



Dear Friends,

As I write this to you, our students are hard at work learning about the African Diaspora and what it meant and continues to mean to them, to their community and to the world. They are excited, doing research, memorizing famous speeches and quotations, preparing to present this performance to parents and community members. All of this work builds self-confidence, speaking skills and understanding of the global community.

We are committed to educating our students in a way that makes them aware of how the world is interdependent and interconnected. We know that in order to succeed in the future they will need this awareness. It is also true that the more they know about how to learn and get information on their own, the more prepared they will be for education at higher levels. The growth of technology, information and use of the internet means that we all must learn how to ask our questions and how to present ourselves through these new media. Learning to build a computer, using simulated programs to understand how finances are managed, using technology as well as books and articles to research their projects are all steps toward being stronger learners and prepared for any field.

At the same time, we focus on exposing students to careers both familiar and new to them, understanding that they can prepare and plan for the kind of work that they want to do. We introduce them to mentors from a variety of careers and send them out to the workplace each year to see, in action, various types of work. We are grateful to our volunteers from television, journalism, financial, medical, insurance and fashion institutions who open their doors to our students each year. Our assembly program brings in artists, writers, musicians and entrepreneurs who describe how they achieved success and what is required. The message as always is clear – stay in school, work hard, get along with people. Each time we present it, however, we believe that different students connect with the truth of it and recommit themselves to the goal of success.

Thank you for your support in providing this amazing opportunity to our 174 students who are preparing for high school and college, ready to make their way in the world. You are helping us to change lives and produce young leaders for our world.

Kathy Egmont, Head of School



Sesame Street Workshop Comes to The Storefront

In December, the Sesame Workshop, creators of Sesame Street and Dragon Tales, organized a Sesame Reads event with The Children's Storefront. Sesame Street Workshop's Jennifer Schiffman initiated the idea of coming to our school after she became a Storefront Partner in 2009. Sesame Reads is a volunteer initiative program, which offers communities the chance to experience literacy through a creative and interactive lens. They approach the topic of literacy in a multi-sensory way using media, art, storytelling and music. The Hip-Hop Strokes from Harlem Hospital, the award-winning illustrator Bryan Collier, as well as members of The Electric Company and Elmo each came out to make our

event a truly magnificent one. We were also very honored to have the creator of Sesame Street, Joan Ganz Cooney visit us and watch our students participate. She was later interviewed by Kathy Egmont and Michael Williams.

We were fortunate for each of our Lower School classrooms to experience three separate activities that engaged the students in age appropriate problem-solving games, artistic lecture/hands-on learning and concept building. Students were challenged to think about our world and their place in it through the use of words and visuals based on an international focus that tied into the Storefront's 2009-10 goal of "giving back."

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Upfront at the Storefront is a publication serving the Storefront community, which includes current students and their families, faculty, foundations, corporations, alumni and friends of the school. Its purpose is to inform you of exciting news from ourschool as well as from members of ourcommunity. Our goal is to keep you connected to the spirit of the Storefront. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please address all correspondence to: Upfront, The Children's Storefront 70 East 129th Street New York, NY 10035 or you can email dbrewer@csstorefront.org

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7th GRADERS BUILD A COMPUTER



On three Thursdays in February, our grade 7 students pioneered a new Storefront technology initiative where they learned about computer hardware and how to assemble a computer from basic components. They had the help of NYC computer consultant Alison Holtzschue from www.computersdotmom.com. She said, "I loved watch-

ing the 7th graders teach all they had learned to the 1st graders. They were so proud of their new skills." Storefront Tech Assistant Jamie Zionic, who also worked on this project, said, "I was impressed to see how interested all of the students were in the project." High school intern Tymiek McCloud also was very involved in this terrific enterprise.

The 7th graders learned how to assemble the fan, the heat sink, CPU, RAM chips, hard drive and other components. Computer Teacher and CIO Steve Bergen made arrangements with Ryan Fox from TADS.COM in Minnesota to be available by SKYPE for any technical questions from our students. Students from several Lower School classes came to visit "the computer factory" and got hands-on instruction from the 7th graders. You can read more about the project, see pictures and watch a video at our www.cs-storefront.org/build Web site. Students used TWITTER in real time to take notes and post updates on the project. This new technology initiative will now become a yearly tradition in grade 7.

