

THE LOTUS LAMP

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Spotlight On Great Talent



The Wednesday before the Thanksgiving break is the traditional time for the Lotus students to show off their many creative talents at the annual Spotlight On Young Artists. This year was no exception as everyone enjoyed

the many offerings of Kuumba. There was dancing, singing, drumming, martial arts, and drama from Vishna down to our precious Early Learning Center students. A big congratulations to all who took part in a special day!

“The story of Black people in America is, among other things, the story of a quest for the hard rock of economic security.”
LERONE BENNETT, JR.

Vishna Practices Selflessness: African Style

In addition to a myriad of other academic activities, the Vishna Age Group is now preparing to spread the spirit of Umoja and Kuumba throughout the Lotus Academy. For the past eight weeks, Vishna has been working on a project that, in actuality, is an exercise in purring the principles that govern the Lotus Academy into real action. "Go for Self African Style", the "Five Lotus Creations", the "Seven Questions", and the Nguzo Saba are interwoven into each activity. The class has been divided into five individual groups. Each group is responsible for producing two games, one collage, and a cultural song or a rap that contains inspirational lyrics.

The goal is to offer the various Age Groups a different form of entertainment during the Pre-Kwanzaa Seasonal Celebration. On December 20th, after the food and festivities are over, the Marunis and Marunas from Vishna will circulate throughout the building to share the fruits of their collective and creative labor with the entire student body. They will instruct students on how to play the games that they have created, and share the coloring books, crossword puzzles, trivia questions, and board games with them. Each activity has been designed with an African-centered theme.

This activity has provided the Vishna Age Group with an opportunity to learn how to work together in small groups while resolving creative differences over how to reclaim our culture. Stay tuned because a cornucopia of positive entertainment is coming to a classroom near you!

Watching The Education Of The Leaders Of Tomorrow

One of the most gratifying experiences for the Lotus Academy staff is to hear of our alumni achieving academic as well as personal success upon leaving the nurturing environment of the Lotus Academy. We work tirelessly to prepare our students to meet and overcome any social, cultural, or academic challenges they may face once they leave Lotus. However, there is always an intrinsic desire to know if our preparation is adequate. We welcome the validation of a job well done when our fledglings leave the Lotus nest and attain great heights in the world of academia.

Kristopher Way, an alumnus from the class of 1998, is channeling that positive validation right back to Lotus Academy. Kristopher's outstanding achievement on the reading proficiency section on the most recent SAT-9 assessment will be celebrated in grand style. He and his family will attend a reception at Temple University in the Grand Court of Mitten Hall on Tuesday, December 5th, 2000. The program, which includes an award ceremony, is being sponsored by the School District of Philadelphia and the William Penn Cluster.

We applaud Kristopher's accomplishments and wish him continued success in all of his academic pursuits. We encourage all

of our alumni to keep us abreast of all of their accomplishments. For it is the alumni and their successes that serve as the best indicator of whether or not we are living up to our motto, "Educating the Leaders of Tomorrow".

The above article illustrates the importance of sharing positive information about the most precious commodity at Lotus—our children. The article was contributed by Mothura Cynthia, and it does represent an inspiration to those who sacrifice so much to ensure that the Lotus Academy is able to maintain the type of program that it does year after year. It should be pointed out that not only is Kristopher excelling, but he also is one of those alumni who can be counted on to help out at his former school and give something back to the present student body. We should all be very proud of him.

The Lotus Academy website that is being constructed will be a major component of our attempts to keep track of our many distinguished alumni and alumnae. We encourage all of our parents, staff, and supporters to submit information about those Lotus students who have moved on to even greater success and achievement. It would also be helpful if we could get current pictures of those who we will be recognizing.

Parents are encouraged to check to make certain that they have fulfilled their commitments to the Parent Partnership Program before the end of this trimester. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Parent Participation Power

All of us at the Lotus Academy would like to thank the parents this year for their contributions to and participation in the many activities and events that have taken place this school year. We certainly realize that with our busy schedules, it is not always easy to fit everything in that we want to be involved with.

This year has seen a dramatic increase in the number of parents who are working in or assisting in the various classrooms. It has also been refreshing to see so many "new" faces in the office to add a little extra energy and enthusiasm. This is the essence of the Parent Partnership Program at work.

