

April 25, 2008

Notes to HJCS Parents



At this morning's assembly, **Remi Martin** and **Hassani Hamilton** lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Join Us on May 3rd For HJCS Safety Day

Circle the date on your calendar and plan to bring your whole family to our second Saturday Field Trip. We have an array of features planned, including a presentation by School Resource Officer Evelyn Blackwell on the NYS Child Abduction Program. She will also create Safe Child Cards, including photo and fingerprinting, for any children in attendance. A magician show and possibly some special surprises will round out the morning. The program will run from 9 am to noon. Look for more details in Life's Work folders next week!

Faculty Busy Behind the Scenes at HJCS

You know them best as your scholar's teachers and educational assistants, but many of our staff are also involved in projects that you don't see but that will ultimately enrich your child's experience at HJCS. One of these is taking part in interviewing candidates for teaching and EA positions. Another is customizing Charlotte Danielson's *A Framework for Teaching* so that it really fits our school, our mission, and our culture. This Framework provides a basis for focusing professional development activities and for the evaluation of professional staff. Educational assistants are adapting the Framework to reflect their role in the school, and both teachers and assistants will identify the Core Competencies of the 22 to 25 included. These will be the qualities that staff must absolutely be proficient in performing.

A third project focuses on Curriculum Mapping, which is a process for assuring that there are no gaps and no redundancies in what children are taught from grade to grade. Staff involved in this project have attended intense professional development workshops on the process. They will evaluate and select mapping software and will continue their planning through the summer. They will lead the way, teaching their colleagues and involving them in the process.

It is the hallmark of a good school to involve staff in such meaningful work and to give them the chance to have an impact on school affairs that directly affect them and what they do. We are thankful for the professionalism of our HJCS staff!

This Week's North-Stars

Front row: Zaliyah Edwards, Zy-Quaveone Mayo, and Jabari Lawson.



Photo Gallery for the Week — Outdoor Recess, Wood Sculptures, Hanging the KGC Earth Day Art Wall, Today's Assembly

