HABARI GANI (What's the News?)

Volume XXII, Issue 2
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Weston METCO Program

A Message From the Director

To our Wonderful Students and their Families,

It's been a dynamic and productive year in our school district and I can't believe that we're already at the end of the year. We have experienced success in the classroom, on the athletic field and as participants in the various student and parent organizations. As we say goodbye for the summer, I urge you to take the time to read with your child, and make sure that s/he attends the academic summer sessions offered in Weston and Boston. The data confirms that these summer programs are beneficial. Our students are receiving higher grades as the result of hard work, determination and a decision to do their best. Success is not an accident.

I applaud our wonderful staff members, Howie Horner, Riola Lazo, Theresa Dryden, Laureen Byrne and Cristy Brackett. We are fortunate to be part of a dynamic school district with a supportive administration, led by Dr. Cheryl Maloney and a talented faculty and staff. I recognize also that we have many strong supporters in both the Weston and Boston communities. We are truly Blessed!

In closing, I want to send our accomplished Seniors off with heartfelt hope for a successful transition next year and beyond. I wish all of you a safe and restful summer. We look forward to seeing you next Fall.

God Bless,
—David Fuller

Where Are Our Seniors Going?

Olivia Barrows -
University of Massachusetts, Boston

Victoria Bissainthe -
Sacred Heart University

Ebony Moore -
Johnson & Wales University

Janel Lynch -
Wheelock College

Clarence Johnson -
Bowdoin College

Elvin Johnson -
Norwich University

Karen Rodriquez -
Bridgewater State College

Congratulations to all !

Upcoming Events:

- SOAR - August 15-26
- HS Summer Review Jul/Aug.
- BWMPO -1st Parent Mtg- August 18th, Bos.Police Statn. 1 Schroeder Plaza, Boston
- Family Friends Ice Cream Social-Sat. Sept. 24th, Field School Playground

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Weston/METCO Office
Weston High School
444 Wellesley Street
Weston, MA 02493
(781) 786-5850

Student Spotlights

Field School Kindness Wall of Fame
in recognition of doing good deeds for others:
Taniya Williams Aniah Dinis Gabe Peterkin
Khyree Atkins

Aaliyah Phillips

Some students enjoy soccer or play the tuba, but Aaliyah Phillips, a 3rd grader at The Country School has a different kind of passion. When I spoke with Aaliyah I expected her to say her interests were in her ballet or maybe acting, but instead she told me she has a talent as a TV host and interviewer on Boston News Network (BNN)! Aaliyah and her mother, Darlene, first found out about this opportunity through Aaliyah's ballet teacher who wanted to start a kid's show and asked Aaliyah to be the host. She was so good at interviewing people and getting them to respond—maybe from learning to be heard amongst 3 brothers and 3 sisters — that she has been hosting the show for the past 3 years! Tune in to Channel 23, on Wednesdays at 4:30 to see Aaliyah in action on BNN!

Conor McCoy

Connor McCoy is a fifth grade student at Field School. He lives in the Hyde Park section of Boston with his parents, and sister, Ashley, who is in the third grade at Woodland School. Connor's family spans the globe as his mother Michelle is from Guyana, and his father, Peter, is from Ireland.

Connor was one of 24 Field School students who won a Music Achievement Award at our METCO End- of- the- Year- Celebration. (See following pages for all the winners.) He received another distinction for his musical ability when he won a silver medal in the recent Boston Symphony Orchestra ICP Solo Festival, where he performed several solo pieces on the double bass. It is no accident that Conor is already being recognized for his musical ability, as he has been playing & studying music since age 7. When he was in kindergarten, Conor's mother found out about a program with the Boston Youth Symphony. Now Conor and his sister Ashley, are in the Intensive Community Program (ICP) and have been playing with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra for the past three years. ICP aims to serve students from populations historically underrepresented in BYSO and in the classical music field in general. Most of the kids in ICP are from Dorchester, Roxbury, Hyde Park, etc. The ICP teachers work with the kids in preparing them to reach (and maintain) the high level required of BYSO performers.

