EDUCATION MATTERS

Great news! Con Edison has renewed its support for STEM and College Prep programming. This is the eighth year of funding from Con Edison, and their commitment is crucial to enrich these vital programs.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math!

STEM programming at Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School (TMALS) is keeping young minds engaged and inspired. Classroom projects have a special focus on robotics and computer science, while school trips raise the interest bar even higher. At an upcoming trip to National Geographic Encounter: Ocean Odyssey, students will escape the jaws of a 50-foot humpback whale, play with mischievous sea lions and more, all without getting wet!

Students are also preparing projects for the upcoming Super Saturday STEM Expo on May 18th at Harlem’s 369th Regiment Armory. ADC is an anchor partner for this dynamic event, where students will show off their STEM knowledge and projects for some 2,500 visitors.

College Bound

College Prep at Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change (TMA) is helping another group of seniors realize their dreams. The College Prep team met with 77 TMA seniors as they prepare to expand their horizons with college and career opportunities. The team also stepped up outreach to 10th and 11th grade students with in-class presentations because… it’s never too early to prepare for college!

A slew of activities is helping students stay grounded on their college trajectories and ready for success.

FAFSA Day & Night in October gave parents and students an important jumpstart on the FAFSA application process and its new full day schedule really helped. Any time a parent dropped by an expert was on hand. Dinner and a childcare room with 11th grade volunteers were provided and parents were very grateful for the support.

College trips are in full swing with visits to Yale, University of Albany, and SUNY Purchase to name a few. The students pictured below are in Philadelphia, standing in front of Temple University’s school mascot, the owl. The same day they also visited the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. They really enjoyed the tours and several expressed interest in applying.

College Application Week had a full slate of activities from college rep visits to essay clinics. A Career Day panel discussion introduced students to careers beyond the general spectrum of lawyers and teachers, with an Etsy.com trend expert and TMA alum celebrity makeup artist, just some of the panelists. There was also an HBCU College Fair with reps from ten schools. The Fair covered essential topics like How to Pay for an HBCU Education.
On Alumni Day seven alumni shared their first-year college experiences, helping students learn about college life from their piers. There were panel discussions throughout the day in various classrooms followed by a Q&A.

College rep visits are going strong. SUNY Oswego, Vanderbilt, and Howard are just some of the schools stirring interest. The monthly financial aid bulletin continues to be a great resource and the College Office provides one-on-one support for scholarship applications, with 5 TMA seniors winning YMCA’s BAI scholarship!

**TMA 25th Anniversary Celebration**

TMA’s 25th Anniversary Celebration was held in January at the Marian Anderson Theater at City University of New York. The event, spearheaded by Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III and Dr. Sandye Johnson, was a fundraiser for Expanded Learning Time programming at TMA and TMALS. Monies raised exceeded expectations!

The evening included a theatrical review of the history of TMA and TMALS presented by current students, faculty and alumni. Beautiful student artwork was on display in the lobby and delicious hors d’oeuvres did not disappoint. Ms. Cheryl Wills, awarding-winning news anchor for New York 1 News, served as Celebrity Host. Ms. Wills is a strong advocate for educational initiatives and her dynamic presence set the right tone.

Everyone in attendance was truly inspired by the students’ performances and ADC looks forward to presenting the schools with checks so they can enhance their ELT programming. We know this will have a direct impact on the success of our students, which is what this is all about!

**Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline**

HREP has become officially incorporated and is one step closer to pursuing fundraising opportunities that keep its impact front and center in the community. ADC proudly remains an anchor partner, supporting this dedicated collective impact initiative as it continues important education work in District 5.

The Early College High School (ECHS) program continues to engage students in and out of the classroom. Students enjoyed a field trip to the Improv 4 Kids theater program which educates young audiences through creative comedy arts. They interacted with skilled performers and learned to think outside the box in new ways.

In the classroom ECHS introduced an Etiquette Workshop, teaching success skills like cell phone etiquette, and Writopia Lab, helping seniors hone their writing skills to create personal statements for college applications.

The Parent Engagement Community Action Network (PECAN) continues its journey to improve parent engagement in District 5. The team is taking an online Harvard course, *Introduction to Family Engagement in Education*, with the goal of strengthening knowledge and skills that will improve family engagement and student academic outcomes.

