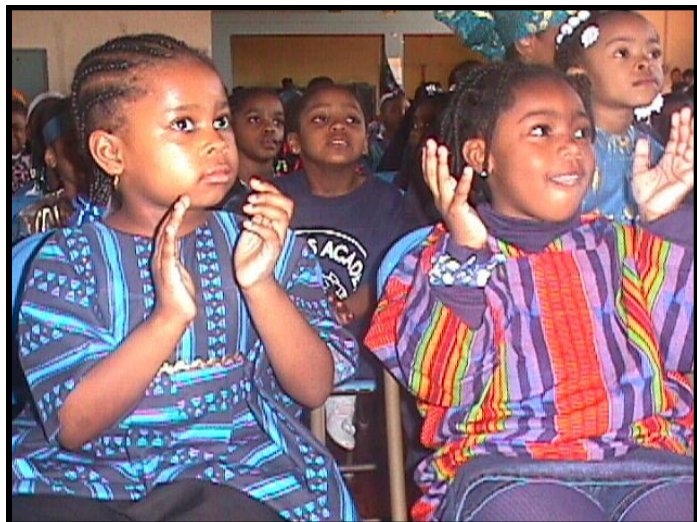


# THE LOTUS LAMP

March 31, 2000

Volume 3, Issue 8

## Celebrating The Season



“I would try to teach the children [and] make them know that ... those agonies by which they are surrounded are a criminal conspiracy to destroy them. JAMES BALDWIN”

# Age Group News In And Around Lotus Academy

## “April” Madness Grips Marunas And Ma-

The atmosphere surrounding Shana IIIA is science, science, and more science. These Science Explorers are discovering all about water. So far, they have discovered that water takes the shape of its container. They have also learned which objects will float or will sink. This week, Shana IIIA will be making bubbles from ordinary dishwashing liquid. They are still discovering as this article goes to press. Feel free to stop by the class and see the project in progress.

In April, Shaish IA and IB are looking forward to many events. They visited the Academy of Natural Sciences in March with the Shaish II class. They learned about dinosaurs and the people from the Amazon river region. They also took part in the clothing and money drive to benefit our brothers and sisters in Mozambique who suffered from the flooding in their country. For the Lotus Academy Science Expo, Shaish IA will do a class project on water pollution. Shaish IB will do a group project that deals with the solar system. They are using their “Ujima” to create the project collectively. Shaish IA and IB will also have frequent excursions to the Northwest Regional Library during April and the rest of the year.

What has four legs, eats plants, and is eighty feet tall? Well, if you do not know, just ask any student in Shaish I and Shaish II. All three classes took a trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences on March 20th. The trip came shortly after Shaish II finished their science work on dinosaurs. Their final “test” was to show the professionals at the museum how much Shaish II knew about dinosaurs.

The trip was filled with information and lessons about dinosaurs. Even better, the students were able to touch **all** parts of the dinosaur— even some things that we did

not want to touch! Ask Charlotta about that one!! The children saw videos about what may have happened to made the dinosaurs extinct. They were also able to dig for dinosaur bones themselves. Needless to say, if you have any interest at all in knowing about dinosaurs, Shaish II would highly recommend going to the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The Shavi II class recently completed its second successful trimester. They are now in full swing preparing themselves for the fifth grade and the demands of the Upper School. They have just completed an exciting project. They have been studying the geography of the earth (land and water), and used homemade clay to make models to illustrate their understanding. Stop by Shavi II and see the volcanoes, plateaus, isthmuses, rivers, bays, peninsulas, and more. **They look marvelous!** The class really enjoyed the visit from the Marunas and Mothura Malika of Shana IIIA who came to watch them work on their various projects. Hopefully, Shavi II was able to teach them something.