To remain a member of the BYSO requires disciplined commitment– which Conor clearly has. Every Thursday he has a one hour lesson with his teacher, and every Sunday he has a 5 -hour rehearsal with the BYSO. In addition, Conor practices two hours every night after he finishes his homework! I asked Conor if he enjoys the practicing and while he admitted that sometimes it can be a long night if he has a lot of homework—he enjoys the music and he knows the long practices are the way to prepare well. So, not only does Conor play music with his classmates, in the Field School Gym, he also performs in Symphony Hall to an audience of about 600-700! Ashley, is also an excellent musician and plays the cello with the BYSO.

In addition to his music Conor works hard at his studies. He is an excellent student, and has achieved consistently high grades in all subjects. His teachers report that Conor is diligent, respectful, on time, and organized. Conor's exceptional effort, defines him as a person and a musician. It also helps that Conor likes school. When asked whether he misses his friends from Boston, Conor responded that he likes being at school in Weston, because he has grown up with the same classmates since kindergarten and knows them through sports and other activities outside of school. Conor's favorite subject is science, and he remarked that one thing he especially likes about Weston Schools are the teachers, who he says "take the time to explain things, even if you don't understand something".

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, CONOR!

Conor also loves soccer and has played on a Bays Soccer team, in Weston, with his Family Friend Demetrius Iatridies. Conor has gotten to know many of the players and coaches from having played in the Bays League since first grade, and also because he goes over to Demetrius' house each week before their practice and sometimes before the games on Saturdays. Conor is a good student and a good friend.

Student Awards - Attendance

PERFECT ATTENDANCE
September 2010-May 2011

Country School
Hannah Leathers

Woodland School
Anika Blake

Field School
Christiana Benjamin
Melissa Barbosa

Middle School
Nyla Boswell
Imani Daniel Froston
Stephan Etienne
Quintin Reid
Christiana Dryden
Ramesh Nagarajah
Alia Thompson
Samantha Thompson
Jevryl Benjamin
Maurice Blake
Olubiyi Ojo

High School
Alec Chan
Sharlea Brookes-Keyes
Deondre Molyneaux
Keesha Nunes de Pina
Kenneth Tsui
Jasmine Austrie
Kayla Lawrence
Jaeda Reid
Shelby Jeffes
Rashaan Powell

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES
(3 or fewer absences)

Country School
Estella Gethers
Sarah Thomas
Amare Yarde
Jahmari Oliver-Bigby
Ronald Rogers
Michael Colmenares
Sydney Freeman
Hannah Jordan
Jyea Joyner
Hannah Leathers
Aaliyah Phillips
Tomily Torres III

Woodland School
Madison Clarke-Jenkins
Xavier Craigwell
Chidalu Onwuama
Laryce Blake
Giannna Depina Nazoliny
Kamea Johnson
Kayleena Rattray
Riana Tavares Reid
Raesaun Tavares Reid
Deven Buchanan-Maule
Julia Craigwell
Taj Clachar
Ashley McCoy
Nneoma Onwuama

Field School
Jaycee Bullock
Echezona Onwuama
Elise Wheaton
Rebecca Leathers
Conor McCoy
Roshani Nagarajah
Epifanio Nazoliny
Shama Simmons

Middle School
Damani Clachar
Abiel Habtemariam
Nonso Mogor
Arianna Seepersad
Alexandria Anderson
Kymberli Darby
Koinonia Howard
Collins Ebozue
Zahrea Gay
Yodit Habtemariam

Student Awards - Citizenship

Country School
Diego Summers
Devin Wilson Joutras
Jadelyn Wilson Joutras
Estella Gethers
Gianni Hill
Ligia Barrow Madrid
Nina Tavares
Hannah Jordan
Hannah Leathers
Tomily Torres, III

Woodland School
Sierra Anderson
Madison Clarke-Jenkins
Simone Sanderson
Nwojo Uga
Jedidiah Nelson
Riana Tavares Reid
Raesaun Tavares Reid
Nasarith Berhe
Taj Clachar
Anika Blake
Ashley McCoy
Timothy Simpson

Middle School
All students in grades 6-8 re ceived a Citizenship Award.

Field School
2010- 2011 Award
Aniah Lopes Dinis
has achieved the high standard of excellence in
Art

WAY TO GO!

