



**Septima P. Clark Academy removes the obstacles and distractions that often prevent students from being academically successful in order to prepare students for post-secondary education, the military, and the world of work.**

**Newsletter #7  
Spring, 2010**

## **With "Spring" in our Step!**

*...a construction project, student events, graduation, and a very special honor for one of our teachers.*

### **Message from Program Director**

At this time last year, I shared news that the district was planning to relocate Clark to a North Charleston location for this (2009-2010) school year. What a difference a year makes! Now we are planning a modest, but

important renovation of our facility that will focus on *life/safety* issues. Specifically, the renovation will reopen two (long closed) internal hallways, upgrade

electrical and IT infrastructure, and address other concerns directly related to security and safety. These renovations should be completed by the end of the summer, in time for a smooth start to the 2010-2011 school year.

Even though the construction project is modest in scope, it reflects the

importance that the district places on the program at Clark. The district is investing in Clark directly, and in so doing, investing in the students, faculty, and community to ensure that the program thrives. I look forward to providing more updates in the weeks and months ahead.

**-Andrew HaLevi,  
Program Director**



**Andrew HaLevi  
Program Director**

### **Another Honor for Meike McDonald**

The Clark community could not be more proud of math teacher Meike McDonald for being named one of five finalists for Charleston County School District (CCSD) Teacher of the Year (TOY). Meike's honor comes on the heels of receiving National Board Certification in November, and puts her in the final group for the CCSD TOY award given on April 27 at a ceremony held at Trident Technical College. Not only is the TOY the highest award given to



**Meike McDonald  
CCSD TOY Finalist**

CCSD teachers, but the winner receives a Volvo to drive for the year.

Meike accepted the news in her typically modest manner. She credits her mother, a retired school teacher in the Upsate, for her success. We wish Meike luck in the competition, and know that the biggest winners are Clark students who benefit daily from Meike's energy, enthusiasm, and expertise!

### **Student Events**

One of the most exciting developments at Clark this year has been the growth of student activities. In



October, we had our first annual Fall Field Day (described in a previous newsletter) and our annual *Holiday Family Dinner*. This winter and spring, we have had Black History Month activities (see article in this newsletter), a dodgeball tournament (see picture above of faculty team), a talent show, and multiple field trips. Yet to come is another field day and graduation week activities that will include a formal lunch, a bbq, and a tribute to parents and teachers.

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## Honor Roll Assembly

Clark Academy held its first semester Honor Roll Assembly on February 5, 2010. The faculty and staff recognized students who excelled in three areas: Academics, Attendance, and Discipline. Quinterra Doctor and Lashe' Eddings were recognized for having all A's on their first semester report cards, while Khadija Richardson and LaTasha Robinson were recognized for having zero referrals for the first semester. Khadija Richardson was also recognized for being the only student with perfect attendance during first semester.

Several other awards were also presented to students. Mr. HaLevi presented the Program Director's Award to Terrance Moorer and Khadja Richardson for their positive attitudes at Clark. The Guidance Department also presented awards to students for their continued improvement in areas such as attendance, HSAP scores, and citizenship.

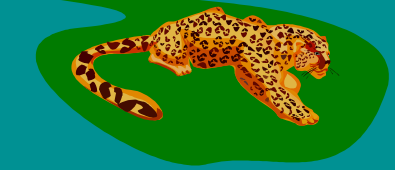
Overall, the assembly was a great success. We will recognize students again after the third quarter, and hope to have even more students making good grades and overall improvements.

## Looking Ahead

*Graduation will be held on June 4 at 4:00 p.m. at the Circular Church on Meeting Street in Downtown Charleston.*

*Prom is scheduled for Saturday, May 22 from 8-11 also at Circular Church.*

*School is more than a physical place. It is also the relationships that students have with teachers and friends, the feelings that students have about learning, and the desire to learn more about the world.*



**Spring Break runs from April 2-11.**

## Other Thoughts...

### Black History Month

Clark Academy celebrated Black History Month with fine arts, fine food, and an inspiring student-led stage program.

One highlight was the history program presented by Mrs. Smalley's African-American studies class. The program included a rendition of the Negro National Anthem by Curtis Morrison, and a presentation of the hymn "Wade in the Waters" by Vantayesia Richardson. The students gave dramatic readings of poems by famous African-American artists including "I Too Sing America" performed by Deshon Ancrum, and "Ain't I a Woman" performed by Ashley Powell. The readings ranged from traditional poems and spirituals to more modern pieces such as "Still I Rise" read by Dessarea Smith. Finally, there was a "Low-Country Prologue" read by Mityah Hamilton during which several students acted out a demonstration against the injustices African-Americans have suffered over the years.

The program ended with an African-American Heritage food tasting. Students and faculty members brought in traditional soul food for the entire school to enjoy. It was relished by all who participated, and will surely become a tradition at Clark.

Another highlight was the unveiling of a mural of Septima P. Clark created by Ms. Trott's art students. The mural hangs proudly in the cafeteria where students and visitors can see and read about Ms. Clark's amazing achievements.

### Teachers' Summer Plans

Teachers look forward to the summer almost as much as students do in order to refresh their minds and bodies, reflect on the past year, and plan for new and better things in the Fall. You may be surprised at what Clark teachers have planned!

Many of our teachers will use the summer to travel. Teachers will visit family and friends all over the country, from North Carolina to Texas. Several faculty members will be lucky enough to travel abroad this summer to places as far away as Australia and Israel. Most faculty members at Clark will go somewhere outside of Charleston for at least a few days.

In addition to traveling, many teachers at Clark will continue to hone their craft as teachers by pursuing advanced degrees, attending workshops, and getting advanced training.

The summer is a wonderful time, especially in Charleston where parks, beaches, and recreational opportunities abound. Our teachers, like our students, will use the summer for fun and family. But many of our teachers will continue to work, whether at the craft of teaching, taking a second job to help ends meet, or exploring our world. All these pursuits, while giving us a much needed break, also help us become better teachers for our students here at Clark.

Have a great Spring and Summer!