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# Education Matters

Issue #4

Winter 2014

Dear Jill,

We invite you to learn more about our dedication to education through the successes of our students, our outreach to parents and community partners, and our focus on the classroom. Stay informed through our newest quarterly publication, *Education Matters*; visit our website; and learn about becoming a DPS volunteer. We hope you will share this newsletter with a friend and invite them to join our email list.

## Closures, early learning center announced

*DPS will close two older buildings and create an early learning center*

Kindergarten readiness, closing the achievement gap and fiscal responsibility are the focus of changes for the 2014-2015 school year.

Dayton Public Schools Superintendent Lori L. Ward announced recently that the district will close two special centers housed in older buildings and repurpose a preK-8 building for the 2014-2015 school year. Gardendale Academy (1733 N. Gettysburg Ave.) and Jackson Center (329 Abbey Ave.) will close, effective June 30, 2014. The students at each location will be served at other sites. The district intends to repurpose both buildings in the future.

"We continue to look for ways to send more of every dollar to the classroom. Changes for next school year help us strengthen our ties with partner agencies, address the needs of our youngest learners, and continue to provide the highest levels of service for all students in a cost effective manner," Ward said. [Learn more.](#)

## Students help curate unique Dayton exhibit



Ponitz students partner with artist Bing Davis and the Victoria Theatre Association to help bring "Visual Voices: Visions of Dayton Funk" to life. (L-R): Robert Henderson, De'Andre Stringer, Shakur Wortham, Sierra Derrick, Lucien Wright, King Walker, Raymond Warden, Alonte' Hill, Logan Walker and instructor Joanne Viskup.

"Visual Voices: Visions of Dayton Funk," curated by Willis "Bing" Davis, with assistance from students at the David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center, is open to the public through the end of March at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center during regular business hours.

While viewing the works of local artists who have captured the Dayton Funk sound in a visual medium, visitors can listen to professionally produced audio clips in the artists' words through a QR code accessible by smartphone. Each audio track was produced by a Ponitz radio and television broadcast student in the school's arts and entertainment pathway.

## Open registration

**Don't wait, register now for 2014-2015**

Kindergarten registration for the 2014-2015 school year is under way. To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years old on or before Sept. 30, 2014. Parents or guardians may register their children at the DPS Student Assignment Office, 115 S. Ludlow Street, between Fourth and Fifth streets in downtown Dayton.

Free parking is available in the lot behind the building off of Fifth Street. Office hours are weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

[Learn more.](#)

## District Digest



Dayton Public Schools Superintendent Lori L. Ward congratulates the winners of the 29th annual MLK Oratorical Contest (from left): Anabelle Smith (second place, Stivers), Jordan Nichols (first place, Fairview) and Danielle Carson (third place, Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy)

### King's dream alive and well

*Speech contestants voice hope, optimism*

Dayton Public Schools eighth-graders presented original speeches during the 29th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest in January.

First-place winner Jordan Nichols is a student at Fairview PreK-8. His speech included a moving passage from the poem "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley. Second-place winner Anabelle Smith attends Stivers; third-place winner Danielle Carson is a student at Charity Adams Earley Academy for Girls. The top three winners earned a gold, silver or bronze medal.

### Volunteers still needed

We have more than 100 volunteers to help our children become proficient readers, but we need more. A session will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at the YWCA, 141 W. Third St. Project READ and Wright State University facilitators will cover fluency, phonics and comprehension; the need for DPS volunteers; and the importance of school-community partnerships. For more information, contact the DPS Office of Family and Community Engagement at 542-3013.

### Dunbar students a step closer to college

Students at the new Dunbar Early College High School are one step closer to college. Testing was conducted in November and December to determine students' readiness for the rigors of college-level courses in humanities and mathematics during the second semester. The students are adjusting very well to their online studies offered through Sinclair Community College. Of those taking advanced courses in language arts, 51 percent have earned an A and another 31 percent have earned a B. Only ten students are taking college-level mathematics, but nine have

earned an A. Our students are focused and working toward a goal that seems more attainable each day.

Is it worth all the hard work? Dunbar junior Sloan McMurchy is focused on her long-term goal, a college degree.

"It's like the golden ticket," she said "and that makes the hard work worth it."

A freshman who enrolls in Dunbar and remains with the program for four years will have the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma in one hand and a two-year college degree in the other at no cost to the student or his family.

### College Promise recognized at board meeting

Fifteen DPS freshman, sophomores and juniors will be recognized at March 18 Dayton Board of Education meeting for their academic achievements that earned them the distinction of being selected as College Promise students. [Learn more.](#)

### DPS students are winners in poster contest

An entry by Cleveland PreK-6 student Sierra Cullers (Grade K-2 Division) received first place in the 2014 AAA School Traffic Safety Poster Contest. Fellow Cleveland student Cherish Griffith (Grade K-2 Division) also was recognized with an Award of Merit for her entry. Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy students Antonio Watson (Grade 3-5 Division) and Massiyah Smith (Grade K-2 Division) each received an Award of Merit in their respective divisions.

The students and their families, along with their teachers, principals and superintendent, are invited to attend an art gallery exhibit and reception and The Dayton Art Institute on March 27, where their achievements will be celebrated.

### Students spearhead scholarship for DPS seniors

The Superintendent's Student Senate, comprised of student leaders from each of the district's high schools, is working for the third consecutive year to offer encouragement and assistance to "silent leaders" in their midst who are planning to attend college. With an annual goal of \$3,000, they have provided two \$250 scholarships to each of the six DPS high schools, for students in the classes of 2012 and 2013. [Learn more.](#)

### DPS director of health services honored



DPS Director of Health Services Virginia Noe, R.N., will receive the 2014 Hero/Shero award from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health March 27 in Columbus. The award ceremony kicks off Minority Health Month.

Noe's nominator observed that she has moved DPS forward through her tireless work at the school and central office levels by partnering with local agencies that focus on the health and well-being of children.

## Dates to Note

March 17 - Dayton Education Council mtg., 7 p.m., Ludlow Community Rm. - College Readiness

March 24-28 - Spring Break/No Students

March 31 - Students Return

April 18 - Good Friday Holiday/District Closed

## 2014 Graduation Dates

May 24 - Thurgood Marshall, at high school, 9 a.m.

May 24 - Stivers School for the Arts, Masonic Center, 11 a.m.

May 24 - Meadowdale High School, at high school, 2 p.m.

May 24 - Ponitz CTC, Masonic Center, 4 p.m.

May 25 - Belmont High School, at high school, 3 p.m.

May 25 - Dunbar Early College High School, at high school, 6 p.m.

May 27 - Dayton Early College Academy (DECA), Sinclair Community College, 6 p.m.

May 29 - Dayton Business Technology High School, Convention Center, 6 p.m.

## DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

Dayton Public Schools remains committed to our four academic non-negotiables. They are (1) kindergarten readiness, (2) third-graders reading on grade level, (3) closing the achievement gap, and (4) high school graduates ready for college and careers.

Lori L. Ward, Superintendent

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