

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.
“Reaching for Success one star at a Time”
March 2011

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21st Century Community Learning Center



On March 17, millions of people across the United States celebrate in the Irish tradition known as St. Patrick's Day. The holiday has been around for hundreds of years, and while the history of the holiday may be less of the focus today, it is still an important element. Understanding the history of St. Patrick's day can help a child appreciate it more and see why this holiday is still celebrated today through parades, colors and meals.

St. Patrick

The holiday is named after a religious figure who actually was never born in Ireland. At a young age, St. Patrick was kidnapped by pirates and forced into Ireland. He escaped his [job](#) as a slave and lived on the rich, green Ireland shores. He later left Ireland, became religious and returned to spread the faith of Christianity. He lived there for 30 more years, where he spread knowledge and writing through the Irish people. March 17 is the day he was rumored to die, and that was chosen as the official St. Patrick's Day.

Green

A common St. Patrick's Day tradition is to wear the color green. There are multiple reasons for this and they have to do with

country of Ireland itself. Ireland's flags featured a prominent green stripe. The northern country is also known for its rich [landscape](#) full of bright green shades of grass. The Irish shamrock is also green and a traditional St. Patrick's Day symbol.

Irish Traditions

St. Patrick's Day has become a [celebration](#) of the Irish as much as it has of St. Patrick. A traditional meal eaten on St. Patrick's Day is corned beef and cabbage. Corned beef originated in Ireland and the country was one of the biggest exporters of the [food](#) for years. In the United States, the heavily Irish-populated city of Boston celebrated St. Patrick's Day in 1737. Today, a parade is still held there every year along with other large cities like Chicago, New York and even Montreal, Canada.

Four-Leaf Clovers

St. Patrick's Day is known as a day of luck and, for centuries, people have collected rare four-leaf clovers for luck. Four-leaf clovers are hard to find, and because of this, finding one is supposed to bring extra luck to a person's life. Old legends state that each clover represents a spiritual helper. These are hope, happiness, love and faith.

www.ehow.com

Family Involvement



It is almost that time of the year St. Patrick's Day! The day when your children will be looking throughout the house to find something to wear with green in it so they will not get pinched at school. This is also a day that families can come together and enjoy this "special day" with each other. You will find some great ideas listed below that you should try with your loves one.

St. Patrick's Day is a wonderful holiday to celebrate with your kids. There are many fun and creative activities you can do with your kids to celebrate. Follow these steps for a wonderful St. Patrick's Day **celebration!**

To start off St. Patrick's Day make your children green pancakes. Add green **food** coloring to the pancake mix to give it that green color. You can even use a shamrock cookie cutter to make green shamrock pancakes.

Have your children help you make shamrocks out of paper. On each shamrock you can write a fact about St. Patrick and St. Patrick's Day. This is a fun way to teach your children about the history of St. Patrick and why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Hide the shamrocks throughout your **house**. Let your children go on a shamrock hunt and find all the shamrocks. Kids love scavenger hunts!

For dinner make mashed potatoes with green food coloring in them. Or prepare a traditional Irish meal to celebrate the day!

http://www.ehow.com/how_4788363_celebrate-patricks-day-children.html

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.

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-undgrnd

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

Thrilling Thursdays are held on Thursdays

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

African Dance Classes held on Mondays.

From the After school Corner at Think Smart



Picture of students and family at our Mardi Gras Celebration

Primary Class

New month but same agenda...acing everything that is being place in front of them. The primary class is still working on writing short sentences, first letter word sounds, alphabet recognition/comparison how they are alike or different, working on greater than less than/equal to, ordering scenes as they appear in the story, reading independently, adding/subtracting one digit numbers, adding “ed” “s”, and “ing” to words using the rules as they apply, doubling consonants, multiplication tables, and so much more.

Elementary Class

The elementary class is “aiming for the top”. They are working on multiplication/factors which include but not limited to: flashcards, memorization, and homework help. They are also focusing on fractions which consist of improper fractions, mixed numbers, simplifying, and addition/subtraction, and long division. They are still focusing on Ruby Bridges and Segregation, etc.

