

THE LOTUS LAMP

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Our Talent Extravaganza!



Did you know that this was the *23rd year* that Lotus has on page two for a fuller account of a day that celebrated put on its "Spotlight On Young Artists"? See the article the artistic side of our very talented students and staff.

"What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?"

LANGSTON HUGHES

Spotlight On Young Artists

This year's twenty-third annual "Spotlight On Young Artists", held on November 26th, was quite an event, as anyone who was in attendance can attest to. It seems as if the entire school got into the spirit of creativity and performance and showed us sides of their talents that we do not often see. There were enough singers, dancers, drummers and actors from our student body to fill up a whole school of performing arts.

The event had many highlights, and among them were the younger children with their cha cha dance number, and the play that was headed up beautifully by Mothura Afriye. The Vishna age group put on a memorable performance with their look at all of the various forms of music that have been originated by African people in this country.

The afternoon was topped off with Mothuras Margaret, Paulette, Sakina, and Katrina re-enacting the glory of the "Supremes" singing group, Mothura Michelle belting out "Respect" like Aretha Franklin, and Mothuri Kwame bringing us the Lotus version of the "Godfather of Soul", James Brown. The whole event was videotaped by a parent, Charlene Horne *[lower left picture on page one]*, who also worked with the Advisory Council in organizing the entire event.

Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration

This year is the second time that the Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration and the Winter Seasonal Celebration are being combined into one big event, and it promises to be a great outing for both the adults and children. In addition to the usual vendors, food selection, and activities that mark the Pre-Kwanzaa event, there will also be the traditional exchange of gifts, ceremony, and entertainment that have always made the Seasonal Celebration one of the distinguishing special events at Lotus.

The Celebration will take place on Saturday, December 20th, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the auditorium at the Lotus Academy, 340 E. Haines Street. Admission is only \$5.00 for adults (just \$3.00 for our seniors), and \$1.00 for all children below 14 years of age. Food and snacks will be sold all day, and there will be a variety of traditional, vegetarian, and ethnic selections at very inviting prices.

You are strongly encouraged to buy your tickets in advance (last year was a "standing room only" event), and they may be purchased at the main office as of Monday, December 8th. Details about the entertainment, food menu, games, activities, and those children who will be celebrating birthdays will be sent out over the next couple of weeks. It promises to be a great afternoon of fun, and an excellent opportunity to share some positive moments with the whole family. See you there!!!

Lotus Parent Partnership Fall Cleanup

On the Saturday morning of November 15th, the leaves were not the only thing flurrying around the main building. The school yard and parking lot were bustling with activity. It was "Fall Clean-Up Day" at Lotus, as organized by the Parent Partnership Program.

The parents came with tools in hand, ready to work. The mission was to clean up the recess yard and parking lot. Leaves were raked, grounds were swept, trash was picked up, and trees were trimmed. One parent even climbed a tree to better cut down the low hanging branches

They worked steady and hard, only stopping occasionally to get something hot to drink or to compliment each other on a job well done. Our sincere thanks go out to Cephus Houser (parent of Jon Lomax), J. Edey (parent of Christopher Williams, Vincent Allen (parent of Alexa Allen), Hagar Redmond (parent of Jasmine Redmond), Greg Ray (parent of Gian and Sydney Ray), and Ronald Morris, Sr. (parent of Ronald Morris, Jr.) for a tremendous effort that was noticeable as soon as one drove up to the school and saw the great improvement in the grounds. *Asante Sana!!!*

[Article by Mothura Barbara]

The Lotus Academy (K-8th) will be CLOSED after the end of the school day of December 19th. The K-8th program will resume classes on Monday, January 5, 2004. The Early Learning Center will be CLOSED every day from December 25th to January 1st, and will re-open on Friday, January 2, 2004 with its usual hours.

Re-Admission At Lotus Academy

As all of our parents are aware, the Lotus Academy requires that all of our enrolled students make an application for “re-admission” for the coming school year. This allows the parents, as well as the school administration, to make a decision each year about whether continued enrollment at the Lotus Academy is of mutual benefit to the student and the school.

