

# Shabazz Updater



Summer 2011

## **Shabazz Academy Earns MDE Grade “A” Recognition For 2nd Successive Year**

Shabazz Public School Academy was once again awarded an “A” grade by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). This coveted recognition is given to schools that have met all of their MDE goals and made significant MEAP achievement gains over their

previous school year’s test results. Shabazz Academy’s excellent instructional staff, after school tutoring program, small group in-school tutoring program, a vibrant after school enrichment program which includes academic support, and veteran administrative leadership are cited as the key reasons for the school’s continued success. **The school also recorded its’ sixth successive year of making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) .**



## **2011 Hope Scholarship Recipients**

Shabazz Academy’s sixth grade class’ Hope Scholarship winners were recently announced. This scholarship award entitles students to two years of tuition free schooling at Lansing Community College. Their sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Rosalind Lucky said that all of this year’s recipients are “... focused and hard working--- plus the majority of them are reading above grade level.”



# REAL MEN READ



## Real Men Read Week At Shabazz Academy

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Kappa Delta Lambda Chapter served as the host for Shabazz Academy's first "Real Men Read" event. This activity was part of the school's March Is Reading Month celebration. Unfortunately, many of our students seldom have the opportunity to see men reading. Hence, the goal of the program was to attract as many men as possible to read to Shabazz Academy students and communicate to them the importance of daily reading and the need to further develop their reading and literacy skills.

Thanks to the following men who came forth and read to our students during Shabazz Academy's first Real Men Read event: Leo Carr, Charles Hawthorne, Dr. Damon Davis, Richard King, Harold Pope, Greg Takyi, Philip Lewis, Jelani Zarif, Mark Mayhoe, Ryan Robinson, Justin Dunn, Cory McInnis, Fred Porter, Shemrico Stanley, Sterling Armstrong, Dr. Robert McConnell, and Ernest Cabule. Also, hats off to Mrs. Lori Adams-Simon for her reading to Kindergarteners in Mrs. Dornbush's class.

# Additional March Is Reading Month Activities



**Mr. Frederick McKissack , author of many books, including Black Diamond: The Story of The Negro Baseball League and This Generation of Americans shared his background and acquainted students with essential steps in the writing process. He also shared with students historical facts about the fabled Negro Baseball League and some of its star performers such as Satchel Page, Willie Mays, and Hank Aaron.**



**State Representative Joan Bauer reads from President Barack Obama's book, Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters. This was Representative Bauer's fourth consecutive March Is Reading Month visit to Shabazz Academy. As always, Representative Bauer, a former classroom teacher, made the written words come to life, with her strong and often animated voice. Our children are looking forward to her 2012 visit.**



Two Shabazz students, Alma Holt, 6th grader, and Mikayla Woodhouse-Jackson, pre-school, performed in the 2011 Patsy Watson Dance Studio's Annual Recital. The program, titled "What's Up Duloc?" used the hit movie **Shrek** as its theme to showcase spirited dancing, singing, and acting by the students. Alma Holt received the studio's Sponsorship Class Award from Ms. Watson who spoke highly of Alma's determination, enthusiasm, and cooperative spirit.



## 2011 PAC MAC Spelling Bee Winners

Once again, Shabazz Public School Academy had a large contingent of participants at the annual PAC Mac Spelling Bee, held at Michigan State University, April 30, 2011. In the past three years, Shabazz Academy has received the “Highest Student Participation Award” from Pac Mac. This year’s competition saw Shabazz Academy students taking



five awards. Kyra Edwards took first place in the first grade competition. Kyra’s spelling prowess enabled her to win over competitors from East Lansing, Okemos, and Haslett. Shayla Washington, a classmate of Kyra’s, placed fourth in the same category.

DeYea’Breon Rider took third place in the fourth grade category while her classmate, Haywood Edwards won fourth place in the same category. Sixth grader, Tajah Smith captured fourth place in the sixth grade category.

## First Aid/CPR Training

As part of the Reaching Higher Summer Program, fifty students received first aid and CPR training. The students all agreed that the skills taught in the class will help them at school, home, and in the community.



