October Parent Night Success!

We had a great turn out at our October Family Engagement, where we celebrated the National Lights On event, highlighting the importance of afterschool programming.

DALC staff April reviewed our current programming, which includes homework hour, mentoring, and educational vendors like the Science Guy performances and SABES program. Programming also includes African Drumming with Mr. Kwame, and Art With a Heart’s creative projects. Sun Trust is implementing financial literacy with the 7th and 8th graders as well.

Dream Parents Support & November Parent Night

The call went out for more family involvement and that call was answered:

Joe volunteered to lend his skills to help with building our garden. Meagan, who works with Planned Parenthood volunteered to schedule one of their facilitators to come and have age appropriate discussions with our students. Kelly volunteer to be a hall monitor/room helper when she could.

Hats off to our parent volunteers! All parents are always welcome to stop by, volunteer or attend any field trip or event hosted by the DALC. We are looking forward to building a strong and involved parent group!

SABES Begins Oct 30th!

SABES is a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programming facilitated by Johns Hopkin University. This is their second year with Dream Academy. We are so excited to have them back!
Guest columnist: Nadiyah Edwards, VISTA Worker

Kylee Adams is one incredible student and has reminded me of the meaning of strength. Kylee is a student that has faced much adversity. In all that Kylee has experienced, she chooses to smile. In her words, she says, "I just smile through everything but I have different smiles depending on how I’m feeling." Her statement reflects strength, awareness and positivity.

While listening to Kylee describe the components of her many smiles she reminded me of the true responsibility people have to one another to look beyond the surface. A smile encompasses so much more than a surface perception of wellness. There is commonly a social and professional expectation to appear and present yourself in a tone that is comfortable and appeasing to others despite how you truly feel; one of those social standards is to smile. Kylee’s awareness of the depths and complexities of a smile introduced me to the reality that we have a responsibility to look beyond the ego for a person’s true self. We have a responsibility to look beyond the flash of a smile for a person’s true feelings. Smiles can be a cry for help just as much as a frown. Kylee reminded me that the person smiling through their pain is valid in their hurts just as much as anyone else. Smiling is a coping mechanism often socially accepted while equally being dangerously harmful.

Kylee is an amazing listener, she responds very well to my long stories and feedback on my best practices to coping with life. Kylee saw me for the truly compassionate being I am and accepted my lack of smiling as solace and coping just as much as I accept her many smiles. We have bonded and shared war stories of poverty together and I am confident with continued support and guidance Kylee will see the strength and limitlessness in her character.

Students Start Puppet Show

DALC staff work with DreamKids to build dreams, skills and character. But when students pick up an idea and run with it – it’s wonderful.

When the idea of presenting a puppet show was pitched to the 4th, 5th, 6th group, it did not take much to get them to jump on the idea of producing a show for the younger kids.

Akire, JaNiya, Trinidi and Jerriah are preparing to write, practice and perform a skit. Using stage and puppet cut-outs they will decide on a theme, write the story, practice and perform it for Ms. Lexus’ kids- pre-k, k, 1st and 2nd.

Stay tuned for performance details!
Towson Footballers Inspire

Towson University footballers have been visiting DreamKids each Monday to host honest discussion and practice teamwork through football. After an honest discussion about progress reports, Lance Yaniger, the Director of Football Operations for Towson’s team, made a deal that if ALL the DreamKids’ raise their grades by report cards, they will be rewarded with some Towson football gear. This shared goal is keeping everyone motivated and holding each other accountable. Thank you to Towson for being our partner!

DreamMentors & DreamKids Visit Little Italy!

DreamKids with the best attendance were rewarded with a cultural tour of Baltimore’s Little Italy! Thanks to the Promotion Center for Little Italy, Pandola Learning Center, and Stratford University for donating their resources and times to making this wonderful trip happen. DreamKids learned about Italian-American culture and the history of this Baltimore neighborhood. DreamKids toured the culinary school at Stratford University and enjoyed a tasting! DreamMentors Mr. Dail and Ms. Sheri joined our Mentor Coordinator in chaperoning the trip, and were also supported by DreamTeen Isaiah. Check out our facebook page for more pictures!

More Mentors Joining Dream Academy!

In the coming weeks, more and more mentors and volunteers will be joining the Dream Academy family. Ms. Renee will be in touch with parents regarding one on one matches. Feel free to call with any questions!
Little Dreamers Learn Big

Pictured below, DreamKids Amari and Ricardo, are holding the clock they made to learn how to keep track of time. They both now know how to read clocks and can tell anyone what time it is at any given moment!

