

# THE CICELY L. TYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHRONICLE

Fall 2015

Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

Makeba McCray, Assistant Principal

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## Principal's Message

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### Greetings CTES Family,

Administrators and teachers everywhere recognize the important contributions parents make toward a child's success in school. There is no question about it - success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling. Parents model both a silent and spoken language in front of their children daily.

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interest of children. The close partnership between home and school is one area that we would like to build upon at C.T.E.S.

C.T.E.S. has a strong tradition of supportive, hard-working parents; however we would like to expand the level of support that we currently have for students. Throughout the year parents have the opportunity to develop that partnership in a wide variety of ways. Parents can join the PTA, volunteer in the classroom, help at evening events, attend district DPAC meetings, read to their children and help in many other ways. It is important to your child that you are involved in some way at school. It's a way to let your child know you think his or her school is important.

As we transitioned in to the new school year, we found teachers establishing school standards and rules. In the most successful classrooms, teachers have established specific rituals and routines for the children to follow. This means giving the children a specific place to find and keep materials, a set schedule for classroom instruction, etc. These routines, blended with the teacher's consistent standards, form a smooth running classroom where the children have the security of understanding their environment and are reinforced positively for their contributions.

At home, it is also important to provide routines. Many families build a daily "quiet time" when the television is turned off. This quiet time provides students the opportunity for completing schoolwork or for recreational reading if there is no homework. During this quiet time a suitable place, somewhat free of other distractions, should be available. The routine of a daily quiet time provides an opportunity to develop self-discipline, stimulate imagination, and enhance reading skills.

Routines can also make completing chores easier for both children and parents. If children are consistently expected to complete routine household duties at the same time on the same day in the same place, they soon begin to develop a responsibility for their commitment and contribution to the family.

As families establish routines for the school year, it is helpful to keep in mind that childhood is a special time of learning,

exploration and growth. Children need to be provided free time to explore their world and experience the joy of discovery.

Hopefully we can provide time for our children to be children. The realities of the adult world will be there all too soon. As children grow and learn, they find joy and satisfaction in working closely with their families toward a common goal. Such is the case with the students at C.T.E.S. Commitment to the best for our children on the part of parents, students and staff is the key to our success with the children we teach. It is the hope of the staff that all parents will help us fulfill this commitment to excellence on behalf of ALL children at C.T.E.S. School and home can work together to build skills and knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self worth. We must invest our time and energies in our nation's most valuable resource - our children.

Authentically yours,

Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School of  
Performing and Fine Arts



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Welcome Cicely L. Tyson Mathematicians!

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HELLO, Cicely Tyson Elementary  
Friends!

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 everyday.

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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Welcome to the 2015-2016 Academic School Year at Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School. We have a lot of exciting activities coming up in the ELA Department. Beginning October 5 and running through October 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our first Scholastic Book Fair, which took place in the Media Center.

On October 30, celebrated Character Day where students and staff members had the opportunity to attend school dressed as their favorite storybook character. During our Character Day Celebration, we launched our 35 Book Campaign where students are given the challenge to read at least 35 books this school year. Awards will be given to those students who achieve this goal. Therefore, students you must READ, READ, READ – at least 20 minutes each day.

Finally, in our classrooms we are implementing the district curriculum, which is closely aligned with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that students are ready for the PARCC assessment and are college and career ready.

The Literacy Coaches are looking forward to having a great year with students and staff members.

Mrs. Khan/Ms. Adams



### School Library Media Center

The Library Media Center at CTES is here to assist students, faculty

and staff! We have amazing resources to assist in student research and learning. Students enjoy checking out books, reading children's periodicals and using our digital resources. Students in first and second grades have been reading wonderful new books and have had collaborative lessons with teachers. Starting in third grade, students are exposed to the Big 6 Research Model and have been learning how to conduct internet research using subscription databases. Fourth and fifth graders are reinforcing their 21<sup>st</sup> Century research skills by learning in "Library Centers". Students use an inquiry-based model to investigate and utilize library reference materials. These students are given freedom to explore all that the library media center has to offer while working in collaborative learning groups. Character day was a success, as many students dressed as their favorite characters. In addition, we are now utilizing digital resources in our extended-day program, the Twilight Rams, and we are making digital movies which incorporate library media and technology skills along with social

studies. Don't forget! Students and parents may access the CTES media center online at: <http://tysonel.eastorange.schoolfusion.us>

Always reading,

Ms. Kazanis

School Library Media Specialist



### What is Phonological Awareness?

Phonological awareness refers to the ability to segment and manipulate the sounds of oral language. It is not the same as phonics, which involves knowing how written letters relate to spoken sounds. Activities that develop phonological awareness in children provide practice with rhyme and with beginning sounds and syllables. (from IRA, International Reading Association)

Phonological awareness is not just phonics.

Phonological awareness is **auditory** and does not involve words in print.

Phonological awareness is not a curriculum.

**Why is phonological awareness important?** "Research has shown that a child's awareness of the sounds of spoken words is a strong predictor of his or her later success in learning to read." (IRA) The ability to hear the sounds in words and to isolate the sounds from one another can help a child become a reader. Even before he learns the letters of the

alphabet, a child can say the sounds in his language. When he can hear the sounds in a word and tell where the sounds occur in the word, he is developing pre-reading skills. Taken from [http://www.pre-kpages.com/phonemic\\_awareness](http://www.pre-kpages.com/phonemic_awareness)

From,  
Ms. A. Ekeh, Nurse

### Health Office

- The Flu Season is here again
- Help Keep Our Community Healthy
- Stop Germs! Stop the Flu!
- Ask Your Doctor Today About Getting Your Family Flu Shots.
- Don't Get Sidetracked.
- Beat the Flu Today!

### Simple Steps To Take This Coming Flu Season

- When sick , stay home
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wash hands often for 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when it is not convenient to wash hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Practice good health habits such as, get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

