

# THE CICELY L. TYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHRONICLE

Fall 2013

Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

Avi Slivko, Vice Principal

## **Principal's Message**

Peace & Greetings CTES Family Members,

I would like to welcome you back for a dynamic school year where rigor and data will be the guiding force relative to building-level decision making throughout the school year. To all I say what a very pleasant introduction to an instructional year expected to be filled with the joy of learning, anticipated optimism, and magnificent accomplishments. Thus far students have been immersed in various academic affairs as they've been exposed to new innovative programs that promote achievement in core-content areas and place emphasis on common core standards. For example, in kindergarten through fifth grade we are implementing a newly selected math curriculum referred to as Go Math, which is a program geared toward increasing our student's ability to think critically and problem solve independently. Additionally our students will continue to strive toward mastering various reading strategies with the assistance of the Journeys reading program, and the many components infused in to the curriculum to address deficient reading skills.

In an effort to boost student achievement, once again this year administration worked diligently to modify the school-based schedule to include more co-teaching scenarios, where additional teachers are placed in classrooms in an effort to ensure that students receive supplementary assistance in language arts and mathematics. The district has supported this endeavor by implementing a district-wide inclusion/co-teaching program where a classroom has been selected from each grade level and assigned two teachers during core-content instructional classes. The afore-said program will also ensure that we are working with our special education population in an

ethical manner; thereby including them in a general education setting when/if appropriate.

Along with our core-content initiatives, we once again have our amazing performing arts program where students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in art forms such as visual arts, theater, dance, instrumental, and/or vocal music. While participating in such classes students will be exposed to both presentations and cross-content integration activities, which afford them the opportunity to connect mathematics, reading, and writing to various genres of performing arts.

On another note, let's not forget about our upcoming school-based activities. As always our students will have the opportunity to participate in meaningful community-based events as well. For example, the "Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Kick Off" is scheduled for September 26th; this is always a huge success as our students energetically contribute to making good healthy eating choices and fight against obesity within our community. Students will also participate in "Week of Respect" (Week of Oct 7th) & "Safe & Drug Free Schools" (Week of Oct. 21st) activities, which promote good-character, anti-bullying, and identifies ways in which to prevent fires, fatal accidents, and damage to property. Let us not forget about the amazing "35 Book Campaign Program" (Oct. 31st) where we collaborate with our Literacy Team and Performing Arts Department; and an awesome performance on the importance of reading is presented to our entire student body. Thanks to the RIF Program we will once again be able to give each student in our building a brand new book to read toward the 35 Book Campaign twice this school year. As always we will once again conclude our character day with a delightful parade where pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students entertain us as they march around in their favorite story book/movie costumes for all to witness. Don't think the fun stops there... we also have our Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway,

Multicultural Day, Cycle 1 Awards Ceremony, Winter Concert, Kwanzaa Celebration and much much more!

As you can see we have a lot on our plate for the first portion of this instructional year and we expect that you and your child will join us in feeling full of knowledge. This is Mrs. Moss-Hasan...make it a great year or not...the choice is yours!

*Let us keep it moving people, as we endorse  
"Possibilities not Problems!"*

## Vice-Principal's Office

Welcome back parents/guardians and students to what we anticipate will be an exciting and learning-centered school year. At Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School we work very tirelessly to ensure that all of our students are receiving the highest quality education in a safe, welcoming, and learning centered environment, and we are looking forward to working with you to facilitate this precedent.

One of our priorities at Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School is exemplary student behavior. We firmly believe that students learn best in an orderly, organized, and respectful atmosphere. To ensure that our goals are accomplished in this area (and overall) we have established a three tiered behavior incentive program geared towards intrinsically rewarding both classes and students that consistently serve as behavioral role models. These programs include the Ticket Program, Fun Fridays, and Student of the Month. Additionally, students and parents are reminded to review and sign our Code of Conduct and Student Behavioral Contract, thus ensuring that that everyone is aware of the behavioral expectations that we have of our students. Please speak with your children on a consistent basis regarding behavioral expectations so that we can continue to remain on the same accord and work together to ensure that our students are receiving the necessary foundation for a sound, safe, and high quality education.



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## Welcome Cicely L. Tyson Mathematicians!

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We have jumped into an amazing Math curriculum called Go Math! As you may have noticed, Go Math! is an interactive mathematics program that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. What does that mean? That means you will be spending more time on mastering fewer skills for a longer period of time than you have in the past. We know that many of you are excited about using technology and many hands-on manipulatives in your mathematics classrooms. To be successful in Math, make sure you are reviewing what you have learned in class by completing the homework assigned. You must come prepared and ready to learn each and every day.

Here are some skills being taught at every grade level:

K ~ Counting numbers, recognizing and identifying shapes, and comparing/contrasting objects.

1<sup>st</sup> ~ Addition and Subtraction, telling time, and geometric shapes

2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Model 3-digit numbers, regrouping, telling time to the nearest 5 minutes, and problem solving

3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Interpret graphs, relating addition and multiplication, and division problems

4<sup>th</sup> ~ Multiplying 2-digit by 2-digit numbers, long division, multi-step word problems, simplifying fractions, and recognizing decimals

5<sup>th</sup> ~ Order of operations, adding/subtracting decimals, dividing fractions, and interpreting various graphs

Remember, make sure you are actively engaged, focused, and ready to learn some more, but don't forget to also **HAVE FUN!**

*Ms. Brown & Ms. Iqbal*

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Let's put on our thinking caps and see how many of you can solve this math problem:

The table shows the heights of some of the tallest mountains in the world.

