



Soaring Beyond Expectations

What College Can Do for You?

Wednesday, November 15, 2006 we welcomed Dr. Carmela Thompson, Associate Director of Office of Admissions at University at Buffalo, as she presented, "What College Can Do for You" to our students in Grades 7 and 8. She helped students identify how a college education will help them achieve their career goals, described opportunities available in college, and shared a graph of lifetime



earning potential based on education.

We have accepted her invitation to tour University at Buffalo on Thursday, December 14. Students

in Grades 7 and 8 will be traveling with, Mr. Baines and Ms. Woods, co-leaders of Keys to Success, to UB for this wonderful opportunity. Parents and guardians of all students enrolled in CATS 21st CCLC at Buffalo Public School #74 Hamlin Park are also invited. Please RSVP to Karen Bartkowiak, Project Director, at 886-5437.

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2006

For nearly 70 years CATS has been delivering innovative programs promoting the emotional well-being of children & families in our community. The 21st Century Program provides the children and families of our community educational and recreational opportunities. Each year more than 2,500 children benefit from the programs offered by CATS.

Soaring Beyond Expectations

Bill Nowak from Ciurczak and Associates, our independent evaluator, has finished compiling data regarding our CATS 21st CCLC activities from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. The final Annual Performance Review synthesizes information from our Parent, Student, and Staff Surveys; Teacher Feedback forms; student attendance, discipline, and academic

records; student scores on New York State ELA and math tests; and other assessments---and compares them to our stated grant contract objectives.



We are pleased to announce that we met 6 out of our 7 outcomes, and approached reaching our 7th.

If you would like to review or request your own copy of the APR, please contact Karen Bartkowiak, Project Director, at your earliest convenience. She can be reached by phone at her office (886-5437), or by cell (908-7074); or by email (kbartkowiak@catswny.org).

DECEMBER 2006

Important Dates to Remember!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11*	12*	13*	14*	15	16
17	18	19*	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



- ☺ December 11-Family Math and Literacy Night 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
- ☺ December 12-Geocaching (Treasure Hunting with Global Positioning Equipment) at Buffalo State College. 3:40-5:15pm, for Students in Grades 7 and 8 and interested parents or caregivers.
- ☺ December 13-No Programming
- ☺ December 14-Tour of University of Buffalo 3:40-5:15pm, for Students in Grades 7 and 8 and interested parents or caregivers.
- ☺ December 19-Final Day of Fall Programming
- ☺ January 2-Programming Resumes



Imagination is more important than knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination points to all we might yet discover and create.
 ~Albert Einstein

Child and Adolescent Treatment Services' 21st Century Community Learning Centers are generously funded by New York State Education Department, private foundations, and individual donors. CATS and our partners—Buffalo Public Schools, University Heights Community Development Association and University at Buffalo School of Social Work—promotes the emotional well-being and academic success of middle school students and their families by providing academic and enrichment programs during non-school hours.

CATS Core Values are Child and Family Friendly, Accountability, Mutual Respect, Excellence, Integrity, Celebration of Differences.



Culminating Event Scheduled for December 19

Everyone is invited to celebrate the end of Fall Programming on December 19 from 4:15 to 5:20. Awards will be presented to students who have already reached their 30 days "Starpoints Attendance." Student paintings, creative designs, and writings will be on display, and refreshments will be served.

Please join us!



21st Century Stars

- * Emontee B.
- * Cincere B.
- * Nadiyah W.
- * Somalia D.
- * Zaire D.
- * Carlise H.
- * John H.
- * Jamilia W.
- * Caleb W.
- * Dominique W.

Congratulation to our Stars!

Opportunities for Experience

Do you know a college student who would like some teaching experience? Do you know an elder who would like to share the wisdom of their years with children? Do you know someone who would like to give back to their community? Please spread the word that we have volunteer and employment opportunities available.

