

Union County



**Technology,
Engineering,
Architecture,
Mathematics and
Science
Charter School**

UC TEAMS Charter School

PATCO Newsletter

March 2010

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No matter how long the winter,
spring is sure to follow —proverb

Tuskegee Airman Visits 4th and 5th Graders



In celebration of African-American history month the 4th and 5th grade students were visited by one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Malcolm E. Nettingham. Mr. Nettingham is the great-great uncle of 4th grade student Qumir McNeill.

Mr. Nettingham eloquently shared his experience as a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. He repeatedly stressed the importance of education and believing in

yourself. When asked by student, Nasir Gray, "If you had a chance to do it over, would you?" he graciously replied "Yes." He also told the students that war is not like a video game, real lives are affected.

The students were captivated by Mr. Nettingham's wealth of information. In addition to sharing his story, Mr. Nettingham provided various tactile objects for the students to experience;

which included the coveted congressional gold medal.

Mr. Nettingham's visit was truly a treat for the 4th and 5th grade students.

By: Mrs. Tangela Morrison,
Grade 4 Teacher



The parent and teacher organization, PATCO, meets on the third Thursday of each month @ 6:30 pm

Principal's Message

As many of you know all students in Grades Three through Eight will sit to take the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK). The state assessments serve to inform us how well students are meeting the state core curriculum content standards. We begin the testing period on **Tuesday, April 27th** with seventh and eighth graders taking the Language Arts Literacy Assessment over a two day period. State assessment administration continues with Mathematics and Science (for the eighth graders) through **Friday, April 30, 2010.**

Students in Grades Five and Six will be assessed with the NJ ASK from **Monday, May 3-Thursday May 6.** They will be tested in the content areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. During the following week the third and fourth graders will take the NJ ASK 3 & 4 respectively from **Monday, May 10-Thursday, May 13, 2010.**

As you can see, beginning now and throughout the months of April and May the staff and students will be in NJ ASK mode. As always, we continue to ensure student readiness for success on the NJ ASK by planning and executing daily lessons aligned with the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and providing tutoring and coaching for students requiring extra help.

Recently I mailed notification letters to all parents of seventh and eighth graders detailing the activities and schedule for the after school PELO program created and conducted to provide additional instructional time to prepare students for the NJ ASK. Please be sure to sign the letter giving permission for your child to attend the program from 3:30-5:15pm. As indicated in the letter the dates of the six week PELO program are: **3/16, 3/17, 3/18, 3/23, 3/24, 3/30, 3/31, 4/13, 4/14, 4/20, 4/21, 4/22, 4/27, and 4/28.** Please remind your child to attend each of these days.

All students in Grades Three through Eight have been given NJ ASK folders used to reinforce skills and complete homework activities aligned with the NJ ASK items. Please have a conversation with your child about his/her folder and spend time reviewing the work they produce.

Also, remember to attend the NJ ASK workshop scheduled for **Tuesday, April 20, 6:30 PM.** **All parents are encouraged to attend to learn how they can help their child be successful on the NJ ASK.**

Sandra D. Harrison

INTERNET SAFETY SEMINAR WITH KDCOP

By: Ms. Melinda Johnson, Lead Teacher



On Wednesday, February 17th Keith Dunn, former detective visited UC TEAMS to train our students in Grades 6-9 on Internet Safety. His interactive presentation included real police stories, interactive student vs. teacher games, cyber bullying awareness, and facts

about social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and YouTube, and more. He has given hundreds of seminars to PTAs, law enforcement organizations, and schools. Mr. Dunn has also been featured on the Montel Williams Show and Paula Zahn Show. The seminar elicits the service

of professionalism and knowledge about Internet Safety training and awareness for individuals who are interested in learning "The Real Truth" about Internet dangers. Our students were enlightened to find out the ramifications around sending any type of media via text, email, or social networking. Another interesting topic was the dangers of strangers in the virtual world. Our students are now equipped with the skills to be smart about internet use.

All about Nutrition



Nutrition is the focus of the lessons the Kindergarten and first grade classes have been receiving every Tuesday morning since January. Ms. Pine, a visiting instructor from Rutgers University has been coming to the two classrooms and providing our students with wonderfully interesting lessons about the

Food Pyramid. Each week, Ms. Pine teaches a lesson on one aspect of the pyramid and demonstrates how to choose foods that can be found in each category. To ensure that the students receive an enriching learning experience, Ms. Pine provides the students with edi-

ble samples that coincide with the lesson of the day. Some of the samples included apple butter on wheat toast and baby carrots with yogurt dipping sauce. The students have really enjoyed these lessons and look forward to Ms. Pine's visit each week.

