

newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Based on the Kenner's Korners I have been sending to you each week, I have been able to keep you abreast of some of our accomplishments. Whitney Young continues to thrive! It is still an exciting place to work after twenty-two (22) years. There still is so much work to be done to insure the success of all of our students. I am joyful when I see our students excelling and being happy at what they have been able to achieve. I have also seen the down side when students come to my office distraught about an incident or their inability to progress academically the way they would like to. I believe strongly children need to be encouraged and given a hug periodically to let them know they are valued and loved. They also need to know their opinions are important and respected regardless of whether they are different from yours. This time of year can be difficult for many families, in part because our economy has not fostered the kind of growth we experienced in prior decades. Thus, we have more students than ever who will go without some bare essentials this holiday season.

It is still an exciting place to work after...

What can you do? Many years ago, we as a school staff decided to discontinue our gift giving and give a monetary amount for those less fortunate than we are. We are all thankful we have jobs and are able to put food on our tables and shelter over our heads. We sometimes take for granted these luxuries of life. We have a campaign each December to collect as much money as we can to give to our students and their families. Faculty members identify students in need and submit their names. The amount of money collected is divided amongst the families and we are able to go shopping for specific items. Groceries, clothing, electronic items, Christmas trees, etc. have been purchased in years past to bring a smile to the students' faces and their families. If you are able to contribute any amount, please contact Ms. Valerie Spann at (773) 534-7500 or have your child drop the donation off in the Main Office.

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season. For those of you who do not celebrate during this time, I wish you continued peace and happiness. For all, remember (I tell the students this all of the time) we have much to be thankful for. Whitney Young is a great place to be affiliated with! Be proud of **OUR** school and be proud to be a **DOLPHIN!**

Sincerely,

Joyce D. Kenner, Ed. D.

Principal

Calendar of Events

January 16, 2012

M.L.KING BIRTHDAY
School Holiday

January 24, 25 & 26, 2012

FINAL EXAMS
Special Schedule

January 27, 2012

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
No Classes for Students

February 1, 2012

Report cards will be distributed to students in Division

February 13, 2012

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
(observed)
School Holiday

February 17, 2012

Early Dismissal Schedule

February 20, 2012

PRESIDENTS' DAY
School Holiday

March 5, 2012

CASMIR PULASKI DAY
(observed)
School Holiday

March 23, 2012

Early Dismissal Schedule

April 2 - April 6, 2012

SPRING BREAK

April 19, 2012

REPORT CARD PICK UP DAY
No School for Students

April 24 & 25, 2012

PRAIRIE STATE EXAM
All Juniors

April 25, 2012

SENIOR LUNCHEON

IN THIS ISSUE!

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A Letter from the CEO

Dear Principal Kenner:

On behalf of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), my leadership team and your colleagues, I want to congratulate you and your students on achieving some of the highest State Achievement Test scores in the District and state.

This is an outstanding achievement, and I want to applaud your hard work and dedication and that of your teachers and staff to ensuring your students are attaining the knowledge they need to be successful at every grade level.

Your school is a model for the District, and I encourage you to continue keeping the success of your students top of mind as we work together to increase student achievement district-wide, ensuring each and every one of our students graduate college- and career-ready.

Sincerely,

Jean-Claude Brizard
CEO, Chicago Public Schools

National Board Teachers

The following teachers have recently achieved National Board Certification: Silvia Carillo-Delgado, Ja'Nean Gayles, Lorena Gomez, Dr. Edward Kang, and Jeffrey Scheur.

Teachers of this calibre cause excellence!

WYMHS: Causing Excellence!

Math Successes

Our math team dominated at the first city meet of the year on Saturday, October 1, 2011. Some highlights include:

- The team was 1st place in **every** category.
- The only perfect paper in the city was from Whitney Young sophomore Adam He.
- The final scores were Whitney Young 272, Northside 221, and Payton 221.

On Wednesday, October 26, 2011, our team snuffed out the competition at the NSML competition held at the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora. We finished in first place against some of the strongest teams in the State.