During the third trimester, Shavi II will be conducting a poll to see who Lotus Academy chooses as its “**Lotus Academy Century Changers**”. Do you think that theirs will be different from those chosen by Time magazine? Probably, but we will see shortly, so look for more information coming from your child(ren) soon. Can anyone spell **popcorn** or **pretzels**? Shavi II can! They are putting together a plan to sell either popcorn or pretzels this trimester. Let us know what you think!!

Basketball “fever” has taken over the Lotus Academy. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:15 to 4:30, the best female athletes in the school take the court ready to challenge any competitors—move over Chanique Holdscaw! These girls mean business. They drive, they pass, they shoot, they score. They will be playing against a variety of teams in various leagues so keep your ears to the ground to find out about their first scrimmage.

The Lotus Academy Lady Panthers also took their first team trip on Thursday, March 30th. They went to see the USA Women’s Basketball Game. The USA National team played against the national team from Hungary. The American team had many prominent WNBA stars like Lisa Leslie, Nikki McCray, and Philadelphia’s own, Dawn Staley. Stay tuned to the Lotus Lamp for more news about the Lady Panthers.

[Article by Mothura Vena]

The boys are also sharpening their basketball skills and are putting their own team together every Tuesday and Thursday after school. The help from the parents has been great, and an “Asante Sana” is in order to Aua Corinaldi, Derrick Strout, and Michael Spencer for the quality time that they are lending to the effort. These “Panthers” should be in top form in no time, and are looking forward to showing off their skills and prowess.

Parents who are interested in applying for any of the sources of financial aid for the 2000-2001 school year should get the applications from the office, and return the completed forms as soon as possible. Call if you have any questions!

## Youth Summer Jazz Program

The spring edition of the Lotus Youth Summer Jazz program is winding down. The last Saturday class will be held on May 20th. Those students who have made enough progress to begin study on a "second" instrument will begin formal lessons during the first week of June.

The grand finale for the spring will be the Jazz Recital. It will be held in the Lotus Academy auditorium at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 3rd. All of the students in the program will participate in one or more of the groups or ensembles.

The song selections for the recital will all be jazz standards from such historically renowned jazz musicians and composers as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and John Coltrane. The program director, Ray Wright, has written new arrangements for these jazz standards that allow beginning students to master them, and that work out well on the recorder. All of the students in the recital will be playing the recorder, and will have a part to learn for each song.

Registration for the Summer Jazz Camp will begin in May. There is room for twenty-five students in the program, so if you are interested in your child attending you should put in an application as soon as possible.

The Summer Jazz Camp begins on Wednesday, July 5th, and runs for six weeks until August 11th. It will meet three times each week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In addition to the instruction on the musical instruments and music theory, there will also be some math and reading review, recreational activities, and group trips.

The Summer Jazz Camp will conclude with an awards ceremony and a concert featuring all of the participants. The cost of the summer jazz camp is \$150.00 for Lotus students who are accepted into the program.

## An Evening Of Jazz, Dance And Poetry

The Jazz Journeys Foundation, headed by radio personality Earl Brown, is promoting a jazz concert on Friday, April 14th, at the Harold Prince Theater on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania (3680 Walnut Street). The Whole Life Institute is a co-promoter and sponsor of this concert.

The concert will feature the Arpeggio Jazz and Music Ensemble, an outstanding jazz group from this area that presents very enjoyable and "listenable" jazz. The group also includes the premiere vocalist, April Thorpe, a talented singer who is equally at home with "straight ahead" jazz, popular standards, or rhythm and blues influenced selections. The concert will also showcase the talents of the poet, Zinzele, and the renowned dancer, Chrisala M. Brown.

There are two shows: 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets for both shows are priced at \$20.00. Because of the involvement of the Whole Life Institute, there is a \$5.00 discount for all Lotus Academy parents and staff. If you are interested, please call the office.

## Whole Life Institute Parent Open House

The Whole Life Institute will have its final networking dinner for this school year on April 15th. The dinners and the meetings have yielded a great deal of energy and activity that has resulted in a number of very promising cultural and business opportunities that are being initiated by its members.

