we hosted Family Game Night at our center. The event was fun and exciting for the entire family. We had seven stations which consisted of: Uno, Wii Fit, Kemps, Twister, Bingo, Spoons, and Phase 7.

This was a successful event and the parents, families, and students really enjoyed spending time with the entire family and enjoying some good old fun.

It is the goal of our program to implement family activities at our site on a regular basis. We feel as though family involvement is the key to a successful child. Next month our program will be hosting our Family Reading Night.



**FSU's EOC Program is now at Think Smart!**



The Educational Opportunity Center helps high school graduates and college dropouts to make career choices and set educational goals. The Program also helps high school dropouts to enroll in adult high school alternative educational programs. Participants must be at least 19 years of age and have an interest in pursuing a college degree. Services are available at No Cost to U.S. citizens who meet Federal eligibility requirements.

**Their services include:**

- Information on two-year and four-year colleges, universities, vocational schools and proprietary schools
- Computerized career guidance information
- Career counseling and assessment
- Workshops on study skills, test taking skills, career decision making and time management
- Information on financial aid (Pell grant, scholarships, other grants, and student loans) and they do Financial Aid
- GED and other referral services

\*You don't have to be interested in attending Fayetteville State University it's to assist with any college\*

They are at our office on every Monday between the hours of 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. It is highly recommended that you contact our office to be placed on the schedule in order for them to serve you better.

**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**

**Office Manager  
Mrs. Anitra Hart**

**Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.  
55 Think Smart Lane  
Erwin, NC 28339  
910-814-8762  
[www.thinksmartoutreach.org](http://www.thinksmartoutreach.org)**

**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 and our Volunteers. You complete the puzzle at Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st Century Community Learning Center!!**