<i>Name of Mountain</i>	<i>Height in Feet</i>
Abi Gamin	24,131
Himalchuli	25,896
Lhotse	27,940
Trivor	24,859

How many more feet high is Lhotse than Himalchuli?

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Welcome Back!! This year in ELA we are striving to do our best. Together, we will identify areas in need of improvement. Teachers continue to formulate a Plan of Action for students, addressing the areas of weaknesses, and working with them in whole group, small groups and/or through literacy centers, which are designed to practice and remediate deficient skills. In addition, students who need additional assistance on the reinforcing of specific reading strategies and skills work with their teachers during the re-teaching/re-testing session.

Parents, please assist your child (ren) while they complete their homework, study the spelling and vocabulary words and read at least 20-30 minutes per night. With your help, they will be able to perform to the best of their ability. Continue to work with your child (ren) as they strive to do their best in school and at home.

*Lorraine Khan & Natalee Bartlett  
Cicely L. Tyson ES  
Literacy Coaches*

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## **Welcome to Tools of the Mind**

Tools of the Mind is a research-based early childhood program that builds strong foundations for school success by promoting intentional and self-regulated learning in preschool and kindergarten-aged children. Tools' instructional philosophy is inspired by the work of Russian psychologist Lev Vygotsky and his students, and at the same time, is rooted in cutting edge neuropsychological research on the development of self-regulation/executive functions in children.

### **Play Plans**

At the preschool level of Tools of the Mind, Play Planning is an instructional strategy used to promote the development of self-regulation. Children plan their play every day, right before they start playing in the centers. A Play Plan usually describes the role and the actions a child will engage in during the first few minutes of play. This initial plan helps children to act purposefully. Play Plans can be also used by a teacher or by the children themselves to resolve arguments occurring over the choice of roles or the use of play props. Children often modify and change their plans as they play with each other during center time.

(This information was taken directly from [www.toolsofthemind.org](http://www.toolsofthemind.org), for additional information please visit the website.)



## School Library Media Center

The Library Media Center at CTES is busy with activity!

Students enjoy a weekly visit to the media center for a technology lesson or a school library media lesson with book check out. We are excited to announce that we are the proud recipient of a prestigious Laura Bush Foundation Grant for America's Libraries for 2013. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new books! In addition, students at CTES will also benefit from the RIF/Reading is Fundamental Grant. Each student at CTES will receive one free new book of their choice.

Please support our Scholastic Book Fairs that are held throughout the school year.

Students and parents may access the CTES media center online at:

<http://tysonel.eastorange.schoolfusion.us/>

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## COUNSELING CORNER

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome again to another exciting school year. We would like to introduce ourselves; my name is Ms. Cruz, Guidance Counselor/Anti-Bullying Specialist and Dr. Kohut, School Social Worker. Our goal is to work as a part of the professional school team to address the academic, social, personal and developmental needs of our students by providing and ensuring a safe and supportive environment. We look forward to working with you and your child.

*Dr. Kohut & Ms. Cruz*

For the month of September, for Suicide Prevention week September 9-13, 2013. Dr. Kohut and Ms. Cruz discussed with the upper classes that suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the world. The students were made aware that there is always help in the schools,

and the community to help with suicide prevention, and mental health treatment.

The East Orange School district is also eliminating the color code system during our school Safety Drills. We are now following the guide line of FEMA Evacuation Drill, Lockdown Drill, Reverse Evacuation Drill, Command Drill.

## BULLYING

### What is Bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power, such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once. (Source: stopbullying.gov)

### WEEK OF RESPECT

A few years ago the Anti-Bullying Law went into effect. The law requires that every school in New Jersey recognize the "Week of Respect" during the first week in October (10/7-10/11). We will observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, in order to stress the importance of character education. Thus, our students will be participating in various activities during their school day to recognize the "Week of Respect"; we ask that you support us in this endeavor by involving your child in some of the activities listed below. This will demonstrate to your child that home and school are working together to reinforce the message of respect.

Week of Respect activities for the family

- Have a family discussion with students about how parents give and receive respect in the workplace.
- Watch a 30 minute television show and discuss which character behaved respectfully and why.
- Have a family compliment contest, in which the family member who gives the most meaningful compliments is the winner.
- Discuss respectful ways to answer the phone and greet others.
- Encourage your child to do random acts of kindness.

Other important events this month

- Fire Prevention Week: October 7th-October 11, 2013
  - Violence Prevention Week: October 21st-25th, 2013
  - Red Ribbon Week: October 21st-October 25th, 2013
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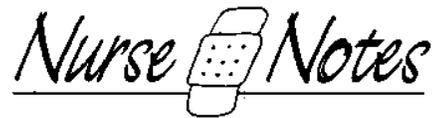


**Health Office**

*From the Tyson Elementary School Health Office*

Flu season is around the corner. Simple ways you and your family can beat this is to wash your hands regularly with soap and water. Also visit your doctor's office and talk about getting a flu shot today.

Help prevent flu complications like pneumonia and ensure you and your children are healthy and in school! Help us prevent loss of class instruction time!



**LET'S MOVE**

- Encourage students to run around and play in a safe place.
- Walk to nearby parks or recreational centers instead of driving.
- Take short walks with your kids around the neighborhood.
- Fresh air is good for everyone.
- During shopping or other family outings, park your car and walk to your destination.
- Help us make a difference and remember to keep our kids moving!