

SUMMER 2008

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MATH PROGRAM

CITY ACADEMY
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LOVE OF READING
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CITY ACADEMY

SHAKESPEARE
AND STAGES

WALTER, THE SCHOOL
MASCOT

Sixth Graders Move On!

*Our 2008 Graduates
have been accepted
at the following
schools:*

**Chaminade
Crossroads
Frederick Douglass
Institute
MICDS
McKinley Classical
Villa Duchesne
Westminster
Whitfield**

Celebrating City Academy's 2008 Graduates

*Byron Brownlee
Eichel Davis
Sydney Giles
Alexander Glover
Alexander Hollingsworth
Alexis Hubbard
Lauren Robinson
Yusuf Ross
Kendrick Smith
Niara Tilson
Montrell Watson
Jazell Williams*



On Wednesday, May 28, 2008, City Academy awarded certificates of completion to its fourth graduating class of sixth graders. An audience of more than 200 family members, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends celebrated the twelve graduates' achievements. Each student, having been coached by members of the Optimist Club of St. Louis, delivered a brief speech.

Kendrick Smith described how transferring to the school had changed his life: "I was a slacker who did not work as hard as I could because I found everything really easy. Now...I am challenged to my fullest and have to study." Alexis Hubbard noted that City Academy taught her "not to do good work, but great work."

Niara Tilson's speech on her blossoming maturity was especially

poignant: "Yesterday, I was a girl, but today I am a young lady...I was a girl because I had plenty to learn about. As a young lady, I have hundreds of decisions that I should be able to make on my own." Eichel Davis thanked his teachers for helping him to "become more mature, knowledgeable, and more comfortable around people."

Students expressed gratitude to family members who had assisted them in meeting City Academy's high academic standards. For example, Alexander Hollingsworth voiced appreciation to his mother "for sacrificing many things so that I could attend a great school." And Yusuf Ross thanked his father "for all of your long but helpful speeches."

(Graduation Story continued on Page 5)

Adding to our Math Program

"I was genuinely impressed with the academics of City Academy as well as the general decorum and learning environment which stressed quiet and respect for learning along with getting kids excited about learning. I was also impressed with how they enforce expectations on parents to honor their "contract" with the school in terms of ensuring kids arrive on time and do their homework, etc. My hat goes off to City Academy, which is trying to meet an important societal challenge in ways that make sense to me."

Professor J. Martin Rochester, Ph.D.

Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science at UMSL

Prof. J. Martin Rochester is a staunch believer in results-oriented education. When he read a January 2008 *Post-Dispatch* article about City Academy's approach to math instruction, he was skeptical. Then he came to visit. Seeing our work in action, Prof. Rochester became an advocate for City Academy.

City Academy has high expectations of students. Students are expected to score within the top quartile of national school norms on standardized tests and demonstrate a mastery of pre-Algebra skills by

their sixth grade year to be admitted to St. Louis's most selective secondary schools.

To meet and exceed high expectations, students and teachers must have the right resources. That's why, under the leadership of Principal Kelly Tyson, City Academy has made targeted investments in math instruction. With the guidance of international mathematics experts Claire Kim and Yoram Sagher, teachers are learning how to implement Montessori and Singapore strategies in the classroom.

In fall 2007, City Academy hired Mr. John Becker, a dedicated Math Specialist who instructs students in grades four, five, and six. Before joining City Academy, Mr. Becker taught at DC Preparatory Academy, a public charter school in Washington, DC. Mr. Becker holds an M.A. in Teaching from American University, graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering, was a TFA corps member and was a HUSTEP scholar at Hokkaido University in Japan.

When the need for a Math Specialist was identified, the Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation and the

Norman J. Stupp Foundation – Commerce Bank Trustee partnered with City Academy to assist with this strategic hire.

"The Norman J. Stupp Foundation is making targeted investments in programs and educational opportunities throughout our community that are committed to helping young people succeed. The Stupp Foundation is especially interested in funding school initiatives in the urban core that demonstrate success at raising student achievement levels and graduation rates."

Cynthia Crim

Grants Manager with the Norman J. Stupp Foundation

Investments from key partners like the Baer and Stupp Foundations are allowing us to craft a curriculum that can serve as a model for schools locally and nationwide.

For more information about the math program, call Ms. Tyson at 314-382-0085.

Are you smarter than a City Academy math student?

Try this problem . . .

Some shirts were in the dryer. One third of the shirts were colored and the rest were white. Of the colored shirts, half were green and 25% were red. The remaining colored shirts were blue. There were six green shirts. How many more white shirts were there than colored shirts?