Storefront Colleague Passes Away



Longtime volunteer and staff member, Ann Collins Walsh, passed away on Thanksgiving. She was a valued member of the Development & Communications Office for six years. She will be deeply missed by all of the Storefront faculty and students.

*Sesame Street Photo: Jennifer Schiffman, Kathy Egmont, Michael Williams, Joan Ganz Cooney; Elsie V. Aidinoff, Holly Peterson, Adjowah Scott, Elmo Makeda Mays, Kevin Clash, Alex Brown. Men's Mentoring Photo: Jeffrey Flynn, C.O.O., Gramercy Surgery Center receiving his award from Michael Williams
Photos by Lawrence Ratzkin*

The 3rd Annual Urban Education Symposium

“Maximizing Our Impact” was the theme of this year's gathering, held at Baruch College in October. Over one hundred leaders from the foundation and education world came together to share their expertise in educating urban youth. The event was chaired by Storefront Trustee Hal Fessenden. This gathering is special because it unites educators from the private, parochial, public and charter school worlds. It was a half-day gathering, which included workshops and speakers.

Workshops included “Funding Education: Building Relationships, Building Strength” which explored effective fundraising by identifying, building and sustaining relations with individuals, foundations and corporations; “Maximizing Student Success on Standardized Tests” examined strategies for working with teachers and curriculum to promote success as well as methods of motivating and preparing students, and “The Power of High Quality Summer Experiences to Improve Learning” presented compelling research on summer learning loss, a primary contributor to the academic achievement gap that distances poor children from their peers.

Next year's Symposium will take place on October 27 at Baruch College. Our keynote speaker is Pedro Noguera, Professor in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University. For more information, call the Development and Communications Office 212.427.7900, ext. 224.



Kindergarten visits MOMA

Thanks to the generosity of Storefront Volunteer, Mimi Saltzman, our Kindergarten students were able to visit the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art on November 18, 2009. The children discovered paintings such as “Starry Night,” by Vincent Van Gogh, “Three Musicians,” by Pablo Picasso and “The Red Studio,” by Henri Matisse. The kindergarteners also learned about the art of Jackson Pollock and action painting. They looked at Alberto Giacometti's famous dog sculpture, which was especially interesting because the students recently finished their own clay dog sculptures. Everyone had a marvelous time. Artist-in-Residence, Matthias Leutrum, and Kindergarten teacher, Alexis Schmidt, led the group through MOMA.



Young Artists Show Their Work

On Thursday, February 11, 2010 The Men's Mentoring Group of The Children's Storefront hosted the 7th Annual Art Exhibit and Cocktail Reception. The event took place at the offices of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, who also underwrote

the exhibit. The students welcomed over 60 guests to discuss their art. This year's honorees were Jeffrey Flynn, C.O.O., Gramercy Surgery Center and the Storefront's Head of School, Kathy Egmont. This event gave the students the opportunity to enhance their confidence, poise and presentation skills. Every student sold a painting.

The Men's Mentoring Program provides experiences that expand the horizons of our seventh and eighth grade male students by building personal expectations and skills that will assist them in their life choices and reaching their goals.

Special mention should go to The Irene Ritter Foundation who has funded the mentoring program from the beginning.

On May 17, The Children's Storefront will be honoring some very special friends at the Pierre Hotel.

James Anderson, Travelers

Kathy Egmont, The Children's Storefront

Michael and Veronica Stubbs

Please join us for **“A Night for Changing Lives.”**

For more information, please call 212-427-7900 ext. 224

A Very Special Place

Walking into the Reibel Reading Room, you might see four small groups engaged in a game of sounds or vocabulary. It may be a Reading Room specialist reviewing a portion of a book to a student the day before the class reads it together. It may mean having someone repeat the portion, with specific strategies to help the child comprehend the meaning or even put the events in sequence. It could also focus on a need for one-on-one or small group instruction, geared to specific ways of learning. That is a typical hour in our Reading Room.

In a school where critical thinking is considered to be as important as a sound foundation in phonics and word meaning, we strive to fill in gaps and enrich students on an individual basis. Our tutoring and extra support are carefully monitored and assessed to make sure we are on the right track for each student. We believe that every child can learn and that each student has the right to be in a class with high expectations. We also know that some students need differentiated instruction.