Middle School Class

The middle school group is focusing on success. They are currently working on EOG Review which their focal point is radius, circumference, area, and slope of a line. They are also doing weekly Spelling Bee’s, multiplication problems, adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers, geometry, basic algebra, and continuing to do their weekly black history facts.

After School Site at HCMS

It’s about that time...time to get prepared for the EOG. The students are working on Math EOG and Reading EOG in hopes to increase their EOG scores. The scoring scale has changed so that is the teachers focal point. They are also assisting them with their homework, learning to read music, using recycled bottles to make artwork, etc. The after school program is growing and we are so excited about the new things they are doing at their site.

Our Mentoring Program at HCHS Mrs. Catina Autry-Mentor Director



We finally implemented our program at HCHS. It is going great and they are really enjoying HCHS mentees and mentors. There are 23 mentees and 9 faithful mentors. They are really getting to know each other. Their first activity was getting to know you. The mentors came up with different ways to introduce themselves and get to know their mentee. Activity Examples: Candy Bingo...Playing bingo but answering questions about themselves. M& M game...each mentee in the group got M&Ms and however many M&Ms they received they had to tell that many things about themselves. That’s just some of the games that were played.

They also had “I love me Day” where the mentees and mentors brought pictures of themselves and created collages about themselves. After the activity, everyone showed their collage and shared things about themselves. It is going really well and they are enjoying every minute of it.

**Promoting Excellence through
Sisterhood
Mrs. Catina Autry-Mentor Director**



Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood, Think Smart's Mentor Program at our main site is focusing on "sisterhood". Sisterhood is defined as "the essence of all the wisdom of the ages, distilled into a single word. You cannot see sisterhood, neither can you hear it nor taste it. But you can feel it a hundred times a day. It is a pat on the back, a smile of encouragement. It's someone to share with, to celebrate your achievements." ~ Anonymous

This month the mentoring program is still participating in the Nubian Princess African Dance Class on Mondays. They also had a "Stop and Think" program which consisted of a movie about making positive decisions.

They began to pot a flower which symbolizes the student's life. The moral of this activity is if the students' apply positive things in their lives such as caring, sharing, respect, they will grow in life. The students are expected to bring their plants once a week to assure they are taking care of the plant.

Night with the Stars 2011



Weaknesses, setbacks, and failures are all a part of life. Wanting something is not enough. You must yearn for it. Your driving force must be absolutely compelling in order to overcome the obstacles that will invariably come your way. Despite the cards we have been dealt, Think Smart Outreach Center's Directors have shown courage, determination, and willpower to make our dreams a reality. That is why we are pleased to announce that in April 2011, we will be celebrating 10 years of service to the Harnett County Community.

First, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being a part of our dream. As a result of your faith in us and our organization, we have been able to accomplish more than we could have ever imagined. As a means to commemorate this great accomplishment, we have decided to "celebrate" those who made it possible. Our task for this year was to select businesses, organizations, and/or individuals who selflessly gave their time and talent to improve the quality of programming offered by Think Smart. Because of your involvement and caring spirit, we would like to recognize you and/or your organization during our 5th Annual Night with the Stars Awards Ceremony to show our deepest appreciation.

The Honorees for the 2011 Night with the Stars are as following:

Krstyal Surlles
Catina Autry
Curtis Robinson
Pastor Craig Robinson and Green's Chapel
FWB Church
Erwin Parks and Recreation
Caprice Brown (NC Food Bank)
Margaret McNeill
Annie Williams
Darlene Maynard (Dunn Housing Authority)
Nancy Blackman (Triangle South Enterprise Center)
Timothy McLean
Denise Williams
Crystal Baker
Theodore Robbins
Dr. Maragaret Lawrence
Dr. Ed Bell
Lois McLean
Doris McDougald
Terry Price
Harnett County Schools

The Night with the Stars Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:00 pm at Harnett Central Middle School located at 2529 Harnett Central Road, Angier, North Carolina. \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Proceeds will go towards scholarships. This is a semi to formal event and food will be served. You do not want to miss this HUGE event!! Come out and show love to OUR stars!!

