

THE LOTUS LAMP

October 29, 2001

Volume 5, Issue 3

Building Minds, Shaping Visions



The above students are involved in one of the many learning activities that characterize the advanced science program at the Lotus Academy. It is an approach

that is designed to involve them and give them a real opportunity to think. Read the article on the following page to discover how we go about "building minds".

Only after having peaceful repose can one begin to think. Only after one has learned to think, can one achieve knowledge. CONFUCIUS

Building Minds, Shaping Visions

The students at Lotus Academy are being guided to develop a "hands-on" approach to understanding the world around them. In the process they are learning to use some very important skills such as, following directions, observing, synthesizing, communicating, and making models. These skills are also referred to as the science processes. The children are being thought that a scientist uses these skills just as carpenter uses his or her tools. Once mastered, the students will be able to vigorously pursue any area of science that they might choose.

There are several investigations taking place throughout the Upper and Lower Schools during each of their science classes. Some of these projects include making a physical models of bridges to better understand their structure and function, to understanding how and why leaves change color during autumn, understanding the process of photosynthesis used by green plants, using modeling dough to create replicas of dinosaurs, classifying living things, and understanding that making observations requires using all of the five senses.

Parents are encouraged to inquire about the inner workings of the science curriculum at Lotus in order to assist us in the process of teaching our children not only the elements of science, but also the process of thinking that will allow them to become the innovators of the future. Much of this foundation work will develop into the science projects that will be on display at the Lotus Science Expo this spring.

A Poem : Voice Of Nana Yaa Asantewaa II

Nana Yaa Asantewaa!
Deified Ptah!
The eye of Ra!

These are the ancestors who intercede when I am in need.

You see my passion is to uplift my people, sometimes
I get frustrated and little feeble.

Yet, I continue to fight the fight to make things right.
AFRICA MUST UNITE!

Alice Grant is my maternal grandmother,
From her death in '84 I'll never recover.

Currently, I live life without a husband, friend, or lover.
Yet even when I do,

In NO ONE's shadow do I hide under.

For my baby, little Trez, the leveler of my head.

Depends on Mama to rescue the history Europe stole under their rule.
That's *why* school *IS* cool and Africans, please do not continue to duel.

Instead learn to utilize academic tools.

Once again, yeah I speak the word that you have heard
To motivate my Clan!

To give my daughter a better life span!

Oh yes! And in the end, to take my people back home to the Motherland!

Written by Nana Yaa Asantewaa II

a/k/a Erika Wootson

Lotus Computer & Investment Club

For the 2001-2002 school year, the Lotus Academy will be offering a free after-school activity. It will be a combination of the Junior Investment Club from last year, and a new club for those Upper School students who want to work together on computer and Internet projects.

Almost all of the investment study and activity will take place over the Internet, and there will be group assignments that will require extensive computer use.

The first meeting of this club will be on Thursday, November 8th, at 3:15 p.m. Please call the office for details.

Lotus Academy Chess Club

After an extended summer (and fall!) break, the Chess Club will be back in operation at Lotus Academy on Tuesday, November 6th. It will meet each week at 3:15 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The club is open to all Shavi, Shava, and Vishna students.

There is no charge for this after-school activity, though everyone will have to purchase an (inexpensive) chess set. There will be instruction for those who do not yet know how to play. All players will be ranked so that the children will be competing against those who are on their level.

If your child is interested, call the office, as openings are limited.

Computer Classes

As promised at the General Parents Meeting, the Lotus Academy will be offering two basic classes for those parents (or other adults) who are interested in getting started with their understanding of the computer and the Internet, or extending what they already know. One class is entitled “Computer Fundamentals”, and is designed to make certain that anyone who wants to work with computers can get the foundation that they need. This is the class for you if you think that you are starting from “scratch” (or if you just want to brush up on your fundamentals). We guarantee you that it is designed for beginners who are serious about getting started and moving forward.

The second basic class is “Internet Introduction”, and it will explain away the mystery of the World Wide Web, electronic mail, and anything else that keeps you from taking advantage of this essential technology. Again, this class is organized around the needs of those who feel like they need to start from the beginning, and no one should feel that it will “be over their head”.

The first pair of classes will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7th and 14th (“Computer” the first week and “Internet” on the second week). All classes will take place in the Lotus Computer Lab so that we are assured that it will be a “hands-on” experience where you will learn by actually doing something with the information that you will be receiving. Please call to pre-register if you are interested. We must have a minimum number of participants in order to start up. There is a nominal charge for the classes (\$10.00) to cover actual costs, materials and light snack food.

