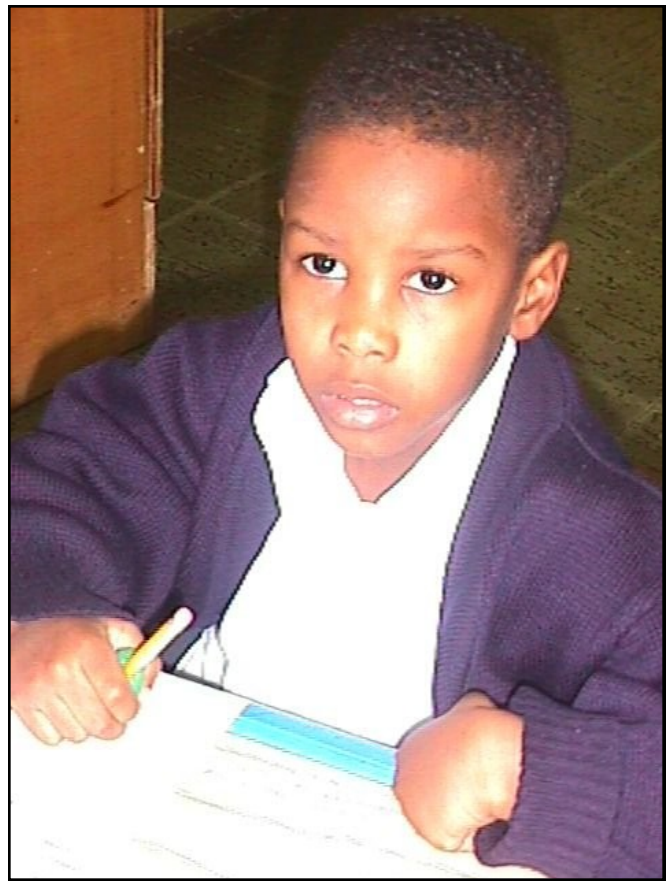
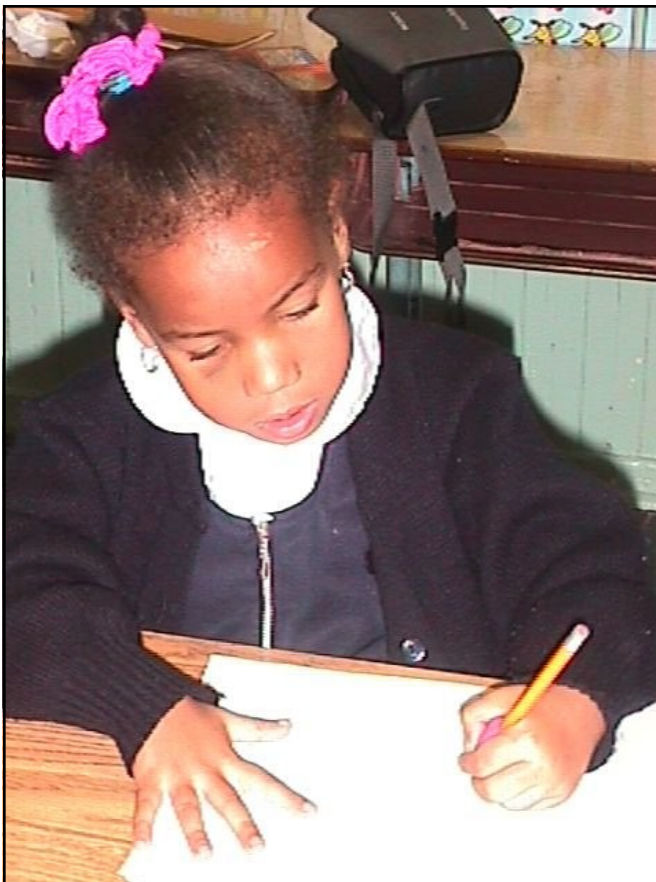


THE LOTUS LAMP

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Shana Students Pursue Perfection



It is not often that we have an opportunity to show some of our younger, but still very serious, students at work. Mothura Marcia captured Naomi Brown [above left] and Barry Bettis [above right] working very hard at mastering the fine art of penmanship. They, along with so many of our Shana (kindergarten) students are

developing the work ethic and pride in performance that is so important to being and staying on the track to academic excellence.

It is these students who will go on to continue the tradition of achievement and leadership that proudly defines what being African-centered is all about.

If you want to change a situation, you have to change the image men have of themselves and of their situation. LERONE BENNETT, JR.

Tangram Challenge

The students of Vishna I are enjoying a pleasant diversion from their textbook lessons in geometry. They are solving tangrams. They are an ancient Chinese moving piece puzzle consisting of seven geometric shapes. The roots of the word "tangram" are shrouded in obscurity, but one often given explanation of the derivation of the word is that it comes from an obsolete English word, "tamgram", meaning puzzle or trinket.

Working with tangrams allows the students to tap into several "intelligences" as they attempt to solve the puzzles. It is great for those who learn better by touching and moving objects as well as those who seem to be good at solving problems through the use of visual discrimination.

The rules are very simple. Students are given a picture of a shape (a bird, shoe, boat, etc.). They must then move each of their seven geometric shapes so that each piece is used, they do not overlap, they must touch each other, and they all must lay flat. Guided by these very intriguing set of rules, the students are challenged to recreate the picture they are given.

This is a great "brain-teaser" exercise that can be fun for some and frustrating for others. One thing is certain, and that is that it stimulates your mind to do some serious thinking. An "Inter-Age Group" Tangram Challenge is most definitely in the works. Stay tuned!

Computer Science At Lotus

The Lotus Academy Computer Science Program is moving forward with great excitement. The wanafunzi (students) are becoming computer literate. This is extremely important so that the wanafunzi begin to see and use the computer as a tool. They must see it as more than a machine to play games.

This trimester, we have covered basic computer function, vocabulary, and creating folders and files. We are now becoming comfortable with word processing using Microsoft Word. The Lower School has also learned the art of inserting graphics and manipulating images while expressing themselves using color, fonts (letter styles), animation, and size.

The Upper School has accomplished all of that and more! Internet research has been booming in the computer science lab. Vishna, in conjunction with their science curriculum, has researched, debated and constructed reports on the topic of stem cell research. Shava has blazed the social studies/history path. They have uncovered exciting information on the Olmec, Afrikans that traveled to and lived in Mexico long before "old Christopher C." got lost. Being a part of this process has been an enlightening as well as an enriching process.

The Upper School is now being introduced to the presentation program, Microsoft PowerPoint. They will make their research come alive with this program. Look for their slideshow presentations in the computer lab on the day of Parent-Teacher Conferences, December 12th.

[Article by Mothura Evelyn]

Lotus Computer Investment Club

The Lotus Computer Investment Club had its first meetings in November, and has now organized itself to master two very important skills: making money by wise investing and using the Internet and the computer to research and communicate. The Club will accept new members until the end of December, and it will then finish out the school year with those who are in good standing then.

The primary project at this time is for the members of the Club to design and program their own web site. Everyone is learning "HTML" (a programming language) so that they can take part in the project. They are also becoming familiar with the elements of economics and investment so that they will have useful information to put on the web site. All in all, it is a very worthwhile activity.

Lotus Academy Chess Club

The Chess Club is off and running. There were more than twenty students at the last meeting. Many of our Shavi students have gotten the "chess bug" and are eager to learn or to improve their skills. The competition is fierce, but well mannered, as everyone prepares for the in-school tournaments now and the matches against other schools later.

The Chess Club thanks C.L.A.S. in general, and Mary Leftwich in particular, for the chess sets they bought and donated. It meant that the Club had enough boards and pieces for all of the new members who joined us in the last few weeks.

Re-Admission For Next School Year

The beginning of the second trimester also marks the beginning of the re-admission process for our present students, and the recruitment of new students. This is an exciting time for Lotus as we attempt to expand our student body while we take steps to improve our program for those students who presently are a part of our extended family. The admissions process is especially challenging in today's educational environment where there are so many free or less expensive alternatives, and many schools that do not require testing or any significant screening.