Several of our students had perfect scores: H.I. Park, Tim You, Mason Boeman, Adam He, Mark Waechter, Nana Ochiai, Guiping Xie, Kate Farris, John Joe Friedmann, Cindy Zhang, and Kyle Erf. Emanuel Perez, Patryk Lipski, and Shunping Xie actually had TWO perfect scores. Jacob Spear competed in the oral competition, and scored enough points to put us in first place.

The Academic Center Math Team recently competed in its first contest of the season, and received three first place awards. Special recognition is given to Jonathon Marek for being the top seventh grade scorer in the City. Katia Villevald and Jason Liu had the second highest eighth grade scores in the City, and the team of Natalia Glowacka, Kevin Lee, Jeffrey Lyang, and Sophia Xia had the only perfect score in the City in team competition.

Congratulations to all of the students, and a very special thank you must go out to coaches Mr. Matthew Moran and Ms. Julienne Au for their dedication, hard work, and support. Our entire Math Department, chaired by Ms. Danna Dotson, must also share in this success!

Whitney Young Honored as Blue Star School

Whitney Young has achieved Blue Star School honors from Working in Support of Education (W!SE), a New-York based organization that fosters social and business entrepreneurship and supports building financial literacy education skills in high school students. A Blue Star School is a school where 75% or more of students in financial literacy classes pass the W!SE Certification Test. Business teachers Sue Heaney and Joan Kane have been honored as Gold Star Teachers for teaching financial literacy material to classes where 90% of students pass the W!SE Certification Test.

Entrepreneurship Wholesale Buying Trip

On Tuesday, November 22, the Entrepreneurship class went on their wholesale buying trip to the Wholesale District on the north side of Chicago at Clark and Wilson. Each student received a \$25.00 loan from the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), our entrepreneurship partner. The students each used their funds to buy at wholesale and then will sell the items purchased at the Buying Event at Whitney Young on December 15, 2011 in Blue House. The goal is for each student to learn how wholesalers and retailers make a profit; each student keeps the profit earned after repaying the NFTE loan.

Law Club

During a recent mock trial competition, several Law Club students won scholarships to attend John Marshall Law School:

1. Kaysi Gray: 1st place team - \$5000.
2. Cameron Batchman: 2nd place team - \$3,000.
3. Mylynda Stubblefield: 2nd place team - \$3,000.
4. Briana Hammons: 2nd place team - \$3,000.
5. Quentin Brown-Harris: 3rd place team - \$2,000.
6. Queenster Nartey - 4th place team - \$1,000.

Briana Hammons also won "Best Witness" and an additional \$5,000 in scholarship money, as well as a \$20 Target gift card. Congratulations to all the future lawyers, and a big thank you goes out to Ms. Sheila Lent for offering her time and talent to this club.



National Merit

The following students were **Candidates** in the 2012 Special Scholarship Competition:

- Michael Bartello - USG Foundation, Inc.
- Mariah Levy - Wirtz Corporation
- Darius Powell - ADP Foundation
- Jonah White - Fifth Third Foundation

National Achievement

The following students were **Outstanding Participants** referred to colleges in the 2012 National Achievement Scholarship Competition: Mansour Al-Amin-Dyer, Dominique Banks, Alexandria Bobbitt, Kelsey Bradley, Erin Branton, Leia Brown, Theodore Brown, Christiana Burnett, Danielle Craan, Sierra Davis, Tahir Edwards, Tiana Hickey, Kamila Hines-Muhammad, Morgan Jackson, Imani Marshall, Shonita Perry, Mariah Phelps, Desmond Reed, Taima Sirota, Marissa Truitt, Julius Tucker, Thaddeus Tukes, Jeremy Watson, and Demond Williams.

Scottish Dancer

Ms. Zalon has reported to the Newsletter that Elizabeth Bish, in a recent trip to Scotland, placed eighth out of one hundred twenty-four dancers in the North American Competition! Nice!