Night with the Stars 2010



Some of the 2010 Night with the Stars Finalists

From the Pre-Collegiate Corner

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



As of today, 81% of the seniors participating in our pre-collegiate program have been accepted into one or more colleges/universities. With a total of 16 seniors; we only have 1 that has not applied due to enlisting in the military after graduation and 2 who have applied to colleges but are awaiting a decision since they just received their SAT Scores.

During the month of March, some of the students in our Pre-Collegiate Program were exposed to 13 colleges/universities at one time as they had the privilege to attend the CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) High School Day located in Charlotte, NC. There were over 5,000 students in attendance and 2,000 on the waiting list.

Program Objectives:

- To provide application packets to assist high school students with their college search.
- To conduct a college fair and provide on-site admissions.
- To present information on College Access, Financing Your Education, Interviewing Skills and Keys for Success

Students participated in our Strike out Cancer...Bowl for a Cure. Also in March we will be touring Fayetteville State University, Winston-Salem State University and North Carolina A&T State University.

From the HCPAL Corner

Ms. Nell-PAL Director

Mr. Walter-Recreation Director

Mr. Alex-Recreation Assistant



Congratulations to the 12U, 16U, and 18U boys basketball teams who participated in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) tournament in March. Both the 12U and 16U finished 3rd in the region while the 18U boys played in the championship game finishing 2nd in the State.

We are now gearing up for Spring Sports. Any boys or girls ages 4-6 who are interested in T-ball or boys ages 9-10 who are interested in baseball should call or stop by the office ASAP to complete an Interest Form.

The Athletic Booster Club is gearing up for two upcoming fundraisers. On Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Advance Auto Parts in Dunn, they will sponsor a free car wash at 9am. Donations accepted. On Friday, April 15th and Saturday, April 16th at 10am, they will be sponsoring a plate sale. The event will take place at Williams Income Tax services located at 1406 South Main Street Lillington. The menu will consist of Fish, Chicken, and vegetables. The cost is \$7.00. Proceeds will benefit the athletic department to offset costs of uniforms, equipment, umpire fees, etc.

Anyone interested in being a part of the Booster Club or volunteering as a Coach or Assistant Coach for the Spring Sports, should contact Walter Williams, Athletic Director or Deoward McLean, Athletic Booster Club President.

Competition Cheerleading



Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. is currently recruiting for its Competition Cheerleading Squad for those ages 13 to 18 years old. We are also seeking males that can do backflips and/or and lift cheerleaders. Great opportunity for those who want to cheer on the high school or college level, anyone interested in cheering and gymnastics, or those who just want to improve their God-given talent. This is a wonderful way to help with healthy living, exercise, self-confidence and being a well-rounded person. The first competition is scheduled for May 2011.

Our competition coach is a graduate from Campbell University as was a member of their squad. She has also coached competition squads in which she led her team 3 times Back to Back to State Championships. Additionally, she has served as a hip hop dance Coach and in 2010 led her team to the State Championship in which they won both!

The next practice will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at 6 pm at Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. Practices are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (schedule and times will be provided at practice). If you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible.

They are working hard and their routine is looking fabulous!

Strike out Cancer



Think Smart is back at it again! On March 18, 2011, our program took over Buffalo Lanes in Erwin for our Strike out Cancer....Bowl for a Cure Event. We had 127 individuals to bowl and a lot of supporters that did not bowl but still enjoyed the event! It was so much fun that night we had people asking when we going to do it again!

The night consisted of families, couples, elementary students, middle school students, high school students, college students, singles, and so many more!

Kudos to the Mentoring Program for putting together such a Wonderful and Wholesome Event.

Proceeds for this event will benefit the Harnett County Relay for Life!



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**

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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.