



UC TEAMS Charter School

PATCO Newsletter

November 2008

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

What are you thankful for?



President-Elect Barack Obama will be the 44th president of the United States. He is the 1st African American President and only the third sitting senator to be elected President of the United States. Having been born on the island of Hawaii, he is the only United States President not born on continental United States. President-Elect Obama has a wife, two daughters, one sister in Hawaii and several brothers and sisters in Kenya, East Africa.

Dear UC Teams Families,

On Monday November 3, 2008 our students had a wonderful opportunity to bring history alive. The students of UC TEAMS participated in online voting, along with millions of other students in all 50 states. These votes could only be cast on November 3. American Legacy Publishing, the sponsor of the voting, has also applied to the Guinness Book of World Records to seek a spot in their new book for most student votes in an election. The last time an election was held, 4 million students participated, this year we are hoping to help break that record. You should be proud of your children, as they eagerly participated in and began to understand how a democracy and our government work. This opportunity opened up the doors for many questions from our kids and with history being made, they can say I was there and cast my vote when Barack Obama became our first African American President. I am proud of all of our students for allowing me to share with them their enthusiasm, excitement, and hopes for a brighter future from our new President Barack Obama. A special thanks to all of the Faculty and Staff for their support. Also, thank-you Mr. Simon in Technology for helping me throughout the entire day.

Sincerely,
Chuck Osborn
Middle School Social Studies Teacher



Principal's Message

There's a buzz in the air at UC TEAMS that can be heard after the regular school day. You can hear it in classrooms, the computer laboratory, the gymnasium, the cafeteria area and in the corridors. It's a healthy and energetic buzz where students are enrolled in the Project RISE and LIFT after school programs.

Many of you are familiar with the extended day LIFT program where approximately sixty students spend their time after school engaged in completing homework assignments, recreational and social development activities. Student participants report to the LIFT program immediately following dismissal and can remain until 6:30pm. Families pay a nominal monthly fee for the after school latchkey services and have comfort knowing that their children are spending their after school hours in a safe and nurturing environment; while they work. Mrs. Moore, the program's project coordinator shares: "We've become an extended family of the UC TEAMS larger family."

As we continue to expand the after school Project RISE program we are happy to announce the addition of seven new clubs this year. *The King and Queens Etiquette Club, the School Newsletter Club, the Indoor Tennis Club, the Photography Club, the Tone Chimes Choir and the Oh! Orators' Club.* (The two latter clubs mentioned are slated to begin in January.) Club activities continuing this year are the Mathematics Homework Club, the Cheerleading Team, and the UC TEAMS Basketball Team.

We are always looking to expand the Project RISE after school opportunities for our students and would like to hear from parents who have the time and talent to share one or two hours after school in support of our efforts. Perhaps you are skillful in a craft, sport or other talent that students might enjoy. If so, contact me and share your idea.

If I don't hear from you before the Thanksgiving holiday, we'll talk afterwards. Have a great holiday!

Sandra D. Harrison, Principal

BARACK OBAMA - "THE KEYSTONE OF HOPE"

By: Ms. Veronica Pinnock

This marking period, the second graders of Howard University were very excited to take part in acknowledging the history making events around them. Of course, being inspired that they can do anything if they try; they can achieve anything if they believe it, they wanted to use their creativity to express this excitement. In October, we began to learn about the history of politics with a focus on the

historical election of 2008. To further increase their knowledge of the topic, students were assigned various major election activities such as a Scavenger Hunt where they searched through newspapers and other news resources for a list of election-related news, photos, and editorials. They also conducted a presidential research and even constructed their own ballot boxes.

We integrated our election activities in the Built Environment component by using our ballot boxes to create an arch bridge. A picture of Barack Obama was mounted on one of the boxes depicting him as "The Keystone" of our bridge of hope. Our second grade students, demonstrated how they are an integral part of the history making Presidential Election of 2008.

UC Teams Junior National Leaders Taking the World by Storm

Ms. Randy Gooden

We are pleased to announce that three of the seventh grade students had the distinct honor and privilege to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. earlier this month. The honorees are Andrea Williams, Justin Foster and Nasir Austin.

The Junior National Young Leaders Conference is a program designed to assist high achieving middle school students build confidence and leadership skills necessary to take them through high school and beyond. The conference provides a series of workshops that enable participants to explore eight common leadership characteristics via studying past leaders and social advocates. It also enabled students to engage in a host of hands-on activities that resulted in the development of action plans that empowered them to gain the desire to effect positive changes in their communities and gain an understanding of what it requires to become an effective leader.

Attending the Junior National Young Leadership Conference was a powerful, rewarding experience that was well received by our students. While Justin, Andrea and Nasir's opinions about the part of the conference that had the most significant impact on their development differed, they all indicated that:

- the conference provided them with an opportunity to gain insight about the college experience and the tremendous responsibility that students take on when they transition from high school to institutions of higher learning;

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The Kings & Queens Etiquette Club

by Ms. Sherry Johnson

The Kings & Queens Etiquette Club began last month. Members of the club will learn about and practice the rules that govern proper social conduct. The club's members are UC Teams' 5th and 6th graders. This new club will meet every Thursday after school

under the guidance of Ms. S. Johnson. So far they have discussed classroom and dining etiquette. Last Thurs-

day, the students set up a formal dining table using real china. The students are really enjoying themselves while gaining invaluable knowledge. They have been asked to give a presentation to our Rams basketball team in the near future. More news to come!



“Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot.”

— Clarence Thomas

(The second African-American to serve on the United States Supreme Court.)