Student Awards, *Cont'd.* - Academic Achievement

Certificate of Achievement

Woodland School

Sierra Anderson
Madison Clarke-Jenkins
Xavier Craigwell
Jordan Crawford-Cranmore
Chidalu Onwuama
Simone Sanderson
Nwojo Uga
Laryce Blake
Gianni Depina Nazoliny
Kamea Johnson
Jedidiah Nelson
Kayleena Rattray
Raesaun Tavares Reid
Rianna Tavares Reid
Dellena Bereket
Nasarith Berhe
Deven Buchanan-Maule
Taj Clachar
Julia Craigwell
Jalen Montgomery
Anika Blake
Elliyah Clark
Ashanti Malcolm-Bates
Ashley McCoy
Nneoma Onwuama
Timothy Simpson
Shaniah Steed
Michael White

Country School

Emilio Cabey
Shanai Mayo
Kourtney Moore-Donald
Isyss Rivera
Diego Summers
Annika Swift
Deven Wilson Joutras
Jadelyn Wilson Joutras
Estella Gethers
Gianni Hill
Natalia Angelica Hyman
Tye McCatty
Joshua Ortiz
Sarah Thomas
Amare Yarde
Ligia Barrow
Ty Harding
Jahmari Oliver-Bigby
Ronald Rogers
Nina Tavares
Jayson Vieira

Field School

Award for High Standard of Academic Excellence, 2010-2011 School Year

Julian Antoine
Helen Befekadu
Jaycee Bullock
Simon Lu
Echezona Onwuama
Melissa Barbosa
Rebecca Leathers
Conor McCoy
Roshani Nagarajah
JeQuan Oliver-Bigby
Gabriel Peterkin
Shama Simmons
Taniya Williams

Outstanding Improvement/ Reading- Adonay Habtemariam
Outstanding Achievement / Homework Club -Alexus Casimir
Outstanding Imprvmnt/ Achievement/ Math -Kylisha Buchannan

Middle School

High Honor Roll*(All A's)*

Julimar Avila
James Joutras
Ramesh Nagarajah
Nonso Mogor
Arianna Seepersad

Honor Roll

Julimar Avila
Maurice Blake
Shyan Brown
Yodit Habtermariam
James Joutras
Kamina Nixon
Ojo Olubiyi
Kiara Powell
Kymberli Darby
Christiana Dryden
Koinonia Howard
Jordan Jackson Landrum
Darrell Johnson
Ramesh Nagarajah
Alia Thompson
Samantha Thompson
Nyeilla Veale
Nonso Mogor
James Summers
Kiana Summers
Kiara Summers
Arianna Seepersad

High School

High Honor Roll*(All A's)*

Edom Wessenyeleh
Alexis Mundo

Honor Roll

Maria Barrow
Sharlea Brookes-Keyes
Alec Chan
Savaughn Dickerson
Carlfred Malcolm
Shafira Myers
Keesha Nunes de Pina
Amari Veale
Jasmine Austrie
Ayanna Hudson
Kayla Lawrence
Rajathurai Nagarajah
Rafael Senices
Tyler Toledano
Marquis Caesar
Igwe Igwe-Kalu
Loni Jackman
Alliyah Wheaton

Student Awards - Music

Country School - Chorus & Orchestra

Michael Colmenares
Sydney Freeman
Hannah Jordan
Jyea Joyner
Hannah Leathers
Aaliyah Phillips
Tomily Torres III

Woodland School - Chorus &Orchestra

Anika Blake
Elliyah Clark
Ashanti Malcolm-Bates
Ashley McCoy
Nneoma Onwuama
Timothy Simpson
Shaniah Steed
Michael White

Field School

Julian Antoine	Band &Chorus
Kiara Arce	Band and Chorus
Khyree Atkins	Band
Helen Befekadu	Band
Christiana Benjamin	Band
Kimani Brown	Band and Chorus
Jaycee Bullock	Band and Chorus
Simon Lu	Band
Michael Martinez	Chorus
Echezona Onwuama	Band and Chorus
Kalu Uga, Jr.	Band and Chorus
Elise Wheaton	Band & Chorus
Kamar Atkins	Band
Melissa Barbosa	Orchestra and Chorus
Alanah Bullock	Band
Jahcynt John	Band
Rebecca Leathers	Band
Conor McCoy	Orchestra
Roshani Nagarajah	Band
Epifanio Nazoliny	Band
Gabriel Peterkin	Band
Daniel Rodriguez	Orchestra
Shama Simmons	Band
Taniya Williams	Band