Hispanic Heritage Award

We have a 2nd place winner in the 2011 Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Competition! Competition this year was fierce, as there were over 3,000 essays submitted from thirty-seven schools.

Congratulations to Dominique Banks! She received a digital camera and printer for her efforts. Mr. Jay Rehak, her nominating teacher, received a \$100 gift card. Well done!

Chess Champions

November has been an outstanding month for the Whitney Young High School chess team. On November 5, the team won the first major Illinois high school chess tournament of the year, which took place at Evanston Township High School. The team went 4-0 with a combined score of 236 – 36. The following week the team won the Chicago Chess Prep Bowl for the third straight year, which included a convincing victory over Northside Prep in the final round, winning by a score of 49.5 – 18.5. On November 17, the team went to Dallas, Texas to compete in the USCF National All-Grade. On the first day of this four day event the team of Sam Schmakel and Cristian Pena won the national bughouse championship. In the main events, Sam Schmakel won the national 10th grade championship, while seniors Cristian Pena, Brian Mei, and HaoXuan Li finished in third place as a team in the twelfth grade section. Looking forward, the team will continue to prepare for a run at a second straight IHSA State Championship in February and also a strong showing at the USCF high school nationals in April.

Congratulations to the team and to Coach Paul Kash!

Student Programming

Student programming for the 2012-2013 school year will begin in February. Parents are encouraged to attend their child's grade level Parent Night meeting held during the month of January to receive pertinent information on graduation requirements, course selection and the college preparation process.

We strongly encourage parents to assist their child in the course selection process. The Whitney M. Young High School Course Registration Guide will be a valuable aid in determining which classes students will need for graduation, as well as providing information about these classes. Students should consider their selections carefully, since classes selected at this time will be considered as final choices for the school year. Please be prepared and be prompt for your scheduled appointments with your counselor.

Students are to bring their completed three-part *Course Registration Four Year Plan* to their scheduled appointments. Be sure the *Course Registration Four Year Plan* is signed by your parent/guardian.

Girls Tennis

Congratulations to the 2011 Girls Tennis Team. Under the tutelage of Coach Ed Cruzat, and the leadership of Captains Alexix Orr, Syedah Cabell, and Stephanie Schreiber, the team recently placed second in the region, then went on to place eighth in a recent State tournament in Arlington Heights. Remaining team members include Kate Ushakova, Natalie Whalen, Kendall Scruggs, Devon Mitchell, Nicole Kaplan, Zuri Wells, and Savanna Rhodes. Well done Lady Dolphins!

Girls Swimming

The Girls Swim Team placed third at City this year. This team also produced not one, but two individual City Champions: Susan Engemann in the 50 freestyle, and Jessie Cronin in the 100 backstroke. Jessie also broke the school record in this event!

Congratulations to the entire team, and a big thank you goes out to Coaches Parro and Shallcross.

Cross Country Qualifiers

Shianne Baggett and Eric Shan recently qualified for a State Cross Country meet in Peoria. Nice!

National Exams at Whitney Young

April 14, 2012	ACT
May 5, 2012	SAT
June 2, 2012	SAT
June 9, 2012	ACT

See your counselor in Room 120A for information about these exams.

Non-Sponsored School Trips

We want to remind all parents that Whitney M. Young Magnet High School does not sponsor any Senior trips. These trips are organized by students and/or parents, and are not a school activity. Whitney M. Young Magnet High School assumes no responsibility for these outside activities.

Questions about these types of activities should be directed to Mr. Mark Grishaber @ 773.534.7508.

Hall of Famer

On Saturday, November 5, Chicago Sky's own Dominique Canty was inducted into the inaugural Illinois High School Basketball Hall of Fame and Museum in Pinckneyville, IL. Canty was a standout at Whitney Young High School in Chicago where she was a four time All-State player. Awesome!

AP Exam Info

Reminder about AP Exam fees!

Only students who were approved by December 1, 2011 for Free or Reduced lunch will be eligible for the reduced AP exam fees. **Students currently in AP classes must pay AP Exam fees in the School Store during lunch periods, Wednesday February 1 – Wednesday, February 29, 2012.** The cost is \$87 per exam (regular fee) or \$10 per exam (reduced fee). Students paying after February 29, 2012 will be charged a \$10 late fee per test. Payments can be made by cash, check or money order. Credit card payments must be made through Ms. Mitchell in the main office.

Does your child have an AP testing conflict?

Check the *AP Exam Schedule* and notify Ms. Zalon if your child has two tests scheduled for the same time on the same day **OR** if you know he/she is going to be absent from school for a school activity or school trip. This is very important! If there is a conflict, please contact Ms. Zalon either by phone 773-534-7503 or email at plzalon@cps.edu immediately to schedule the alternative test date.

Any student who is unexpectedly absent on the day of his/her scheduled AP test and requires an alternate test will be charged an additional fee of \$40 (late testing fee) by CollegeBoard. Students will also be charged a \$13 fee for any unused exam returned to CollegeBoard. Students are responsible for paying the late fee to Whitney Young by Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Happy Holidays

CELL PHONE POLICY

This policy is meant to help maintain an educational focus in classrooms and other study areas and respect the needs of our students to have reasonable access to their phones and other electronic devices. We acknowledge that this is the age of instant communication as well as the need to maintain a proper environment for students, faculty and the educational process.

Cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3s or other electronic devices are not to be used in the classrooms UNLESS authorized by the classroom teacher. Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off or placed on silent / vibrate mode during class. Students should keep these items in their backpacks or purses.

Cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3s or other electronic devices may be used before/after school, during passing periods, and lunch periods except in classrooms, the library, tech centers and the theater. Only texting is permitted on the second and third floors; no phone calls are permitted to be made on upper floors.

Unauthorized use of these devices in the classrooms, library, tech centers and the theater is a violation of this policy. **Violators of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action based upon the circumstances. First time/minor offenders will receive a Saturday School. Repeat or flagrant violators will receive an out of school suspension. Phones will be confiscated and given to a dean at the time of the infraction. The phone will be returned during the disciplinary conference.**

Students may use their cell phones to place calls only in the first floor foyers of the three WY buildings during their lunch periods. In an emergency situation, an administrator or faculty member can give a student permission to make a call from a cell phone.

The use of camera and video phones is absolutely forbidden at any time in private areas, such as, locker rooms, washrooms, dressing areas, classrooms and offices. Such use may also constitute a violation of the criminal code.

Revised June, 2011

Important Senior Information

Senior Luncheon: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Mystic blue Cruises at Navy Pier - 600 E. Grand Avenue
\$55.00 per person (Each attendee must have a ticket)

Senior Prom: Friday June 1, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight.
The Drake hotel - 140 N. Walton
\$110.00 per person

Commencement Ceremony: Friday, June 8, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.
Arie Crown Theater - 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive

All payments are to be made in the school store which is located next to the main office.

Report Card Pick Up

We had a 75.36% report card pick up rate on November 17, 2011. Our goal always was, and continues to be 100%.

The next report card pick up date is April 19, 2012 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Teacher conferences are scheduled from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.



State Department Visits

On Thursday, September 29, Whitney Young played host for foreign visitors involved in The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. WY students and the visitors participated in roundtable discussions that engaged both groups. Nice!

Counselor's Corner

The College/Career Center is now located in the Counseling Suite Room 120A. Stop by to visit. You may:

- Acquire college applications.
- Utilize computer resource materials to enter Naviance data.
- Acquire brochures and magazines that pertain to college, SAT, ACT and Financial Aid information.
- Learn how to investigate different career options.

Shop Office Depot

Office Depot will rebate 5% on all merchandise purchased as a credit to Whitney M. Young High School if our school's unique ID# is mentioned. **Our Office Depot number is 70030698.** When making your purchase at Office Depot, be sure to mention the 5% Back to School Program to the cashier. It's as simple as that!



