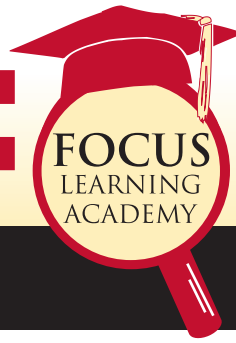


THE FOCUS



Newsletter...

Winter 2010

Focus Southwest Jingle Ballers raise money for Arthritis Foundation

Focus Southwest students and staff kicked off the holiday season by coming together in the spirit of giving.

On Saturday, December 4, staff members from Focus Learning Academy Southwest participated in the 24th Annual Jingle Bell 5k Run/Walk in downtown Columbus.

Their team, the "Jingle Ballers", was able to raise \$436 through registration fees and donations. Staff members brought in baked goods the week before the race and Focus West held a bake sale to raise money for the team. Students and staff who participated were able to buy baked goods for just a small donation.

All the proceeds from the Jingle Bell 5k benefit the Central Ohio Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.

The team consisted of seven staff members: Ms. Mutz, Ms. Jones, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Milano, Dr. Nelson Slagle and Mrs. Straight along several other friends and family members.

Although it was a cool 26°, they are proud to say that all of their staff members completed the race. Three staff members ran and completed the race in just over 36 minutes, while the other walkers followed closely behind.

Overall, it was a great way to get into the holiday spirit and they look forward to next year's race!



Focus Southwest Jingle Ballers at the 24th Annual Jingle Bell 5k Run/Walk in downtown Columbus.

Focus CTE program Gives Back in November

During the month of November, the Focus Learning Academy Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department sponsored its 2nd Annual CTE Gives Back service learning initiative.

The purpose of this event is for students to learn the importance of contributing to their communities, in this case their schools, by bringing in donations to fill 12 baskets that were given to their peers and staff using a free raffling system.

Four baskets were given away at each of the high school learning sites: one male basket, one female basket, one baby basket for a student who has or is

currently expecting a child and one staff basket.

The baskets were filled with toiletries, snacks, gift cards and many other useful items that were donated by the CTE students and Focus staff.



Focus North CTE Instructor Ms. McFarland with Focus North CTE student and winner Reuben Morales. Congratulations Reuben!

FLA East Winners

Staff: Mr. Barbee

Male: Dave Millan

Female: Tiara Thomas

Baby: Charnessa Urbanczyk

FLA North Winners

Staff: Mr. Godfrey

Male: Reuben Morales

Female: Carmeshia Mix

Baby: Cintia Baez

FLA Southwest Winners

Staff: Mr. Turner

Male: Jimmy Turner

Female: Wanda Vincent

Baby: Taylor Brown



School Notes

The latest news

Focus Learning Academy East

Student Awards

Student of the Month

September

Kyra Clemmons and Brittney Donston

October

Micah Smith and Shardai Culbreath

November

Devante Woody and Joseph Persinger

December

Ian Crumpler and Donald Walker

Outstanding Scholar Awards

Malika Middlebrook

Jada Thomas

Sophia Brown

Sasha Easley

Keonte Sheppard

Tyler McGill

Andrew Blakely

Staci Rogers

Deionte Lewis

Kayla Crowder

Christina Croft

David Jackson

Perfect Attendance

Ruby Lee Miller

Royal Haygood

Kyra Clemmons

Neamiah McCarroll

Adam McCarroll

Angyle Hilliker

Michael Favors

Stephan Austin

Christopher Johnson

Parent Appreciation Dinner

Focus Learning Academy East hosted a Parent Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 10. The room was overflowing with approximately 27 parents, 29 students and 22 staff members in attendance. Staff served parents and students dinner catered by M's Southern Style Carry-Out and Catering. While parents, students and staff dined, student-performers entertained them: Tolen Flowers did card tricks; David Jackson and Joseph Persinger played the guitar; Deron Hill recited spoken word and rapped; and Donte Woods, a graduate of Focus East, performed spoken word, as well as a Parent Appreciation freestyle with parents and staff giving him words and objects to use. Throughout the dinner, Mr. Barbee, along with Mr.

Holliman and Mrs. Dukes, gave away gift cards to parents and students who participated in the raffle.

A special thanks to all the performers and staff who worked to make this event a success!

OSU Girls Circle Group

Focus East is partnering once again with The Ohio State University to offer a Girls Circle Group to the young ladies at Focus East. The Girls Circle Project at OSU trains college women to lead Girls Circles with groups of girls in grades 6 - 12. Girls Circles consist of a small group of 6 - 8 girls that meet weekly to discuss issues such as peer pressure, relationship concerns, appreciating diversity and dealing with the challenges society offers. The facilitators use the Girls Circle model and their well-tested curricula to assist the girls in feeling safe as they talk, build bonds and empower one another while working through being an adolescent or teen. The Project is in its third year of existence, with Girls Circles in 20 schools and agencies in the Columbus area. The group will begin meeting in January 2011, with 8 Focus young women meeting once a week for 8 weeks.



Focus East Student Marshawn Smoots and his mom, Rosa Butler at Parent Appreciation Night.

Focus Learning Academy North



The Focus North Cheer Team (pictured from left to right) Marquilla Jones, Carmesha Mix, Nancy Skelton, Paris Peppers, Taquisha Ladd and Asjah Rice.

Cheerleaders raise money for new uniforms

The Focus North Cheer Team raised \$600 through car washes over the summer, in-school bake sales, and of course the smashing hit, Thanksgiving Lunch Sale. Congratulations!

