

THE LOTUS LAMP

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Martin Luther King In-Service Day



"The name that a people call themselves must provide them with an understanding of their history by connecting them to a land mass, a language, a culture, a religion, a philosophy." DR. ANTHONY T. BROWDER

In-Service Day

The first of many annual In-Service Days to be held at the Lotus Academy on Martin Luther King's birthday was an unqualified success. Parents came out bright and early, and gave up a substantial portion of their day off in order to work alongside other parents and Lotus staff to clean, repair, and just generally beautify the building. Even more impressive than the considerable work that was done was the spirit and energy that was generated by all those in attendance.

We would like to extend our thanks to all of the thirty-three adults (and twenty-three children!) who made the event such a success. Of course, we want to say a special "thank you" to Pam Moss for developing and organizing the whole concept.

The day began at 7:45 a.m. with some words of encouragement from Mothura Hikmah Gardiner, the president of the Lotus Academy Advisory Council. She spoke on the values of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the significance of the day that has been set aside for his memory. The day ended with a welcome and wonderful lunch, as well as a raffle that featured a night of entertainment with Blockbuster gift cards.

A group of the parent volunteers assessed the future needs of the building, and it was decided that the Parent Partnership Program would develop a series of weekend projects. Stay tuned, because we will be reaching out to all of our parents to show how much difference our "village" can make in our children's lives and surroundings.

Advisory Council

The next meeting of the Lotus Academy Advisory Council is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19th, at 6:30 p.m. All of our parents are invited to participate in a group that is helping to shape the future of education at Lotus.

The two major activities that are underway, and that were the major topics at the January meeting, are fundraising and the special events that are scheduled for the rest of the school year. Watch the Lotus Lamp for more information about the Fashion Show, Science Expo, and the Awards Banquet!

Freedom is not free. Freedom is something that you take with your own hands. Each generation must assume the responsibility of securing their manhood, their womanhood, and the definition of their being on earth that in the final analysis is nationhood.

JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

Oratorical Contest

One of the premiere annual Lotus Academy events will be held on Sunday, February 25th, and that is, of course, the Oratorical Contest. It will be held again this year in the auditorium of the Grover Washington, Jr. Middle School at "B" Street and Olney Avenue. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m., though Lotus students are expected to arrive at 12:30 p.m.

As always, parents can be expected to be treated to a bonanza of African-centered oratory and creativity. In addition to the many categories of individual competition for both poetry and speeches, there will also be group presentations by the various age groups. The judges have all been selected, and they will have their work cut out for them as they attempt to select winners in a field of students where every one of them will be demonstrating true excellence.

This event is annually dedicated to the memory of the Honorable David P. Richardson, Jr., our former state representative and a tireless supporter of the Lotus Academy. We hope to see you (and your invited guests), and to spend a great afternoon with you on the 25th.

Admissions and Re-Admissions

It is that time of the year when the halls of Louts are often full of prospective students and parents. The recruitment drive for the 2002-2003 school year has begun. In fact, the first Open House was held on Thursday, January 31st. There were a number of interested parents, and they were treated to a slide show and a tour of the building.

Our present parents should have already submitted their re-admission forms (January 28th was the deadline). That process has begun, and you will be informed about the results this month. If you have any questions, please call the office.