Mark Your Calendar. All **Parent Nights** will be held in the Theater from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Counselors will be going over graduation requirements, course selection, and the college preparation process for each grade level. We look forward to seeing you there. The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, January 10, 2012 - Current Juniors
- Thursday, January 12, 2012 - Current Freshmen
- Thursday, January 19, 2012 - Current Sophomores

Notice to Seniors and Parents

Forty service learning hours are required for graduation. The deadline for Seniors is May 18, 2012. Many opportunities are available over winter break. Volunteer at a non-profit organization, and see Mrs. Marianne Stojak in Room 128 if you need forms or have questions. Over seventy percent of our seniors have already completed the requirement. Parents may call 773.534.7505 for more information. Volunteer today!

FAFSA Completion Assistance will be conducted on Thursday, February 23, 2012 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Library. Computers will also be available for your use in one of our Techcenters. Any Senior parent who would like assistance completing the FAFSA is welcome to attend.

Debate News

The debate team has had a very successful few months:

- **Morgan Park 9/30-10/1:** Christian Palacios and Lauryn Hall won 1st place. Jeron Dastrup, Clara Torres, Bob Tichy and Barry Ng also made it to elimination rounds.
- **CDL Tournament #2 11/12-11/13:** John Vitzileos, Lauryn Hall, Clara Torres, and Jeron Dastrup won 1st place. Whitney Young "locked out," meaning our teams beat everyone else in the tournament and then faced each other in finals. The following students also won individual speaker awards: Ray Sun (14th), Lauryn Hall (10th), Jeron Dastrup (8th), John Vitzileos (4th), and Christian Palacios (1st!).
- **New Trier 10/22-10/24:** John Vitzileos and Rahat Sajwani reached octafinals, and John was "2nd speaker" in the tournament, a very prestigious honor given the tournament's national reputation.
- **University of Michigan 11/4-11/6:** Hanna Nasser and Marcel Roman qualified for elimination rounds.
- **Allstate Varsity Invitational 10/15:** Hanna Nasser and Marcel Roman each won \$500 college scholarships as semifinalists!
- **Glenbrooks 11/19-11/21:** Hanna Nasser and Marcel Roman went a perfect 7-0 in prelims, earning their first Nationals bid and reaching octafinals.
- **Kelly 12/2-12/3:** Sydney Doe/Hiba Sheikh were semifinalists, and Clara Torres/Jeron Dastrup and Rahat Sajwani/Christian Palacios broke to elims at 4-1.
- **Ohio Valley 12/2-12/4:** Marcel Roman was 1st speaker out of 107 debaters, and Hanna Nasser was 9th. The team went undefeated in prelims and qualified for octafinals.

A very large thank you goes out to Mr. Scheur for this help with this endeavor!

Save The Date

The date for the 2nd annual Sports Booster benefitting the Whitney Young sports program has been set on Friday, March 23, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Once again, it will be held at The Grossinger Autoplex, 1500 N. Dayton St.

Those who were in attendance last year can recall a really first class catered event. So if at all possible, try to attend because you will be benefitting a very worthwhile cause, as well as having a good time. Hope to see you there!

Guys and Dolls

Guys & Dolls Dance company is preparing for its annual show, "Up Close & Personal," on February 11 and February 12, 2012. The show features student and guest choreography, and costumes by the Fashion classes. Come out and support them this February!

Local School Council 2012 Meeting Schedule

Most meetings take place at 5:00 pm in the Library, usually but not always, on the third Wednesday of the month. Check monthly.

January 18, 2012
February 15, 2012
March 21, 2012

April 18, 2012
May 16, 2012

Student Dress

The reputation of a school is based to a great extent upon the behavior and appearance of its student body. Student dress should reflect the importance that education plays in every student's life. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly and modestly in clothes that are appropriate for an academic environment. When there is any question about the suitability of a student's attire, it is the final authority of the school principal or assistant principal as to whether a young man's or young lady's attire or general appearance is acceptable.