(Answer on page five.)

Magistra Dillard Teaches Latin at City Academy

Mrs. Marni Dillard visited City Academy for the first time in April 2007 to participate in City Academy's Buddy Morning program. A month later, she returned to attend the school play. Mrs. Dillard loved what she saw, so she volunteered to teach Latin to fifth and sixth grade students each week.

Thanks to Mrs. Dillard, students discovered how many English words come from Latin roots. Students also learned about classical mythology and

life in ancient Rome. Student Alexis Hubbard said, "I love how Mrs. Dillard teaches us all about their culture and lifestyle."

Mrs. Dillard's background is in the Classics, and she previously taught at John Burroughs School and the University of Washington.

Mrs. Dillard described, "I always feel like I learn more from my students than they learn from me. I had a wonderful teaching experience at City Academy, and wish this year's graduates all the best."



Marni Dillard with 6th grade Latin students Eichel Davis and Alexis Hubbard

Thank you for volunteering your time and knowledge, Mrs. Dillard!

Shakespeare and STAGES Come to City Academy



Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis



Stages St. Louis

City Academy partners with Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis and STAGES St. Louis to bring professional-quality artistic programming to students. Both programs are partially underwritten by a grant from the Missouri Arts Council. This year, students performed *HONK!* under the direction of Rob Grumich, Director of Education and Outreach, who said, "At STAGES we absolutely love our ongoing partnership with City Academy. It is indeed one of our favorite relationships and one of our longest continuing programs."



Third grade students starred in *Macbeth*, and fourth grade students performed *Twelfth Night* under the direction of Education Director Christopher Limber and the Shakespeare Festival staff. "It is a delight and a privilege to return each year to the fertile and supportive educational environment which City Academy so dedicatedly provides," said Christopher.

2008 Graduation (cont. from page 1):

Outstanding members of the City Academy community were also honored during the event. The Oliver M. Langenberg Award was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Virgil, recognizing their commitment to community service, personal generosity, and leadership. Mr. Virgil remarked, "There is truly something special happening at City Academy. It is one of the great unfolding stories in St. Louis, and we have found much pride and pleasure being a small part of this."



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Virgil receive their award from Don Danforth

Dedicated scholar and role model Haliday Douglas also became an Honorary Alumnus of City Academy. Douglas noted, "I feel honored to be part of a network committed to transforming today's urban youth into tomorrow's civic patrons."

Over twenty alumni attended graduation. Alumnus Mark Haymon, now a Chaminade student, praised the support offered by City Academy to its alumni. "This school will always be our home," he reminded. For proof, audience members needed only to witness the ceremony's final moment, when 24 beaming alumni joined the new graduates on stage.

Math problem answer... 12.



SECOND GRADERS DISCOVER THEIR GREEN THUMBS

The radishes flourished. The carrots thrived. The mint was out of control. And City Academy's second graders had bragging rights. In May, they enthusiastically reaped their harvest, scrubbed vegetables, and prepared lettuce wraps, a tasty, nutritious snack.

This spring's vegetable garden began in a small indoor lab donated by Gateway Greening. Second grade teacher Jeff Rahman coordinated his lessons about the science of plants with hands-on experiences for his students. Using the indoor lab, students planted seeds and watched them grow, measured seedlings' progress, and formed hypotheses about what methods worked best. A trip to the Litzinger Road Ecology Center supplemented students' botanical studies.



Second graders work in the gardens

When spring arrived, volunteer Jacquelyn Crnic taught students to clean out the raised beds on school grounds and aerate the soil. They transferred their seedlings and added some donated by Crnic. Students later learned to weed and tend their gardens. "One of the

best lessons for them was how much consistent daily work it takes in order to grow anything," Mr. Rahman pointed out.

Second graders planted flowers, too. Jim and Jean Morris, representing the Kirkwood Iris Society, donated iris seedlings and taught students to plant and propagate the flowers, later demonstrating proper cutting and presentation techniques. The effort culminated in a professionally juried iris show hosted at City Academy, along with an Iris Society drawing competition.

Juried iris show winners were second graders Donovan Aguayo-Craig, Breyanna Howard, Ariel Jennings, Kendall McLemore, and Clyde Niblett, Jr. The Kirkwood Iris Society drawing competition was won by Kendrick Smith, Byron Brownlee, and Alexander Hollingsworth.



Iris contest winners

"Having people who are experts and passionate about something really made a difference because the kids catch on to that passion," noted Mr. Rahman. The St. Louis Garden Society is another partner in City Academy's gardening efforts, and the school welcomes additional collaborators. Those who would like to volunteer with gardening projects should contact Nancy Ritzel at nritzel@cityacademyschool.org or (314) 382-0085 (ext. 104).