Middle School

Madrigals

James Joutras
Kiara Powell
Ramesh Nagarajah

Band

Maurice Blake
Alexandria Anderson
Kymberli Darby
Christiana Dryden
Garvin Peterkin-DeCoteau
Nyla Boswell
Damani Clachar
Nonso Mogor
James Summers
Kiana Summers
Kiara Summers

Chorus

Shyan Brown
Zahrea Gay
James Joutras
Kamina Nixon
Kiara Powell
Christiana Dryden
Koinonia Howard
Jordan Jackson Landrum
Ramesh Nagarajah
Nyla Boswell
Damani Clachar
Imani Daniel Froston
Stephan Etienne
Nonso Mogor
Arianna Seepersad
Oduenyi Uga

Student Spotlights, continued ....

Tomily Torres III Tomily Torres III is a 3rd grader at Country School in Ms. Morrison's class. This spring, Tomily won the Continental Math League award for Country School. (Ashley McCoy also won this award at Woodland, see below.) This is the first time METCO students have won this distinction. I spoke to Tomily about his interest in math. He said it is his favorite subject. Tomily admitted that he "sometimes struggles" with difficult concepts but generally if he gets stuck he will not hesitate to ask for help . That seems to be a winning strategy for Tomily. He is also does all his homework. At his after school program, Tomily is able to start his homework right away because there is a computer lab where he can get to work. I have even seen Tomily pull out his work while he waits for the FFAP program to start! Tomily is a diligent student and is a good example to his peers. Outside of school Tomily plays baseball on a club team in Boston. Tomily has a sister, Kiara who is in the 4th grade at Field School. Kiara and Tomily Live in Hyde Park with their parents, Evanice and Tomily Jr.

Ashley McCoy, a 3rd grade student at Woodland School won the Continental Math League Competition for her class.

Jadelyn Joutras was selected from 80 candidates to be in the PROJECTSTEP Program (Providing opportunity that impacts the world of classical music). Only twenty students are going to be part of this developmental music program, and all were selected for their demonstrated musical ability.

Anika Blake, a 3rd grade Woodland School student and **Hannah Leathers,** a 3rd grade Country School student, won the perfect Attendance Award Certificate, an important part piece of why they are also achieving academic excellence.

Commuity Coordinator Report *by Cristy Brackett*

What a terrific year we have had! All of our Family Friends events were well-attended, and it has been great to get to know your wonderful children. They are enthusiastic and it has been a pleasure to organize these events. Our Pot Luck Supper this March was a success and it was great to see the many Boston and Weston friends come together for an evening of wonderful food and great entertainment.

We continued to have great response to school based outings. At Field School, where we had almost 100% participation at our outings. The Middle School Talent Show was a huge success, with over 70 students participating in the show and even more helping to plan the event. The community support was overwhelming and the show sold out ! The 7th & 8th Grade METCO students decided to make a donation to the Invisible Children from the proceeds of the event, because they raised more money than expected.

All Boston and Weston Parents, please give me feedback on how your Family Friends pairing is going if you haven't already. Also, Family Friend Network volunteers, please get in touch and choose a date for your class event and send it to me by email before our August meeting, so that we can start the year off with our class METCO Family Friends getting to know each other.

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and staff members who helped me throughout the year with all the events. Without your help, the Family Friends program would not survive.

Have a wonderful summer !

Congratulations to the Class of 2011 Award Winners!

Ella NcNutt Morse Scholarship - Janel Lynch

Weston/METCO Parent Organization Scholarships- Olivia Barrows, Karen Rodriguez

Martin Luther King Jr. Weston-METCO Award - Clarence Johnson

Stegmeister Graphic Design Award - Clarence Johnson

Photography Departmental Letter of Commendation - Janel Lynch

Music Award/ Band Letter: Olivia Barrows

Weston Parent -Teacher Organization Award in ART - Elvin Johnson

Principal's Award - Karen Rodriguez

Mensch Award - Clarence Johnson

MIAA Sportsmanship Award, Fall - Clarence Johnson

Don't forget to check the METCO website for upcoming events!