Students must wear shoes. For safety reasons, ID cards must be carried at all times.

Students are not allowed to wear picks/combs in their hair or wear sunglasses, identical clothing or any clothing that identifies them as a member of any non-school sponsored organization. Also, clothing or apparel with inappropriate/offensive pictures, words or lettering which denotes or suggests gang membership or gang affiliation is not permitted. Other examples of inappropriate dress are halter/tube/tank tops with spaghetti-type straps, bare midriffs, unbuttoned/revealing shirts/blouses/pants, team jerseys without a shirt underneath, jogging/gym type shorts or walking shorts that do not extend down to the top of the knee, skin tight clothing, short skirts or dresses and under-shirts/undergarments worn as outerwear.

Hats, hoods, head bands, scarves, kerchiefs, or do-rags are not to be worn in the school building. This rule applies to males and females. Students who wear hats to school are to place their hats in their lockers upon arrival. Students are not allowed to keep their hats with them during the school day. Confiscated hats will be returned to the parents only. Exceptions will be given by the principal or assistant principal to individual students if they are satisfying religious requirements.

Gym uniforms are not appropriate attire in classrooms. Violators of these rules are subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Center Cross Country

Mr. Edwards has reported to the *Newsletter* that the Academic Center boys and girls teams had their most successful season ever. Both teams were IESA Sectional champions and qualified for the IESA State Finals for the first time ever. The Girls team placed fifteenth overall, and the boys team won the IESA State Championship. This is the first ever win for a CPS school in the IESA.



Seventh grader Keduse Worku also placed the highest of any CPS male athlete, finishing fourth in the race. Seventh grader Maia Sanders is the first WY Academic student ever to qualify for State. Both teams also repeated as City Champions.

Nice Job!

Military Opt-Out

Juniors, seniors and their parents have the right to opt-out of having their contact information shared with colleges and military recruiters.

Forms are available online at www.cps.edu/Programs/Community/Pages/Optout.aspx.

Please send completed forms to Tony Howard in P12 School Management either via GSR or fax (773) 553-2151.

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

	Test Day 1 Tuesday January 24	Test Day 2 Wednesday January 25	Test Day 3 Thursday January 26
Session A	8:00-9:30 am	2	5
Break	9:30-9:45 am		8
Session B	9:45-11:15 am	3	6
Break	11:15-11:30 am		9
Session C	11:30-1:00 pm	4	7
			Make-up (must be arranged)

- Students only need to come to school at test times. Know your schedule. Be prompt.
- Parents MUST call in to report all student absences from final exams @ 773.534.7500 press 2.
- Make-Ups. You can only make-up exams if your parent has called in your absence. It is your responsibility to arrange for make-up exams with your class teachers. You may be able to make-up exams during your lunch period, study period, or after your last test.
- No club or organization meetings will be scheduled on test days.
- Reminder: Students will be given a copy of their final grades for the 1st semester during division on Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

Eighth Grade Graduation Set

Eighth grade graduation will take place on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the Whitney M. Young Theater which is located at 1431 W. Jackson.

Youth Music

Kamila Hines-Muhammad was recently named a Jack Kent Cooke \$10,000 scholarship winner. Also, Kamila and WY alum Julia Ghica, were recently featured on NPR's *From the Top*. Their chamber music group was part of performance #238. More information can be retrieved at <http://www.fromthetop.org/>.

Well done ladies!!

Parent Teacher Student Organization 2012 Meeting Schedule

- January 12, 2012
- February 9, 2012
- March 8, 2012
- April 19, 2012 *
- May 10, 2012

All meetings take place at 6:00 pm in the Library, usually but not always, on the second Thursday of the month.

* Report Card Pick-Up Day

Medical Alert - Parents

The school must immediately be made aware of any chronic medical condition that your child may have. We must also be made aware of any special medical needs that exist. Contact our school nurse at 773-534-7500 x23715 if you have any questions.

