

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.

“Reaching for Success one star at a Time”

March 2010 Volume VI Issue XI

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

Saint Patrick's Day!



Who Was St. Patrick?

Born sometime between 370 and 390 A.D. in Britain, Patrick was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland when he was 16. During his six years of captivity, he worked as a shepherd. His religious visions led him to become a priest, and his missionary work converted the Irish to Christianity, according to the University of Kansas Medical Center Diversity Calendar. (See References 1)

History of Observance

St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in the U.S. since 1737, when the city of Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade, says St-Patricks-Day.com. (See References 2) Many American communities now celebrate March 17 with parades, and some, like Chicago, even dye their river green for the event.

Symbols

The shamrock is a symbol of St. Patrick's Day, because St. Patrick was said to have used its three leaves to explain the holy Trinity to his converts, comparing them to the father, son and Holy Spirit. (See References 1) The leprechauns have become associated with St. Patrick's Day because this small mischievous fairy appeared in Irish folklore.

Customs

Eating corned beef and cabbage has become a St. Patrick's Day tradition for many. Cabbage has



been a staple food of the Irish for centuries, and corned beef was an inexpensive cut of meat popular with New York's Irish immigrants, says History.com. (See References 3) The tradition of wearing green on St. Patrick's Day is practiced in the U.S. only, as the color is thought to be unlucky in Ireland, says AmericanGreetings.com. (See References 4)

National Holiday of Ireland

In Ireland, the day is celebrated more as a religious occasion and holy day. Businesses are closed, and many Irish attend mass on March 17.

www.ehow.com/facts_5798106_st_patricks_day

For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way



Good health, good luck, and happiness

For today and every day.

Dance as if no one were watching,

Sing as if no one were listening,

And live every day as if it were your last.

www.theholidayspot.com

Pastor's/Minister's Breakfast

Dr. Washington and Ms. Pamela Williams



On Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Central Carolina Community College in Lillington, NC, at 11:00 am, our program hosted our 1st Pastor's/Minister Breakfast. The purpose of the event was for our program to build a “working” partnership with the Faith-Based Organizations in Harnett County. It was a great event with more than 60 individuals in attendance.

The event started with a “warm” welcome by Mrs. Anitra, Site Director of the 21st CCLC after school program. Following the welcome Ms. Norma, 21st CCLC Enrichment Instructor, translated the welcome in Spanish. The prayer was given by Brandon, a participant of the Pre-Collegiate program. The Pastors/Ministers then was introduced to the wonderful staff of our program. Following the introductions Ms. Pam, Director of the Program, gave the Purpose of the Event.

Charles, a Participant of the Pre-Collegiate Program spoke to the audience about his experience with the program. He spoke of how he started the program when he was in 6th grade and now he is a senior in high school. He spoke about the various activities, events, trips, community service projects, etc. he has done with the program. He also stated that if it was not for the program he would not be going to Elizabeth City State University in the fall of 2010. He stated that he will be the first in his family to go to a 4 year college.

Following Charles wonderful speech we were entertained by Mr. Kevin who played “Amaze and Grace” on the Saxophone. After the wonderful selection, Aaron, another member of the Pre-Collegiate Program, Introduced the Keynote Speaker, Dr. David Washington, of North Carolina State University.

Dr. David Washington is currently a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Management, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

at North Carolina State University. Prior to his current position, Dr. Washington served as Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs. His responsibilities included the College of Management’s assessment, diversity, and student services activities.

Dr. Washington 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 a single-parent household and his father abandoned his family when he was two years old. He spoke to the audience about his struggles and the importance of education. He stated “not to let anyone stop you from being what God has Ordain for your life”. He informed the audience “it is not how you started but it is how you end that will count”. In conclusion, he had the audience to stand on their feet because he stated the only way you will succeed in this life you have to “STAND UP”.

We then had entertainment for some participants of our program. Following the entertainment: Ms. Debra, Parent of an After School Student, in our program, spoke to the audience about the wonderful work the program was doing for her daughter and her family. She spoke about how she enjoyed the Black History Program last month and how the students memorized the information about their person. She also stated she enjoyed the homework help and because of the help of Think Smart her daughter was a couple of points away from the Principal List.

Following the wonderful speech, the audience had a chance to meet some of the students that our program serves. The students came to the front of the room and gave their name, grade, how long they have been in the program, and how the program has helped them.

After the audience put a “face” with the students that are being served by the program, the Directors presented a Power Point Presentation which was designed by Tatyana to show all the activities/events that our program provides. After the presentation, the floor was open to the audience and there was wonderful feedback from those that spoke. 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
Ms. Christy-Enrichment Counselor
Tatyana-Part-time Dietary Technician/Office Assistant



Pictured above is a picture that was taken during our Female Mentoring Night in which the Students and their Female Role Model had a Spa Day at the center. The event consisted of facials by Mary Kay, pedicures and manicures.

The students are kicking it in high gear this month. The students are implementing the "March Madness" within their day to day activities. They are learning about various sports which include the rules and the guidelines. The students are learning the following sports: track, baseball, soccer, football and basketball. At the end of each curriculum, the students will be on two teams to put what they have learned "into action".

They are also doing global math. Global math is preparing the students to think on the spot. During global math, another student will give them a math problem and students are given 5-10 seconds to answer the question.

The students are also doing homework assistance and making sure what they are doing after school is going with the Standard Course of Study that the students are doing during the day.

The students are also doing Arts and Craft activities which consist of Bubble Art, Kite Day, and Beaded Pencils.

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

Students Enjoying the Tumble Bus



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!

The students have a word wall and the teachers give the students homework on the words twice a week and then on Fridays they are given a test on the words that they learned from the week. Examples of words this month has been: big, blue, call, come, and done.

The Pre-School students are learning how to spell their name and also how to write their name. They are also learning how to count to 100.

The students are learning the letter “J” so they made Jell-o to coincide with the letter along with learning how to write the letter “J”.

Reading is the foundation of a successful student so reading is implemented within the program on a daily basis. Students are now reading books to their classmates with the teacher’s assistance. This is not only helping with their reading skills but it is giving the students confidence and boosting their self-esteem.

The entire group is learning their colors in Spanish as well as how to greet people in Spanish. So they next time you see one of them say “Azul” and see what they say.

Black History Program

Ms. Denise Thurman



Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st Century Community Learning Center, located in Erwin, NC hosted a Black History Program at our center on Thursday, February 25, 2010. In observance of Black History Month, the event was done without lights and all parents and individuals in the audience were asked to cut off their cell phones. The purpose was they were not using anything during the event that was invented by an African American so people could see how life would have been different without these Inventors.

The Welcome was given by MyKayla Cameron and the Prayer by Italy Taylor; both are participants of Think Smart. The participants memorized facts about African American Inventors and other noble African Americans and cited the information to the audience. The participants also performed an African Dance and a Step Performance. At the end of the event the after school students sung an African Song and then translated it into English.

The Kinder Prep participants made a model of the Underground Railroad and displayed the model at the event. The Keynote Speaker for the Event was Ms. Denise Thurman, who is an Educator in the Harnett County School System and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. We were very pleased that Mrs. Donna Thurman, Principal in the School District that we services, attended the event.

The event was featured in the Dunn Daily Record which is the local newspaper in our county.

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, March 6, 2010. The students assisted with the Pastor's Breakfast and they also received a wonderful message from the Keynote Speaker in reference to education.

In the month of March, the students will be exposed to three universities.

The beginning of this month the students visited Fayetteville State University. During this visit, the students attended an event that was sponsored by the Illusions Modeling Club. The purpose of the event was to show the students of various clubs, organizations, etc. that colleges have to offer.

In the middle of March, the students will be touring East Carolina University. Graduates of our program that now attends ECU will be showing the students around the campus and then the students will eat on the campus. After the students enjoy a wonderful meal in the cafeteria, they will then attend an event sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi. The event will consist of the crowning of Miss Kappa Alpha Psi; high school step teams will perform as well as the Modeling Club of ECU (which one of our graduates is a member).

At the end of the month, our students will be doing a weekend trip to Elizabeth City State University where one of our graduates that currently attends ECSU will be on hand to assist.