It is also a real boost for Lotus to see so many more parents coming out to the special events. There was, for example, a Parent Seminar that was conducted by Dr. Paul Bodhise, on November 29th, that was very well attended. It was very obvious that not only did the parents come out, but that they were able to acquire some knowledge about the role of health and nutrition in the successful rearing and education of our young people.

We look forward to this renewed drive by our parents to make Lotus the partnership of adults that it has to be in order to continue its vital mission of educating by setting an example for our children of working together for the greater good. With your help, we are assured of achieving success.

Fortune Juniors' Investment Club

The Lotus Academy Fortune Juniors' Investment Club just keeps rolling along. Their investment "bank" now numbers in the hundreds of dollars, and they are now studying various major corporations to decide upon their first actual investment. The Club has revealed how many of our students have a real aptitude for finance and commerce. Many of them have expressed an interest in becoming entrepreneurs and professional investors as career choices.

On Thursday, January 18th, the Club will be the special guests of the New York Stock Exchange in New York City. The entire Club will be traveling to New York on that day to observe the workings of Wall Street. It should be an invaluable experience for our young people, many of whom could be the next "titans of finance" if they choose to pursue those goals.

Special Seasonal Events This Month

This is certainly the season to be culturally "jolly" as we have a number of excellent events that are scheduled. C.L.A.S. will be presenting its annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration on Saturday, December 16th at 12:00 noon. It is a fabulous event that your entire family should plan to attend.

In addition, there is the Seasonal Celebration on Wednesday, December 20th at 10:30 a.m., that will also afford everyone a chance to be entertained and to socialize.

Lotus Teams Up With Tekhen

The information technology company that is designing and constructing the Lotus Academy website is Tekhen Enterprises, Ltd. This company will also be working with Lotus on a potentially lucrative fund raising venture. Starting in January, the Lotus Academy (in conjunction with the Tekhen company) will be selling Internet access.

The Internet access will be either "dial-up" or the emerging "DSL", and will be of the highest quality, customer service, and technical support. This partnership with Tekhen Enterprises will allow Lotus to make money by selling that most vital commodity to our people: access to the World Wide Web and all the vast universe of information, entertainment, and communication that goes with it.

In addition to the Internet access, all subscribers will be able to construct their own personal, family, or business websites at no additional cost. The idea is to not only participate in the consumption of information on the Internet, but to also be a part of producing "news" that is important to us because it is created by us.

Someone from Lotus will no doubt be contacting you next month about becoming a Tekhen Internet customer. They will explain the service to you, as well as the tremendous benefit to Lotus if you should become a customer. Extensive information about the company and the foundation that is supported by it will be available on the Tekhen website that will be launched in January of 2001.

Lotus French Teacher Brings Knowledge, Enthusiasm And African Culture To The Classroom



The language department of the Lotus Academy boasts two very fine instructors. This week we will be featuring our French teacher, Mamadou Sow [above] who is in his first year at Lotus. We are fortunate to have a person of his experience and expertise, as well as someone who works so well with children.

Mothuri Mamadou is one of the prestigious Fulbright Scholars who also has a Master's degree in Foreign Language Education from Senegal, West Africa. He is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of African-American Studies at Temple University. Along with his duties at the Lotus Academy, he teaches Wolof in the African Language Program at the University of Pennsylvania. He is extremely fluent in five languages: Fulani, Wolof, Pulaar, French, and English.

The choice of French as the primary foreign language at Lotus is a very deliberate one. As many of you are aware, it is one of the most prevalent languages spoken on the African continent. In addition, it is still considered by many to be the "diplomatic" language of choice for international discourse. In any case, we know our students are in good hands with Mothuri Mamadou.

Plans Underway For Lotus' Second Trip To Ghana In The Summer Of 2001

The Lotus-sponsored trip to Ghana for this summer is moving ahead and details are being worked out. We will be leaving from Washington, DC for Accra on July 29th and will return on August 8th. The trip will coincide with the Panafest and Independence Day celebrations. There is still room for anyone who is interested in an unforgettable experience. If you need more information, call the office or plan to attend our next meeting.



Young man using natural "machinery" to weave beautiful, authentic Kente cloth in the village of Bonwire.

"There is one sin above all that slavery committed against me which I will never forgive. It robbed me of my education." ANONYMOUS EX-SLAVE