The Lotus Academy is committed to maintaining the academic standards that have allowed it to flourish for the last twenty-seven years. That will mean attracting the best applicants that we can, and establishing a method whereby we can evaluate all those who do apply to make certain that they and Lotus are a good fit.

The re-admissions process is the most important part of our recruitment effort. It is the means by which we ensure that we maintain those students who are already a part of Lotus, and build upon the foundation that they have acquired in setting high academic standards and making their culture a part of their life.

There will be one class for each grade, and the seventh and eighth grades will have separate home-rooms. We sincerely hope that all of our present Lotus students will be back with us next year (with the exception of the eighth grade graduates!). Please review the enclosed re-admission material, and pay close attention to the various deadlines.

Tekhen Offers Computer Help

Tekhen Enterprises is a Black-owned company that specializes in information technology solutions for institutions and small businesses. It also oversees the Tekhen Foundation, a non-profit entity that is dedicated to making computer and Internet services available in our community,

Tekhen will be collaborating with the Lotus Academy, beginning in January, to sell computers, Internet access, and web site services to our parents and supporters. The school will be able to make this a fund-raising operation, because Tekhen has agreed to divert a major portion of the profits from this directly to Lotus. The proceeds from this drive will be used to fund and upgrade the computer laboratory. You will be contacted in the next few weeks about participating in this program.

Advisory Council

The next meeting of the Lotus Academy Advisory Council is set for Thursday, December 13th, at 6:30 p.m. In addition to our regular agenda, it will be an opportunity for the Council members to meet our Board of Directors who will be meeting on that same evening in the Lotus conference room.

Parents are still encouraged to become a part of the Advisory Council as there is a lot of very valuable work that is being done. There are now five standing committees (Grants & Donations, Information Technology, Marketing, C.L.A.S., and Parent Partnership) that anyone can become a part of so that you can make your contribution in the area that you feel most com-

Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration

It is that time of the year when the Concerned Lotus Academy Supporters (C.L.A.S.) presents the annual Pre-Kwanzaa celebration at the school. The event will be held this year on Saturday, December 15th, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

There will be lots and lots of food, fun, children, entertainment, vendors, and activities for the whole family. It is hard to imagine a better way to spend a Saturday afternoon, and to bring in the Kwanzaa season.

The cost of the event is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for senior citizens and non-Lotus children, and only \$1.00 for any Lotus Academy child. At those prices, you should bring your neighbors and friends with you! There will be a number of craft, book, and cultural artifact vendors who will give you an opportunity to get a head start on your holiday shopping at prices that are sure to get your attention.

If you have any questions about this event, please call the office.

Lotus Lamp Contributions

We want to remind all of our Lotus parents (and our supporters) again 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 a part of the Lotus family. 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!

A Lotus Teacher Returns



Mothura Stephanie Williams was one of Lotus’ best teachers when she left to relocate in Washington, D.C. a few years ago. She is now back in our area (having also traveled to Israel to teach) and will be our Shavi II teacher for what we hope is a long while. She is a graduate of Fisk University in English, and has done post-graduate work in Education and Mathematics.

Monthly Reminders



Lower & Upper Schools (Grades K to 8)

- Wed, Dec 5 – Staff Meeting - NOON DISMISSAL
- Wed, Dec 12-PT Conference-NOON DISMISSAL
- Thu, Dec 13- Bd. of Directors Meeting- 5:30 pm
- Thu, Dec 13 - C.L.A.S. Meeting - 6:00 pm
- Thu, Dec 13-Advisory Council Meeting-6:30 pm
- Fri, Dec 21 - Seasonal Celebration - 10:30 am
- December 24 to January 2 – LOTUS CLOSED
- Thu, Jan 3-First Day of 2nd Trimester- 8:15 am

Parent Partnership Program Energizes Lotus



Parents are doing their best to make the work around Lotus a “family affair”. Sonya Jarmon [above left] and Antianette Thompson [above right] are shown helping out at the school during lunch time.

All parents **must** complete their minimum of 8 hours by December 14th in order to avoid charges to their bills in January. Also, your Feedback Survey is needed so that we can better evaluate the program.

When you see a good man, try to emulate his example; and when you see a bad man, search yourself for his faults. CONFUCIUS