

HARLAN RENAISSANCE

Harlan Community Academy Parent Newsletter

Vol. VII, No. 3

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773.535.5400

January 2006

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Warm greetings as we continue to move through the 2005-2006 school year! The end of the first semester is here and we're half-way through the school year. Accompanying this newsletter are your student's grades that become a part of the permanent school record.

First semester grades will be available for pickup at Harlan February 1-10, 2006 during regular school hours (8 a.m.-3 p.m.) in Room 123.

In an effort to support our collective commitment to all students' success, Friday, February 10 has been designated a local Report Card Pick-up and Parent Shadow Day at HCAHS. Parents may make arrangements to shadow their children in their classes in the morning (8 a.m.-12 p.m.) and have conferences with teachers during Report Card Pick-up in the afternoon (12--2 p.m.). This is a perfect opportunity to gain an understanding of each teacher's expectation for your child.



Dr. Gertrude J. Hill
Harlan Community Academy HS Principal

As we begin the second semester, **ATTENDANCE** must be a major focus for the HCAHS community. You have probably heard about the anticipated budget cuts for the 2006-2007 school year. Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan has been in the media sharing information about the projected \$328 million deficit. If we expect to receive our share of the dwindling funds allocated to education, we, as a school community, must commit to fostering improved attendance for our students. This will require a fundamental change in the way we view attendance as dollars that will enable us to offer a quality instructional program to our students. Our focus to improve attendance will mean that students **must** come to school **EACH DAY, ON TIME**, to **EVERY** class! We are expanding our current attendance incentive program to enhance academic achievement and increase funding for our school. We need your help!

Harlan enjoys many first semester accomplishments which include outstanding students who have brought honor to our school in academic competitions such as the Area 23 and 24 Science Fair, the Academic Decathlon Scrimmage and Regional Competition and the CCML Math Competition. In athletics, our girls' basketball team won the Windy City Championship and our varsity football team won the Inter-city Divisional Championship title.

We're excited about our progress as a school and start afresh in a new semester. As always, we solicit the continued support of all of our parents, alumni, community members and friends as we move forward toward building a professional learning community at Harlan Community Academy High School.

IMPORTANT DATES

Important Dates can be found on pages 3 and 4. Post it on your refrigerator or at the office.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Submit your high school photos for the 2006 yearbook @:

<https://portal.jostens.com/login.asp>

User ID:
1072094

Password:
hcahs

Community members may submit photos from November 1 until March 1.

Sophomore advances to Citywide Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable competition

Sophomore Eric Bieronski's essay on Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable has been selected to represent Harlan Community Academy High School in the Citywide competition.

Bieronski will learn in March whether his essay earned recognition and a cash prize.

"Our efforts to reach out to our students, parents, teachers, and the Harlan School Community, in order to promote literacy throughout our school, is a good thing," HCAHS Lead Literacy Teacher Denise Sherrod-Hurley commented.

She added, "The writing contest provided students with an opportunity to demonstrate excellence in the language

arts and to enhance their learning in the social sciences."

Following is Bieronski's essay submitted to English teacher Anna Arendt in early January.

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable is often thought of as the entrepreneur who put the great city of Chicago on the map. He was born in Saint Marc, Haiti. He was born to a French Sea Captain and his wife who was a slave. DuSable was well educated, loved art, and spoke French, Spanish, and English.

He was a visionary and he was able to see opportunity where most people would believe there was no opportunity. For example, Chicago was originally called Eschikagou by the Indians. The land was overlooked by settlers passing through the area. However, DuSable was the first to settle in Chicago and established himself as an entrepreneur by starting a thriving trading post which brought settlers from Wisconsin, Detroit, Mackinac, and St. Joseph into the area for purchasing goods and servicing. By doing so, Chicago became the key route for merchant trading.

Other settlers took note to how DuSable's trading post was thriving which encouraged them to settle in what is now known as Chicago and they opened businesses of their own such as bakery shops, bars and blacksmithing. This reminds me of the economic development today in Chicago. One of the people who followed DuSable's vision of being an entrepreneur is John H. Johnson, founder Jet and Ebony Magazines. He started a magazine company that would highlight the efforts African Americans. He borrowed \$500 against his mother's furniture and started Johnson Publishing Company. He got an idea for *Negro Digest*,

the forerunner of *Ebony*, while selecting articles for Pace to keep abreast of current events of interest to blacks.

