

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

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



A child's report card can bring feelings of joy, excitement, and pride; it can also cause concern, frustration, and uncertainty. In either case, the reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals and reflect on past work habits, achievements, and hardships. Most importantly, it is a time for you to communicate with your children and determine a path for future academic, enrichment and social-emotional growth.

Focus on the Positive

Regardless of the grades your child brings home, you must first focus on positive aspects of the report. This is not always an easy task. For some, this might mean highlighting a strong effort or citizenship grade, or praising an academic accomplishment or a perfect attendance record. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you truly care about the accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement.

Ask the Right Questions

Be careful not to overreact to low grades, or grades you view to be unsatisfactory. Instead, use this time to look at past performance and plan for the future. Talk to your child, asking questions to understand how a particular grade was earned:

- Was the work too difficult?
- Could the pace of the class be inappropriate (too fast, so that your child feels "lost," or too slow, causing your child to feel "bored")?

Does your child complete all homework and ask questions when problems arise?

The answers you receive might indicate a need to review your child's study habits. Determine whether or not your child is recording all assignments and bringing home all materials necessary to complete them. Does your child have a specific nightly homework time (Sunday through Thursday) when he cannot be disturbed? If not, this would be a great time to establish one! If so, is it long enough? Does your child have a specific place to study where resources (including someone to answer questions) are available and distractions are minimized? Is your child completing all homework on a nightly basis, or are assignments being turned in late, or not at all? Once you have determined the problem, you can begin to create a solution.

The Next Step

Creating a plan to maximize future academic success is an important part of every child's education. Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for the next reporting

period. Outline ways in which these goals can be met, as well as rewards and consequences if they are not. Type the "official plan" and post one copy in a prominent household location, another in your child's binder, and forward another to his/her teacher. Involving your child gives him/her ownership and importance in this process, and this makes the report card important not only to you, but also to your child.

As parents and teachers, we want the best for children, but in too many cases this is measured only by the number of A's and B's brought home. Emphasize to your child the importance of doing the very best job that he can. Encourage him to succeed, and measure his progress in realistic terms, letting him know that you care and are available to help. Break tasks into small steps, so that even the youngest child can measure her growth, and the most advanced child can monitor her progress. By reviewing the report card, and developing a plan for the future, you will help your child find the road to success.

Read more on Teacher Vision
<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/report-cards/teaching>

National Lights On Celebration 2011



On October 20, 2011, our program along with two other 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Harnett County--Save the Seed 21st CCLC and Dunn Pal 21st CCLC came together to highlight and celebrate National Lights On After school.

More than one million people gathered at 7,500 sites across the country and U.S. military bases worldwide to rally for the

afterschool programs that help working families, keep kids safe and inspire them to learn. At *Lights On Afterschool* rallies and celebrations, students conducted science experiments, held poetry slams, learned about healthy eating, engaged in sports tournaments, spruced up parks and nature trails, and discussed the importance of afterschool programs with lawmakers, business and community leaders, and others.

For the fourth year in a row, the Empire State Building in New York City was lit up this evening in honor of the event. As part of the kick-off for *Lights On Afterschool*, Mount Rushmore was lit up on October 16. On Friday, Los Angeles' Lindbergh Beacon was lit for *Lights On Afterschool*. All 50 governors issued proclamations for *Lights On Afterschool* this year, and the United States.

Participants at this year's *Lights On Afterschool* events signed a national petition to save afterschool funds. The petition, which is also available [online](#), urges Congress not to divert already limited 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) dollars to other programs. 21st CCLC is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool, provides grants to local programs that serve more than one million children nationwide.

"Our nation's children and families depend on afterschool programs," said Afterschool Alliance.

There are still more than 15 million kids who are unsupervised after school and that is 15 million too many. We need to make quality afterschool programs available to every child, instead of diverting or denying federal funds for these essential programs."

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/press_archives/DayOfLOA_NR_2010.pdf

What's going on at Think Smart???

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



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

High School after school program meets Monday-Thursday at our facility from 5:00 pm-8:00 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.

Think Smart's High School Radio Station airs every Tuesday from 6:30 pm-7:00 pm at (347) 215-7093 or <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/undergroundteenchoice>

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

Family Nights 1st Friday of each month

Parent Training Classes/Workshops the 1st Thursday and the 1st Saturday of the Month

Tutoring - Monday - Thursday from 5pm-7pm.

