

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

May and June 2010 Volume VIII Issue XII

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

Memorial Day!

**Memorial
Day**

The History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local

observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

Source:

<http://www.memorialday.com/historyofmemorialday.htm>

Memorial Day Arts and Craft for Kids

Rocket Balloons



Funnel about a third of a cup of dried beans into a patriotic-colored balloon. Blow up the balloon to slightly less than full capacity and tie the end. Attach red, white and blue ribbons to the tie. Toss this rocket balloon to a [friend](#), and it will travel quickly with streamers flowing. With a slight twist of the wrist, you can create some fun spiral action.

End of the Year Banquet 2010



On May 24, 2010, our program hosted our Annual End of the Year Banquet at Central Carolina Community College at 5:30 pm. It was standing room only event. The purpose of the banquet is to honor all of the students that were served by our program during the 2009-2010 term. Every student received an award and a certificate during the event.

Ms. Jetoya, our Mentor Coordinator, cited the Welcome in English and Spanish to open up the event. After the Welcome, Lennie, Pre-Collegiate Participant, lead the group in the invocation.

The group was then entertained by Think Smart's After School participant's performance which was then followed by Think Smart's Kinder Prep participant's performance. After the performances, it was time for the students to "shine" and be recognized for their hard work and dedication for the entire year. The awards were given out in this particular order:

- After School
- Athletic Department
- Basketball (Boys)
- Cheerleaders
- Kinder Prep
- Pre-Collegiate

Following the Presentation of the Awards, Brandon, a Pre-Collegiate Participant, sung a solo on behalf of the participants. After the solo, the program then presented Special Recognition Awards to the volunteers and the Parents of the Year for their hard work, dedication to the program, and for taking time out of their busy schedule to volunteer at the center and assist whenever it was needed.

Following the Special Recognition Award, it was time to highlight the "special guest"-Our Class of 2010 graduates. Tatyana did an excellent slideshow where it showed the seniors from birth, childhood, and teen years it was a great slideshow with the song "Wind Beneath My Wings" in the back ground. There were a lot of emotions by the families, parents, and audience during the slideshow.

Following the slide show, Ms. Pam, Director of the Program, did a "Down Memory Lane Timeline" for the seniors in which they documented a special piece and special memory of each of the 23 seniors and how they became "part" of the Think Smart Family. Some of the seniors have been in the program since 5th grade and one of the students and their brother was the first students to sign up for Think Smart in 2002.

After the "Down Memory" Lane, Pastor Anthony Davis, Pastor of Oak Grove AME Zion Church in Erwin, NC. Had an electrifying message for everyone in the room. He first talked about the wonderful works that Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st CCLC was doing in the community and with the young people. He then spoke on his childhood and how he was raised in foster care. He spoke to the audience about his struggles and the importance of education. He informed the audience that after high school he went to the military and then went to Livingstone College to earn his college degree. His topic was "Be careful where you chill at". He told the students never settle and never CHILL AT: comfortable, convenient and contentment.

After the great speech, the floor was open for remarks and then the Directors of the program did the closing. They said their last good-byes to the Class of 2010 and told everyone else they will see them next year and thanked them for a great year. Following the closing, the catered meal was enjoyed by those in attendance and during this time it was great fellowship and enjoying each others company.

Everyone had a great time and the event was a HUGE success!

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/ESL
Ms. Chantel-Enrichment Counselor
Mrs. Terrie- Enrichment Counselor
Mr. Lee- Enrichment Counselor
Lennie- Part-time Dietary Technician
Tatyana-Part-time Office Assistant

Pictured above is a picture of some of the students during the "I Take Pride in my Community So I Keep my Neighborhood Clean" Community Service Project.



The after school program year came to an end on May 28, 2010. It was a great year and the students really enjoyed the program. We did numerous educational activities, family nights/events, life skills projects, and helped the students get ready for the EOG.

The students also participated in numerous community service projects which consisted of adopting a highway and assisting at Noah's Landing Pet Zoo. The purpose of the community service projects is for the students to understand the purpose of giving back.

The students also went to The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African- American Arts and Culture. The students had a great time in Charlotte, North Carolina.

We would like to thank the parents, families, students and staff for everything they have done for the program and we are looking forward to starting back in September.

From the Kinder Prep Corner

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

Kinder Prep Graduation

Graduates taking pictures with their parents



Kindergarten Readiness is the “key” to our program and the students are doing their part to make sure when they go to “big” school they will be READY! On June 3, 2010, at 6:00 pm, we held our Kinder Prep Graduation.

The Kinder Prep Graduation was Amazing. During the graduation, each one of the Kinder Prep Students took turns to spell their first and last name, one of the students counted from 1 to 100, another student counted to 100 by 10's, each student repeated all the colors in Spanish, counted to 10 in Spanish and French. Also, the Kinder Prep Teachers gave each student a word and had them make a complete sentence with that word. They also recited Black Inventors and what they invented. Afterwards, they did their name in Sign Language.

The Keynote Speaker was Evangelist Trista Webb. She did a great job and her topic was Family Involvement. She stressed to the parents to be a part of their child's education and to make time for them. She stated we invest in our homes, cars, and jobs but its time for them to INVEST in their CHILDREN!

You can tell that the teachers are doing a GREAT job in the Kinder Prep based on their performances at the graduation it amazed everyone in the audience in reference to what they know at such a young age.

