

December 7, 2007

Notes to HJCS Parents

Report Cards to Be Presented at Parent Conferences Next Week

Henry Johnson Charter School teachers are very excited that next week we will host Parent Conferences to present report cards for Term 1 to our scholars' parents and guardians. After a full three months of academic work and Proactivity lessons and activities, we are ready to provide you with an assessment of how your child is doing in all of the areas that he/she studies through out the week.

Every Homeroom teacher has set up a conference schedule, and by now you should know when we plan to meet with you. If you don't have that information or have not yet been scheduled, please call the school as soon as possible. Conferences are mandatory because we don't want to miss this opportunity to give you lots of information about your child's progress. This is also the time for you to ask questions and develop a better understanding of our report card, how we assess progress, and what you can do at home to support your scholar's learning.

"Grades" Describe Student Strengths and Needs

From Art to Attendance and Reading to Work Habits, our report cards will provide a notation to describe current level of performance. These "grades" are not judgmental evaluations but rather assessments that describe where your child is now. Please don't apply to these letters the traditional meanings for them when they are used as grades; our meanings are quite different!

Here are the notations you may see on your scholar's report card:

E for Excellent—The child is doing exemplary work. He/she has mastered the skill or concept and shows consistency in performance.

VG for Very Good—The child understands the concept or demonstrates the skill most of the time. He/she is competent in performing the skill and demonstrating the knowledge.

D for Developing—The child has some grasp and is beginning to understand the concept. The child is showing growth and progress and is deepening skills. This is an area where we will see a wide range of abilities. "Developing" should be viewed as a positive grade. The child is trying harder things and working toward fuller understanding and mastery. Do not be concerned if you see many D's at this time; it is to be expected. Ask your teacher how you can reinforce these skills and understandings at home.

C for Area of Concern—The child is showing limited growth, He/she is not demonstrating grade-level skills and understandings at this time. Poor attendance may often be a factor in an area of concern.

And speaking of attendance—this is a critical component in mastering learning. HJCS scholars who have had perfect attendance since the beginning of the year will receive special recognition at next week's assembly!

We are all looking forward to seeing you at your conference next week.

Photo Gallery

(From top left): Kindergartners provide the flames for the Menorah as part of our Hanukkah Assembly; Lollie Abramson of "Making Friends" uses puppets to teach about people with disabilities; Ms Petruska and First Graders attend to her message; KGB scholars react to a light moment during the presentation; Mrs. Caplan and Mr. Banner help Isaac Fong, Janiah Johnson, and Tayshawn Glover do their parts .



Assembly Alert

This morning our three Kindergarten Homerooms presented information about Hanukkah and sang "My Little Dreidl." Over the month of December we will learn about different holiday traditions and how they contribute to understanding our December Virtue, "Respect for Community."

Northstars for the Week: Derrick Beason, Mia Christian, Da'jon Ford, Xzayvion Hay. Absent: Naz'zeona Nobles.

Briefly Noted—But Important

- **Parent Report Card Conferences** will be held December 12-14. Your scholar's Homeroom Teacher is currently scheduling these. Please remember that this is your opportunity to receive the Term 1 report card, to talk about your child's progress, and to learn about the areas of HJCS assessments. These conferences are mandatory for parents. We look forward to seeing you, and coffee will be served!
- Our **Winter Concert and Art Show** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19. More information will go home next week.