Focus Students entered into Ohioana Library Association Robert Fox Award for Young Writers

Focus North students Ruben Morales and C.B. (student's pen name) have entered in the Robert Fox Award for Young Writers contest. Three awards will be given in two categories: prose and poetry. First place carries a \$250 award, second place, a \$150 award, and third place, a \$100 award. Good Luck!

Father Factor Group

Focus North launched its first Father Factor Group on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The Father Factor program is dedicated to strengthening and honoring the role of today's father with the hope and promise for the father and child's future. This

and events from the Focus Learning

group will be held every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. One of the main goals over the eight weeks is to provide the males with the tools, support and knowledge needed to fulfill that father role in their child's life. Action for Children heads this group and is funded through The Ohio Commission of Fatherhood.

Parent Appreciation Pancake Breakfasts

Focus North hosts a Parent Pancake Breakfast every third Thursday of the month from 8 - 9 a.m. This event is a great opportunity for the parents to come in and enjoy a breakfast on Focus!

Focus Learning Academy Southwest

Chinese Club

The Chinese Club at Focus West is going strong! Each Wednesday, Mr. Myers has been coming in to teach students about the Chinese language, as well as the culture. Students have learned many things including how to write Chinese numbers and say how old they are. Students will also learn how to say what day their birthday is and tell people where they are from. On Friday, Feb. 4, the club will be celebrating the Chinese New Year by having discussions about the Chinese culture while enjoying some of their favorite Chinese foods. Participating in the club helps students to earn credit for social studies classes they are enrolled in. Also, students have the opportunity to earn extra credit by taking an active role in the club. All students are welcome to join the Chinese Club!

Technology at West

This year, Focus West was awarded a grant through the ARRA to purchase the newest technology for students to use and gain 21st century skills. The technology team has spent the beginning portion of the year creating engaging lessons and identifying the technology we would like to purchase. They have ordered audio equipment, computers, laptops, iPads, SmartBoards, reading pens, flip cameras and digital cameras. Focus Southwest is pleased to say that the technology is beginning to arrive. Although, they are in the beginning stages of receiving the technology, the teachers have not wasted any time. Every Tuesday the technology teachers have been introducing a new technology or Web 2.0 tool for the students to use in their courses. Focus West students: please come every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Ms. Jones's room for Technology Tuesdays.

Have you stopped by the library lately?

Dozens of new and exciting titles have been added, and there are several more to come in January! Stop by to see Mrs. Hill in the big lab upstairs to check out your novel today!

Congratulations to the following students who have great attendance and have done excellent work so far this year!

Lisa Montgomery
Savannah Thacker

Andrew Thompson (took and passed all 5 OGT's)
Sherman & Herman Blakey-Anderson
Mychal Davidson
Jacob Gaston
Jocelyn Douglas (student of the month October)

Student of the Month

October

Jocelyn Douglas

November

Charmayne Forrest



The Focus Travel All-Star Basketball team with Coach Barbee and Coach Godfrey.

Congratulations Focus Traveling All-Star Basketball Team!

The Focus Traveling All-Star Basketball Team started their season off with some big wins! The team won their first two games against Harvest Prep (58-44) and FCI Academy (55-42).

Be sure to come and cheer them on at their next games against Independence and Walnut Ridge over Winter Break.

Great Job and Good Luck with the rest of the season!

Student Spotlight

Kyra Clemmons, FLA East

I chose to attend FLA because...
I need my diploma to graduate.

My favorite thing about FLA is...
that the teachers are very motivational.

The teachers at FLA are...
very tolerant with the students and very respectful.

I want to be...
successful and very good at what I want to become, which is a fashion merchandiser.

I am thankful for...
for having an opportunity to succeed.



Teacher Spotlight

Samantha V. Neal, FLA East

What is your position/title?
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher

How long have you been with FLA?
5 months

What is your favorite thing about FLA?

I admire the genuine support of FLA administrators and staff. I enjoy helping FLA students reach their goals.

What do you want students to accomplish while they attend FLA?

I want students to understand the importance of education and remember that without education, employment and career opportunities are limited. I definitely want Focus students to seek assistance from FLA Career and Technical Education to receive help with job skills and college readiness.

What advice or insight do you want to pass on to students?

I encourage all Focus students to set attainable goals while also taking advantage of the opportunities to learn, grow and be productive. Strive to be productive at Focus and beyond Focus. It's "Your Choice" to perform your very best.

Favorites:

Color: Pink

Food: Mississippi Farm Raised Catfish and Macaroni and Cheese

Sport: Football

Hobby/Interest: Spending time with my husband and family, helping others in need, traveling, collecting cookbooks and recipes and planning and project management.

Season: Spring

Music: Gospel and R&B

Vacation Destination: Jamaica

School Subject: Language Arts

Memory of your childhood: Assisting my mother in her early childhood education classroom and riding the BIG tricycles with my sister in the empty hallway after school.



Focus Learning Academy Southwest Board Members and staff celebrating the holidays.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Focus Learning Academy!

We wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season. Have a great winter break and we will see you in the new year!

Important Dates

Dec. 24 - 31 - No School - Winter Break

Jan. 14 - End of 2nd Nine Weeks

Jan. 17 - No School - Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 21 - Grade Cards mailed

Jan. 28 - Winter Graduation

Feb. 11 - No School - Staff In-Service Day