Spotlight On Young Artists

The school will be putting on its 24th annual “Spotlight On Young Artists” on Wednesday, November 21st, at 12:00 noon. It is our annual tribute to the artistic talents of our student body (and staff if we can get them to participate!). It is a fun day for those who want to share their creativity — playing instruments, drumming, singing, dancing, drama, artwork— with the rest of the school. With so much of the time at Lotus being devoted to analytical tasks, it is an excellent opportunity for all of us to show off that other part of our genius.

Parents are encouraged to attend (you can even participate!) and give the performers your moral support. There is plenty of room for everyone in the auditorium, and the energy that you receive should hold you in good stead for the rest of the day.

Advisory Council

The Lotus Advisory Council is the support group of parents and other interested adults who take on tasks that allow the school to go forward by assisting the administration and teaching staff. There are now five committees where the work is done: Information Technology, Parent Participation, Marketing, Grants & Donations, and C.L.A.S. All parents are encouraged to be a part of the Advisory Council and to be active in one or more of the committees.

The next Advisory Council meeting is Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to get information about it, e-mail us at council@lotusacademy.org and we will send you the literature you need to join this dynamic Lotus team.

Afro-Caribbean Jazz Dance

For the 2001-2002 school year, our students have been learning dance and movement for Physical Development class from an up-and-coming professional dancer, Mothura Sakita Jones. Students have been taking part in exercises that include African dance movement and basic contemporary jazz dance combinations.

Students have also been developing skills in learning rhythm patterns in conjunction with using their bodies as instruments. In the process of using your body as an instrument, you can then adapt to moving to different rhythm patterns.

Mothura Sakita will be offering Afro-Caribbean Jazz Dance to interested staff, parents, and other adults. The cost for each class will be \$5.00.

Mothura Sakita has studied jazz dance at Philadanco and African dance at the legendary Freedom Theatre. In addition to her studies, she has taught Afro-Caribbean jazz dance at Temple University’s Pan-African Studies Education Program (PASCEP). She is currently attending the Musical Theatre Workshop at the Freedom Theatre, and is concentrating on acting, vocal arts, as well as dance.

Lotus Lamp Contributions

We want to remind all of our Lotus parents (and our supporters) that we welcome your participation in our newsletter. Your articles, poems, photos, or other input will give us all another look at the richness and diversity of those who are associated with Lotus. Please send in your work, and share your thoughts and feelings. It can also be e-mailed (along with your comments) to us here at lamp@lotusacademy.org

We would like to hear from you!

Yoga Masters Of Shana



On Friday, October 26, Shana students were graced with the opportunity to engage in a yoga session with Master Yirser Ra Hotep. Yirser Ra Hotep has taught yoga for over 24 years and is the founder of the Institute of Kemetic Yoga in Chicago. He has his own TV show in Chicago called "Ancient Arts For Modern Living".

Early Learning Center



The Early Learning Center had visitors a few weeks ago. This time, they were animals from a Traveling Farm. The children got a chance to see and feed twelve different farm animals. It was a day that was both educational and fun!

Monthly Reminders



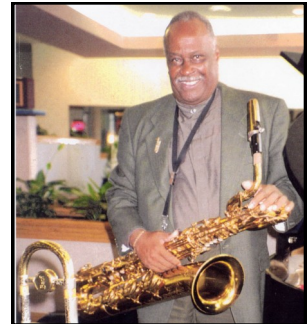
Lower & Upper Schools (Grades K to 8)

Wed, Oct 31 – Parent Seminar II - 7:00 pm
[The Media And Its Effect On Afrocentricity]

- Tue, Nov 6 – Staff Meeting - NOON DISMISSAL**
- Thu, Nov 8 - C.L.A.S. Meeting - 6:00 pm**
- Tue, Nov 20 -Advisory Council Meeting-6:30 pm**
- Wed, Nov 21 – Spotlight On Young Artists**
- Thu/Fri, Nov 22, 23 – LOTUS CLOSED**
- Wed, Nov 28 – Parent Seminar III - 7:00 pm**
[Making Peer Pressure A Positive Influence]

Lotus Youth Jazz Band

Under the direction of Rayburn Wright [right], the Lotus Academy will be launching its Youth Jazz Band at a meeting of all interested students and parents on Saturday morning, November 10th, 10:00 a.m., at the school.



All students in the jazz band will be allowed to choose a **band** instrument that they will be taught to play as they gain the skills program. It will meet to be a part of our own every Saturday morning, performing band. Please call the office if you are interested, as it will be necessary to register your child for this program. and there is no charge

Cultural identity is the first point the dominative people, or class, or nation, or individual attempts to destroy in the dominated people. PAULO FREIRE