Night with Stars 2010 Some of the 2010 Night with the Stars Finalists



We hosted our 4th Annual Night with the Stars Community Awards ceremony on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 6:00 pm at Triton High School. Kelsey McRae, Miss Fayetteville State University 2010-2011 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 was Black and Silver. Tickets to attend this event were \$5.00. Entertainment was 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 it's a huge success and one of Think Smart's biggest fundraisers.

The finalists for 2010 were as following:



Business Community Service Award

Jones Photography, Fayetteville, NC (Overall Winner)

Premiere Athletes of Clayton, NC

PRI Counseling Services, Dunn, NC

Sanford Lee School of Barbering, Sanford, NC

Community Outreach Award

Dunn Women's Club

Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action Center, Lillington, NC (Overall Winner)

Kappa Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Clinton, NC

Zeta Beta Sigma Grad Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fayetteville, NC

Educators Making a Difference Award

Carolyn Dorman of Triton High School Erwin, NC (Overall Winner)

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 (Overall Winner)

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 Krista Marrara of Jack Britt High, Fayetteville, NC (Overall Winner)

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 (Overall Winner)

Noire Productions, Knightdale, NC

Dr. Melanie Stewart, Kipling, NC

This year we did something different and Crown a Mister and Miss Think Smart 2009-2010 at The Night with the Stars Event.

Destine is Miss Think Smart
Omari is Mr. Think Smart



They will be in the local parades and will have the title for one year. Congrats!

From the Pre-Collegiate Corner

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



The Pre-Collegiate Program had their last time together as a group on June 5, 2010, for the year. In our March newsletter, we informed you that our program had a 90% college acceptance rate for the fall 2010 semester. We stated it will be 100% by June. **We kept our WORD!**

As of today, we have 23 seniors in our program and ALL of them have been accepted to college. Our program provides a lot of services but our overall goal is for our participants to graduate from high school and then enroll in a post-secondary institution. We also handed out 15 scholarships for the 2009-2010 term.

Our Pre-Collegiate Program is your one stop to prepare you for college. Graduates from our program have been accepted to: Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Central University, East Carolina University, North Carolina A&T State University, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Elizabeth City State University, University of North Carolina of Greensboro, Winston Salem State University, University of North Carolina Asheville, Western Carolina University, Johnson and Wells, Methodist University, High Point University, Wake Technical Community College, Johnston Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Saint Augustine's College, and the list goes on and on!

We have sent more students to college than any other program in Harnett County and we are committed to continue to provide wonderful services for students in Harnett County. If you want to go to college or if you want your child (ren) to go to college, we have only two words for you---**Think Smart!**

From the HCPAL Corner

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



The Athletic Department will host baseball, softball, soccer, Cheerleading, and flag football camps during the summer. Dates and Times will be announced. If you are interested, please contact our office to register for the Sporting Camps.

Youth Summer Camp 2010



It is almost that time again~Summer Camp Time! It is our 9th year. This year we will be having two camps that will run from July 5th-August 6th.

The Youth Camp is for students' ages 5-12 years and will consist of:

JULY 5-9 WEEK 1: DESTINATION JAMAICA
(KINGSTON) MARKET FAIR

JULY 12-16 WEEK 2: DESTINATION
ENGLAND (LONDON): ENTERTAINMENT

JULY 19-23 WEEK 3: DESTINATION
GREECE (ROME): ART & ARCHITECTURE

JULY 26-30 WEEK 4: DESTINATION
AFRICIA (KENYA): AFRICAN SAFARI

AUGUST 1-6 WEEK 5: DESTINATION INDIA
(MUMBAI) BOLLYWOOD

Each week the students will not know where they are going until each Monday, we will have to pack our book bags and try to catch the flight before it takes off.

Teen Camp 2010



July 5-9th You Are Hired (Think Smart Apprentice): Learning how to operate your own business

July 12-16th Face book Lingo Has To Go (RRR Camp): Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic Camp @ Fayetteville State Univ.

July 20-24th –Character Education is the Key to Success. There is no “I” in Team!

July 26-30th Me, Myself, and College (Preparing For College & Trip To Washington D.C.) : College tour to Howard University

August 2-6th Is Your Swagg In Tip-Top Shape? : Students will learn dance, music, and fashion design. Location: Nezzier Performing Arts Center

Board of Director Members



We are currently seeking individuals that would like to sit on our Board of Directors. A board of directors is a body of elected or appointed members who jointly oversee the activities of an organization. The Board of Directors supports, believes, and understands the purpose of the organization and will make sure the program is sustained and help with their current or present needs.

We are looking for a few Good Men and Women for our new term since those that have served on our board for their 3 year term will expire July 1st. Please submit your name by June 22, 2010.

Congrats to the Class of 2010



We would like to say we are so PROUD of our seniors and my God guide your footsteps, open your mind, and give you courage to take on the world! Remember “I can do all Things Through Christ that Strengthens Me”.

Bless Wishes and Love you all!

Website is Launching Soon!!



On July 5, 2010, our program will be launching a website that will feature faith based and community organizations activities and events. It is going to be a great website and a wonderful resource for those that are in the community. If you are interested in placing information on the website, please contact our office at 910-814-8762.



None of the things that we have done at our program this year would be possible without the assistance and support of the Department of Public Instructions-21st Century Community Learning Centers, North Carolina Department of Public Instructions-Drop Out Prevention, Smalls Grants Program, South River EMC, Harnett County Department of Social Services and National PAL.

For you all, we are forever grateful!

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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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!!



For reading our newsletters. This will be the last one until September. Have a GREAT and Safe Summer!