

January 25, 2008

Notes to HJCS Parents



First Graders Remi Martin and Timothy Cooper join hands as we end our assembly with the singing of "We Shall Overcome" in the style of the Civil Rights movement.

Dr. King Continues to Inspire

At this morning's assembly, Henry Johnson scholars thought again of how the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., influences us today, and we talked about how his dream became his mission. This is very meaningful to our young students because they have been learning about mission statements and thinking about where they want to go and what they want to do with their lives.

As models, they have learned about the mission statements of their teachers, and they have taken the step to create their own statements, which will be displayed in their classrooms by the end of January.

Now their daily recitation of "Mission statement, mission statement, m-m-m" during wall cards has a lot more meaning for them!

Henry Johnson Scholars, Staff Look Forward to Science Field Trip

Next week, the entire school will be traveling to the Children's Museum of Science and Technology in Troy to learn even more about science topics they are studying in the classroom. First Graders will be taking part in the "Wonderful World of Weather" program, while Kindergartners will enjoy "All About Animals."

Mrs. Marnie Gast, School Counselor, arranged for HJCS to attend these programs free of charge through a grant offered by the Museum, and our school is funding the transportation. What fun that we will all go together!

Of course, attendance at off-campus field trips is a privilege that can be lost through poor behavior choices. For students to participate in experiences outside the building, we expect them to follow classroom rules regularly as well as maintain a positive attitude. We are happy to report that so far it looks as though everyone will be going!



Northstars of the Week; (Front) El Sire Douglas, Zafeir Orion Alexander, Ashavion Turner (Back) Sean Hardy, Sam Anderson, Tamia Curtis

Snack Practice Reconsidered, Corrected

Henry Johnson Charter School has tried very hard to model itself on our sister school in Milwaukee, including adopting their approaches to discipline concerns. One of these was to withhold snack from students whose “poor behavior choices” warranted some kind of “poor consequence.” Naturally, though, what works in some places doesn’t fit in others, and we have decided to eliminate this practice.

Concern over it was brought to our attention by parents, and in reconsidering it our staff agreed that snack should be a non-negotiable, especially considering our long school day and the energy needs of our young ones.

This process of thinking through an issue and making well-considered decisions regarding it is really a kind of “mid-course correction” that we should expect to regularly engage in as we become more confident and more knowledgeable about the uniqueness of our community, our needs, and our school. It has also given us the opportunity to truly involve parents as partners and to respond to their concerns.

There are adequate alternatives to this discarded practice, and our teachers are well up to making the change!

Photo Gallery for the Week—