UC TEAMS Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual Thanksgiving dinner offers the students of UC TEAMS a wonderful experience while enjoying a meal with their friends. This experience is vastly different from the daily lunch they share with each

other. Students are educated in the practice of fine dining along with all the social graces attached. According to one parent it is delightful to see the Kindergarten boys holding the chairs out for the fe-

male classmates. Parents are very supportive in contributing food for the meal. The school dinner is scheduled for next Wednesday, Nov 26th.

The Franklin Institute Travelling Science Show

By: Ms. Melinda Johnson

The Franklin Institute Science Museum is an amazing facility located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There are several exhibits ranging from “The Giant Heart” to “Sir Isaac’s Loft”. The museum houses an IMAX Theater, Planetarium, Observatory, and 3D Theater. If you ever have the opportunity to take a day trip, The Franklin Institute is a great family adventure.



On Tuesday, November 18th The Franklin Institute brought its premier traveling science show to UC TEAMS. This is the second year our students were

able to observe and explore two interactive science presentations and experiments right in our very own gymnasium. The Kindergarten through Fourth Grade classes enjoyed a presentation entitled “**Motions and Machines**”. This show revealed concepts dealing with simple machines and Newton’s laws of motion and friction.

The Fifth through Eighth Grade classes were engaged in a presentation entitled “**How to Build a Storm: The Weather Show**”. This show explored the concepts of the water cycle, thermodynamics, air masses and fronts.

The Traveling Science Shows were a great learning experience for the students of UC TEAMS.

What a way to capture the S of T.E.A.M.S!!!!!!



UC TEAMS CHEERLEADING TEAM 2008 – 2009

WE GOT SPIRIT YES WE DO!!!!!!

By: Ms. Melinda Johnson

The UC TEAMS Cheerleaders are full of spirit and ready to go. Try-outs were held in October and cheerleaders were expected to meet a variety of expectations to make the team. Prospective cheerleaders were required to obtain a recommendation letter from their homeroom teacher, create and present a cheer and dance. Cheerleaders were also interviewed about how the Six Pillars of Character align with being a cheerleader. All of the girls who tried out for the team did a fabulous job. We really have some creative and talented young ladies here at UC TEAMS.

This year will be our first year with a Junior Squad consisting of second and third grade girls. Teachers in these grades were asked to recommend three girls based on academics, character, and responsibility. We are very excited about this season. This year's team will be coached by Ms. Melinda Johnson, Ms. Meghan Bodek, and Mrs. Tangela Morrison. Congratulations to the following girls for making the team:

Ebony Burton, LaTia Dotch, Brionna Kimpson-Harris, Miah Simmons, Keyonnie Tyler, Bianca Greene, Karen Medina, Andrea Williams, Nia Cress, Jalyse Lee, Adriana Machado, Jada Powell-Vann, Gloria Murillo, Soljah Martin, Brianna Hye, Sidney Daniel, Nia Burns, Jae Morris, Karelis Acosta, Nmesoma Egesionu, Jade Bardowell, Jayla Creekmur, Dasia Cox

LET'S GO RAMS LET'S GO!!!!!!

UC Teams Junior National Leaders Taking the World by Storm (cont'd)

- it was important to re-examine their beliefs about their educational experiences and seek ways in which they could incorporate their newly acquired leadership skills to not only enhance their own academic and social experience, but to motivate their peers to do the same;
- the experience afforded them to meet students from all over the country, make new friends and learn about the similarities and difference in their exposure to core curriculum content in a variety of subject areas;
- they now understand the importance of being entrusted and trusted to act and behave responsibly;
- they believe that all of the middle school students have to potential and should strive toward participating in this experience.

This was a tremendous opportunity for our young, gifted and talented students. It is our sincere hope that Andrea, Justin and Nasir will continue to flourish and take the necessary steps to make positive changes in our community. Thank you for sharing your experiences and congratulations on your success!

FAMILY FUN PAGE

Answers to

October Family Fun Page Challenge

Palindrome: **SOS**

Square puzzle: **14 squares**



Do you Know “November”?

- The Pilgrims landed in Cape Cod, MA on November 11th, 1620.
- The Berlin Wall that separated East and West Germany came down on November 9th, 1989.
- The first motorcycle was ridden in November 1885.
- The Holland Tunnel opened on November 13, 1927.
- John F Kennedy was the third president to be assassinated in November 1963.

Palindrome

What first name of a character on the Disney Channel show, when written in capital letters, is the same forwards and backwards?

(the first student to email the correct answer along with name and grade to patcopresident@yahoo.com will have their name printed in the next newsletter.)

Funny Riddles

Q: Which is the fastest, cold or heat?

Q: What always falls but never gets hurt?

Q: What do sea monsters eat?

Heat; you can catch a cold! / Rain / Fish & Ships

Community Activities

Turkey Day Kids Party at Borders Book-store in Watchung Mall @ 2:00pm on Sat. Nov. 22 Lots of fun activities for the kids.	\$0
Plainfield Public Library Puppet Show –Sat. Nov. 29 @ 2pm	\$0
Holiday Family Fun Night at Washington Community School on Darrow Avenue 5:30– 7:30 pm on Fri. Dec. 12th	\$0

PATCO meetings are held every third Thursdays of each month. We meet in the media room @ 6:30

Nov. 20th,

Dec. 18th,

Jan. 15th

Sign up for parent web space. See PATCO meeting meetings, get calendar reminders, see photos of school events, find interesting links, email other PATCO members. patcopresident@yahoo.com

Follow the steps below.

Step1 : www.yahoogle.com

Step2: type in *patcoteam* in the “find a group search” box. One group will show, click on *patcoteam*.

Step 3: click on “join this group” and sign in with your yahoo email address. (if you do not have a yahoo account, these accounts are free. See below)

Signing up for a yahoo account. Follow the steps below.

Step 1: www.yahoo.com

Step 2: Fill in all the requested information and follow instructions at the site.
