

Shabazz Updater

April, 2010



Third grader, Mizani, solving math problem for her teacher, Mrs. Muriithi

All Michigan students in grades 3 thru 12 are required to take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test. Since the 2004-05 school year, Michigan students are tested on math and reading standards known as Grade Level Content Expectations. These standards have been recognized as rigorous by independent experts from around the nation. Shabazz Academy students took the test in fall 2009 and demonstrated remarkable progress in nearly all of the tested areas. For example, 73% to 92% of all Shabazz students in grades 3 thru 6 met or exceeded the reading proficiency requirements. Further, 100% of Shabazz Academy third graders met or exceeded the MEAP math requirements. Additionally, 5th graders realized double digit gains in math and reading from the prior year's performance. The upward achievement spiral on the 2009 MEAP is attributed to the commitment and dedication of our Board of Directors and staff to improving the achievement outcomes of Shabazz students.



James McCurtis Dr. Lloyd Bingman

Book Drive

The Lansing Graduate Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the nation's first African-American fraternity, sponsored a community-wide book drive for Shabazz Academy during the month of March. The book drive helped to provide much needed home reading materials for students. Chapter president, James McCurtis said "We are calling on the Lansing community to help support this effort because it is important that our children have the necessary tools to succeed in the classroom and throughout life."

The chapter's education committee chairman, Dr. Lloyd Bingman said that "Readers make leaders and having access to many books is the basic foundation for academic achievement."

Readers of the **Shabazz Updater** who would like to contribute to the book drive may contact Mr. Haywood Edwards , Administrative Assistant, at 517-267-8474. Additionally, if you wish to drop off books at the school you may do so between the hours of 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. Shabazz Academy is located at 1028 W. Barnes Avenue at the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Support for Haiti

Shabazz Public School Academy staff and students responded to the earthquake crisis in Haiti by passing around a water container which acted as a collection jar each morning for a month. As a result of this effort, the school raised \$1000 dollars to support the Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti.



Jamerra & Teioney
collecting funds for Haiti

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Shabazz Student, Infinidy, presents Haiti donation to Red Cross representative Natalie McIntyre



Shabazz African Dancers & Drummers In Performance

Shabazz Academy's African dancers and drummers performed new dance and drumming acts before two appreciative audiences at Detroit's Sherrill School on February 25, 2010. Mrs. Beatrice Muriithi, third grade teacher and Mr. Abdoulaye Diouf, French teacher, are their instructors. They have blended traditional West and East African dance and drumming traditions in the sounds and movements of the Shabazz performers. The 24 member group was introduced to the audiences by Anissa, third grader, who read an introductory poem that she wrote in celebration of Africa:

Africa is huge and the continent vast
 From its beautiful shores to its great past
 Its people are beautiful, strong and kind
 From Egypt came some of the greatest minds
 Senegal, Kenya, and Ghana too
 There are so many things in Africa to do
 Like African drums and the musical beat
 And the lively dancers that move their feet
 To the rhythms of our ancestors from not so long ago
 And excited dancers in the flow
 What was lost has been found
 On Shabazz Academy's playground
 Because we are the product of Africa's history
 Africa will always be a part of me

- Anissa



Shabazz drummer, Cadiefeye, performs a drum solo on his djembe drum at Sherrill School as fellow drummer, Javon, looks on. Djembe drums are popular West African musical instruments that are renown for their portability and sound. All of Shabazz's djembes were made in Lansing's sister city of Akuapem, Ghana (West Africa).



State Representative
Joan Bauer



Judge
Donald L. Allen



Eric Thomas



A.J. Hilton



Rina Risper

March Reading Month Celebrities Visit Shabazz Academy

Joan Bauer, State Representative

State Representative Joan Bauer made her second consecutive Reading Month visit to read to Shabazz students—she even brought stuffed ducklings along to entertain the students as she read **Duck for President**. Representative Bauer’s funny and animated reading kept the students attentive and curious as to how the story would end. After reading the book, Representative Bauer answered questions from the students who were very interested in knowing the day-to-day activities of a state representative. Throughout her responses to the students, Representative Bauer made it clear that learning to read is essential to achieving success, no matter what field/discipline they pursue.

Judge Donald L. Allen

Currently serving as Judge of 55th District Court, Donald Allen delivered the opening March Harambee honors address to Shabazz parents, students, and staff. Judge Allen gave a short but powerful presentation to the students on staying focused on their dreams of success by doing the right thing and coming to understand that by making good decisions now they will be rewarded later on in life with a good education and a good job. Needless to say, the audience was very appreciative of Judge Allen’s inspiring comments. The school is looking forward to Judge Allen’s return.

Eric Thomas, Motivational Speaker

Eric Allen, the much sought after motivational speaker addressed the March 2010 Harambee. No stranger to the problems facing urban America, Mr. Thomas referenced his childhood, family, and upbringing frequently as he gave words of hope and encouragement to Shabazz students. Having experienced many difficult childhood challenges that were brought on by some of his close relatives and himself, Mr. Thomas showed students how they can overcome such obstacles by seriously focusing on being successful. Using tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams as examples, Mr. Thomas constantly challenged the students to remember, that like the Williams sisters, they too can realize success by working hard and taking education and their dreams seriously, especially during their first thirty years of life. Mr. Thomas’ lively presentation drew appreciative applause throughout the evening.

A. J. Hilton, Newscaster

Finding the time to come and read to students prior to his evening broadcast, AJ Hilton of **Fox 47 News** brought along his favorite childhood book, **Oh, The Places You’ll Go**, by Dr. Seuss. Mr. Hilton still retains the copy of the original book that was given to him by his parents, and refers to it frequently for reflection and guidance in his life today. Mr. Hilton’s message to students was, not only does reading bring enjoyment, but it can also help guide and direct you as you pursue your goals in life.



Rina Risper, Publisher, New Citizens Press

As a strong literacy advocate, newspaper publisher, and parent of two Shabazz students, Mrs. Rina Risper began her presentation by encouraging students to use a thesaurus in their daily lives. She said that by having a thesaurus handy and using it often, students would increase their word power thereby giving them the ability to write more effective papers while at the same time increasing their vocabulary. Mrs. Risper followed her remarks on the use of a thesaurus with readings from **Baby Blessings**, a beautifully illustrated book about how our children bless our lives. This book is filled with poetry and prose about how the arrival of a newborn in the family can bring excitement and change to our lives.

Upcoming Shabazz Academy Events:

- Science Fair, April 23
- Malcolm X Week, May 17-21
- Langston Hughes Writing Contest, May 20
- Passport to Africa, May 27