Mondays- Fitness Program and Youth Leadership

Tuesdays- Yearbook Committee, Mass Communications, Peer Mentoring, Student Activities Council, Pep Squad, Youth Ambassadors,

Wednesdays-Sewing Classes

Thursdays-Culinary Arts and Modeling Troupe

From the After school Corner



Students in our Culinary Arts Program

Our after program is kicking it in high gear. The students are excited about the new year at their school and at our program. We have provided the families with our yearly calendar to keep them inform of the activities/events that we are doing at our facility so they can assist with this being a wonderful year!

The students are focusing on academics, life skills, social skills, and fitness. We currently have two after school site. We have our main site and our site located at Erwin Elementary School.

The after school program is still focusing on academic excellence and helping with homework, providing tutoring, and academic group games. We have staff members assisting with all subjects but we do have one staff that focuses on Mathematics, another staff member that focuses on Language Arts, and another one that focuses on Technology.

Again, the students and their families are so excited about the 2011-2012 term. We have implemented new Family Events/Activities as well as new programs that also focus on Fine Arts/Cultural Awareness.

We provide transportation from the Dunn, Lillington, and Angier areas. If you would like more information about our after school program, please contact our office.

Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood- Ms. Brittany



The Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood Program is continuing to make great strides. Presently we have 35 students enrolled in this program. The girls are learning about self-esteem, self-image, career readiness, college preparation, etc. They meet at our main site as well as Harnett Central High School.

The Pines of Carolina Girls Scouts has partnered with our program to implement a Financial Success Curriculum within the mentoring program. This curriculum is geared towards high school students and focus on budgeting, credit scores, credit cards, balancing checkbooks, saving, banking accounts, etc. The overall goal is for the girls to be financially stable and understand the importance of saving and great credit.

Next month the students will start focusing on community service projects to understand the importance of helping others. A lot of the girls are very excited about learning about college as well touring the colleges. Again, our main goal for all of our participants is for them to graduate high school and enroll in college. This program will also assist students that are not enrolled in our Pre-Collegiate Program to receive information about college and understand that college is the next step after high school.

We are still seeking Mentors (ages 18 and older) and Mentees (ages 11-17 years old). If you are interested in being a volunteer mentor or mentee, please contact our office.

Young Men Destined for Greatness Mr. Demetrius



The Male Mentoring Program is something new for our organization this year. For the past couple of years, we have implemented a female only program and we are so excited to add the Male Mentoring Component.

The guys are doing a lot of activities and workshops but one thing they will be learning is how to work hard and take any task you participate in seriously. The Male Mentoring Program has partnered with Harnett Pride of 166 Masonic Organization in which they will provide mentors to the program. They have also partnered with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Mr. Demetrius states “In today’s society the need for positive and productive men increases daily, meanwhile the drop-out rate of young men increases as well. Due to lack of support, young men turn to anything that provides them comfort within. “Young Men Destined for Greatness” is a mentoring program through 21st Century Community Learning Center Think Smart that helps young men grasp for success”.

We are still seeking Mentors (ages 18 and older) and Mentees (ages 5-17 years old). If you are interested in being a volunteer mentor or mentee, please contact our office.

You can contact Mr. Demetrius at our office and he looks forward to seeing you soon.

From the Pre-Collegiate Corner

Ms. Pam and Ms. Nell



College Tour at NCCU-October 2011

The Pre-Collegiate Program is overflowing and the students are extremely interested in the programs that are offered. The students are attending the Saturday Academy the 1st Saturday of the month from 12 pm-2pm. However, the students have other activities in which they participate in on a daily basis.

The purpose of the Pre-Collegiate Program is to help the students graduate from high school and enroll in college. Students participate in tutoring, college tours, college events, career readiness programs, life skills workshops, etc.

We have also implemented activities such as Youth Leadership Committee, Student Activities Committee, Yearbook Committee, Mass Communications, Modeling Troupe, Pep Squad, Peer Mentoring, Youth Ambassadors, etc.

The Pre-Collegiate program also has a Parent Advisory Board in which they meet to provide insight and support to our program. The Board consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, Community Relations and Members.

