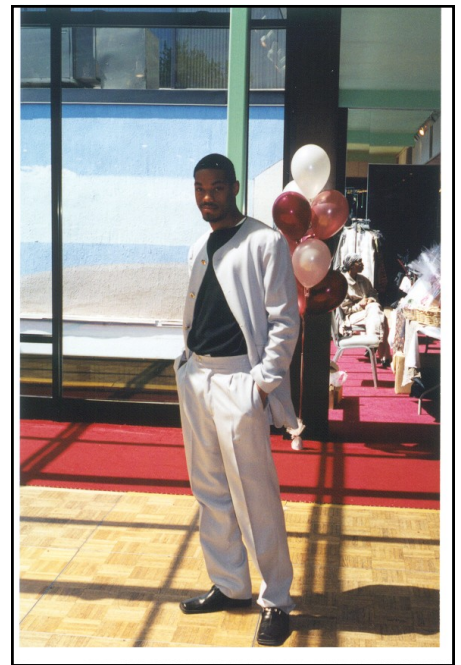


# THE LOTUS LAMP

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## Lotus Fashion Show Outdoes Itself



The third annual Lotus Academy Fashion Show was once again organized and presented to perfection by Julie Wilch, one of our many talented and dedicated parents. As usual, it was a sight to behold. All of the clothing and accessories were African-inspired and too beautiful to describe with mere words. They ran the gamut from elegant to casual, and there was a rich sampling for every occasion and for every season.

It was especially gratifying to see the three Lotus Marunas--Sinjin Wright, Tatiana Ellington, Nailah Adam--display their exquisite poise and charm as they modeled their many outfits like old "pros". Some of

the clothing selections were even matching "mother-daughter" sets which gave them a chance to walk with their older mentors.

There was a nice turnout of Lotus parents, students, and supporters. The buffet lunch was delicious, and the main ballroom was decorated as only we can. If the conversation during and after the Fashion Show was any indication, everyone had a marvelous time. Our gratitude is extended to all those who worked to make it a big success, especially Kim Horton and the Fashion Show Committee, and of course our own Mothura Cynthia.

**Without institutions, men can not see themselves or be themselves. In order to be, and in order to become, men must have institutions. LERONE BENNETT**

## **The C. L. A. S. Spring Fling**

This year's CLAS Spring Fling trip is set for Saturday, June 2, 2001. Everyone will be going to the N.Y. Aquarium, Astroland Amusement Park, and Coney Island, NY.

The cost is \$35.00 per person (non-refundable) and includes: Round trip transportation on a deluxe motor coach to and from New York; Admission to the New York Aquarium (Marine Mammal Shows); Astroland Amusement Park (Unlimited rides for adults and children); and Coney Island Beach and Boardwalk (Bring your swimming stuff and a T-shirt!)

The total payment is due by Monday, May 14th. For additional information, contact Mary Leftwich at 215-843-2165

## **Scholastic Book Fair**

The 1st Annual Scholastic Book Fair that was sponsored by CLAS was a great success. Books were donated to classroom libraries from the "Classroom Wish List" by parents and by CLAS. Many thanks to the parents who volunteered their time to help.

Thanks are also due to the students, teachers, and parents who purchased books and other items at the Fair. It was a golden opportunity to put reading at the top of our list of priorities. We are looking forward to an even bigger event next year that will be tied in to the Lotus Academy Library.

## **The Auspicious Month of April...**

**By Mothura Marcia**

April was a very fun-filled and productive month for the Vishna Age Group. The month started with the first round of our very first chess tournament. On Monday, April 2nd, the conference room was filled with anticipation as the members of the Lotus Chess Club anxiously awaited the start of the opening round of games. The tournament continued each Tuesday in April. In the end, Norman McCall was the victor, and Timothy Mack was the runner-up! Congratulations to all of the contestants for their spirited participation.

A gracious "thank you" goes out to all of the parents who supported the Vishna Age Group by allowing the students to purchase hot dogs for "Hot Dog Day". The money that was raised went towards the travel and lodging expenses that the Vishna Age Group incurred during their recent trip to Washington D.C. to attend the 25th annual C.I.B.I. National Science Exposition.

The entire trip was filled with a variety of activities. The first stop was the Penn Relays which were held at Franklin Field on the University of Pennsylvania campus. The students enjoyed seeing runners from all over the city, country, and world as they competed in one of the most prestigious track meets in the country.

We then began the trek to our real destination, Washington, D.C., for an event-filled weekend that included sight-seeing, basketball, and jump rope. Even more important, we all had a chance to meet, greet, and network with students from other African-centered schools. The students' behavior was commendable

Vishna parents should be extremely proud of their children for exhibiting the type of maturity and respectful behavior that is typical of the Lotus Academy progeny.

The students from the Vishna I Age Group took the Special Admissions Test for acceptance into one of the many "magnet" high schools throughout the city. To a large extent, the early part of April was devoted to many hours of practice and drills in numerous areas of math and reading comprehension

Lastly, many thanks should go out to all of the staff, students, teachers, and parents who helped to make this year's Science Fair one of the best that we have ever hosted. The students displayed a high degree of enthusiasm as they prepared for the rigors of the Science Exposition.

The panel of judges was truly impressed with the caliber of projects that our children produced. Many of them commented on how well the students were able to articulate the nature of their project and the basis of their extensive research. The Upper School children really displayed a high degree of Ujimaa (collective work and responsibility) as they helped to "dress" the tables and to do all of the other seemingly minor tasks that helped to make this Science Exposition a huge success.

Whatever role that you may have played—large or small—the bottom line is that Lotus distinguished itself again with a quality presentation of what it is that makes our students and our school so special. Until next time, all of us at Vishna would like to extend to you.....Asante Sana.

# Reflections Of April From Vishna Students

Julius Ingram—Vishna I

The high school test was a very good experience for me. It was basically one of the most important tests in my life. Much of my preparation for the test, hopefully, will pay off when I get my grades back come this October. This standardized testing really lingered throughout my mind in the whole month of April.

When I took the high school test on April 21st at Central High School, I was very nervous. I was nervous mainly because of the intense pressure to do well on this test. The teachers that monitored us while taking the test made the room feel like a peaceful testing environment. Much of my nervousness was offset by the fact that I felt prepared for everything on this test. My teacher really helped me prepare for this test, and also helped build up my confidence.

Camillia P. Williams—Vishna I

This was the first annual science fair that I have ever participated in. As this is my first year at the Lotus Academy, I was rather new to the whole science fair scene.

The project that I chose to complete, I came upon on my own. By looking in many books on how to choose a science fair topic, I saw the branch of behavioral science and I said to myself, "That's what I want to do." After looking in another book on the subject, I came up with a topic that fit, "The Effects of Gender Identity on Short-Term Memory".

The judge for my project thought that it was very unique and original. When he first came over to me, I was afraid of him asking me something about my project that I did not know. However, he just let me tell him about my project.

Kwame Watkins—Vishna I

Before I took the high school test, I studied very hard. Mothura Marcia tried the best she could to prepare my class and me for the test in the area of math. I tried to absorb as much of her knowledge as I could. She even gave the class tips for taking the test. I felt ready and prepared for the test, and I felt even more ready when my parents helped me to prepare for it.

During the test I was as confident as can be. I relaxed, surveyed the test, and took my time. I saw that the test was not that difficult because of my training and preparation. When I realized that I had been taking my time and I was still practically done, I got an extra boost of pride.

After the test, I was very proud of myself for keeping myself together during the test and staying confident.

Ababa Turner—Vishna II

The trip to Washington, D.C. was a wonderful trip. We attended numerous activities. On Thursday, we went to the Penn Relays. That part of the trip was very exciting because we saw some very tough races. After the Penn Relays, we were on our way to Washington. On the way, we stopped at the Maryland House. When we arrived in Washington, we checked in at the Holiday Inn. On a scale of 1-10, I rate this hotel a "7".

On Friday morning we got up to go to the CIBI Science Fair. The judges there were focusing on how your science project related to the Nguzu Saba.

On Saturday, we arrived at the Awards Banquet at noon. The theme was "Yong African Minds Applying Science and Technology for African Independence". I had a wonderful time, and I would like to thank Mothura Marcia and Mr. Smith.

Jerome Hill—Vishna II

On April 26th, part of the Vishna Age Group took a trip to the Penn Relays and Washington, D.C. At the relays, we witnessed college and high school females run 400 meters in less than one minute! You could see the rewards for these athletes' hard work and long training.

The best part of the trip was still a few hours away, and it was worth the wait. When we arrived in Washington, we were anxious to see the other C.I.B.I. schools the following day. We met those students, and we talked about our science fair projects. We also played them in a game of basketball at Banneker playground, across the street from Howard University.

Overall, the trip proved to be as fun as it was educational. We were able to communicate with people from all over the U.S., and see some historical places. I would like to thank everyone who supported us so that we could make this trip.

Dawit Turner—Vishna II

The annual Lotus science fair was held on April 25th. Everyone was excited about getting their science boards ready to be judged. The talk of the school was all science.

Learning different things about science and how it relates to Africans was also stimulating. We were judged according to the ideas of famous scientists such as Imhotep, George Washington Carver, Louis Latimer, and Mae Jemison. The judges were very good and asked a lot of questions that were African-centered.

The science fair turned out to be a great success and a big achievement. I know that everyone learned something from each of the projects.

## Lotus Educational Conference!

On Saturday, May 19th, the third annual African-centered Educational Conference will be held at the Lotus Academy from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. This year's event is devoted to educating our present as well as our prospective parents about the future of "Afrocentric" learning and the dynamic plans that Lotus has in place to be at the forefront of this most important movement.

There will be speakers and workshops that will be designed to share as much information as possible about our mission in educating your children. In addition, there will be an "open house" for all parents to

see how Lotus plans to make the computer and the Internet a central part of its program and curriculum. We will be demonstrating all of the equipment that has recently been installed in the computer lab and all of the classrooms.

There will also be information about the Lotus language and exchange program. Parents will be able to ask questions about next year's class schedules and content, and why they are set up as they are to reflect our African-centered view of academics and character development. A description of the after school activities will also be offered.

Every effort will be made to get at least one parent from every household to attend the Conference. That day just happens to be the birthday of Malcolm X, and there will be a special commemoration to him to close out the conference.

There is no charge for the event, and we will provide separate activities for the children in the event that parents must bring them along. There will be vendors who will be selling food, books, and cultural items on that day. We ask that you mark this on your calendar as an event that you do not want to miss. Call the office if you have questions.

## Lotus Academy Board of Advisors



**Hikmah Gardiner will be 1st President**

The Board of Advisors will be working alongside the Lotus administration and other groups that have aided the school. The first set of officers has been designated, and Hikmah Gardiner ([above](#)) will be the president of the Board. She has been a supportive parent for a number of years, and is a mother of four, grandmother of ten, and great-grandmother of ten. She has worked in the human services arena for fifty years. She has done public speaking at local, regional, national, and international levels on television and radio. Though recently retired, Mrs. Gardiner still looks forward to serving the community.

An important new development at the Lotus Academy next year will be the creation of a Board of Advisors. This board was commissioned by the Lotus Board of Directors to take on some vital tasks.

The Board is also working to appoint Pam Moss as its vice-president, Tarez Alston as its treasurer, and Colleen Bynum as its secretary. They are all Lotus parents who have worked hard to make Lotus a special place.

The Board is authorized to set up seven committees that will be involved with very specific areas of work and responsibility: Academic Curriculum, Information Technology, Teaching Staff, Parent Partnership, Marketing/Communication, Grants/Donations, and Physical Plant. Some of the committee chairpersons, such as Richard Isaac for Marketing/Communication, have already been designated.

The Board will consist of parent and teacher representatives from the Early Learning Center, Lower School, and Upper School. It will meet once a month, and all of its meetings will be open to any interested Lotus parent, staff member, or alumnus. One of the new Board's first projects will be co-sponsoring the African-Centered Educational Conference that is described above. The Lotus Lamp and the Lotus web site will be used to keep everyone informed about these exciting developments.

Do not have evildoers for friends, do not have blameworthy people for friends, have for friends the best of men. BUDDHA