The Director of Academic Support develops a profile with teachers for each student and ensures that each child is receiving all necessary services, especially from the Reading Room. The Learning Specialist coordinates the Reading Room and teaches students but also offers support to teachers and volunteers. Our goal is to help children learn strategies to assist in their comprehension, reading, math and thinking skills.

The Learning Specialist also organizes volunteers, many of whom are former learning specialists or teachers. Many of them have been with us for over ten years. They are a strong and effective group, who give the children emotional and academic support with an understanding of their needs.

In addition, we offer speech and language therapy, counseling, enrichment and test prep through our Academic Support Program. We provide assistance through our study hall and homework help. Parents are encouraged through an initiative called "Bring Learning Home" which offers ideas of how parents can help students with their academic growth.

Our goal is for every student to become an active, independent learner, with strategies and skills to achieve his/her potential. The Reibel Reading Room, named in honor of Judith Reibel, a long-time faculty member, helps us to achieve this goal.



Storefront Activities

Running to Win

The Children's Storefront Track team was victorious in their first track meet last fall. They defeated both The Hyde School and The Computer School. Fourteen runners from grades six through eight competed in the various events including: the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, and the 4 x 100 meter relay.

Some of the highlights included an impressive showing by the girls on the team. They won nearly every event they entered. Sixth grader, Jahmeelah Nash Fuller, was awarded MVP of the event. Charles Brown, the track coach and also a Humanities/Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher, was very pleased with the team's effort. They did a fine job of representing the school. Coach Brown looks forward to another strong season in the spring.



TD Bank, Our New Friend

We have collected so many pennies for our Billion Penny Project that we had to go to a bank to deposit them. TD Bank, in Harlem, opened their doors to our project and taught us how to turn those pennies into a bank account. Our exciting excursion to TD Bank was nothing short of amazing. The 6th Grade Student Government supervised the project for the school. They were accompanied by Assistant Head of School, Michael Williams, Assistant Math Teacher, Dana Kuper and Shaeina Bailey, Associate from the Development and Communications Department.

The trip began on a humorous note when Ms. Kuper broke a bag full of pennies in front of Building 61 but everyone pitched in to help gather them up.

Once the students arrived at the bank, the Branch Manager, Steve Roberts, introduced them to the staff and explained everyone's roles and positions. Then the children were able to deposit their collected pennies into the famous TD Bank Penny Arcade. The children deposited hundreds of pennies, which took several hours. After the deposits were completed the children received miniature banks to help to continue their collecting.

Cocktails & Dance Benefit

On Tuesday, February 23, the Fifth Annual Evening of Cocktails & Dance was held at The Ailey Studios, the Joan Weill Center For Dance.

This wonderful event brought together over 200 friends of the Storefront and raised more than \$80,000 to benefit our education programs. It was co-chaired by Storefront Trustees Maria Vecchiotti and Amanda Low.

Jennifer McNally served as Silent Auction Chair and Storefront Trustee Lise Evans was the honorary chair.

The Ailey/Fordham Student Dancers performed three spectacular pieces, one of which was "Exodus," choreography by Ronald K. Brown, music by Bob Marley. Over 40 items were successfully auctioned off. The auction also included a "Helping Wall" to help pay for student's school and art supplies.



The Children's Storefront
An Independent School In Harlem
70 East 129th Street
New York NY, 10035



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www.thechildrensstorefront.org

Please support the Storefront
Billion Dollar Penny Drive
by going to <http://www.billionpennyproject.org>

Upcoming Events

April 14 Wednesday

Annual Theater Benefit Promises, Promises
A Pre-Theater Buffet will be served

April 22 Thursday

Partners Spring Fundraising Event
This will be held at the Thompson Hotel.

April 27 Tuesday

The Sixth Annual Harlem Luncheon.

April 28 Wednesday

Annual Texas Hold 'Em Poker Benefit
with Silent Auction.

May 17 Monday

A Night for Changing Lives, the Storefront's Annual
Spring Gala at the world-renowned Pierre Hotel.

June 4 Friday

Sixth Annual Parent Gala

Please note: To attend or support events
go to www.estorefront.org click on Fundraising Events,
select the event you want. For help with questions,
call the Development & Communications Dept.
at 212.427.7900 ext. 224

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