

Week of October 20, 2008



CLAS

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Event Calendar (Note Revised Dates)

Oct. 20 – Picture Day (All Sites)

Oct. 20 – Virtual Curriculum Night Posted Online (all sites)

Nov. 1 – Community Gathering and Fall Festival – Edward Vincent Park in Inglewood 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

November 11 – Veteran’s Day Holiday (No School)

November 13-17 – Parent Conferences

Virtual Curriculum Nights Go Online October 20

Your opportunity to explore and understand the renown CLAS curriculum without having to leave your home begins Monday night.

From the comfort of your office, den, family room, bedroom, or wherever it is that you have your computer, you will be able to gain a sense of how teaching and learning happen in your child’s CLASroom™.

The same general overview and Powerpoint slide show that you would have seen at your child’s school, will be offered to you in streaming and downloadable form. We hope to make this an informative, enriching learning experience, both in terms of our curriculum and using technology to access information in a way that you may not be familiar with.

You will have the opportunity to conduct conversations afterwards with your child’s student advocate using either e-mail or phone.

Beginning Monday evening at 6:30, point your browser to www.cultureandlanguage.org/VirtualCurriculumNight.html, view the 10-minute informational video about CLAS and it’s culturally responsive approach, watch a brief plenary presentation about CLAS’ performance, then click on the link for the presentation of your child’s student advocate’.

PICTURE DAY IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Monday, October 20, 2008, is Picture Day at all sites. LifeTouch, our school portraits provider, will be on site taking gorgeous keepsake photographs of your child that you will enjoy forever.

By now you should have received the Payment envelope so that you could determine which portrait package you’d like to purchase. Please return the envelope with your payment to school on Monday morning.

Don’t forget that all students must be in full uniform, including white shirts and ties, and red sweaters (elementary) or black blazers (middle school). No exceptions.

Tune In to KPFK 90.7 on Thursday, November 13

Scribes on the Radio Airwaves

By Malik Coney and Paula McIntosh

On Thursday, September 18, 2008, the Scribe Street Activists filed their first monthly report for *Some of Us are Brave, A Black Women’s Radio Program*, on KPFK 90.7 fm Los Angeles.

Scribe Street Activists Paula McIntosh, Patrick Bucknor, and Malik Coney introduced their perspectives on

topics such as the European slave trade, Africa as the cradle of civilization, child abuse, and more.

The radio broadcast was inspired by the

newspaper

Voices of the Scribe Street Activists, created last year in Ms Salina Gray’s 5th CLASroom. Ms Gray, CLAS parent Jennifer McIntosh, and *Some of Us Are Brave* host and CLAS parent, Kali Alexander helped them with gathering information, recording their segment, and transportation.

The next report will be about gangs. The Scribes will be talking about what they are, how they are formed, and why they were created. The next Scribe Street Activist Report will be co-produced by Gray and Alexander and will air on Thursday, November 13 at 2 PM on KPFK 90.7 fm, or you can listen online at www.kpfk.org.

If you missed the last report, go to the audio archive section of the KPFK website. Next, scroll down to the September 18 edition of *Some of Us are Brave* and click the “listen” button. And remember, ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THEN WORDS!



Scribe Street Activists in the studio. L-R, Paula McIntosh, Malik Coney, and Patrick

You Bring the Heat, We'll Bring the Meat

WANTED: GRILL MASTERS TO COOK FOR THE COMMUNITY GATHERING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Calling all dads, grand dads, uncles and friends of families in the CLAS community who claim to be gifted on the grill. Here's your chance to show and prove. Bring your BBQ pit and culinary secrets to Edward Vincent Park on November 1 to cook for the Community at the 6th Annual CLAS Community Gathering and earn bragging rights and an honorary doctorate in Barbecueology.

The Community Gathering will be held on Saturday, November 1 at Edward Vincent Park in Inglewood from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The first big CLAS Community-wide event of the year, it brings the Community together for food, fun, and fellowship.

One of the big highlights is always the start of the day when, early in the morning, more than 30 men in the CLAS Community descend upon the park hauling any assortment of grills (charcoal only, mesquite and other hardwood optional as no real barbecueologist would ever use gas!), set 'em up, fire 'em up, and perform magic on chicken, spareribs, hamburgers, turkey dogs, and veggie dogs.

This year's Community Gathering is special in that we will grow two trees from one seed and also hold our annual Fall Cultural Festival within the Gathering. The Fall Festival is our alternative to Halloween, celebrating our cultural heritage and tradition of masks and costumes. Rather than reinforce, not to mention economically support, mainstream culture by buying commercial costumes, students can only come in "Keep It Cultural" costumes. These costumes have to represent culture—either historical or contemporary figures, icons from Ancient Africa or other lands, or other cultural representations. There will be a contest with prizes awarded as well as booths featuring fun for the whole family.

There will even be a segment for you to briefly confer with your child's student advocate and review her/his nine week progress report.

As always with any event of this size and scope, we need volunteers to assist with making the Community Gathering a success. Besides our grillmasters, **we need a set-up crew to help with getting things going in the morning.** A big benefit of helping out with the set up, beside earning a hearty portion of the 42 community participation hours that are required of all CLAS families, is that you get to serve as a taste tester for the Community making sure our cooks bring the flavor.

Additionally, **we need parents to assist with the booths that each CLASroom™ will sponsor for the Fall Festival.** These booths feature fun activities for our students ranging from dunk tanks for students to practice their ball throwing aim while being rewarded with dunking Mr. Russell in over 100 gallons of water to climbing a 50 foot high rock wall that two years ago revealed Dr. Hollie's fear of heights.

Finally, **we also need a cleanup crew to help with and continue the CLAS tradition of leaving Vincent Park cleaner than we found it.**

Call or email **Crescent McGlone**, event coordinator (206-226-8742 or ninewriter@aol.com) if you will lend a helping hand with cooking, setting up, or cleaning up after the event. Contact your child's student advocate if you are interested in assisting with your child's CLASroom booth for the Fall festival portion of the Gathering. Again, you can earn community participation hours while supporting your school. See you there!

ATTENTION!

Please note these special items of importance concerning you and your child. Thank you!

1. November payments are now due for CLAScooks sponsored by Dulan's meals program. Payments can either be made at your child's school or at the business office at 2930 W. Imperial Hwy., Suite 514 in Inglewood (at Crenshaw and Imperial). Please note that families who qualify for reduced price meals must also pay their monthly fee for the their child(ren) to be served a school meal. Menus along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ sheet) and Monthly payment form have been emailed to all families as well as sent home.

2. Remember that if you miss school, you miss out. Excessive absences hurt in a couple of key ways. Student academic performance suffers because of missed instruction and assignments. And schools lose funding for every day a child is absent. Believe it or not the loss in funding amounts to approximately \$30.00 per day for per child. So even just 5 students missing 3 days each in a month means a loss of about \$2250.00 for that month. Multiply this by many more students absent many more days and the cost to CLAS is staggering. Be present!

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