

# THE CICELY L. TYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHRONICLE

Fall 2014

Passion Moss-Hasan, Principal

Makeba McCray, Assistant Principal

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## Principal's Message

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Greetings,

Welcome back to another inspirational school year! Our academics are already in full swing and working with students and staff has been a real joy. On September 11, 2014 we hosted our annual Back to School Night where all parents/guardians had the opportunity to meet with teachers and address student performance, along with academic expectations for the remainder of the year. All parents are encouraged to continue to familiarize themselves with the parent portal if they have not done so as of yet, in an effort to stay abreast of their child's performance. Additionally all parents/guardians should be on the look out for the student friendly syllabus which will provide you with details pertaining to assigned homework for the week.

Now as we begin to place more emphasis on preparing our students for upcoming district and state assessments, we humbly ask that you make certain that students are completing their assignments daily, reporting to school on time, minimize the amount of time spent watching television during weekdays, and ensure that they are studying regularly. We all must take responsibility for ensuring that our students attain success.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child as we continue to strive to achieve greatness together.

Wishing you Peace this school year!

-Mrs. Moss-Hasan, Principal

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



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**Welcome Cicely L. Tyson Mathematicians!**

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HELLO, Cicely Tyson Elementary Friends!

Welcome back to another exciting school year filled with new Mathematical terms, strategies, and techniques! The last couple of weeks have been amazing with the transition from one grade to the next and of all the new Math material you have been introduced to. We are very proud of you for coming to school motivated each day and putting your best foot forward in all classes, *especially Math!*

Each grade in the school is embarking upon fun and new Math skills that are preparing them for our "BIG" test in the Spring. Take a look at what is being mastered:

**Kindergarten:** Representing, Counting, and Writing Numbers 0-5

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Basic Addition Concepts

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade :** Various Number Concepts

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Adding and Subtracting within 1,000

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Place Value and Adding and Subtracting to 1,000,000

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Place Value, Multi-Digit Multiplication, Numerical Expressions, and Word Problems

WOW, look at all the material you have learned and it is just the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school!

Here are a couple of things to remember to make sure you succeed in Math daily:

1. Come to school everyday ready and eager to learn!
2. Come to class prepared with all materials!
3. Complete **ALL** homework assignments!
4. Stay actively engaged in all lessons!

Let's see you put your knowledge to power! Each month we will have a Math activity for you to complete alone or with family. HAVE FUN!

**Ms. Brown & Mrs. Iqbal**

**Mowing Mess Problem**

It takes two gardeners 8 days to mow a huge lawn. One is lazy and one is energetic. The energetic one would only take 12 days to mow it on his own. How many days would the lazy gardener take?

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Welcome to the 2014-2015 Academic School Year at Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School! We have a lot of exciting activities coming up in the ELA Department. Beginning October 6 and running through October 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our first Scholastic Book Fair, which will take place in the Media Center. Parent volunteers are welcome and can contact the Literacy Coaches (Mrs. Khan/Ms. Adams) or Ms. Kazanis our Media Specialist.

On October 31, we will be celebrating Character Day where students and staff

members have the opportunity to attend school dressed as their favorite storybook character. During our Character Day Celebration, we will launch 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 have closely aligned the district curriculum with the Common Core State Standards to ensure that students are ready for the new 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 the hub of our school! We are

looking forward to our Scholastic Book Fair October 6-10<sup>th</sup>. Exciting news! This year, students will receive one free book to keep from the Reading Is Fundamental Grant to kick off our 35-Book Campaign Launch, which happens to coincide with Character Day on October 31<sup>st</sup>!

We have many new books and media resources for our students including the new 2015 Encyclopedia Britannica series, WorldBook Online Encyclopedia, new children's periodicals, BrainPop and BrainPop Jr. and other educational and fun materials for our students!

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



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.

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.)



## ***Performing Arts!***

“To be creative means to be in love with life. You can be creative only if you love life enough that you want to enhance its beauty, you want to bring a little more music to it, a little more poetry to it, a little more dance to it.”

— Osho

The performing arts department is well into their preparation for the 2014-2015 school year performances. Teachers and students will collaborate for the Upcoming Character Day assembly. A major focus for the team right now is working on the PA Week performances and songs. The dancers are dancing, the singers singing, the actors acting and the sounds of music fill our halls. Keep a look for details regarding schedules and other important dates for our performing young artists. The students started the after school Ensemble Program on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## **COUNSELING CORNER**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome again to another exciting school year. We would like to introduce ourselves again; 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 and Ms. Cruz

## **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](http://stopbullying.gov))

### **WEEK OF RESPECT (OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup>)**

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 (10/6-10/10). 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.
  - **On Monday October 6, 2014, please send your child with a blue shirt to school, as we will be celebrating BLUE SHIRT DAY and join us in solidarity to stop bullying and cyber bullying.**
  - **Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 please send your child with a yellow shirt, as we will be celebrating Respect Day by wearing yellow shirts.**

***Other important events this month:***

- Fire Prevention Week: October 6<sup>th</sup>-October 10, 2014
- Violence Prevention Week: October 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- Red Ribbon Week: October 23<sup>rd</sup>-October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014
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**Intervention and Referral Services**

- The philosophy of the I&RS committee is to work collaboratively with the educational staff and parents to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavioral, or health difficulties and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing the students' learning, behavior, or health needs.

**HOW DOES THE REFERRAL PROCESS WORK?**

After a teacher has attempted to manage the problem by contacting the parent and

enlisting the help of the student's guidance counselor, the teacher shall seek the assistance of the I&RS committee by completing an initial referral form. Upon receipt of the form the committee will take the following steps:

1. An I&RS committee member will gather information on grades, history, previous interventions, etc.
2. The parent will be contacted for additional information and will be invited to become part of the process.
3. The referring teacher becomes an active participant of the I&RS committee for the case referred.
4. The I&RS committee meets with the parent and student to create a service plan which provides for appropriate school or community interventions or referral(s) to school and/or community resources to achieve desired outcomes. The I&RS committee also provides support, guidance, and professional development to the school staff person who identified and referred the student.
5. The staff of the general education program shall maintain written documentation, including data setting forth the type of interventions utilized, the frequency, and duration of each intervention and the effectiveness of each intervention.
6. The I & RS committee will monitor the case.

**CTES BEHAVIORAL PROGRAM**

The Behavioral Program at CTES consists of a reward and discipline component. The reward system consists of Fun Friday and Behavioral Ticket Program, where the students who demonstrate exceptional behavior both individually and as a class are rewarded. The Disciplinary Program consists of the demerit system, whereby a student who violates the code of conduct is given a set amount of points which can lead to losing privileges (i.e., field trips, detention etc.).



### Health Office

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL YEAR  
2014-2015

- WE HOPE YOU HAD A HEALTHY, FUNFILLED SUMMER
- ALL NEW STUDENTS MUST MEET THEIR IMMUNIZATIONS BY STATE LAW TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL.

- STUDENTS WITH MEDICATION ORDERS MUST HAVE THEIR PARENTS BRING IN ALL NEW TREATMENTS/DOCTOR'S ORDERS/CONSENT FORMS TO THE NURSE FOR THIS YEAR.
- IF YOU HAVE ANY ILLNESSES OR INJURIES THAT THE SCHOOL DOESN'T KNOWS ABOUT, PLEASE BRING A LETTER FROM YOUR DOCTOR.

\*Children may be excluded from school if they do not have all State required immunizations.

Please refer to <http://nj.gov/health/cd/imm.shtml> for Pupil immunization requirements.