

HARLAN RENAISSANCE

Harlan Community Academy Parent Newsletter

Vol. VII, No. 4

9652 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60628

773.535.5400

March 2006

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We are now well into the second half of the 2005–2006 school year, and once again, we ask that you make a status check. Included in this newsletter is your student's Week 25 progress report.

These grades demonstrate how well your student is performing in each class at this time. Parents, once again, you are encouraged to review these grades with your teen.

An Individual Study Plan form should be completed for each class in which your student received a failing grade. Funding constraints have limited the level of support we have provided in the past, but we remain committed to doing all we can to keep your teen on-track to graduate on time.

Remember, tutoring, recovery classes and summer school are all options that can be used to reposition your teen. On March 28, we will begin a reduced number of recovery classes for students who received failing semester grades. If your teen failed any classes, a visit to his/her counselor is in order.

Our Local Semester Report Card Pick-up was held February 2. Most of Harlan's parents visited the school and picked up their child's grades on that day, and many others have done so on subsequent days. These grades are particularly significant because they were used to determine your teen's class rank and are a part of their permanent record. If you have not yet picked up your student's semester grades, it's not too late. Grades are available for pickup in the Main Office daily from 7:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. If these hours don't accommodate your schedule, call the school to make other arrangements.

Parents, please continue to take an active role in your student's education. Monitor his or her activities to ensure that he or she reaches full potential and takes advantage of many new opportunities.

We are actively seeking to increase the level of parent involvement at Harlan this school year and are committed to a strong home-school partnership. February parent activities included LSC, NCLB, school climate and school improvement planning meetings. The Black Star Parent University, a series of monthly parent training workshops, will feature "The Money Game" on March 23 at 6:00 p.m. The topic for the April presentation, "Keeping Your Child Safe from Gangs, Drugs, and Other Destructive Forces," will be presented on April 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for other important parent activities: April 6 at 6:00 p.m., Local School Council Candidate Forum. Meet and hear presentations from all the candidates who are running for Harlan's LSC. April 20 is the date for city-wide third quarter report card pick-up (1:00 – 6:00 p.m.) and local school council elections (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) will take place.

Congratulations to our Lady Falcon basketball team and Coach Andre Lewis for their tremendous season! This is the third consecutive year they have brought honor to Harlan by qualifying Harlan as one of the "Illinois Sweet 16." This honor was accomplished by winning the regional and sectional competitions and advancing to the Super Sectional level. The entire school community salutes their commitment and hard work. See page 6 for photos.

As always, we solicit the support of our parents, community members and friends as we go forward. The *Harlan Renaissance* continues!



Dr. Gertrude J. Hill
Harlan Community Academy HS Principal



HCAHS
WEBSITE

Did you know that Harlan Community Academy High School has a website? Click on www.harlanacademy.com to view the latest information.

CONTENTS

Page 2

Authors captivate eager HCAHS readers

Page 3-4

April and May calendars

Page 5

HCAHS receive awards for their academic achievements

Page 6

Lady Falcons play in Sweet 16 competition--again!



National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

NASA Explorer Program

For more information regarding the NASA Explorer Program, visit:

<http://explorerschools.nasa.gov>

Authors captivate eager HCAHS readers

Ariel Thomas

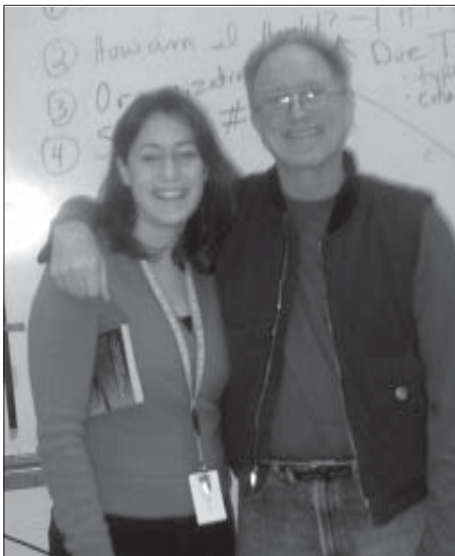
Guest Submission

On February 3, English teacher Lauren Welsh's Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition class went to Borders at 150 North State Street. It was an interesting trip. AP students traveled to the State Street bookstore to hear a discussion about the book *Come Hell or High Water* by author Michael Eric Dyson. The discussion started promptly at 12:30 p.m.

