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save the dates

Library Book Party
Thursday, February 23
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Bowling Party
Thursday, March 8
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Annual Luncheon
Wednesday, April 18
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Buddy Morning
Friday, May 4
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Graduation
Wednesday, May 23
6:00 p.m.

Preparing For Next Steps

City Academy fifth and sixth graders have a lot on their minds and their plates.

As they start thinking about their plans for secondary school placement, they get a healthy start through our Leadership Program.

"In order to appropriately prepare our children for the secondary school process and build strong leaders for tomorrow, it is imperative that we work on strengthening public speaking skills, building conversational skills and teaching proper etiquette," says Nikki Doughty, Director of Admissions and Placement.

Students started with weekly meetings in August that ended with a formal Leadership Dinner held in November. In between, students built communication skills and worked on basic interview techniques. They were given the opportunity to practice what they learned during Mock Interviews, which were held in October.

Lessons in proper table etiquette rounded out the experience, followed by the Leadership Dinner, which was hosted by long-time City Academy supporters Hazel and Arnold Donald.

"The goal of the program is to help students become well-rounded individuals," adds Doughty. "The ability to make a substantive contribution to a conversation or to demonstrate etiquette at the dinner table speaks volumes about an individual."

The lessons must have had an impact! After lunching with a group of sixth graders at the school, City Academy supporter Stacy Cooper said, "I was literally blown away by the poise, manners and confidence displayed by these children... any recommendations on a program that we could institute at our own children's schools?" she teased.



Donor Mike Mulligan with Zion and Zuri Thomas at the Leadership Dinner



Students Devon Shaw, Zhadi Hervey and MaLeak Johnson are shown with Ramsey Maune and hosts Arnold and Hazel Donald at the Leadership Dinner.

Sixth Graders Tackle *Macbeth* and *Animal Farm*

City Academy students are accustomed to a challenge, so our sixth graders studying Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Orwell's *Animal Farm* in one semester is no surprise.

"Shakespeare sounds complicated at first," says Ariel Jennings. "But Mr. Austin helps us understand that the language is meant to be spoken and heard, not read silently. And he shows us how to use context clues to figure out the meaning."

Ariel's classmate, Najee Walker agrees. "We broke it down into pieces, and it wasn't so bad," says Najee. "I think as we head into our secondary schools and cover more Shakespeare, we'll be ahead. I've visited some schools already, and I always feel like I'm ahead of the game."

"My hope for these students is that they approach Shakespeare in the future

with confidence," adds their teacher. "I want them to understand that in Shakespeare's language, there are both words and music, and that a great deal of the meaning is in the music, in the iambic pentameter."

Austin found himself a little surprised at the gusto with which the students have embraced the Bard, both inside and outside the classroom.

"What pleases me most is how they were bringing the stories with them when they leave the classroom," he says. "During a kickball game at recess one day, I heard one of them shout at the other, in fun, 'the devil damn thee black thou cream-faced loon!' Normally, insults are not okay, but I had to let that one go."

After finishing *Macbeth*, the class forged ahead to *Animal Farm*, and then was given a heady assignment: writing a 1,000-word essay comparing elements of both works.



Zhadi Hervey studies *Macbeth*

"The students really attacked this assignment with energy," says Austin. "They've made some observations about the characters in both works that demonstrate just how sophisticated their thought processes are. I'm very proud of them."

Manners on Monday

The words *please* and *thank you* aren't really magic, but they do have a magical effect, especially when used with teachers, family and our classmates!

In keeping with City Academy's culture of academic rigor, integrity and citizenship, P.E. teacher Mandy Rajchart is giving the subject of good manners extra attention every Monday before students begin their physical education activity.

"A lot of elementary school students remember to be polite to their teachers, but let things slip with their peers," says Ms. Rajchart. "It's good to help remind students that they need to apply good manners to everyone, all of the time—in the classroom, on the playground and at the lunch table."

For the first quarter, a number of the finer points in being nice were covered, including: the proper use of *please*, *thank you*, *you're welcome* and *excuse me*, complimenting one another, holding and opening doors for others and asking for permission.