“I didn’t understand at first. The lesson was confusing but I kept trying. At the end of the lesson, I had an epiphany because I understood.”

—Stephanie, Grade 4

DreamKids Austin and Jordyn worked a project for the October Family Engagement Event, which was National Lights On Afterschool. They colored and cut out their lightbulbs to portray the importance of afterschool programs keeping their “Lights On” for students, and to represent the unique light within each student.

Dream Academy students from Pre K to 3rd Grade got together and put all their lightbulbs together and formed a giant lightbulb in support of the Lights On After School Event!
Mr. Harrell named his room “Epiphany”- “The ultimate experience in learning has a name. It’s called epiphany. Each day our goal at the Dream Academy is to have at least one of our Dream Kids experiencing an epiphany—in a skill, in a character trait, or in a dream fulfilled. We encourage each child to soar, to experience, and to dream. Welcome to Epiphany!”

**Vocabulary Building and Enrichment Activities**

Vocabulary building continues with the use of the word wall, words-of-the-week activities, and with familiarizing students with roots and affixes. Students receive activities focusing on terms encountered while engaged in Achieve 3000 lessons. *(These activities are introduced and performed in conjunction with home assignment completion and the completion of Achieve 3000 lessons.)*

**Multi-Dimensional Reading Program (MDR)**

Working in conjunction with the third grade teachers, Ms. B. Hawkins and Mr. M. Owens, third graders are in the process of being identified to participate in the Rapid Response Reading Program. Letters have been sent to parents explaining the program and its benefits. After which, we will be moving forward with the pre-assessment and will implement the program’s one hour-lessons to the students twice a week.

**Art and Self Expression**

Art With A Heart (AWAH) bring creative arts and craft projects that the kids enjoy creating. Enhancing lives of people in need through visual art. They provide interactive visual art classes in schools. They provide teachers and materials to engage students in consistent art programming. Students are exposed to different artistic expressions that conclude with lovely pieces of art.
In October, DreamKids from Baltimore and DC got to see Tyler Perry speak at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. DreamKids prepared by learning more about Tyler Perry and preparing questions. After hearing Mr. Perry speak, they got to explore the museum, which was quite a treat as it is very difficult to get tickets!!

We celebrated Halloween at DALC with a party! We started by honoring each grade group’s Students of the Month. Ricardo & Chrissyana won for the Little Dreamers, Roman & Stephanie were honored for 4th, 5th, & 6th grade, and Julien & Keniayah represented our 7th & 8th grade Dreamers. We are so proud of how they have shown up in the center and inspired their classmates with their great behavior. They each enjoyed a personal gift from their DreamStaff member. Congratulations to all of our Students of the Month!

After enjoying Halloween treats, we were also treated to a dance performance organized by some of our Dream Girls. They choreographed and practiced the dance for two weeks leading up to the party. Their efforts paid off with an amazing performance that kept everyone’s attention. Great job girls!
Since 1998, our innovative national afterschool and mentoring program has helped thousands of at-risk youth, especially children of incarcerated parents, realize their dreams. Please visit us at www.usdreamacademy.org

### Calendar Box

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Art With A Heart</strong></td>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>4th, 5th, and 6th Graders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SABES</strong></td>
<td>Wednesdays and Thursdays</td>
<td>3rd, 4th, &amp; 5th Graders</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SunTrust Financial Literacy</strong></td>
<td>Tuesdays, 4:30pm</td>
<td>7th &amp; 8th Graders</td>
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<td><strong>Towson Footballers</strong></td>
<td>Mondays until Thanksgiving week</td>
<td>4th-8th grade boys</td>
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<td><strong>NO PROGRAMMING</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, November 22nd</td>
<td>Thursday, November 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Engagement, Eat Better Eat Together</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, November 30th, 4pm</td>
<td>Cafeteria entrance</td>
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### Academic & Achieve3000 News

#### Achieve 3000 Accolades
As of Friday, October 27, 2016, fifty (50) students have been assigned Achieve 3000 accounts and have begun their interactive engagement in the lessons where personal lexile levels have been established via the pre-assessment and results of completed activities. Students have been divided into four groups and each group will be engaged with Achieve 3000 lessons at least once a week. Students are encouraged to log on during their leisure time. Designated students have been identified to assist other students who are new to Achieve 3000.

Congratulations to Keniayah! She has completed twelve (12) Achieve 3000 lesson with the qualifying score!