Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School: 
Diversity, Innovation, Change

TMALS never ceases to outdo itself bringing great art, culture, and STEM enrichments, expanding horizons for its students. Tap and Swing Dance were introduced to the great delight and creative talents of TMALS students, and the Noel Pointer Foundation’s violin program, now in its 2nd year, is still going strong. Building on this, a new partnership with The Juilliard School will bring Juilliard students to TMALS next year to teach violin and dance.

The school also welcomed continued funding from Con Edison for STEM programming, with microscopes, a river tank, and science experiments enriching classrooms in all grades. TMALS will also be working with Pure Edge again next year to help our students develop social, emotional and academic strategies that help them flourish, skills that will certainly be valuable to the 42 students who are ‘stepping up’ to 6th grade. The school closed out the year in June with the TMALS Gala, Save Our ELT After School Program, held at City College’s Aaron Davis Hall. The event raised $3,300!

TMALS is living up to its name as a Thoroughly Good Choice for Diversity, Innovation and Change, and it is now full steam ahead to register new students for the coming year. Let’s help them spread the word and make sure this urban gem remains full of deserving students so that DOE funding for this unique and innovative school is not cut!

The enrollment application can be downloaded at www.tmals.org under ‘CONTACT US’.

You can also contact Ms. Butts at PButts@tmals.org, or call (212) 368-8710.

Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline: Cradle to Career!

HREP is going strong. Co-Director Ocynthia Williams was invited to attend a press event in Washington, DC, convened by the American Federation of Teachers. AFT President Randi Weingarten spoke about the Four Pillars to Achieve Powerful Purposeful Public Education: promoting children’s well-being, engaging in powerful learning, building teacher capacity and fostering cultures for collaboration. Ocynthia spoke about the last two pillars, and her response went live on AFT’s Schoolhouse Voices website: https://aftvoices.org/a-path-that-truly-supports-public-schools-697d44f4d4.

Well done, Ocynthia!

In addition, HREP held a Community Meeting on June 12th to present findings of the Community Baseline Report (which gives a snapshot view of student success in District 5), review community level outcomes of student proficiency from K-12, and identify areas of urgency. A large turnout of parents, educators, colleges/universities and CBOs came together to be part of a lively conversation on how we can make the District’s public schools true beacons of light for the community, and ways we can engage parents more deeply so they can fully participate in improving educational outcomes for their children.
Another year, another group of 87 talented students who have been accepted to college! So much good news to report! Earlier this year 30 TMA students went on an exciting trip to Ithaca College and Cornell University thanks to funding from Con Edison and New Visions for Public Schools. Students learned about all things college from admissions requirements to campus life. It was a very inspiring trip – students came back motivated for college life and all that lies ahead.

More recently the PUSH Through the Pipeline scholarship drive, through its Cultural Celebration: Curriculum Fair and Art Sale and GoFundMe campaign, awarded $7,200 to deserving students, including two who will attend HCBU’s Spellman and Morehouse Colleges this Fall. We wish them all success!!

The college program was led by the dedicated Dr. Cassandra Hyacinthe who made sure TMA students stayed on track. Dr. Hyacinthe will be leaving us for a new opportunity, but college support continues with the 2017 TMA Pre-College Summer Outreach Program, led by ServiceWorks Success Coach Ms. Dana Mondesire under the direction of Ms. Nyrekia Mayers. Ms. Mondesire will work with students in the final steps of the college process to minimize the “college melt” phenomenon. Her office hours are Mon/Wed from 10-4, 7/5-8/9. We wish Dr. Hyacinthe all success, and welcome Ms. Mondesire onboard!

Harlem Economic Literacy Program (H.E.L.P.)

Thanks once again to our dynamic Homeownership Counselor Ms. Andrea Britton, over the past eight months ADC’s HELP Program has graduated 89 first time homebuyers, and held 48 counseling sessions consisting of financial analysis, assessment, repairing credit and getting their first preapproval.

Despite the fact that the political climate has changed, more than ever people want to purchase property. They are fed up living in buildings in a state of constant disrepair and skyrocketing rents, and HELP graduates are doing their due diligence by reducing their debt and saving money for down payment funds and their first home purchase.

There are signs of hope. This past March HPD’s Homefirst Downpayment Closing Cost Assistance Program, which HELP sponsors, increased funds from $15,000 to $25,000, and effective June 17th it increased income eligibility guidelines to reach more people, based on HUD’s new 2017 income limits, a great help to first time homebuyers!

Build your own nest egg and buy a home!
The STEM Expo was truly *SUPER* in every sense of the word, showing our community how dedicated we truly are to STEM learning. Harlem public school students in grades pre-K – 12 exhibited their STEM projects alongside activity booths set up by museums, science and technology centers, agencies and more. The day inspired nearly 2,500 youth of all ages and adults to try something new, and educated them on STEM subjects in a warm, fun and educational atmosphere. Free raffle prizes were sponsored by ADC with support from Con Edison.