"We also talked about waiting for someone else to come through a door before you enter, and holding the door for the person behind you," she adds. "I have seen great improvements in these areas. Keeping manners front and center is an important life lesson."

What Else Are We Reading?



So far this year, our fifth graders have read and analyzed *The Wind in the Willows* and *Tuck Everlasting*. They are currently working through *The Iliad For Boys and Girls* and will finish the year with *The Hobbit* and *Watership Down*.

After finishing *The Odyssey for Boys and Girls*, sixth graders will choose between *The Life of Pi* and *Watership Down*.

Staying Involved the City Academy Way



Even though they are busy with their studies and activities at their secondary schools, our graduates continue to stay involved with City Academy.

The first meeting of the Alumni Student Committee was held in October, with 23 graduates in attendance. The group has prepared food for a soup kitchen and will do so again at Temple Emanuel under the guidance of Mary Schoolman.

But it's not all work and no play! The group went ice skating in Forest Park in December and a paint ball/laser tag event is planned for spring.

The group elected the following alumni as officers:

Oversight Chair and Liaison

Krysten Lane
Senior, Incarnate Word Academy

President

Kendrick Smith
Sophomore, Chaminade

Vice President

Lailah Elliott
Seventh Grader, John Burroughs

Secretary

Michael Shaw
Seventh Grader, Westminster Christian Academy

Congratulations to everyone!
And thank you for staying involved!

STEAMING Ahead With Integrated Learning

"Art definitely makes our lives more beautiful and meaningful, but the process of creating artwork teaches critical modes of thinking that are valuable to all subjects," says Art Specialist Julie Bugnitz. "I am really proud that City Academy does not consider art a luxury, but a vital component of a solid education."

City Academy has included art within the subjects of science, technology, engineering and math—with the creation of S.T.E.A.M., our own version of an initiative known nationally as S.T.E.M.

S.T.E.M. is an intentional effort to encourage collaboration between teachers and administrators who are responsible for instructing and supporting the subjects of science,

Alumni Wall Takes New Shape

If you haven't taken a look at our new and improved Alumni Wall, you should!

Located at the top of the stairs in the front lobby, the wall has a new, fresh look and features photos of all our graduating classes, as well as listings of the secondary schools and colleges our graduates currently attend. The wall will be updated each spring, adding even more good news as our students continue making a name for themselves and City Academy.

The design was created by Board Member Megan Frank with *cfx-inc*. The wall was made possible by an anonymous donor who is very pleased with the final product.

technology, engineering and math. The importance of this kind of collaboration is being recognized by educators at every level across the country.

City Academy's art-friendly S.T.E.A.M. initiative is taking shape with a team of faculty members led by Science Specialist Erik Taylor.

"Students need to understand that no subject stands alone, and that there is value in the collaborative process," says Taylor.

Already this year, art projects are presented in a way that helps students see the natural threads that exist between subjects.

"We're talking a lot about math as we work," says Mrs. Bugnitz. "As we learn about symmetry, we use measuring skills. We've been doing this all along, but talking about it helps students see the connections."



"This new wall is very cool and creative," he says. "It allows parents to see where the journey leads after City Academy and it helps current students remember and imagine their goals."

The wall allows faculty and donors to see the outcome of their investment! It also helps alums take pride in their position as a City Academy graduate. This wall is much better than a forgotten yearbook!"

"It helps current students remember and imagine their goals."



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Always Good To Hear

From Cyndy Alverson, Director of Admissions, Whitfield School:

Jonathan Elkins (City Academy graduate, 7th grader at Whitfield) had a terrific role in the middle school production the week of November 15... The show was about the machinations of a teenage boy's brain as he tried to talk with a teenage girl. It sounds a little crazy, but it was laugh-out-loud funny! Love your kids!



From Steve and Kathi Hall, parents of CA graduate Sydni, and current CA student Steven:



We wanted to share Sydni's first trimester report card from MICDS! She did an awesome job and we cannot overlook the fact that the education and preparation she received at City Academy were instrumental in her success. City Academy is an extraordinary school and the Halls are forever grateful for the opportunities you are providing for our children!

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