Besides the class, there were many inspired readers—both young and old—who are admirers of Dyson's work. They asked questions about his opinion on one of MacGruder's episodes of *The Boondocks*. They also asked him about what he thought of his portrayal of Martin Luther King and if *The Boondocks* had to be politically correct. He responded by saying that everyone has the freedom of speech and expression, guaranteed by the First Amendment.

The first thing that Dyson talked about was whether the Bush administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) leaders were adequately prepared for a natural disaster. He believes the leaders were inexperienced and had no previous career experience relating to emergencies. He said, "Bush had his own posse of friends with money and positions that he would like to be tied into." This was saying that Bush chose people who had something he would like to use to lead important government positions.

Next, he discussed whether middle-class African Americans cared about poor blacks. He talked about how poor blacks were left to fend for themselves in New Orleans. He said that before the hurricane many people were oblivious to the poverty



in New Orleans. He said that after the hurricane, help was pouring in from other coun-

At left, social studies teacher Ashley McKinney welcomes an author and speaker to her class during Student Development Day. Above, *Come Hell or High Water* author Michael Eric Dyson speaks to Harlan students and others at Borders on State Street.

tries. New Orleans did not accept much help from these countries, but their own country hesitated to help.

The last thing he talked about was how people blamed God for destroying New Orleans. The media and others said things such as God was punishing homosexuality, violence and people on welfare. Dyson said that this was not so and asked that if he was looking for these things, why didn't he go to California, New York or Mississippi.

The AP students' language and composition received autographed copies of his book *Come Hell or High Water*.

SUSPENSION? FIRST OFFENSE? EXPULSION?

Has your child been in trouble at school?

Do you wish you knew more about the rules for behavior in the Chicago Public Schools?

Come to a workshop for PARENTS on the Uniform Discipline Code!

On the South Side:

Tuesday, April 25 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Parker Elementary School @ 6800 S. Stewart

Co-Hosted by POWER-PAC, the Chicago Public Schools Law Department, Austin Wide Parent Network, Southwest Women Action Team, West Town Leadership United and COFI.

For more information or to request childcare at any of the meetings, please contact POWER-PAC at COFI at (312) 226-5141, 954 W. Washington Blvd, 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607.



HCAHS Academic Calendar

May 2006

May 2006							June 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
May 1 8:00am 12:00pm AP English Language Test	2 12:00pm 3:30pm AP Stats Test	3 8:00am 12:00pm Early Dismissal/Special Schedule	4 8:00am 12:00pm AP English Literature Test	5 8:00am 12:00pm AP U.S. History Test	6
8 8:00am 12:00pm AP Gov't/Politics Test	9 8:00am 12:00pm AP Environmental Science Test	10	11	12 9:00am 1:00pm NCLB Parent Conference @ HCAHS	13
15 4:00pm 6:00pm CPS Capital Hearing Meeting @ HCAHS (Auditorium)	16 8:00am 3:00pm Schoolwide Persuasive Writing Exam	17	18 6:30pm 8:00pm LSC Meeting	19 Senior Prom @ Hyatt Regency Riverwalk	20 10:00am 2:00pm CPS Job Fair @ Navy Pier
22	23	24 Alumni Career Day Black Star Motivational Day CPS School Board Meeting Student Development Day	25 6:00pm 8:00pm NCLB Meeting @ HCAHS	26 10:30am 2:30pm Senior Luncheon @ Odyssey Cruises	27
29 Memorial Day NO SCHOOL	30	31			28

With Honors

The following Harlan Community Academy High School students earned the distinction of Honor Roll during the third quarter of the school year. Honor Roll honorees earned a 3.0 to 3.49 GPA.