UC TEAMS Students Science Bowl Semi-Finalists By: Ms. Melinda Johnson, Lead Teacher

National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers

On Friday, February 12, 2010 a coach bus departed from UC TEAMS Charter school with 8 middle students, 5 ninth grade students, 2 teachers, 1 board member- Mrs. Aisha Lawrey, and many parents headed for Rochester, NY for an overnight trip. This bus traveled all the way to Rochester, New York for a NOBCChE Regional Science Bowl Competition held on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Mr. Edward Gibbs and Ms. Melinda Johnson traveled with the team for the weekend to compete. NOBCChE is a nonprofit, professional organization who aims to increase the number of minorities in science, technology, and engineering fields. The organization accomplishes this by creating bonds with professionals working at science-related companies and faculty at local school districts in order to get more minorities to pursue a career in science and engineering fields.

The Science Bowl was a competitive, academic science event for middle and high school students. Teams of students competed in a fast-paced verbal format to answer questions in all branches of science, math, and African-American science history. Approximately 8-12 Teams of four players were formed locally and participated in a regional competition. Students were selected by teachers to participate based on their academic performance in the science class, class participation, and quality of science projects, assignments, and presentations. UC TEAMS entered three teams; **UC TEAMS 1**- Meltice Moore (captain), Kieara Hill, Justin Foster, Melanie Williams, **UC TEAMS 2** – Nia Cress (captain), Shakir Valentine, Bianca Greene, John Hawks, and **UC TEAMS High School** – Chinedum Ehiobuche (captain), Che Winter, Jarae Gallmon, Anesia Brown, Danielle Tucker.

All teams did an exceptional job. UC TEAMS advanced to the semi-finals and competed against a middle school team from Brooklyn, New York. Unfortunately, the competition ended with UC TEAMS losing only by four points. All teams are eligible to compete in the NOBCChE National Science Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia. UC TEAMS was very excited to take part in such an extraordinary opportunity for our students to synthesize their learning of Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS). Participation in the Science Bowl helps to insure that today's brightest students become tomorrow's scientific leaders.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL STUDENTS FOR A
JOB WELL DONE!!!!



Photos inside UC TEAMS



Tafari Tales from Africa

By: Ms. Melinda Johnson, Lead Teacher



On Wednesday, March 3, 2010, Benjamin Brown, star of the hit network TV show

folktales, movement, and song. The performance consisted of stories entitled The Lazy Ba-

Safari Tracks visited UC TEAMS. Benjamin Brown better known as Tafari took our students on an amazing journey through Africa using

boons, The Pumpkin and The Elephant, and The Tree Zebra. "Boom Ba Boom Ba Boom" was the sound of the drum that our students in grades K-5 danced to as they learned lessons about human nature, morality, and responsibility through African folk tales.

Ancient Civilizations of India

By: Mr. Osborn, Middle School Social Studies

Students in Grades 6I and 6N have been touring and learning about the ancient civilizations of India. In particular, Harappa and Mohenjo-Darc. During our tour students had the opportunity to learn about the art and history of Mehndi Ceremony of hand painting. We used this cross-curricular activity to enhance the lesson and student comprehension. Each student had the opportunity to paint his or her hand with the Mendhi designs.



UC TEAMS Rams Perfect Record 6 – 0

“HERE WE GO RAMS – HERE WE GO!” Congratulations to the UC TEAMS Rams for a perfect record this season. Coach Ronald James coached our team through victory after victory. The team was cheered on by our Lady Rams Cheerleading Team and Rams Dance Squad. We are very proud of the teamwork and tenacity of our team. UC TEAMS advanced to the final four. On Tuesday, March 16th UC TEAMS was defeated by Lady

Liberty Academy. This ended the season for our team but we are very proud of them.

Congratulations on an excellent season.

WE GOT SPIRIT!

YES WE DO!

WE GOT SPIRIT

HOW ABOUT YOU?!!

Basketball Coach: Ronald James

Cheerleading/Dance Coaches:

Mrs. Tangela Morrison, Ms. Meghan Bodek, Ms. Alea Rushmore, Ms. Melinda Johnson



THE BOTANY CLUB



The month of January was the start of the UC TEAMS Botany Club. The Botany Club is a people friendly club with an interest in plants. Our plant life journey began with a lesson on the parts of a plant. The students were able to recognize that plants have many parts including roots, stems, and leaves. We further investigated the life of a

plant and discovered the differences between a living and a nonliving thing. In recent botany meetings, we used the internet to research different kinds of plants. We were proud to find out that the violet is New Jersey's state flower. We have a great time experiencing with seeds and watching them grow over time. We look forward to our continued plant journey and the field trips we are currently working on for the spring months.