Of course, almost all of the students who apply for re-admission are accepted. In every case, the process of application for re-admission offers an opportunity to consider the student’s progress at Lotus and to evaluate how well the school is addressing the particular child’s needs.

Applications for re-admission will be mailed out in early January. All parents will be asked to return the completed applications by January 26, 2004. The Age-Group meeting that will be held on January 14th will include time to discuss the re-admission process and to answer any questions that parents may have.

In addition, there will be at least two scheduled “Re-Admission Open Houses” in late January and early February for our parents to attend. These Open Houses will be set up to provide detailed information about the plans and innovations for the 2004-2005 school year, and to discuss some of the issues that are important to the future of the Lotus Academy.

It is very important that we identify those parents who plan to have their children enrolled for next year, and we are asking parents to work within the set deadlines that are a critical part of the overall re-admissions process.

Lotus Parent Partnership

All parents are reminded that we are nearing the end of the first trimester, and every family must complete their six hours (the number was reduced from eight to six *for this trimester only* because of our late start) of Parent Partnership no later than Saturday, December 20th (the date of our Pre-Kwanzaa event) or suffer severe financial penalties. If you have any questions about the Parent Partnership Program, in general, or your situation, in particular, you should call the office right away.

There are still numerous opportunities and assignments that are available, both at the school and away from the school, by which parents can conveniently fulfill their six-hour commitment before the end of the trimester. It is important that ALL of our parents make this connection with the Lotus Academy, as we are much more interested in your participation than we are with collecting fines from you.

Lotus Academy Advisory Council

The Lotus Academy Advisory Council had its third meeting of the school year on the 2nd of December. The Council did an excellent job with the Candy Sale, along with the work that they did to make the “Fall Clean-Up” and “Spotlight” such a huge success. It is still not too late to be a part of this dynamic group.

A Library For Lotus Students

One of the most worthwhile projects that has been undertaken by the Lotus Advisory Council has been putting together a first-class library for our student body. The library will be located on the second floor in the room just to the right of the computer laboratory.

The plan is for it to house reference books and those important works that all Lotus students should be exposed to. The committee that is working very hard to ensure that the library opens this spring are some very dedicated parents: Robin Gonzalez, Tracey Ray, Lauralynn Sweet, and Colleen Bynum. One of the immediate priorities is to secure a quantity and quality of books to stock the shelves that have been assembled in the room for the library.

A computer (connected to the Internet) will also be installed over the next few weeks that will allow for research and keeping track of the books. If you are interested in this project or have

Lotus Board Of Directors

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lotus Academy is set for Wednesday, December 17th, at 5:45 p.m. at the Lotus Academy. There are a number of ongoing topics that are on our agenda, and we will also be continuing with our plans for the 30th anniversary celebration at our various special events. Please E-mail us at board@lotusacademy.org if you would like more information about the Lotus Academy Board of Directors.

Outdoor Adventure At Valley Green

On October 31st, the entire Upper School and Shavi II (fourth grade) took a day off from the classroom and traveled to the beautiful Valley Green section of Fairmount Park for a wonderful outdoor adventure. Teachers and students alike enjoyed the fresh air and wonders of nature that are always a highlight of these types of trips. In addition to the Lotus staff, the trip was organized by some of our parents, Caswell and Salima Curtis, who are regular walkers in the park.

The students also got a chance to get in some science lessons while they were there in the midst of all manners of natural phenomenon. Mothura Marcia made certain that the opportunity to see science “up close and personal” was not wasted. It was an all day trip that everyone was sorry to see come to an end. It seems that the next outing is already being planned, as the Lotus Academy reaffirms that the best classroom is not always in your building, but in your “backyard”.



“We are Africans not because we are born in Africa, but because Africa is born in us. Look around you and behold us in our greatness. Greatness is an African possibility; you can make it yours.”

CHESTER HIGGINS, JR.