BUDDY MORNING APRIL 18, 2008

City Academy's fourth Buddy Morning, held in April, had a terrific turnout. The event paired community "buddies" with students, cooperating on projects related to each grade's current studies. For example, third grade students and their buddies created business cards and ads as part of a business development unit, while sixth graders wrote short stories with their buddies. Many were repeat partners, and students were excited to see familiar faces!



John Dozier with his Buddies

John Dozier, who has been a "Buddy" every time, said, "City Academy is one of those very unique institutions where no matter how amazing any one visit is, I am always carried even higher by my next encounter. The leadership, faculty, staff, and especially the kids thoroughly astound me every time!"

The next Buddy Morning is Friday, October 24, 2008, from 8:30-10:00. Contact Nancy Ritzel at (314) 382-0085 (ext. 104) or nritzel@cityacademyschool.org for more details. It's a great way to see our program in action!

City Academy Friends Meet Up

Bowling Extravaganza

In March, City Academy's Friends Committee hosted its first annual Spring Bowling Extravaganza at Saratoga Lanes in Maplewood. Attendees enjoyed bowling, darts, pool, a silent auction, and great music, in addition to tasty refreshments!



Friends enjoying the bowling event!



Jermal Seward, Friends Coordinator
Nikki Doughty and raffle winner Laura
Piathek (who donated it back to CA!)

This event allowed City Academy to make many new friends and raised \$3,000 for the school's unique Scholarship Program. The Friends Committee thanks Saratoga Lanes for opening its space for the event and Lohr Distributing for donating refreshments. Many thanks to those who donated silent auction items, as well. City Academy extends a special thank you to Brian Swift, Hilde Hochwald, Andrew Scavatto, and Jermal Seward for working hard to organize this event.

Serving for A Cause

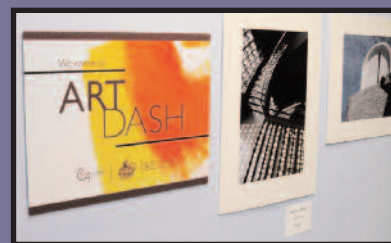
Earlier in the spring, the Friends hosted a Happy Hour at the rBar in the up-and-coming Grove area, raising over \$350. More than 40 people attended, and City Academy "celebrities" tended bar for tips (donations to the school). City Academy has been invited to repeat the event and will do so in the near future...stay tuned!



John and Linda O'Hara
enjoy the Happy Hour

For The Love of Reading Library Reception

For the third consecutive year, Barbara and Ben Landesman graciously opened their home for City Academy's annual For the Love of Reading Library Reception. Over \$6,000 was raised to purchase new books and magazines for the library! This year's event was very well-attended, and included many new faces. Thank you to everyone who supports the library by attending and donating to this event. Thank you to Librarian and Reading Specialist Mrs. Martha Brown, and Dr. Leslie Holt, board member and volunteer, for their help with the event. "For the Love of Reading is a great event. Guests get to see what's new in children's books and through the guests' generous donations City Academy students get these great books to read in their library," said Dr. Holt.



**Save
the
Date!**

City Academy's long-awaited Art Dash will take place on March 7, 2009, at Preservation Hall in historic Soulard. Art Dash is a unique event that allows each couple to go home with an original piece of art. In 2007, Art Dash raised over \$26,000 for City Academy's Scholarship Program. Plan now to attend!

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City Academy's Top Dog

City Academy has a school mascot. Walter, a Labrador Retriever, helps our students to learn how to respect and take care of animals. "We are thrilled to have Walter on campus," said Matt Virgil, Director of Curriculum.



First Grader Clarence Williams with Walter

Local pet experts from the Humane Society of Missouri and Kennelwood Pet Resorts have partnered with City Academy to educate students about how animals should be treated. Students worked with the Humane Society to raise awareness about the responsibilities of pet owners, and fifth graders hosted a dance to benefit the Humane Society.

In addition, Kennelwood trainer Sue Schulze works with Walter and students, demonstrating how to behave appropriately around dogs. First grader Clarence Williams described what it's like to work with Walter: "We practice 'down,' 'sit,' 'stay,' 'come,' and 'fetch.' And we toss him treats to help train him." City Academy is fortunate to have Walter as an "ambassador" to help students learn how to respectfully interact with our canine companions.

Return Service Requested

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www.cityacademyschool.org

St. Louis, MO 63115

4175 North Kingshighway



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