By: Mrs. Noble, Grade 3–6

Parent and Teacher Community Organization—PATCO

EDITORIAL VIEW

I Start my week with the usual. I get up between 4:30 and 5:00, get breakfast and lunch for myself and the children. I get myself ready and then help get the children ready. I quickly head out the door to my place of employment. Work eight hours to leave and pick up my children from school. I head home and begin dinner. Then I help guide my children through homework completion in time for their afternoon/evening activities. The more children the more activities and taxi cab runs you make in the evening. I do this from Monday through Friday.

Once a month I am asked to attend a meeting. Is it always convenient? No! I do it anyway knowing that what I do, I do for not only my own children, but for many of the children and parents of UCTEAMS. Imagine how it felt doing this and coming to a meeting only to see four or five parents from the entire school. I understand that many people have many things to do. We are a society that is over-worked, often under-paid, sometimes under-appreciated, and can also be over-looked, but we have a unique situation in the school we chose for our children . This school, like others, has its ups and downs. Not everything is perfect, but we strive for that almost illusive goal.

To that end it is my belief that as a parent I should attend and support my school and my children as much as humanly possible. One night from the month parents are asked to attend a parent meeting. This is a meeting for parents to express concerns, hear solutions, and receive updates on school events. Imagine how it feels when you rush to this meeting only to find that you are ***one of four*** parents listening to a presentation that someone took time to present. Talk about feeling under-appreciated. UCTEAMS parents, We need to do better.

-UC TEAMS parent

UPCOMING EVENTS: Below are a list of events that are in the planning stages. We would like to have parents volunteer to help organize and execute these events. Which event catches your interest? Please make contact with one of the PATCO officers. Remember

Many hands make work easier.

UC TEAMS / PATCO Awards Night

Thursday April 22nd, 2010

Mother / Daughter Spa Experience

Friday, May 14th, 2010

6—9 pm \$

Father / Son Baseball Game

@ Somerset Patriots

June \$

Father / Daughter Dance

1st week of September \$

African American Heritage Program: “The African Diaspora”

On Thursday, March 4th, UC TEAMS presented its fifth annual African American Heritage Program titled the African Diaspora. As stated in the program “The African Diaspora is the story of how Africans, though scattered and dispersed, managed to retain their traditions and reform their identities in a new world.” Everyone attending the program were equally educated and entertained by the students. The music, dances, skits and presentations offered guests a great deal of new information. For example, were you aware

that months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the Montgomery bus, a fifteen year old Claudette Clovin did the same and was arrested? The PowerPoint presentation reminded us of the many talented artists, athletes, and inventors who existed in African American history. The K-2 cluster entertained us with the evolution of music in the African American community and enlightened us with beautiful African masks. We were also entertained by the influence African beats have on the continent of South America,

specifically Colombia. Not to be left out when talking about music, the late Michael Jackson was remembered and honored in song and dance. The entire night was entertaining and informative. We thank our students and teachers for their hard work. We must also make a special mention of how well the new ninth grade class has added to our UCTEAMS family. As the Masters and Mistresses of Ceremonies they all did an excellent job.

Teens Abstaining Positioning Self (TAPS)

UC TEAMS's parents were invited to listen to a presentation about a program the middle school and high school students will be participating in during the school year. The presentation occurred during the February PATCO meeting. The TAPS representatives provided parents will an informative overview of the information and content of the program. Parents asked several questions regarding the contents and direction of the program. Students will be discussing all aspects of their being, the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual that leads them to make successful and safe choices for themselves.

Some parents of middle and high school students have signed the permission slips and will begin to see their children come home with information from this eight week session program. The program addresses the concerns of self respect, self advocacy, and reflective decision making that many of our young people struggle with on a daily basis. The students are taught better decision making strategies through discussion and entertaining scenarios that are drawn from real life situations. It sounds like it will be an exciting time for our young people.

A Grievance Committee is being formed.

UC TEAMS will soon have its own grievance committee to receive and investigates grievances by any member of the UC TEAMS family.

Any person who feels the actions of the school, staff or students have caused them some concern, can bring their issue before the grievance

committee. This committee, headed by Mr. Robinson, a parent of a sixth grade student, will consist of three parents and two teachers to be named.

UC TEAMS' ENTREPRENEURS

UC TEAMS 9th Grade Class has begun business studies in ENTREPRENEURSHIP! Over the next 2 marking periods, all 9th grade students will actively participate in entrepreneurship by becoming a small business owner of a new venture created with their classmates. This class will expose 9th graders to the issues entrepreneurs face, and the lessons learned from other successful entrepreneurs. In this class, they will learn the skills necessary to succeed as an entrepreneur, to assess whether a business opportunity exists, and to determine how to take maximum advantage of that opportunity. The focus of



the course will be on writing and communicating a formal business plan for their own business venture. To accomplish this,

students will gain an understanding of production, marketing, finance, human resources, global competition, and social, environmental, and legal issues.