As of today, the program has a 90% college acceptance rate for the fall 2010 semester. It will be 100% by June.

From the HCPAL Corner

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



The Athletic Department has been up to some "great" things. On March 20, 2010, our 18 and under Boys' Basketball Team has been chosen to participate in the SWAC All Star Tournament in Chapel Hill, NC. Our team was the only team in this area that was chosen to participate.

April 3-June 5, 2010, our AAU Basketball Season will begin for boys' ages 18 and under (high school students). If you are interested in playing, please contact Coach Deoward at 910-987-1572 or A.D. Walter Williams at 910-984-6887.

April-September 2010, our Spring and Summer League will begin for baseball, cheerleading, and flag football (co-ed). These sports are open to youth ages 4-12 and baseball is for high school students ONLY!

We would like to Welcome our new Corporate Athletic Sponsor Murphy USA. They will join Hardison and Associates, Kangaroo, and Williams' Income Tax Services.



Athletic Department:
Boys Basketball Coaches-Deoward McLean,
Marco Spears and Lamont Massey
Cheerleader Coach-Trudi Martin; Assistant
Coach-Shontavia Williams
Bookkeeper-Christy Douglas

New Site-Overhills Middle School



This month our 21st CCLC will be implementing our program at Overhills Middle School. The program will run Monday through Thursday. We are so excited about this opportunity. We will have homework assistance, academic group games, snack, and special sessions which will consist of hip hop dance, karate, conflict resolution, etc. We have a lot more planned for this site and we would like to thank Mr. Bethea for his hard work and dedication. Thanks to Ms. Wicker, Principal of Overhills Middle, for allowing us to use OMS as a site. Thanks so very much to both of you all!

Adopt a Child



The after school student have adopted a Child in the Kinder Prep Program to serve as a role model. The purpose of the program is for the after school students to demonstrate character education such as respect, teamwork, responsibility, etc. The “younger” students really enjoys the attention and the “older” students enjoy being in a “leaders role”. The students and staff are excited about this new addition to the program.

Think Smart's March Events:



Parent Advisory Board Meeting (next meeting on April 6, 2010)	2
Fayetteville State EOC	3
College Trip	4
Pre-Collegiate Workshop	6
Pastor/Minister Breakfast	6
Science Experiments	9
Tumble Bus	10
Storyteller	11
Staff Meeting	15
AAU Tryouts	15 and 18
Fundraiser Kick of	16
St. Patrick's Day	17
Male Mentoring	18
All-Star Game	20
ECU Trip	21
Bubble Art	23
Public Speaking Event	24
Family Reading Night	26
ECSU Trip	27 and 28
Kite Day	29
Staff Training	29
Special Night Session	30
Pencil Day	31
TSOC Booth	31

Activities above coincide with a project

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. Thanks to Ms. Kim McMillian for donating some office supplies and Kramden Institute Computer Award Program for giving 5 free computers to students in our program.

We have a NEW Grant!!



We have been awarded the National PAL Recovery Act Mentoring sub grant from the National Association of Police Athletic/Activities League, Inc. (National PAL) through the US Department of Justice in the amount of \$24,670.00. This sub grant supports community-based youth mentoring programs that strengthen and expand mentoring and dropout prevention services to at-risk/high-risk populations, as well as preserve/create employment opportunities. The organization has teamed up with sorority and fraternity members to serve as mentors for school age youth. We will have youth mentors and adult mentors. The youth mentors will be our high schools students that will be a mentor to our elementary and middle school students. The organization is seeking adults to serve as mentors. If you are 18 and older and would like to be a mentor, please contact Ms. Pam.



We are doing it AGAIN this year. Next month Think Smart will be celebrating our 9th Birthday. We are going to do what we did last year but BIGGER. We will be celebrating our birthday for 9 WHOLE days!! We will start April 23rd with a Block Party in the park with music, inflatable's, food, concert, video games, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, etc. and will end on May 1, 2010, with a step show with middle and high school teams from NC, GA, VA, SC, and etc. and a lot of additional fun throughout the week. All events are open to the public. There will be an admission fee to some events because there fundraisers to assist with our Scholarship Fund.

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.
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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!!