

THE CICELY L. TYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHRONICLE

SPRING 2016

Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

Makeba McCray, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message

Greetings CTES Family,

As a teaching community we as educators understand and embrace a holistic philosophy to education. Holistic education is a philosophy based upon the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to the community, to the natural world, and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace. Administrators and teachers everywhere recognize the importance of community involvement and instilling these values in the children that we instruct. Here at Cicely Tyson Elementary School we promote these values in our ongoing programs, performances and extra curricular events. Some highlights of the last few months include:

In Twilight Rams Extended Day extra curricular activities, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:15 to 6:30 students receive instruction in digital movie making, calligraphy and poetry, health and fitness and science and stitchery classes. Students receive homework assistance, focused journaling and dinner is served as well!

School wide Black History Month performance, which featured the Harlem Renaissance as inspiration.

School Wide Health Fair as coordinated by Mrs. Ekeh featured health and wellness information, free massages, healthy snacks and more.

Celebrity Read Event in conjunction with the United Way of Essex and West Hudson Counties. Notable community members including East Orange Mayor, sports players and local professionals lent their time and talent to share a story and foster a love of reading with all of our students.

Mr. Doan's Band competition where the CTES 4th and 5th graders our performed even middle school bands.

Law Day competition featuring Miranda Rights Rap and an artistic submission that earned honorable mention at the County level.

Bridge of Books in conjunction with NJ Explorers and NJ Youth Corps donated over 1500 beautiful new books to our students and about 200 library books to the CTES media center.

We opened the CTES School Store featuring school spirit wear and gear as a behavioral incentive.

The PTO organized a fundraiser and donation program for Flint, MI for those affected by the lead water crisis. We collected hundreds of bottles of water and much needed supplies. Through a generous donation these contributions were

transported to MI by Elmwood United Presbyterian Church.

Students collected their pennies in a Pasta for Pennies program to raise money for cancer research. Over \$850.00 was collected!

Girls on the Run fitness and self esteem program for girls is up and running for the second time this year. The girls and teachers will complete a 5K run and have fun doing it.

Our Fresh fruit and Vegetable program is in full swing with students and teachers enjoying a different fresh fruit or veggie three times weekly.

Boys' and Girls' Mentoring meets twice monthly to reinforce positive values and teamwork for your 4th and 5th graders.

Sodexo foods visited from France.

Many teachers participate in Donor's Choose and have received grants of materials and supplies all of which benefit our students. The 4th grade team received paper and snacks for students. Ms. Bolcarovic received 50 classroom library books. Ms. King received 4 tablets and books; Ms. Wallace received donations as well.

The school participates in NJ Food Bank Tools 4 Schools.

CTES participates in Family Back Pack Food Program as well.

Read to Succeed program promotes literacy and eligible readers get free tickets to Six Flag Amusement Park. Book It is a

program whereby participating students receive free Pizza Hut coupons.

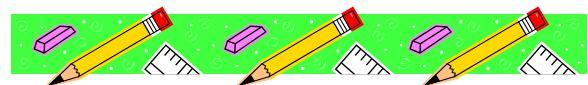
MAC attendance challenge to promote excellent attendance. Our school wide score for last month was 93.1%.

We should ask ourselves what is the goal of education? Holistic education aims at helping students be the most that they can be. Education with a holistic perspective is concerned with the development of every person's intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic, creative and spiritual potentials. It seeks to engage students in the teaching/learning process and encourages personal and collective responsibility. Here at CTES we strive to do just that and more through our teaching, programs and extra-curricular activities.

Authentically yours,

Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School of
Performing and Fine Arts



Welcome Cicely L. Tyson Mathematicians!



HELLO, Cicely Tyson Elementary
Friends!

Happy Spring!!!! The school year really has flown by in the blink of an eye! Students have been working very diligently in their Math classes with not only mastering the basic fundamentals, but also learning to reason and to think critically about their answers. Here is what our students have learned so far:

We are now gearing up for the PARCC assessment in grades 3-5. Students need to reinforce the skills learned in school at home on a daily basis. Students can practice at home by utilizing resources on the PARCC website: www.parcconline.org as well as using www.tenmarks.com and www.gogetwaggle.com

-Mrs. Iqbal and Ms. Brown



Greetings Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School Family! We are approaching the end of the 2015-2016 academic school year but still have a lot of exciting activities coming up in the ELA Department. Beginning May 25th and running through June 2nd we will have our spring Scholastic Book Fair, which will take place in the Media Center.

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. Students in grades 3 through 5 are currently in the process of taking the PARCC Assessment, and our hope is that all of the students are successful and proficient.

Students are still charged with 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. Students in grades 3 through 5 are using *Achieve 3000* (a reading software program), which is designed to help facilitate the increase in students' reading fluency and comprehension. Good news for Kindergarten through 2nd grade students – the district has implemented a

new phonics program called *iRead*. This is a new, digital foundational reading program designed to close the achievement gap early, and place ALL K-2 children on a predictable path to reading proficiently by grade 3.

Just a friendly reminder - Transition Day will be on May 11, 2016 where parents/guardians and students will have the opportunity to learn about the expectations for the upcoming school year. Additionally, they will receive their summer reading packets, which are to be completed over the summer and returned back in September.

Finally, the Literacy Coaches wish students and staff members a safe and enjoyable summer.

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. This year students in grades third through fifth

are working on collaborative lessons with the media specialist and their homeroom teachers. In the media center students are using the Big 6 Model for information literacy to research topics. Students are using print and digital resources. They are learning research techniques using databases along with plagiarism concepts and citing of sources. Students use an inquiry-based model to investigate and utilize library reference materials.

We have been busy in the media center with our Celebrity Read Event with the United Way. We have also celebrated the 100th Day of School, Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America.

The Bridge of Books Foundation generously donated 1500 new books to our students and an additional 200 new library books! Come check some out! We have put the finishing touches on our digital movies in the Twilight Rams extended day program. The students are so proud of their masterpieces!

Students and parents may access the CTES media center online at: <http://tysonel.eastorange.schoolfusion.us>

Always reading,

Ms. Kazanis

School Library Media Specialist



The school bell may stop ringing, but summer is a great time for all kinds of learning opportunities for kids. Reading Rockets packed this beach bag full of

activities for teachers to help families get ready for summer and to launch students to fun, enriching summertime experiences.

In the beach bag you'll find materials you can download and distribute, but you'll also find ideas for things that you may want to gather and offer to students and parents and for connections you'll want to make to help ensure summer learning gain rather than loss.

Ideas for summer learning fun:

Check out Reading Rockets' new summer website, **Start with a Book**. You'll find a treasure trove of themed children's books, parent-child activities, and other great resources for summer learning.

Offer recommendations for active learning experiences. Check with your local department of parks and recreation about camps and other activities. Find out what exhibits, events, or concerts are happening in your town over the summer. Create a directory or calendar of local summer learning fun to share with your students and their families. (Be sure to note any costs involved.)

Encourage parents to build reading and writing into everyday activities. Some ideas to pass along: (1) watching TV with the sound off and closed captioning on, (2) reading directions for how to play a new game, or (3) helping with meals by writing up a grocery list, finding things in the grocery store, and reading the recipe aloud for mom or dad during cooking time. More ideas at **PBS Parents** (in Spanish, too).

Summer trading cards. Kids can dive deeper into summer reading by exploring characters with the **Trading Cards activity** from ReadWriteThink, which

provides students with the opportunity to expand their understanding of the reading by creating new storylines and characters. A nifty **Trading Card interactive tool** provides additional support.

Encourage writing. Give each of your students a stamped, addressed postcard so they can write to you about their summer adventures. Or recycle school notebooks and paper into summer journals or scrapbooks. Another way to engage young writers is to encourage your students to spend some time researching and writing **community stories** — not only does it build research and writing skills, but helps kids develop a deeper sense of place. And check out the **pen pal project** at Great Schools. Find more good **summer writing ideas** from Start with a Book: keep a nature journal, create a poetree, share a recipe, or keep a scrapbook of reviews of summer adventures.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM
WWW.READINGROCKET.ORG [WWW.REA
DINGROCKET.ORG](http://WWW.READINGROCKET.ORG)

Health Office

SEASONAL ALLERGY TIPS

Spring means flower buds and blooming trees — and if you're one of the millions of people who have seasonal allergies, it also means sneezing, congestion, a runny nose and other bothersome symptoms. Seasonal allergies — also called hay fever and allergic rhinitis — can make you miserable. But before you settle for plastic flowers and artificial turf, try these simple strategies to keep seasonal allergies under control. To reduce your exposure to the things that triggers your allergy signs and symptoms (allergens):

- Stay indoors on dry, windy days. The best time to go outside is after a good rain, which helps clear pollen from the air.
- Delegate lawn mowing, weed pulling and other gardening chores that stir up allergens.
- Remove clothes you've worn outside and shower to rinse pollen from your skin and hair.
- Don't hang laundry outside — pollen can stick to sheets and towels.
- Wear a pollen mask if you do outside chores.

Seasonal allergy signs and symptoms can flare up when there's a lot of pollen in the air. These steps can help you reduce your exposure:

- Check your local TV or radio station, your local newspaper, or the Internet for pollen forecasts and current pollen levels.
- If high pollen counts are forecasted, start taking allergy medications before your symptoms start.
- Close doors and windows at night or any other time when pollen counts are high.
- Keep indoor air dry with a dehumidifier.
- Use a portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in your bedroom.
- Clean floors often with a vacuum cleaner that has a HEPA filter. Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when pollen counts are highest.

Counseling Corner

College and Career Week

Greeting Parents,

*The Educational Support Services at Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School will once again host **Career Day** on May 24, 2016 as an effort to expose our students to future possibilities. Our students are thirsty for the knowledge on how to succeed in life and are looking forward to hear about the process to become a successful individual. We hope you will sign up and join us for Career Day. This year, Tyson will be hosting a week long **College & Career program** which will incorporate a 5th grade trip to Rutgers University, Career Day, College Day and Signing Day.*

In 2016, the nation marks the 50th anniversary of perhaps the nation's best-known U.S. Supreme Court case, *Miranda v. Arizona*. The Miranda Warning has become ingrained in law enforcement and has permeated popular consciousness throughout countless recitations in films and television shows. The Law Day theme for 2016 is **Miranda: More than Words**.

This year, Cicely L. Tyson Elementary will be participating in a Law Day program, which will highlight the process of a courtroom and its members. In addition to participating in the Law Day program, our students entered The Rap Contest and submitted a Rap song on **Miranda Rights** written by the Tyson students. We are excited to share that we have been selected as one of the finalist and will be performing on **May 6, 2016** at the Superior Court of New Jersey-Essex Vicinage Office of the Ombudsman.