IMEA

Mr. Lanzino is reporting that the following students participated in the recent IMEA Festival:

- Band: Kathryn Zamarron and Shuya Gong.
- Orchestra: Eric Goldberg and Kamila Hines-Muhammad.
- Chorus: Emily Bush, Julia Chang, Roswitha Gugliotta-Kreme, Ida Kassa, Hanna Lacava, Erica Lee, Thomas Mclees, Theresa Pham, Alaina Stacey, Nakiya Walters, Omari Whitmore, and Michael Zajakowski-Uhil.
- Jazz Band: Thaddeus Tukes.

Nice Job!

Film Festival

Thomas Keene, Austen Goebel, and Noah Staton recently took second prize in the 2011 Chicago Children's Film Festival. Their entry was entitled *Food Deserts: A Film*.

Wow. This is special!

Whitney M. Young Departmental Showcase Winter 2011 - The Science Department

This past semester Whitney Young's Science Department has continued to make a name for itself and the school. Notable mentions include some astounding service learning semester projects from the freshman and eighth grade biology classes where teachers Dr. Muhammad, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Katz, Dr. Kang, and Mrs. Garcia continued to utilize project based learning to showcase how science can be found everywhere. One impressive and common theme this year has been the relationship of science and humanity. Claire Fahey ('15) of Mr. Katz's class raised a bit over \$1,100 through silent online auctions she set up to benefit 12 Oaks Foundation which helps cancer fighters and their families by maintaining healthy, family-first activities designed to help families motivate and maintain a positive outlook while undergoing treatment. Kaylynn Harris ('15) of Mrs. Smith's class initiated a science department wide food drive competition collecting almost 5,418 canned goods for Chicago's food shelters. Dr. Muhammad's eighth graders showed how amazing they are by collecting about 1,600 of the drives canned goods coming out a clear winner amongst the science department! Kaylynn's success' can be most attributed to thinking outside of the box and asking for help from like-minded people. Turning to Student Council Sponsor Mrs. Vernich, our newest chemistry teacher, and members of student council including Derrick Rogan ('12), the community service chair, showcased how working collaboratively can help yield astounding outcomes.



December marks Science Day, science essay contests, bridge building, and physics photo contests run by tight collaboration amongst the entire department. Mrs. Rehak, and Mrs. Erlandson have been working with their sophomore chemistry students on essays some of which will be submitted to science fair, while others will be submitted to Illinois Junior Academy of Science (IJAS). Mr. Solomon has been leading the seventh graders to best the world's greatest engineering feats as they host their annual bridge building contest.

Mr. Loria, our new anatomy teacher has had a very productive first semester collaborating with Mrs. Gallardo to bring ten UIC medical students, five of whom are WY graduates, to speak with our upper classmen classes of AP Biology and Anatomy and Physiology. The students learned how to best prepare for med school and what it takes once one is in school to succeed. In addition Mr. Loria worked with Dr. Muhammad and Mr. Katz to create a new class for future upperclassman interested in pursuing laboratory sciences. The new microbiology class will help to teach more complex laboratory techniques not taught in other science courses. We feel this class will give our students a wonderful leg up when it comes to working in college science laboratories.

Dr. Kang is proud of his Safe Humane Club who recently visited County Animal Shelter to play with abused and neglected dogs. Mrs. Dudzik's Robotics Team just received a huge grant from JC Penny through the Penny's From Heaven Grant for \$7,000. This money will go towards amongst other things, an industrial robot and parts so that our 30 plus student robotic team can participate in the First Robotics National Competition taking place in March. Also received was a \$2,000 grant from Purdue for community service engineering projects.

Finally, Mr. Katz and Mrs. Rehak are still accepting applications from students to go on one of two summer trips. The first is to Baja Mexico July 6-13, 2012 and the other is to Southern Alaska from August 1-7, 2012. The cost of each trip with everything included will be around \$3K. Any student interested in going should contact Mr. Katz at toddkatz@gmail.com for more information. Space is limited.