In addition, at the end of March the students will meet local entrepreneurs and visit Wall Street, the financial capital of the US for a hands-on experience of the entrepreneurial spirit that exists in managing our country's financial system today.

This class is being taught by Ms. Charlene Jones who holds a

Bachelor of Science degree in Business from the College of New Jersey and a Master of Business Administration degree from Rutgers University with a concentration in Management & Entrepreneurship. Ms. Jones is a former entrepreneur and has held many leadership positions on non-profit boards in Plainfield, and Newark, NJ. She is NJ certified to teach all Business curriculum and Math K-12.

Hats off to the 9th Graders who have become Entrepreneurs by creating their own companies and new products or services. They will have the opportunity to compete in regional business plan competitions in the near future! More to come...

UC TEAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

On Friday, March 19th, the UCT Middle School students participated in a community service cleanup project. Students from 6I, 6N and 7th grade, along with their teachers, safely cleaned up debris along the curbside surrounding community homes, Union County TEAMS Charter School and Shiloh Baptist Church. During the service project students cleaned up starting on Fifth Street then were lead to Liberty Street proceeded up Fourth Street then to Plainfield Avenue and back up to their start at Fifth Street. The weather was a perfect spring day and the service project was successful. Students filled 3 large garbage bags with debris. The following students and teachers participated in the community service project.

Mr. Charles Osborn
Xabreyah Minder-Brown
Nii-Darko Cofie
Kieara Hill
Jayson Bryant
Tylia McClendon
Jonathan Stevens
Sergio Mercado
Alexis Coverley

Mr. Edward Gibbs
Tori Hocker
Sha'Kir Valentine
Ja'Naia Moody
Rohan Setal
Jada Powell-Vann
Melanie Williams
Zharrae Vaughn
DeAndrea Chavis

Ms. Monica Smith
Richelle Norris
Estefany Alcantar
Isaiah Putman
Bryan Green
Nicholas Burke
Tremond Denny
Danielle Jnorose

STUDENT COUNCIL 2ND –9TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2009 – 2010

2nd Grade Class Representatives

1. *LeAnthony Howell*
2. *Anita Hodge*

Alternate Representative

1. *Elijah Boone*

3rd Grade Class Representatives

1. *Jayla Creekmur*
2. *Jeanique Hawks*

Alternate Representative

1. *Rena Walton*

4th Grade Class Representatives

1. *Katherine Mata*
2. *Jadyn Bright*

Alternate Representative

1. *OPEN*

5th Grade Class Representatives

1. *Sidney Daniel*
2. *Michael DeSilva*

Alternate Representative

1. *OPEN*

6th Grade Class Representatives (6I)

1. *Jordan Murphy*
2. *Nia Cress*

Alternate Representative

1. *Daniel Baxter*

6th Grade Class Representatives (6N)

1. *Kieara Hill*
2. *Anjeanette Dumas*

Alternate Representative

1. *Jonathan Stevens*

7th Grade Class Representatives

1. *Brianna Johnson*
2. *Niah Simmons*

Alternate Representative

1. *Selassie Cofie*

8th Grade Class Representatives

1. *Drew Winter*
2. *Kamsi Egesionu*

Alternate Representative

1. *Hassan Burke*

9th Grade Class Representatives

1. *Danielle Tucker*
2. *Jabril Cathcart*

Alternate Representative

1. *Keyonnie Tyler*
2. *LaTia Dotch*

Student Council Advisor

Ms. Monica M. Smith

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

BY DANIELLE TUCKER, Student Council President

Student Council is continuing the Box Tops Campaign for the month of March – April 2010. The following homerooms have won the Box Tops Homeroom Challenge thus far: Ms. Adelantar, Ms. S. Johnson and third grade, Ms. Pinnock and second grade and Mrs. Moore, Ms. Stokes and kindergarten. The next tally will be March 31st.

On Dr. Suess's birthday the Student Council took a few minutes out of their busy school schedules to read various Dr. Seuss books to grades Kindergarten through fifth grade. This service project allowed bonding between the high school, middle school and the elementary school.

In October the Student Council led a school wide walk for Breast Cancer. We are still \$300 short of our school goal. The Student Council is asking that all families who have not sent in their donation, please do so now! Our school goal was to send \$1000 to the Breast Cancer Foundation in the name of UC TEAMS by the end of the school year. We will keep you updated of our progress in reaching the school goal.

For Mother's Day and Father's Day we will be running a greeting card fundraiser. Information will be sent home with students in the upcoming weeks.

PATCO shares Christmas joy with students and teachers of UC TEAMS

