

THE LOTUS LAMP

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Lotus Fashion Statement



The 5th annual Lotus Fashion Show had a packed house young and old strutted their stuff to soulful sounds and to take in the sights and sounds of elegance and beauty as appreciative eyes and ears. It was a delightful afternoon.

Our history must teach liberating concepts and call values into question. That is why the history is so important.

HAKI R. MADHUBUTI

“It’s A Spring Affair” Fashion Extravaganza

Once again, we repeat our spring ritual and extend our gratitude to one of our most supportive parents, Julie Wilch, who did her usual fabulous job of organizing and presenting our 5th annual Fashion Show. You really had to be there to appreciate the splendor and grace of true exquisite African style.

This is a very unique event with its strong emphasis on cultural fashion blended in with some stunning traditional clothing and accessories. One can not help but notice that much thought has gone into ensuring that there is a mix of models who cover the whole spectrum.

In addition, Lotus was well represented with a whole collection of students who showed another side of their versatility. All of us were very proud of the showing that Romaine Hill, Diamonique Derry-Harris, Drayton Ayers, Kashif Smith, and Kareem Tookes made as they more than held up their end.

The buffet lunch featured a variety of dishes that were both delicious and plentiful. If that were not enough, the audience was treated to the very young Lotus students who make up the Vianga Dance Ensemble who were ably led by our very own Mothura Afriye.

We are already looking forward to next year’s edition of a fashion show that continues to impress us with its stunning clothing and beautiful models. See you next April!

Lotus Academy Science Expo

The planning and preparation for the annual exposition of scientific knowledge and application is now into its final stages. The students are finishing their research, and they have now started to bring their projects to the stage where they are ready for display.

All Lotus parents are encouraged to help us make these science projects high priorities for all of the students. All individual and class projects will be shown and judged at the Science Expo. It will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd, in the school auditorium. Judging will be done during the school day, and all parents and the public are invited to see this quality scientific work at 7:00 p.m. on that date. Mark this on your calendar and support our “young scientists in the making”.

Lotus Academy Advisory Council

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will take place on Tuesday, April 22nd. As always, we invite *all* of our parents to come out and share your ideas and enthusiasm with us. There are a number of projects that are underway, and they can benefit from some fresh input and energy. The Lotus Advisory Council is one of the reasons that our school works, as it allows us to be the group that talks about solutions and not just one of many who can point out problems. Join in with those who are going the “extra mile” for our children.

Lotus Parent Partnership

The school year has gone by so quickly that it is hard to believe we are in the beginning of the third trimester. However, the opportunities are still there to fulfill your required Parent Partnership hours.

Some of the opportunities are—

1. Raffle tickets volunteers are needed to bundle and distribute Raffle tickets to Lotus parents
2. Science Expo “setup and breakdown” volunteers are needed for Monday, April 21st, from 8 am to 12 noon. Mothers are needed to set up tables for Science Expo and we need to “skirt” the tables. On Friday the 25th, the tables need to be broken down and removed from gym.
3. Volunteers are needed for the Educational Conference, Friday and Saturday, May 16th and 17th. Check with the office for details.
4. The Awards Banquet also offers an opportunity to satisfy your requirements by selling tickets to the event or helping with the souvenir program booklet.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above positions, please feel free to contact Pam Moss at 215-844-7527. It is important to act upon the above openings right away as there are a limited number of people needed for each of the events.

All parents should be reminded that the Lotus Academy (K-8th) will be closed from April 14th to April 18th. The Early Learning Center will be closed only on “Good Friday”, April 18th.

The Fifth Annual African Centered Educational Conference

The 5th annual African Centered Educational Conference that is presented by the Lotus Academy is about a month away, and the planning is coming to an end. The Conference is designed to provide a forum for our staff, parents, and students to discuss the many issues and challenges that exist in a culturally affirming educational institution, and it is all **FREE!**

The theme of this year's conference is "Empowerment of our Young Adults". We want to explore and implement new ways to ensure that our teens and young adults are given the tools that they need, *after* they leave a school like the Lotus Academy, to maintain the quest for excellence and the cultural awareness that must remain an important part of their base. To that end, the Conference will feature a number of workshops and other activities that will collectively make up our "**Youth Forum**" this year. There will even be a Film Festival for our teens that will be held on Friday, May 16th, at 6:00 pm.

The Conference begins on Friday morning, May 16th, and the attendees that day will take part in our school Opening, observe classes, and be a part of our afternoon workshop. The Saturday session (May 17th) begins at 9:30 am, and there is a full day of speakers, workshops, and special classes that go on until 4:30 pm. There will also be an assortment of vendors selling books and artifacts, and we will have lunch and snack options available all day at reasonable prices.

Awards Banquet

You have probably received a call already about purchasing a ticket for the Awards Banquet that will be held on Thursday, May 22nd, at the Hilton Hotel on City Avenue. There is an all-out effort to get our entire parent body to attend. We have a great program planned, and we want to have a full house to honor our teacher, parent, alumni, and community service person of the year. In addition, all of our 8th grade graduates will be there to be recognized.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Uhuru Hotep, the author of an inspiring book, "Dedicated To Excellence", and a professor at the Duquesne University School of Education in Pittsburgh. He is a scholar of and expert in the education of African American youth, and will be speaking about the need to continue to provide our young people with the means and motivation they need in order to succeed.

There is a souvenir program booklet for the Banquet that is in the preparation stage. Parents who wish to place an "ad" in the booklet can do so at a greatly reduced price if they place their order by Friday, May 2nd. The price for a "Patron" ad (name only) is \$5.00. A "Patron Message" ad (name and 10-word message) is only \$15.00. Your business card will be reproduced in the booklet for only \$35.00. Please call the office if you are interested in placing an ad.

Early Learning Center Is Open

The Early Learning Center had one of its most special occasions on Thursday, March 27th. The ELC staff and parents got together for a "welcome back" party of sorts. It marked the official re-opening of the Early Learning Center after nearly four months of being virtually closed for renovations.

The time was spent making needed structural changes, installing a new fire detection and alarm system, and making the building more "child friendly". It also gave us the chance to do some "cosmetic" work to make the atmosphere even brighter and cheerier.

Everyone who was there was glad to get back into their "home", and to be able to resume the routine that is such a central part of the ELC program. The parents, children, and staff all convened in one room, enjoyed the food, and heard about even more plans for continuing to strengthen the Early Learning Center.

Lotus Board Of Directors

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lotus Academy is set for Wednesday, April 23rd, at 5:45 pm at the school. The primary topic of discussion will be the endowment fund that is being established in order to put Lotus on a more secure financial footing, and allow it to operate on the basis of the interest from the invested funds. There are other initiatives that are being considered. E-mail us at board@lotusacademy.org for more information about Board issues.

Young Lotus Scientists In Training

During a recent lesson in Shaish II that was entitled, “Where’s the Water”, the students were learning about how the water on earth is distributed throughout the hydrosphere. To illustrate the concept, each student was given 100 pennies, which represented the total amount of water on earth. Since 97% of the water on earth is found in the oceans and seas, 97 pennies



were used to represent the salty portion of our hydrosphere. By the end of the lesson, each student was able to show, by using their pennies, that 2 pennies represented the amount of water that is locked up in polar ice caps (2% of the water on earth.). Most of the plants and animals on earth all share the amount of water left over that is represented by 1 penny (1% of the total amount of earth’s water supply is the fresh water that we all share). This hands-on lesson was very engaging for the students as is evidenced by these photographs showing young minds hard at work.

[Article by Mothura Marcia]



“Afrikan-centered education is the codification or systematic expression of Afrikan people’s will to recover, recreate, and perpetuate our cultural heritage.”

AGYEI AKOTO