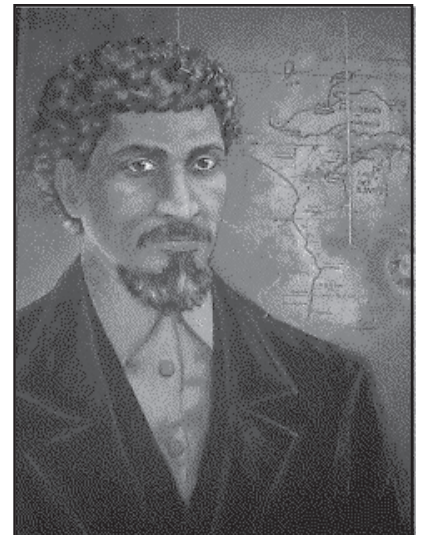
He launched the *Negro Digest*, which took a serious look at racial issues and featured articles from prominent black and white writers. The Office of Johnson Publishing Company eventually led to the second floor of Chicago's Supreme Life Insurance Company building in a room in the private law office of Earl B. Dickerson. With the growth of Chicago came other businessmen and businesswomen who started their own businesses. Their efforts to make money to support their families also helped to expand Chicago all of which helped to put it on the map. The portage began to boom. In addition, DuSable became one of the first merchants to export goods outside of Chicago which was good for the economic development of the growing city.

He would be amazed with the development of Chicago and the many businesses that had come about from his single vision. Chicago continues to be a key location for merchants trading. In keeping with the original concept of being an entrepreneur, we continue to evolve as a city. DuSable would be proud to say that he was the original founder of this great city and that we have kept true to his vision. This reminds me of the time when I saw Michael Jordan on T.V. He announced the starting of his clothing and gym shoe label. His clothes and gym shoes are exported nationally and internationally.

DuSable's hard work, trustworthiness, perseverance, and good business sense are all good examples of values for others to follow. This reminds me of a book I read called, *A Child Called It*, by David Pelzer. The main point in the book was about going from hopelessness to hopefulness. A person should always believe in their dreams and visions and never give up no matter how difficult or painful the experience might be because in the end endurance and hard work will pay off.

In conclusion, his ability to work with diverse groups and to interest them in his business venture added to his success as an entrepreneur. No other settlers had the foresight to look beyond the barren, damp, marsh condition, nor did they have the fortitude to make "nothing" into one of the greatest locations in the western hemisphere. Over time, Eschikagou prospered and became known as the city of Chicago. Today, Chicago is one of the greatest centers of trade and commerce in the world.

**Jean Baptiste
Pointe DuSable**



Eric Bieronski

**School Name: HCAHS
Grade: 10
English Teacher: Anna Arendt**

Academic Decathlon Team advances to City-wide competition on Feb. 25

Ms. Marcia Arrington

HCAHS Faculty Member

Congratulations to the Harlan Academic Decathlon Team for its outstanding showing at the Cluster Competition at Chicago Vocational High School on Saturday, January 21.

The team won a total of 36 individual medals. Members also walked away with second place plaques for overall high scorer in the Varsity and Honors divisions.

The team members had to compete in each of ten categories: Language and Literature, Science, Social Studies, Music, Art, Essay, Speech, Interview, Economics and Super Quiz.

The team consisted of six members. Nunera Amun won two gold medals in Essay and Economics. Kristopher Grant won a gold in the Super Quiz which was all about the Renaissance. He also won second place as the all-around Varsity Competitor in Silver South.