The exhibitions were grade A, and the day even included a chess tournament and Math competition! The shows and competitions were simply amazing! In short, WE ROCKED!!!!

Our children and expo were featured on Fox 5: http://www.fox5ny.com/good-day/2c5730293-video! And if you missed this year’s event, next year will be our 10th ANNIVERSARY STEM EXPO!! May 19th 2018, mark your calendars now and spread the word!! You can contact Logistics Coordinator Moshe Crone at moshecrone@gmail.com for details.

Meanwhile, check out pics from this year—each one speaks a thousand words of pure joy!

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You can find more photos at: https://www.facebook.com/Super-Saturday-STEM-Expo-888207094633388/.

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**SENIOR SERVICES: Active Minds & Bodies**

Seniors are thriving in their own home thanks to a slate of activities spearheaded by our very own Cynthia Scarborough. Through our partnership with NY Common Pantry, over 80 seniors receive sustenance every third Tuesday, with food items distributed from Abby Tower’s Community Room. Collaboration with WellCare has also helped Seniors stay healthy, with health plans, information and smoothies distribution in March. WellCare also sponsored Spring Fling in April, where Seniors showed us their moves!

Seniors are also keeping their minds active. During Women’s History Month they learned about pertinent issues like Alzheimer’s and asked many great questions for guest speaker Paula Rice.
Kudos to ADC's ServiceWorks Volunteers Lena and Christine who are also keeping Seniors active, busy, and smiling. On Casino Night, they worked with TMA students to hold casino games, and prepared meals to keep the energy flowing. Biweekly Senior Game Days keep up the rhythm with various board games.

Let’s not forget Health Advocates who keep Seniors moving, grooving, and staying fit with chair exercises, or Spa Day in June sponsored by L’Oreal, where Seniors were pampered with hand massages and manicures, essential oil therapy, and relaxing games. Even the men joined in!

The summer calendar is just as engaging, with a Cookout sponsored by ServiceWorks on July 21 to celebrate summer and our recently graduated youth volunteers, and a Banker’s Life presentation on Aug.2 where Seniors learn about all the essentials of life insurance.

Regular programming also continues with Harlem Hospital Community Outreach’s quarterly workshops on health concerns from heart and blood pressure to cholesterol, diabetes and cancer. Weekly Bingo games are still going strong, with Seniors winning household items.

Stay tuned for more great events for Seniors!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Rev. Bachus has been keeping the good work of ADC front and center with stimulating presentations at two panel discussions. At Harlem & The Future held on April 29th at City College’s Spitzer School of Architecture, Rev. Bachus participated in engaging dialogue alongside distinguished panelists including Rev. Walrond of First Corinthian Baptist Church and Ann-Israel Friedman of the NY Landmarks Conservancy’s Sacred Rites Program.

The panel explored questions related to Harlem’s unique cultural heritage and legacy, and the impact of gentrification on Harlem’s social fabric – churches at risk, the built environment – with an eye toward what’s to come. The day-long conference began with walking tours and was capped with a film screening of “Gentrified: Ethnic Cleansing American Style”.

This was followed by a powerful presentation at a Town Hall Meeting held on June 5th at the Joseph P. Kennedy Center. Rev. Bachus was featured alongside elected officials for a discussion about housing in Harlem, and what we can and should be doing to control our futures. Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Deputy Comptroller Michael Lambert, Council Member Bill Perkins, and State Senator Brian Benjamin were just some of the notable speakers.

Reverend Bachus also made a guest radio appearance on City College’s Harlem 411 (WHCR, 90.3 FM) to discuss Abyssinian Development Corporation, housing issues and the SoHa vs Harlem debate.

Harlem 411 which reports on news in Harlem, is co-hosted by Linda Mondesire who led the conversation. Rev. Bachus addressed important Harlem issues such as the cultural assassination that would result if Harlem was renamed SoHa, and the need to give voice to local Harlem residents.

...more ServiceWorks Project Updates

- January 6: Martin Luther King Day CommUNITY Day
- March 4: Sandra Lee Health Day at Ennis Francis Houses
- April 22: Global Youth Service Day: Cleaning Up Harlem
- June 28: YouthBuild Service Scholars Award Ceremony

AND ...ongoing Shelter Bed and Food Stabilization Program!

Of special note, a memorial ceremony for Ms. Claudette Jenkins will be held on July 22 in the Abby Towers Community Room to honor her inspirational contribution to Senior Services for over a decade. Ms. Claudette Jenkins, LMSW, transitioned on April 28,

MORE ADC UPDATES:

website: www.adcorp.org

facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AbyssinianDevelopmentCorporation/