

THE LOTUS LAMP

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Colorful Celebration !!



“Part of our total revolution in the world is the revolt against other people’s classification of us.”
JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

Fourth Annual African Centered Educational Conference

The Lotus Academy will be hosting its fourth annual African-centered Educational Conference. The event is sponsored by the Whole Life Institute, and is intended to provide a forum for educators, administrators, parents, and supporters to obtain information about African-centered education and its implementation in the various institutions around the country.

The conference will take place over two days: Friday, May 17th and on Saturday, May 18th. The hours for both days are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In order to accommodate the event, Friday is a day of noon dismissal at Lotus. There is no charge for any of the workshops or other activities, and lunch can be purchased on both days for a very moderate price.

The theme for this year's conference is "Building Bridges: Fostering A Community of African-Centered Educators". The objective is to put systems into place that will allow all of those who are involved in African centered education to communicate with each other, share resources, and develop a network that will allow everyone to benefit from the many experiences of others.

Any interested person is welcome to attend the conference on either day, though the Friday session will be focused more on issues that are of interest to educators and administrators. The Saturday session will be directed more towards parents and community people, and will also feature the commemoration of the birthday of Malcolm X.

The Lotus Academy exists for one reason only, and that is because there are people who are dedicated to the notion that our children become better students and healthier adults if they are exposed to learning in a system and setting that reflects their own culture and identity. This mission and message is at the core of Lotus' academic, character development, and cultural program.

We think that it is vital that we take time to discuss these issues with others who are trying to promote it in their own way, and to learn from their example. The conference is our way of bringing people together for that express purpose.

Friday will begin with a special Opening with all of the Lotus staff and students (along with our guests). It will continue with classroom demonstrations, workshops, and a networking reception. Speakers will be used to explain the goals of the conference and to put it all into a real perspective.

We will start Saturday with workshops in the morning, and it will continue with student presentations, movies, and a panel discussion about the issues that have been raised. There will be special activities that will be devoted to the legacy of Malcolm X whose birthday is actually May ?? We look forward to our parents attending this important event. Call the office for details.

Awards Banquet

The 15th edition of the Educational Achievement Awards Banquet is already shaping up to be one of our most memorable. The banquet has always been the evening where we honor the best of our teachers, parents, graduates, and supporters for the hard and creative work that they have done to make the year so successful. It is also a time to bring those who were previously a part of the Lotus extended family back together to share memories.

This year will be no exception. In addition, there is a special effort underway to reach out to all of the alumni that we can, their parents, and our former staff and supporters. The whole event is being billed as a "homecoming" of sorts, and should be quite an experience for all.

The banquet will take place on Thursday, May 23rd, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the First District Plaza, 3801 Market Street. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Howard Fuller, the founder and chairman of the board for the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO). His organization is at the forefront of promoting vouchers, charter schools, and other alternatives to our public school systems.

Tickets are \$35 (parents have already paid for one). It should be an evening to remember. See you there!

The Caribbean Raffle is going very well. Please do your part to make sure we reach our fundraising goal for this school year!!

Computer Science Program Update

The computer science program at Lotus continues to be one of its most successful aspects. As the photos on the back page illustrate, our program begins with our Shana and Shaish students, and builds upon the knowledge they acquire as they move on and up to the Vishna age-group.

In fact, plans have already been completed (and the funds have been secured) to put in a computer lab at the Early Learning Center for our three and four-year olds. Of course, the foundation of our program there will continue to be developmental and social growth, but there will be some time spent making sure that they at least become familiar with the notion of computing.

The computer lab in the main building was recently upgraded. All of the computers there had considerably more memory installed so that they would be able to handle some of the new programs that are much more demanding than those that we started the program with. Mothura Evelyn's computer was also upgraded and more tightly upgraded into the network.

The computer lab has also been re-equipped with a program called "Net Ops Ed" that allows Mothura Evelyn to monitor, control, and direct all of the students' computers from her central station. She can see what every student has on their monitor as they work on a project or surf the Internet. She can also decide what every student will be working on by having her work appear on each student's monitor.

The staff is also a part of this ever-expanding information technology revolution. In addition to every classroom having its own computer and high speed Internet connection, several of the staff have recently purchased new computers, and are extending their education about them outside of Lotus.

All of the Lotus teaching and administrative staff now have e-mail addresses that end with @lotusacademy.org, as we all prepare to make much more extensive use of e-mail for our various internal communications. Because e-mail is instantaneous (and also paperless), it is a much more efficient way to exchange vital information.

There are several more classes that are planned for this trimester, and we will be repeating some of those that were conducted last year (the three most popular ones were "Computer Fundamentals", "E-Mail And Its Many Uses", and "Surfing And Searching The World Wide Web". New classes that are being organized include "Digital Photography And Video", "PowerPoint", and "HTML: The Language Of The World Wide Web".

We are still pursuing our goal of every parent being able to be connected to Lotus through a home computer (and the Internet) by the 2002-2003 school year. Watch the *Lotus Lamp* for more details as to how that program will be put into operation.

Lotus Science Expo CIBI Science Fair

All eyes will be on the many Lotus young scientists on Wednesday, April 24th. That is the day when the Science Expo will be held in the auditorium, and all of us will be treated to a very impressive display of science put to good use. There will be individual projects from the Upper School, and group projects from the Lower School and Kindergarten.

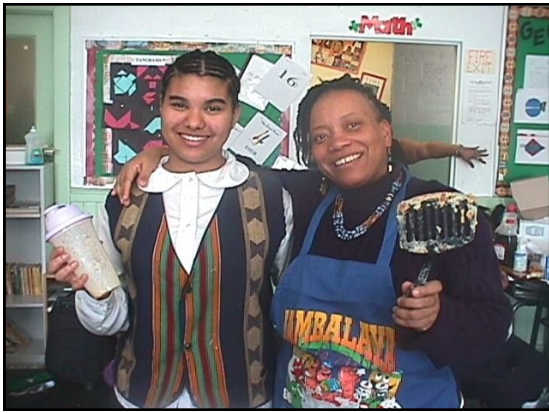
The Science Expo begins at 7:00 pm, and all of our parents are encouraged to come out and support the children. The national CIBI Science Fair will be held in St. Louis at the end of April, and several lucky Lotus students will travel there with Mothura Marcia.

Lotus Academy Advisory Council

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th at 6:00 p.m. All of the five committees (Grants & Donations, CLAS, Information Technology, Marketing & Communications, and Parent Partnership) have been working very hard to involve our parents and supporters in activities that will benefit the Lotus Academy.

One of our major efforts will be to provide a steady stream of news and information to parents about upcoming events, school policy, and our efforts to upgrade our overall program. All parents (and supporters) are invited to attend our public meetings and become a part of the advisory council. There is still much to do, and your assistance could mean the difference between success and

Lotus' Slammin' Pancake Jam Fund Raiser



Computer Science Lab Building Young Minds



One of the great successes of the computer science program at Lotus has been the degree to which it has been able to involve our very youngest students in the world of information technology. As the photos make clear, these youngsters take their learning in the computer lab quite seriously. The foundation that is being laid with them should allow them to steadily grow in their confidence and skills so that they can go on to do whatever they choose to do.



“The superior man is dignified, but not proud; the inferior man is proud, but not dignified.”
CONFUCIUS