## Shabazz Celebrates Its First Chess Tournament Haywood Edwards II, Wins School’s Inaugural Tournament

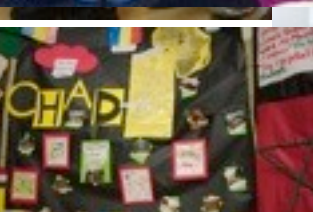
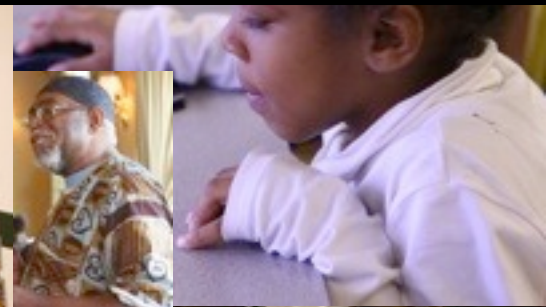


With the support of the school’s Reaching Higher Program and under the direction of chess instructor Greg Hall for the past two years, Shabazz Academy now has over 50 active student chess players. The enthusiasm for the game of chess is growing everyday among the students. Their matches are often filled with deft and creative moves occasioned with tension and stares into their opponent’s eyes. Usually, the matches are decided on the last few moves of the victors. Recently, Haywood Edwards, a fourth grader, became the school’s first chess tournament winner.





# 2010 - 2011 Snapshots of Life at Shabazz Public School Academy



# 25 Accomplishments During the 2010 - 2011 School Year

1. Shabazz Public School Academy received its second consecutive “A” rating from the Michigan Department of Education.
2. The school made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the sixth consecutive year as determined by the Michigan Department of Education & United States Department of Education.
3. Shabazz had its largest student enrollment in its 15 year history.
4. Twelve students received HOPE Scholarships to attend Lansing Community College. The scholarship will provide free tuition for two years.
5. Students produced two videos on the life of **Malcolm X, El-Hajj Malik El- Shabazz**, focusing on his childhood years in Lansing and Mason, Michigan.
6. Five students placed in the 2011 PAC MAC Spelling Bee; one was a first place winner.
7. Two students won first place in the Ingham County Intermediate School District Art contest. This was the fifth consecutive year that Shabazz students captured at least two first place prizes.
8. Forty Students attended a three week summer day camp as part of the Reaching Higher After School Program.
9. Shabazz Academy successfully operated a year-round after school math & reading tutoring program.
10. Over fifty professionals visited the school as mentors and/or career specialists to meet & discuss their careers with students.
11. Shabazz Academy was accepted as a partner school for The University of North Carolina’s First School Project.
12. In cooperation with The Carol Greer Center (St. Stephen’s Community Church) and Michigan State University, twelve students participated in a year- long digital media and robotics workshop.
13. Thirty students traveled to Western Michigan University to participate in the school’s annual Young Educators Society Conference. This was a joint venture between Lansing Community College, Western Michigan University, and Shabazz Academy.
14. The school’s Reaching Higher Choir performed at the annual meeting of the Camp Highfields Board of Directors.
15. The school held its first school -wide chess tournament.
16. Shabazz inaugurated its first summer book reading program wherein students were given two books to read in two weeks. After reading the initial books, the students can return them and check out two more books.
17. The school held its first “Real Mean Read” event; seventeen men came and read to the students.
18. Shabazz African Dance & Drumming Group performed at Baker College (Owosso Campus), Detroit’s Sherrill School, Michigan State University, Ingham Intermediate School District, Lansing Community College, and for the Lansing Parks & Recreation Department.
19. Judy Collischan, internationally renown art critic, curator, and writer escorted thirty students on a tour of the Detroit Institute of Art.
20. Shabazz Academy, with assistance from The Lansing Food Bank, started a backpack food program for 100 students (provided twice a month).
21. Several poets from **Poets In The City** performed poetry readings to Shabazz students and staff.
22. Approximately 200 students, staff, and parents attended the school’s end- of- year field trip to Michigan Adventure in Muskegon, Michigan.
23. Two students made perfect scores on three sections of the fifth grade MEAP exam.
24. Third grade students, for the second year, scored 100% on the math portion of the MEAP test.
25. Teachers attended at least fifteen professional development conferences and workshops.



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