Seniors

- 601
Princess Harris, Shannon Skinner
- 602
Zipporah Nelson, Cassandra Sims
- 603
Darryl Davis, Alex Jordan
- 604
Megan Allen, Lamar Lake, Kameelah Onisemoh, Matthew Walker
- 605
Andrea Downs, Crystal Young
- 606
Wesley Jones, Saretta Lewis
- 607
Lisa Brown, Jaque Hollyfield, Kellie Robeson
- 608
Tenisha McArthur, Catherine Webb

Juniors

- 701
Cory Brown, Jameelah Houston, Tameka Huggins, Hernica Jackson, Lyntoya Lockett, Kiara Redding, Kaneshia Young
- 702
Reene Jordan, Jaclyn LaSalle, Wanakee Trask, Michelle Williams
- 703
Andre Brown, Ron Jordan, Martin Trull
- 704
Ashley Davis
- 705
Olutomi Adesanya, Renee Buchanan, Erica Hambrick, Ashia Mitchell, Jasmine Walker
- 706
Jonathan Scrutchens, Jamie Wheaton
- 707
Toiya Benson, Bonnie Owens, Brandy Ross, James Taylor

- 708: Valerie Morris, Dominique Williams, Kareema Wilson
- 709
Tammie Fenn, Shane Simpson, Bryant Taylor
- 710
Brian Ambrose, Kimyatta Barksdale, Quinten Fields, Shanna Kingbey

Sophomores

- 801
Ashley Adams, Jasmine Ainsworth, Jasmine Davis, Crystal Gillett, Justin Harvey, Michael Turks
- 802
Lawrence Hall
- 803
Stephanie Byrd, Vanzell Jenkins, Ashley McCarthy, Keyaira Perkin, Arianna Perkins, Kendall Shaw
- 804
Rodney Orange, Charlotta Stewart
- 806
Sharon Anderson, Deangelo Castine, Deanna Dumas
- 807
India Smith, Shamika Young
- 808
David Henderson, Jelnachea James
- 810
Deante Davis, Orpheus Floyd, Anastacia King
- 811
Makisha Johnson, Devontae Jones, Jessica Thompson, Alanah Williams
- 812
Paris Fowler

Freshmen

- 901
Autumn Avery, Brittany Greer, Darien Williams
- 902
Ashley Brady, Kristopher Grant, Tashawna Lewis, Randall Walker
- 903
Destiny Coleman, Porsche Green, Mariah Woodhouse
- 905
Katrina Harris, Kiarra Howliet
- 906
Tangie Strickland
- 907
Naomi Henison, Ashjurae Roberts
- 908
Monet Washington
- 909
Camille Byrd, Jasmine Rice, Shaqura Scott
- 910
Jamarri Greer
- 913
Cashia Brooks, Adonijah Holden, Chamara Warren, Johnnie Wason
- 914
Betty Coleman, Candice Goolsby, Simone Guillory, Beatrice Taylor
- 915
Mikiala Collins, Samantha Green-Anderson
- 916
Whitney Luse, Tamoi Taylor, Keisha Williams

NOTE: Due to the extensive number of students earning the status of Principal's List, those names will be included in the Week 30 newsletter along with students who earned perfect attendance for the first semester.

Academic Olympics, Pom Pons score in area competitions

Ms. Rosalind Jones

HCAHS Staff Member

The Harlan Academic Center students competed in the Cluster 6, Area 16 2006 Academic Olympics on April 6.

The event was held at Mount Greenwood. The team was tested on its knowledge of science, social studies, language arts, art, music, math and current events.

This jeopardy-style competition, complete with buzzers, kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

The participants represented area schools that advanced from the preliminary round.

The students representing HCAHS were Taylor Amos, Tyler Davis, Wesley Frazier-Keys, Miranda Ploss and Quiana Harvey.

Harlan's 7th and 8th grade students proved themselves to be among the brightest students in the city.

A special feature at the Academic Olympics was eighth grader Wesley Frazier-Keys reciting his dynamic poem from the area Speech/Arts competition. Frazier-Keys placed third with his poem "Seekin' the Cause" by Miguel Pinero. The audience was moved by his stirring rendition.

Pom Pons team shakes it up

Joining the ranks of the Academic Center winning teams this year was the 7th and 8th grade Pom Pon team. The team, coached by Rosalind Jones, won first place in the Area 17 Regional Competition.

This win qualified the team to advance to the Pom/Cheer City Finals. The competition was held at the University of Illinois Pavilion on Saturday, March 25. Schools from across the Chicago area performed routines they had perfected.

They dazzled the audience at the Pavilion and walked away with a second place plaque.



Another award-winning year!

Coach Andre Lewis presents the regional girls' basketball plaque to principal Dr. Gertrude J. Hill after the Lady Falcons won the regional championship for a third straight year. This entitled the Lady Falcons to represent HCAHS in Illinois' Sweet 16 competition. Below, the Lady Falcons celebrate the win.



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:

