

THE CICELY L. TYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHRONICLE

Winter 2015

Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

Makeba McCray, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message

Greetings CTES Family,

On behalf of the Administrative Team, I would like to welcome all staff and students back to school after our break. Additionally I would like to thank you for putting forth great effort both academically and professionally during the first portion of the school year. During the upcoming months, we will begin to place more emphasis on preparing teachers and students for the upcoming PARCC assessment, while also preparing for a plethora of wonderful events and activities that are coming soon!

As we transition into the 2015 school year, we would like to remind all parents/guardians that it is imperative that we continue to collaborate, as we strive to ensure that our students are sent to school regularly with a good nights sleep, sharp uniforms, and a well balanced breakfast. Please note that the latter will be available each morning for students in the morning.

In an effort to commence this portion of the year appropriately, we would like to invite you to Back To School Night, which will be held on January 8, 2015. During the meeting we will share information pertaining to PARCC, School Safety, Student Activities, Student/Parent Expectations, and Staff Responsibilities. If you have any individualized concerns you would like to address, feel free to speak with teachers during their brief presentations. Additionally administration will be transitioning throughout the building to greet you.

Once again we extend a heartfelt welcome back to you all, as we continue to strive toward achieving greatness together!

Authentically yours,

Ms. Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

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



Welcome Cicely L. Tyson Mathematicians!



HELLO, Cicely Tyson Elementary Friends!

Happy New Year!!!! The first half of 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:

	Chapt er 1	Chap ter 2	Chapt er 3	Chapt er 4	Chapt er 5
Kinde rgart en	Repre sent, Count, & Write Num bers 0 to 5	Com pare Num bers to 5	Repre sent, Count , & Write #'s 6 to 9	Repre sent & Comp are #'s to 10	Addi tion
Grade 1	Addi tion Conce pts	Subt racti on Conc epts	Addi tion Strate gies	Subt raction Strate gies	Addi tion & Subt raction Relati onshi ps
Grade 2	Num ber Conce pts	Num bers to 1,00 0	Basic Facts and Relati onshi ps	2- Digit Additi on	2- Digit Subtr action

Grade 3	Addi tion & Subtr action Withi n 1,000	Repr esen t and Inter pret Data	Under stand Multi plicati on	Multi plicati on Facts and Strate gies	Use Multi plicati on Facts
Grade 4	Place Value, Additi on, & Subtr action to One Millio n	Mult iply by 1- Digit Num bers	Mult iply by 2- Digit Numb ers	Divid e by 1- Digit Numb ers	Facto rs, Multi ples, & Patter ns
Grade 5	Place Value, Multi plicati on, & Expre ssions	Divi de Who le Num bers	Add and Subtr act Deci mals	Mult iply Deci mals	Divid e Deci mals

Seems like a whole lot of knowledge is being taught and learned! Well, do keep in mind that with our new *GO! MATH* Series, each chapter is devoted to a specific skill. For example, for Grade 4, Chapter 3 showed the students 5 different strategies to multiply by 2-digit numbers. With the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, students are required to master fewer standards, but with more rigor and intensity. This way we can prepare our students for College and Career Readiness starting in Elementary School!

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. Here is an example of a collaborative group project that the fifth graders

created using problem solving and multi-step strategies during PARCC Test Prep:

Ms. Brown & Mrs. Iqbal



Welcome to 2015! For the second half of the year we have a lot of exciting things coming up in the ELA Department. We are continuing our 35 Book Campaign ...HOW EXCITING!! Some of the students have already reached their goal. Continue to READ, READ, READ!!

On February 19 we will celebrate our 100 Days of School in Grades Pre-K through Second. Additionally, on February 26 we are going to have a Celebrity Read where volunteers will come to the school and read to our students in their classrooms.

Then, in March we will honor Dr. Seuss with our "Read Across America" Program.

Finally, in our classrooms we are working hard to get our students ready for the upcoming PARCC Assessment where the first required mid-year assessment begins on March 2nd and ends on March 20th.

Continue working hard and remember to read for 20 minutes each night!!