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**Student art display, Beautiful dancers in sync, Rev. Butts, Dr. Johnson and Celebrity Host Cheryl Wills, Students practicing an elevator pitch, PECAN teamwork**
Harlem-Ween ushered in winter at Abby Towers, with franks, burgers, subways, cupcakes and a whole lotta dancing...the room was rockin’ with Seniors and staff showing off their moves!

Happy feet are healthy feet, and with all that dancing proper foot care was in order. Podiatrist Andrea Ward gave an informative presentation in December which the Seniors appreciated. Harlem Hospital also held a Fall Prevention workshop as part of their quarterly workshop series on topics vital to senior health and well-being.

A host of holiday activities began with 25 love baskets provided by missionaries from the Abyssinian Baptist Church (ABC) and filled with holiday fare like chicken, cranberry sauce, and green beans. Ten TMA students distributed the baskets. A high-spirited Christmas party followed to close out the year, sponsored by the Mattie Fletcher Powell Satellite-Laura B. Thomas Ministry at ABC. Rev. Rashad Moore, Assistant Minister at ABC, blessed the food and spent time with the seniors in fellowship. Seniors enjoyed Christmas carols and a holiday feast of yams, mac-n-cheese, and peach cobbler. They played Fun Riddle and matched wits with Christmas Trivia. Red poinsettias and candy plates decorated tables to lend a festive air.

Festivities may be over, but plenty of indoor activities are keeping Seniors active and the winter chill at bay. Senior Services introduced a monthly Movie Matinee & Pizza Party. Refreshments of pizza, beverages, and cookies are served and seniors have already seen two movies: Breaking In and Black Panther. Seniors are very motivated to see the films, and with the movie library’s big selection, there will be no shortage of viewings!

Senior Services hosted its annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and the turnout was great! Rev. Moore delivered an invigorating speech on the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Seniors recalled their memories of growing up during those times. Senior Services Coordinator Ms. Flye further engaged them in discussion about the Jim Crow era and their experiences. ADC is grateful to TMA student Kamden Hinkson who graciously took orders and served food. Message to the next generation? Respect your elders, love one another, stay in school, less cell phone and more real conversation. Timeless truths we can all take to heart.
IN THE NEWS...

Ennis Francis Christmas Party: An abundance of toys brought smiles to the faces of the children at Ennis Frances Houses at Christmas, thanks to a new partnership with the Casting Guild of America. On very short notice they corralled the NYC casting community to contribute beautiful Christmas gifts. Some children even got seconds! It was all part of ADC’s effort to bring good cheer to our friends at Ennis Francis Houses. The effort included an ADC donation for fun giveaways like glow necklaces, and a holiday meal that included ice cream and apple cobbler pie. Residents were truly grateful for the toys during this time of giving!

Michael Wilhite: Hall of Famer: Our very own Michael Wilhite was one of 17 individuals inducted into Columbia University Athletics’ 8th Hall of Fame. One of Columbia’s best baseball players ever, Michael dominated the intercollegiate Baseball League. As a Junior, he led the Ivy League with an outstanding .488 batting average and became the first African American baseball player to earn First Team All-Ivy League status. In 1977 he slammed eight homers, breaking the university’s single-season record set by Columbia legend Lou Gehrig. Upon graduating, he held the school’s record for home runs and still boasts the most triples and highest slugging percentage in the school’s history. Michael will bring his dynamic skills to Harlem coaching Youth on the Move in the Community’s Lenox Barons baseball team, part of the Harlem Little League. Well done Michael!

HARLEM ECONOMIC LITERACY PROGRAM

Harlem is a strong, vibrant community full of life, culture, color, brilliance, history, spirit, love and faith. It is the faith that opens the doors for more opportunity. The goal of the Harlem Economic Literacy Program (HELP) is to build strong buyers while establishing a stronger economic base within the Harlem community. HELP is not just about how to buy a home, it’s about how you can build wealth through homeownership.

HELP is different: it does not just give you a Certificate of Completion and send you on your way. It offers you one-on-one follow-up counseling so that you can achieve your personal goals toward empowerment and economic growth.

Are you ready to begin your journey to economic empowerment? Just visit www.adcorp.org/help to learn more and register. You can also call Homeownership Counselor Ms. Andrea Britton at 646-442-6545. The next set of HELP classes is scheduled for May, 2019. Please check our website dates.

“Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me today. I really appreciate all of your efforts to support me in purchasing my first home. Words cannot truly express my gratitude.”