Brandon McNamara won a Silver Medal in Super Quiz. Audriana Logan won

Academic Decathlon Team Winners

Member Name	Medal
Nunera Amun	Two gold medals in Essay and Economics
Kristopher Grant	Gold in the Super Quiz Second place as the all-around Varsity Competitor in Silver South
Brandon McNamara	One silver medal in Super Quiz
Audriana Logan	One gold in Science
Randall Walker	One gold medal in Music
Ariel Thomas	Gold medals in Essay and Music Second place trophy in the all-around Honors Team high scorer

gold in Science. Randall Walker received a gold medal in Music, and Ariel Thomas won gold medals in Essay and Music.

Thomas also earned a second place trophy in the all-around Honors category. Ariel was the team high scorer.

The team will compete in the City Finals on February 25. There is much more work to be done. Students will have to study day and night as well as on the weekends to be ready to compete against the city's best and brightest students.

Office of Postsecondary Education and AVID lead college tours

Mr. Frank Collaso

HCAHS Faculty Member

In October and November, the Harlan Community Academy High School Office of Postsecondary Education and AVID collaborated to assist students in gaining exposure to college.

Students went to Loyola University on October 28, Northern Illinois on November 16 and Chicago State University on November 18.

College tours to these schools are excellent opportunities for students to meet college admissions representatives, financial aid representatives and college students.

Each of the schools gave thorough presentations from admissions, financial aid and student services along with a guided tour of the universities. HCAHS students were on their best behavior as they visited these schools.

In collaboration with the freshmen counselor Sherri Quionnes, freshmen had the opportunity to visit Purdue University on November 17. Some selected seniors with a high interest in Purdue attended to get a



Office of Postsecondary Education coordinator Frank Collaso and students look over college brochures.

last look at the university.

The idea of taking college tours is to expose students to as many schools as possible so students can network with representatives, learn admissions requirements, learn about college resources and look at dorms and facilities.

Students in various grade levels have different goals for such college visits.

Seniors usually have already applied or are in the process of applying to these

schools.

Juniors are in the process of narrowing down the college choices and freshmen and sophomores are gaining exposure for the first time and have a little more time to increase grade point averages and improve test scores.

The Office of Postsecondary Education at HCAHS is led by Frank Collaso and the AVID program is headed by Vivian Hapaniewski.

Publications class updates students on 2006 yearbook

The publications class at Harlan Community Academy High School has announced that the yearbook theme and cover design are completed. As well, approximately 50 percent of the yearbook is finished.

This year's theme is "Unlocking the Stories" and encompasses various stories from students' point of views. The cover design is that of a diary with an opened lock.

Parents and students are reminded that every HCAHS student receives his or her very own copy of the yearbook if student fees are paid. If student fees are not paid during the current school year, students will not receive a copy unless a check for \$25 is issued in June to cover the cost of the yearbook.

Questions can be forwarded to the yearbook adviser at 773.535.9990.



2006
Yearbook Cover



Business Professionals of America (BPA) students

BPA swings into action with induction ceremony

Mrs. Beverly Hadley

HCAHS Faculty Member

Business Professionals of America (BPA) at Harlan Community Academy High School has announced the following officers for the 2005-2006 school year:

Jeremy Butler
President

Beyuka Hobbs
Vice President

Rochelle Johnson
Secretary

Meesha Love
Treasurer

Returning Members

Brittany Ainsworth
Deron Brize
Darryl Davis
Jennifer Gant

Akosua Fianko, Parliamentarian
Courtney Hackler
Julius Marshall
Brittany Riley

New Inductees

Ashley Adams
Nunera Amun
Devin Berry
LaQuinda Brown
Taylor Sams
Lance Dennie
Jessica Haynes

Hernica Jackson
Latelya Jackson
Lamar Lake
Jasmine Matthews
Richard Guss
Shawnise Scott
Arid Thomas

HARLAN RENAISSANCE

Harlan Renaissance is produced every five weeks and is intended to inform the greater Harlan Community Academy High School community—parents, students, faculty members and staff. Ideas, comments or questions should be directed to the address located on the front page two weeks prior to each progress reporting period. Feel free to contact the adviser via email at brzehr@cps.k12.il.us or phone at 773.535.5400, ext. 181.

Publisher **Dr. Gertrude Hill, Principal**
Adviser **Brian Zehr**
Editor-in-Chief **Valencia Topps**

Member of:

