



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

A Month to remember!

This month we were full with activities here at GWES. The Effort Program took a hike along the Patapsco State valley park trail. We had a historic election with a historic result. American Education Week was recognized from November 17th – 21st. This week was full week of activities; we kicked things off with the Bring a parent to school day on Monday, then we had a special visit from Raven's player, Jason Brown special on Tuesday, Wednesday was our career exploration day where we had various persons, mainly from UMB, come in and share their career choices and journeys with the 3rd - 5th grade students, on Thursday students were exposed to some guest readers in our read-around and we closed things off with the big parents' vs. staff basketball game on Friday. We held our first joint meeting of the School Improvement Team and the Coordinating Council. It was definitely a month to remember. Thanks to all who contributed to make it a success.

Get Caught Doing Something Good!

The Climate and Safety Committee at George Washington Elementary School has started a NEW program! This new program is called "Caught Being Good". With this new program we want to promote and encourage great choices that will be made from our students. We believe that each and every student in this building can make great

choices daily. This is how it works! When any student is caught doing any random act of kindness for another person or even making a better choice for themselves, they will be given a ticket. This ticket will come from any staff member in the school building. When the student collects ten tickets within one month, they are eligible to participate in a celebration monthly. Parents, we need your help! Like in all circumstances we cannot do this without your support and help. Please encourage your child to make the best choices so they are able to participate every month for our special awards. We want to make our school a safe environment always. Please contact Mrs. David & Mr. Tuah if you have any questions.

We are getting a playground!

Plans have been finalized for the playground at GWES. Come Fall of '09 construction should begin on our new playground. Our Students and the community will be able to enjoy the new facility upon its completion, which is targeted for the winter of '09. Hope you are as excited as we are to have this project completed.

Parent info!

Parents are reminded about the **PTA meetings** that are held on the **1st Wednesday of every month from 6pm**. Please come out and contribute your creative ideas towards improving the school and helping your child.

Don't forget to sign up to receive the GWES newsletter via email. Please ask for the sign up sheet at the front office.

As we move forward this school year we would like to send out a call to all parents who are interested in volunteering some of their time at the school to help with various task please feel free to come in and sign up to dedicate your 2 hours of power.

Calling all Dads!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME JOIN OUR Fatherhoods Series. We kick things off with the *Dr. Dad* sessions on Tuesdays at 5pm at the school. At these sessions we will learn together how we can better prepare ourselves to handle the health and safety concerns of our children. Please contact Mr. La Veau at 443-388-0292 for further information.

Please refer to the calendar for other important dates and events.

Our Community

Partners

- The Y of Central Maryland, Urban Services
- Paul's Place
- St Jerome's Head Start
- Open Gates
- WPNPC
- UMB
- Enoch Pratt Free Library
- EFNEP
- SWCOS
- SBLC
- SAIC
- New City Developers
- Tri-Churches Housing Inc.
- Sports Legends Museum
- Citizens of Pigtown Community Assoc.
- Ridgely's Delight

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."

Gilbert K. Chesterton



Please contact **Marc La Veau** at **443-388-0292/410-396-1445** or email me at marclaveau@ymaryland.org if you are interested in placing an article, AD or event in our Newsletter.

Community News

Citizens of Pigtown Community Assoc.

Please contact them at 410-982-5519 for further information on membership, volunteering and donation opportunities.



Washington Village Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council (WPNPC)

WPNPC is offering an array of services to community members, these include but are not limited to career counseling, employment readiness training, job skills training and job placement. They also offer adult education classes in Pre- GED and GED programs. Also ask about their youth engagement programs. Please feel free to contact their office for more details about services and volunteering opportunities at 410-385-8494.

Spotlight on! The UMB Partnership

In response to our community school efforts here at GWES and other City schools in the Southwest area, the University of Maryland Baltimore formed an outreach council that bring together a wealth of its resources to address our needs. This council is focused on both long and short term goals of the schools involved. Two separate work groups have been formed to address these goals, a short term work group focusing on more immediate needs and a Long term work group; which has been split into three teams each with a different focus. Team A – Children and youth development; Team B Teacher/staff support; and Team C parent engagement. The focus of the outreach council is in perfect alignment with the attendance, climate and parent involvement goals of community schools for the SY 08 – 09. This partnership has already had positive impacts on the school and we look forward to greater things in the future.



Coming Together!



The three M's!



What a team!



She Diggs in!



A One-stop Shop!

Green Thumb Project

Submitted by University of Maryland School of Nursing Students

Students participating in *Pathways to Success* joined with University of Maryland School of Nursing students for the **Green Thumb Project**, an effort to help GWES students learn about how to appreciate and take responsibility for a healthy environment. Over a 3-week period in October 2008, nine nurses provided hands-on learning and service experiences at the Pocket Park on the corner of Scott and Carroll Sts, for students to learn about the important relationship between nature and health. The students had the opportunity to work in teams in caring for green space near the school that we call a "pocket park, and creating a new Pathway to Success in the Pocket Park. A new sign now stands in the park with the initials of all the students who participated in this wonderful contribution to our neighborhood.

During the first session, 14 students had the opportunity to learn about the healthy effects of green trees and plants on their health, especially asthma, and they learned about the process of planting. At four stations in a classroom, each worked with seeds and soil to make a personal plant to care for at home.

The second week, the students headed out to the Pocket Park at Scott and Carroll, forming work teams to clear away the leaves and trash, and prepare for planting. Wearing gloves and using rakes provided by Thomas Denton of the Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council, the students left a tidy park behind. They filled 18 huge industrial-strength trash bags that were generously donated by a neighborhood!

The last week of the program, the students, the GWES students added many new plants to the Pocket Park, and created a "Pathway to Success" in the Pocket Park! A colorful hand-painted sign with all their initials now marks their path! The Green Thumb Project ended with a special ceremony. The University of Maryland nurses noted the teamwork and hard work of the students with a ceremonial walk down the Pathway to Success, a handshake and presentation of an award button designating them as **Pigtown Park Protectors!**

PIGTOWN PARK



PROTECTORS

Pigtown Power Kids Program

Submitted by University of Maryland School of Nursing Students

University of Maryland School of Nursing students provided the **Pigtown Power Kids Program** for 50 participating students at George Washington Elementary School on November 12, 2008. The children had the opportunity to learn about their health status and how healthy eating and physical activity are important parts of their day! At four stations in the Art Room, each child's height, weight, body mass index and blood pressure was measured, using approved forms from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This information was recorded on a special handout the children home to review with their parents. They were also provided with a special tool to help them guide their food choices at home. Called "Eat a Rainbow and A Cloud," this tool encourages families to eat foods each day from all the colors of the rainbow as well as enough milk and other dairy products (the cloud) to help them remain healthy and to have the energy for all the day's activities.

This program is part of an overall effort to reduce childhood overweight and obesity in Pigtown. Screenings of children ranging from pre-school to middle school conducted by the University of Maryland nurses over the past 2 years have revealed that more than 40% of Pigtown children are overweight or obese. This puts them at great risk for heart disease, diabetes, and many other conditions that have very negative effects on their health and can shorten their lifespan. We want healthy kids to have long lives, so the **Pigtown Power Kids Program** will be provided each year at George Washington Elementary.

December 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Holiday Festival of Trains @ B & O Railroad Museum 10am-4pm	2 Friends of Carroll Park Mtg. 7pm Morrell Pk Comm. Assoc. Mtg. 7pm EFFORT Program @ GWES 6:15-7:15pm	3 Directors Roundtable Mtg. 12pm Ridgeley's Delight Assoc. Mtg. 7pm PTA Mtg. 6PM	4 MouthPower @ National Museum of Dentistry 11am-4pm	5 EFFORT Program @ GWES 5-7pm	6
7	8 Progress Reports due to office Faculty Meeting 2:45 – 3:45 PM	9 Citizens of Pigtown Mtg. 7pm EFFORT Program @ GWES 6:15-7:15pm	10 How People Make Things @ Port Discovery Children's Museum 10am-5pm	11 Barre Circle Mtg. 6:30pm MICA Art Market @ Maryland Institute College of Art 10am-6pm	12 EFFORT Program @ GWES 5-7pm	13
14	15 Most Daring Dream @ Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center - James E. Lewis Museum of Art 10am-5pm	16 EFFORT Program @ GWES 6:15-7:15pm	17 A Christmas Carol @ Lyric Opera House 7:30-10pm	18 Holiday Event * TBD	19 EFFORT Program @ GWES 5-7pm	20
21	22 S.I.T. Meeting 2:45-3:45pm WPNPC Public Safety Mtg. 6:00pm – 7:30pm	23 EFFORT Program @ GWES 6:15-7:15pm	24 Christmas Break Begins – Schools Closed	25 Christmas Schools Closed	26 Christmas Break Begins – Schools Closed	27
28	29 Christmas Break Begins – Schools Closed	30 Christmas Break Begins – Schools Closed	31 Christmas Break Begins – Schools Closed			