From the HCPAL Corner

Ms. Nell-PAL Director

Mr. Walter- Athletic Director



It's about that time again....Basketball Season. Last year we had a great year and we are looking forward to another wonderful year. We are so excited to be a part of the Harnett County Parks and Recreation Department. This will give our program the opportunity to play against all of the other recreational departments in Harnett County. Through the PAL program, we will be able to provide educational and recreational activities for the youth enrolled in our program.

We are currently accepting registration for our boys and girls basketball teams. The ages will range from 4-18 years old. Last year we had 11 teams and it is our hope that we will be able to get more teams this year so we can expose students to more recreational activities that will focus on discipline, teamwork, and promoting fitness and excellence.

We are still seeking volunteer head coaches and assistants to assist us with our recreational activities. We will also provide tutoring for students that are enrolled in our sporting department. Again, education is primary within our organization and everything else is secondary. We want our students to be Student/Athletes with "student" coming first.

We are also accepting applications for our Cheerleading Team (ages 14-18 years old). Last year they were awesome and we know this year will be no exception!

Our Sponsors for 2011-2012 are J&J Repairs, JE Womble and Sons, Womble's Realty, Walker Funeral Home, and Kangaroo (The Pantry) headquarters.

Family Nights At Think Smart



Night at the Movies

On November 4, 2011, our program went from an after school program to a movie theater. We had Family Movie Night and on the Big Screen was Nanny McPhee Returns. The students and the parents had a great time. We look forward to the next Movie Night!

My Favorite Veteran is coming to Think Smart



On November 10, 2011, we hosted "My Favorite Veteran is coming to Think Smart". We had Veterans to speak to the students and their families about their experience in the military. We also had a group of children to write a letter to a special veteran in their family and they read their letters during the event. Those that did not have a veteran in their family was giving the opportunity to create a craft about Veteran's Day.

Fantastic Nails Booth



To show appreciation to our parents, we had a Parent Night Out in which we provided activities for the children while their parents enjoyed "A NIGHT ON THE TOWN". We had a GREAT time and the parents really appreciated us doing this for them!

Thanksgiving Play (Below Volunteer helping with the final touches before their debut)



On November 22, 2011, our after school program was turned into the Mayflower and America. Our students did an Re-Enactment of Thanksgiving for their parents, family, and love ones. The play consisted of parts, costumes, and props. After the play, the students took turns telling the audience what they were Thankful for and after the play they enjoyed watching Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving while enjoying a great Thanksgiving Fest.

To your Family from OURS



Happy Thanksgiving

Parent Academy



This year our program is focusing more of our attention on family involvement. Our goal is to help the entire family not just our participants. We will offer parenting workshops on topics such as the importance of budgeting, being active in your child's education, bullying and how to foster compassion in children, post-secondary education, chores and developing responsibility, etc. Our Family Involvement Coordinator will continue to conduct home visits, schools visits, complete goal sheets for each student, and prepare a communication log each time contact is made with parents. We have also started a Monthly Family Involvement Schedule in which each student in our program's family will assist in the classroom on their assign day and it is working out fantastically. We are also in the process of enrolling parents in GED and Computer Classes.

The family workshops are held the 1st Thursday of the month for the families of our youth after school participants and the 1st Saturday of the month for families of the High School after school participants.

Last month, we had an Admissions Representative from Central Carolina Community College come speak to the families about educational opportunities at CCC and EOC Representative from Fayetteville State University come and speak to the families about preparing their children for college.

Upcoming Events:



- Dec 1: Family Game Night 6:30pm**
- Dec 3: Shop with a Cop 10:00am**
- Dec. 3: Dunn Parade (TSOC will be in the parade) 3pm**
- Dec. 6: Erwin Parade (TSOC will be in the parade)**
- Dec 6: Parent Advisory Board Mtg 6pm**
- Dec 12: Youth Leadership Social 6pm**
- Dec 13: High School Parent Advisory Board Meeting 6pm**
- Dec 22: Modeling Troupe Fall Event 6pm**



**Think Smart in the
Community**

**Our booth at Breast Cancer Awareness
Coffee for a Cure**



**Our Mask-a-Ray Community Fall
Festival 2011**



**Our booth at Campbell University
Back to School Street Fair**



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



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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, Volunteers, Contractors,
Grantors, Board Members, Students,
Families, Partners, Harnett County,
and everyone that helped us make this
great a HUGE success. You complete
the puzzle at Think Smart Outreach
Center, Inc. 21st Century
Community Learning Center.**

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!