On Saturday, May 13th, the Whole Life Institute will be sponsoring an Open House to introduce these businesses and organizations to Lotus Academy parents and others who have expressed an interest. These businesses include internet access, website design, satellite television, and African centered publications. There will also be information about the Fortune Investment Club and how to become a part of it.

## Lotus African-Centered Educational Conference To Focus On Parenting

In May of 1999 the Lotus Academy had its first ever African Centered Educational Conference. It was held at Lotus, and was very successful in bringing together an impressive array of presenters, and attendees who were eager to learn more about subjects that are at the very core of the Lotus educational philosophy.

This year's conference will be held again at the Lotus Academy on Friday, May 19th, and Saturday, May 20th. The Friday session will begin with the Lotus Opening at 9:00 a.m., and will consist of a number of workshops, seminars, and activities. It will culminate with a dinner gathering at the end of the day. The Saturday session will also begin at 10:00 a.m., and will run until 4:00 p.m. There will be a group lunch in the middle of the day.

The theme for this year's conference will be "Parenting Skills For The Twenty First Century". We all realize that our children face a very different world than the one that we had to confront, and for which our parents prepared us. The media onslaught, information explosion, shifting values, peer pressure, and the disintegration of so many of our institutions have made parenting a very challenging experience.

The conference will have a number of workshops and speakers who will lead discussions around some of the topics that relate to successful parenting. Proposed topics include coping with the "hip-hop" culture, antidotes for peer pressure, the role of rites of passage, countering the value system propagated by the media, and instilling standards of excellence in our youth.

There is no charge for the conference, and the cost for the Friday dinner and Saturday lunch is minimal. It is open to all parents and other interested persons. We will be encouraging the Lotus parents to attend, and are quite certain that it will be a very worthwhile experience.



## The Lotus Academy Staff Person Of The Month

Mothura Cynthia is a staff person who does so much to symbolize the tireless and engaging work ethic that defines the Lotus Academy. She is a one-woman work force who can always be counted upon to do far more than her share. She is Lotus' secretary, admissions officer, and first aid specialist, just to name a few of her jobs.



Mothura Cynthia has been a Lotus parent and supporter for almost as long as there has been a Lotus Academy. Her special concern and ability to handle what would be difficult situations for someone else truly make her a very special and valuable part of the Lotus extended family.

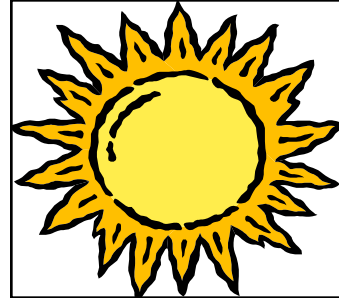
## Lotus Academy Fashion Show

This year's edition of the fashion show promises to be a real treat for all. The Lotus children have been preparing for their modeling debut, and all of the professionals are ready for a big event. It will be held at the North American Motor Inn on April 8th, starting at 11 am. Tickets are still available.



# Monthly Reminders

## Early Learning Center



- Sat, Apr 8 – Lotus Fashion Show (11 am – 4 pm)**
- Wed, Apr 26 – Lotus Academy Science Expo (7 pm)**
- Sat, May 6 – Alumni Basketball Game (2 pm)**
- Mon, May 8 – Staff Seminar (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

## Lower & Upper Schools (Grades K to 8)



- Sat, Apr 1,8,15,22,29–Youth Jazz Program (11 am)**
- Sat, Apr 8 – Lotus Fashion Show (11 am - 4 pm)**
- Wed, Apr 26 – Lotus Academy Science Expo (7 pm)**
- Sat, May 6 – Alumni Basketball Game (2 pm)**
- Mon, May 8 – Staff Seminar (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

“Afrikan-centered education is the codification or systematic expression of Afrikan people’s will to recover, recreate, and perpetuate our cultural heritage.

AGYEI AKOTO