Middle School Wrap Up

8th Grade Reflections

As the fqurth quarter comes to a close, the Weston Middle Schoolers are filled with spirit & anxiety. We are anxious to start summer vacation, end the year, and most importantly, excited to move on. Although the fouth quarter is short–lived, there are many exciting events that take place. For the 8th grade, some highlights are, the trip to Washington, D.C, the annual music field trip to Six Flags, the semi-formal dance , and the Moving on Ceremony/ Breakfast. Even as vacation approaches, the 8th graders have been at work, not play, creating a scrapbook that sums up the whole D.C experience, and lastly, studying for and taking final exams.

All of us are excited and nervous to move on from the middle school and enter the doors of Weston High School. Although teachers and younger friends will be missed, the Eighth Grade is more than ready to take the next step in life. Time spent at the middle school will never be forgotten nor discarded, but will be reminisced upon and remembered as a year of transition, hard work, and maturity.

You will be missed Weston Middle School,
—Kamina Nixon, 8th Grade

End of the Year Reflections

The fourth quarter has been fun and challenging at the same time. But it is also the best time of the year. The band trip is a lot of fun. After a long day performing our music we went to Six Flags and enjoyed the rest of the day. Field day is the most exciting being with all our friends competing in games the whole day. There were many projects and tests to prepare for, such as Spanish and Math. As we get closer to the end of school students are much more excited. We have a lot of fun getting ready for the summer and cleaning out our lockers. It has been a great year of school and I can't wait to come back next year.

James Summers
6th Grade

Weston/METCO Program

Woodland and Country School News

From Riola Lazo

To all Country and Woodland School parents - Thank you for entrusting your most valuable treasure, your children, to us for this school year. We gave them the knowledge and the freedom to learn and explore without limit. Thanks too to the BWMPO Parent Organization that facilitated the process of educating our children and helped to keep our buses safe during our childrens' transition between towns.

Thank you to the administration for believing in the program and supporting our dreams to prepare our future generation of professionals in accordance to the global standard. Thank you to the METCO colleagues in continuing the holistic support in the upper grades.

I would like to express my profound appreciation to Cristy Brackett for being a great partner in the task of serving every child in the program with equal attention and opportunity to access the resources for their future.. And thanks also, to all the Family Friends that have supported our program.

These students performed in the Field School Talent Show

Taniya Williams & Kimani Brown (together), Sejal Pareek, Eche Onwuama, & Melissa Barbosa

Notes From the Field

by Theresa Dryden

The winter snow has finally melted, but there is still a flurry of activity at Field School! During the last few months of the school year, fourth and fifth grade students have been busy learning about the Oregon Trail, Canada, graphs, and measurement; writing and illustrating books, building eco-columns, and much more. Students have exercised physically as well as mentally, playing sports including soccer and volleyball and doing their pacer test in PE to see how their skills have improved. The last week of school will feature many exciting events – 4th grade Young Authors' Night and 5th grade Celebration Day on June 15, the annual Talent Show on June 20, and more.

Summer is full of opportunities for Field School students. On our bulletin board in the METCO office, some students have posted their plans. We will READ, travel, READ, celebrate birthdays, READ, go to cookouts, READ, relax at home, READ, attend the SOAR program, READ, go to camp, and of course, READ! I hope the message is clear – reading is one of the most important things a student can do during the summer. It's also important to practice those math facts. (Study Island and FastMath will be available all summer!)

And, just for fun, try something that you've never done before: learn to swim, go to a museum, learn to play golf (you can do this for free at Franklin Park), read a biography, fly a kite, collect rocks, draw a picture of your favorite tree, write a letter to Mrs. Dryden, or something that you dream up on your own.

Have a wonderful, adventurous summer!

—Theresa Dryden, June, 2011

Reminders: Family Friends Ice Cream Social
Sat. Sept. 24th 3-5pm
Field School Playground!

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HS METCO Office: 781-786-5850
Note New Number!

Don't forget to call the high school METCO office if you have contact information changes.

http://www.westonschools.org/index.cfm?pid=12729

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