

THE LOTUS LAMP

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Vishna Girls In Science



Over the past few weeks, the Vishna Age-Group has been learning about diet and nutrition. To enhance what they have been studying in the textbooks, the class conducted an experiment to determine the starch content of various foods. This activity allowed the students to employ several of the science processes such as observation, measurement, analyzing, recording, and interpreting data, to name a few.

The Vishna Marunas at the left take the lesson one step further by learning how to prepare a weight/volume % solution of starch and water to be used as a control during the experiment.

The students will complete the chapter by compiling a nutritional analysis chart. For ten days the students will carefully monitor and record their daily intake of foods to determine whether or not they are supplying their bodies with the necessary nutrients that are essential for optimum health and performance.

In the next issue of the *Lotus Lamp*, the Marunis of Vishna will showcase their work in a science class that is indicative of the quality of study and analysis that is preparing our children to be the “leaders of tomorrow”.

“CLUBBING” AT LOTUS!

The Lotus Academy has seen an increase in the number of after-school activities that our students have been involved in. In addition to the Youth Jazz Band that meets on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning, there is now also an African Drum Club that meets on Saturday morning.

The Fortune Juniors Investment

Club is going strong, just having returned from New York City for its visit to the New York Stock Exchange. If that is not enough, Mothura Marcia has organized a Lotus Academy Chess Club that meets on Tuesday afternoon. All of the club members are polishing up their game as they prepare for serious tournament play.

“The one thing that oppression does to a people is to kill in them the mind and the will to assume responsibility.”

JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

Kuumba In Effect

The Vishna class is now studying classical mythology as a part of the Literature curriculum. For homework, the students were given an assignment where they were told to create a myth. Norman McCall was one of the first students to complete the assignment, and produced an excellent work. He enthusiastically shared it with the class. Maruni Norman entitled his myth, "The Origin Of The Lotus Academy".

Loto, the great, ancient god, loved his people, his culture, and history. Daily, he lived by African-centered values. He showed respect for everyone whether they were gods like him, or mortals who lived on the great continents of Africa. Loto, along with the other gods lived in a giant hut atop Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Loto was a stately man who was quick thinking and very intelligent. His specialty was the study, development, and implementation of value systems that focused on history and culture. Loto was a very kind man who was always willing to share. And because he was a great thinker, he constantly tried to come up with ways to impart his wealth of knowledge to those around him.

After pondering his dilemma for many days, he came up with what he thought was a great solution. Loto decided that he would create a building in which knowledge could be spread. Loto called these buildings "schools". He wanted these schools to be attended by as many people as possible. Feeling quite proud of his invention, he decided to travel around to the hundreds and thousands of schools that filled his kingdom.

Day in and day out, Loto visited schools, watching people learn many new and fascinating things. One morning, Loto felt that he was going to have a wonderful day. He prepared for his travels just as he did every day. He traveled to a very special school that morning. He saw students dressed in cultural uniforms, eating healthy foods, learning about their history and culture. Most importantly, he saw them showing kindness and respect to everyone they came in contact with.

He said, "Schools are wonderful institutions, and I am always glad to visit them. But today, I have found a school that surpasses all the other schools. This school is so special, I will name it after me." And sure enough, he called that school "The Lotus Academy".

February Is Oratorical Contest Month

Everyone at Lotus is gearing up for the event that does more than anything to illustrate our children's tremendous talent and poise. Of course, we are talking about the annual Oratorical Contest that has become a symbol of what the Lotus Academy stands for.

This year's preliminary competition will be held at the school on Wednesday, February 14th (Lower School) and Thursday, February 15th (Upper School). Parents are encouraged to attend on either or both days.

The Oratorical Contest finals will be held on Sunday, February 25th at 1:00 p.m. in the beautiful auditorium in the Grover Washington Middle School at 2nd Street and Olney Avenue. This is an event that you do not want to miss. This is the *twentieth* year that Lotus has presented this event, and we look forward to all of the children making all of us adults very proud of them all.

Computer Science Classes Take Off

The start of the second trimester saw the Computer Science classes firmly under the direction of Dr. Zizwe Poe. He is the coordinator of all of the classes, and is personally teaching all of the Upper School students. He is also working with the Kindergarten and Lower School teachers to train them to effectively teach their students the foundation of the computer science curriculum.

Dr. Poe received his P.H.D. in African Studies last year from Temple University, and has been involved in teaching and education for a number of years. In addition, he is the Website Developer for a newly emerging information technology company, Tekhen Enterprises, Ltd., and has a wealth of practical experience with both computers and the Internet.

Lotus is fortunate to have someone of his caliber to head up the program, and we want to extend a warm welcome to him from our entire "extended family".

"In fact, the history of a people is the survival and development record of that people."

HAKI R. MADHUBUTI