Mrs. Khan/Ms. Adams

Literacy Coaches



School Library Media Center

The Library Media Center at CTES has been busy, busy, busy! We have

many wonderful resources to help our students learn about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and Black History Month. These resources are on display! Also, students created beautiful peace doves in Art Class and they are displayed along with books about peace and getting along in the Media Center. Coming in February we are looking forward to many different events including the Superbowl, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, the 100th Day of School Celebration and our Celebrity Read Visit with the United Way of Essex and Hudson Counties. Also, we look forward to Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America Day. We have great media resources for all of these events. Don't forget! Students and parents may access the CTES media center online at: <http://tysonel.eastorange.schoolfusion.us>



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

- **Stop any type of harassment or bullying immediately.** Make it clear that such behavior is unacceptable. Talk to the children involved about the reasons for their behavior. Offer alternative methods of expressing their anger, confusion, or insecurity.
- **Provide useful information.** Accurate information about people, events, reactions, and feelings is empowering. Use language that is developmentally appropriate for children.
- **All people deserve to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity.** Speak to your children about the importance of treating each other with fairness, respect and dignity.

For additional resources and activities, please visit:

www.peacefulparenting.com
www.teachingtolerance.org
www.nasponline.org/families/index.asp
<http://www.first-school.ws/activities/firststeps/peaceeducation.htm>

COUNSELING CORNER

The Educational Support Services at Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School will be celebrating **PEACE MONTH** as another effort to keep our schools safe. This year the initiative will span the period from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday (observed) January 20th, 2015, through February 12th, 2015. This year’s theme is ACTIONS SPEAK

Model tolerance and compassion. Children take their emotional cues from the significant adults in their lives. Avoid making negative statements about any racial, ethnic, or religious group.

Reducing Test Taking Anxiety

In preparing the students for the upcoming PARCC Assessment, here are some strategies to assist your child with Test Taking Anxiety. Test anxiety is when a student excessively worries about doing well on a test. This can become a major hindrance on test performance and cause extreme nervousness and memory lapses among other symptoms. The following are tips on reducing test-taking anxiety.

- ✓ Being well prepared for the test is the best way to reduce test-taking anxiety.
- ✓ Space out your studying over a few days or weeks and continually review class

material. Don't try to learn everything the night before.

- ✓ Try to maintain a positive attitude while preparing for the test and during the test.
- ✓ Exercising for a few days before the test will help reduce stress.
- ✓ Get a good night's sleep before the test.
- ✓ Show up to class early so you won't have to worry about being late.
- ✓ Stay relaxed; if you begin to get nervous take a few deep breaths slowly to relax yourself and then get back to work.
- ✓ Read the directions slowly and carefully.
- ✓ Don't worry about how fast other people finish their test; just concentrate on your own test.
- ✓ Focus on the question at hand. Don't let your mind wander on other things.
- ✓ If you're still experiencing extreme test anxiety after following these tips, seek help from your School Counselor and Social Worker.

(Source: <http://testtakingtips.com/anxiety/index.htm>)

Attention Parents with students in the 5th grade....

We are currently in the process of completing applications for Middle School. Applications have been given to all 5th grade students, expectations, deadlines and audition dates have

been discussed. Applications are available in the main office at CTES or on each of those school's individual websites. Please keep the following application deadlines in mind:

- Cicely Tyson Middle School
(*application due date to Ms. Cruz 01/30/15*)
- STEM Academy (*application due date to Ms. Cruz 03/06/15*)
- Whitney Houston (*application due date to Ms. Cruz 02/12/15*)

*Please keep in mind the deadlines (*late applications will not be accepted*), audition dates and requirements for each school, those dates vary from school to school and can be found in the application packet. Read and complete the applications carefully. Applications and/or auditions are not required for the Hart Complex. If your child does not apply or get accepted to the schools above, they will automatically be

enrolled in the 6th grade building at the Hart Complex. Any questions feel free to contact Ms. Cruz, Guidance Counselor at 973-414-9222 x62009.

Important Dates to Remember

February 2nd, 2015: Job Shadowing Day

February 20th, 2015: 2nd Cycle Awards Ceremony & Black History Program

May 1st, 2015: 3rd Cycle Awards Ceremony



Health Office

EARLY DETECTION IS KEY TO BEST PROTECTION!

GLAUCOMA

- Major cause of vision loss in the United States, with more than 2.2 million Americans aged 40 and older affected.
- At least half of this number are unaware they have it
- Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in the world, second only to cataract and also the main cause of blindness in African Americans.
- Make vision your priority this year and take charge your eye health
- Ask your eye doctor the status of your eye pressure after examination
- Know the risk factors for glaucoma: advancing age, family history, eye injury or surgery.
- Glaucoma is usually painless, initially affects peripheral vision and progresses slowly.
- Vision can be saved from glaucoma through early diagnosis and treatment.

-A.Ekeh, RN,
Certified School Nurse Tyson Elem.School.