

January 2010



CLAS

# CLAS

## HIGHLIGHTS

Culture and Language Academy of Success • Aspire. Affirm. Attain.

### Dates to Calendar

January 18 – King Day Holiday – No School

January 19 – *Righteous are Rewarded* Ceremony – All Three Sites

January 20 – Shortened Day Wednesday – 2:00 Early Dismissal

January 25 - January 30 – Parent Conference Week

February 3 – Shortened Day Wednesday – 2:00 Early Dismissal

February 12 – Learning Records Go Home – All Three Sites

February 15 – President's Day Holiday – No School

February 16 – Spring Semester Begins – All Three Sites

### Happy New You, CLAS Community!

## CLAS' New Year's Resolution: Increase Achievement, Attendance, and Punctuality

It is difficult to escape the tradition of resolutions that comes with the New Year. With the newness comes the perfect time for reflection and for refocusing. CLAS is setting a goal of increasing our achievement on the state standardized tests, our percentage of students who attend school daily, and our the number of students of who come to school on time.

The importance of achievement speaks for itself, while attendance and being to school on time are directly related to substantial additional revenue for our school. In order for resolutions to be successful, it is suggested that short-term goals be set with tangible and measurable results.

With achievement we are attempting to be more focused instructionally with use of strategies that better teach the conceptual thinking skills and be more focused with students who are in need of intervention in math and reading.

With attendance, we are planning to reward students who come to school everyday with certificates and to offer school-wide incentives, if we can increase out attendance rates by at least 5 percentage points over the next three months.

With punctuality, we are intending to offer incentives as well, but for those families who continue to be chronically late, it has been recommended that they be considered for suspension or even expulsion in a similar way to other schools.

In order for us to have success, then we need the continued support of the CLAS community. Come to school, be on time, and increase our chances for increased academic success.



### CLAS Observes the King Day National Holiday on January 18

## Tribute to Dr. King

On Monday, we celebrate one of the United States' greatest citizens. At CLAS, we try to expose our children to the lesser-known facts about Dr. King or the key aspects of his life as a young person as a way of relating to our youngsters. Rather than give the usual, now clichéd historical information, we want our students to go beyond the I Have A Dream Speech. Test your depth of knowledge on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. below.

1. When did Martin Luther King's Day become a U.S. national holiday?  
a. 1984 b. 1986 c. 1988 d. 1990 e. 1992
2. Martin Luther King Jr. earned a Ph.D in  
a. Philosophy b. Communication c. Sociology d. Religious Studies e. Theology
3. Which president signed into law the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 (vigorously lobbied by King)?  
a. John F. Kennedy b. Lyndon Johnson c. Ronald Reagan d. Bill Clinton e. Barack Obama
4. What year did the famous March on Washington take place?  
a. 1961 b. 1962 c. 1963 d. 1964 e. 1965
5. True or False. Dr King was the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
6. Martin Luther King Jr. ranked in what position in Gallup's List of the Most Admired People in the 20th Century?  
a. First b. Second c. Third d. Fifth e. Tenth

## ONE MORE APPLAUSE FOR HERITAGE CELEBRATION 2009

One of our parents new to the CLAS Community put it best. She shared that having never attended a Heritage Celebration she really didn't know what to expect. "I was blown away!" she said. So was everyone else in attendance. *Makusa and the Drum*, building on the traditions, experiences, and performances of Celebrations past, was a culmination of the vision and another realization of the possibility that is the CLAS Heritage Celebration.

Mad thanks to writer, producer, director, choreographer, and set designer extraordinaire, Crescent McGlone. You can do it all! The depth of the story and characters, the work with the actors to convey that depth, and the visual narrative as well were all sublime. You are super bad—an immense talent that we are fortunate to have at CLAS. Brilliant. Thank you.

Major props to Dr. Dawn Norfleet, who wrote the musical charts and arrangements, put together and directed the stellar band, worked with the soloists, choir, and rappers and made the sure that the foundations of what is essentially an off-broadway musical were solid. Well done. Thank you.

Big ups to the cast--Monika Jackson as Makusa, Everett Harvey as Mapate, Kamryn Morris as Yaminah, Patrick Bucknor as Mosi, Emani Jones as Pili, Renard Bell as Tatu, Kyra Anderson as Nne, Tyler Smith as Tano, and Paula McIntosh as Misi. In each of you, stars were reborn that night. You shone ever so brightly proving that CLAS has the most talented students to be found anywhere. Thank you.

Shout out to the Choir--Assata Allison, Alexis Wilkins, Deija Seay, E'magee Tyler, Imani Guillory, Jaylin Jamerson, Jailynn Young, Jordan Bucknor, Joshua Thomas, Kamryn Morris, Keren Willis, Khiry Bentley, Kristal Snoddy, Tahjé Black, and Vaughan Hooper and rappers, E'magee Tyler, Malik Coney-Muhammad, and Michael Jacobs, with special acknowledgement to the soloists--Jared Houston, Monika Jackson, Reise Hooper, and Kristen Mundy. Your voices floated throughout the Ebell, creating a lush and fitting soundscape. Thank you.

Thanks to all our community volunteers for tending to the children and seeing to it that they were taken care of both before, during, and after the performance.

DVD's are completed and will be on sale beginning this week. See your site's office manager for how you can purchase.

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## Are You Scheduled? Parent Conference Week is January 25-29

CLAS will be holding its care provider or a parent conferences during the week of January 25-January 30. These are important scheduled times for you to connect with the student advocate to have a sense of how your student is progressing in his/her learning, as a means to preview what will be indicated on your child's upcoming learning records, and to find out how you can best support your child's learning. Make sure you are scheduled in today by contacting your student advocate or your office manager. Here are some tips for a successful parent conference:

- Ask your child if there is anything that he would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference.
- Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
- Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
- Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
- Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.
- Keep your emotions under control.
- Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.
- Express appreciation for the conference.

### End of an Era

## We Love You Joanie!

In case you have not heard, Joanie Erickson, formerly the CLAS administrative assistant, has decided to leave CLAS. Joanie has been a stalwart for the Culture and Language Academy of Success since its inception. The original office manager, Joanie has made innumerable contributions to CLAS, whether it is her now famous family participation coupon books or her ace triage assistance to the scrapes and bruises that would come into the main office regularly. Joanie's contribution will be forever remembered. We wish her all the best as she relocates to Florida to be with family and friends.

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## SCHOOL SITE HIGHLIGHTS

- Pleasant Hill welcomes **Ms. Natasha Moore**, new CLAS staff member. Natasha is working as instructional support, primarily in Kinder.
- Coliseum welcomes **Ms. Laurie Eason** as its new office manager. Laurie has left Pleasant Hill as the support staff plus person. **Mr. Erwin Woodard** has resumed his role as support staff plus at that site.
- Righteous are Rewarded** Ceremonies will be at all three sites on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. See your child be rewarded for being his/her best thus far. Please call your school site for specific times.