Cover letters and resumes can be directed to:

Karen M. Bartkowiak

Project Director

21st Century Community Learning Centers

556 Franklin Street

Buffalo, NY 14202

kbartkowiak@catswny.org

The secret joy in work is contained in one word- excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it.
~Pearl S. Buck

Enrollment Update

We are still accepting applications for students who are at least 5 years of age, all the way up to Grade 8. Students should be enrolled in Buffalo Public or Private Schools, although preference will be given to BPS #74 Hamlin Park students. Applications are available either on the counter in the main office at BPS #74 or from Karen Bartkowiak, Project Director. Please spread the word!



Getting to know our staff

We have a dedicated staff of teachers and teacher's aides that are committed to providing our children of the 21st Century Program a quality learning experience. Here are some fun facts about our inspired leaders.

Renee Baker, a teacher aide in our program, told us her favorite color is Blue. Her favorite hobby is football and basketball. If she could travel anywhere in the world she would go to Paris. Ms. Baker also loves to cook, and her favorite breakfast food is Bacon and Eggs. If she could pick an animal to be she would pick a cat, so she could sleep and eat all day.

Antwonette Burgos is a teacher in our program. Her favorite color is purple, and she loves working on computers in her spare time. If she could go anywhere in the world she would go to Asia. Her ideal breakfast is pancakes. Some people may not know that Ms. Burgos loves to do hair and nails.

Chef Snow is our cooking instructor. She loves the color green. If you ask Chef Snow about what she does in spare time she will promptly tell you that writing songs and poetry are her favorite things to do. Chef Snow would like to have the opportunity to see The Ice Hotel in Sweden in the Artic Circles. If she could pick an animal to be it would be a cat. She considers cats mobile, agile and graceful. The one thing many people may not know about Chef snow is that her secret passion was to become a trial lawyer. If you wanted to serve Chef Snow breakfast she will tell you her favorite would be "crunchy cereal with milk and cream."

Steven Pernick is a teacher with our program. His favorite color is Pink. If he could be any animal he would be a bird so he could soar above us.

Mr. Pernick loves to fish and many people do not know that he loves to read and write poetry. If he could go anywhere in the world he would visit Egypt. Eggs and sausage is what Mr. Pernick would like to sit down to for breakfast.

Cindy Burgos is our secretary for the program. Many people do not know that Ms. Burgos is a stamp collector, and that her favorite hobby is Genealogy. If she could choose an animal to be she would be a dog because she would love to have someone take care of her. If she could go anywhere in the world she would go to Rome. Grits and Eggs is what Ms. Burgos would like on her breakfast plate.

Robin McCreary is a teacher for our program whose favorite pastime is drawing. She loves playing video games on her time off and during vacations. Ms. McCreary can most identify with a Chameleon. When asked why she replied, "Because I am able to match my behavior to my surrounding company". Ms McCreary would love the opportunity to travel around Europe. In the morning she would love to have a bowl of Peanut Butter Crunch with Chocolate Milk.

Lola Majors, a teacher aide with our program, lists her favorite color as green. She doesn't care if it is breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack her favorite food of all time is fish. She loves to listen to music, swim, or you can find her in the kitchen cooking up something scrumptious. If she could



be an animal she would be a tiger. She considers them to be independent, strong, wise and excellent swimmers.

Andrea Corley is a teacher aide with our program whose favorite color is blue. Ms.

Corley would love to go to Hawaii. She likes to do crossword puzzles and work on arts and crafts. She could see herself as a race horse because they run extremely fast. She likes pancakes and many people don't know what a good listener Ms. Corley is.

" The close observer soon discovers that the teacher's task is not to implant facts but to place the subject to be learned in front of the learner and, through sympathy, emotion, imagination, and patience, to awaken in the learner the restless drive for answers and insights which enlarge the personal life and give it meaning."

Nathan M. Pusey



Parent Involvement

Powerful Families: Advocacy in Action!; the 9 week group promoting self-help and advocacy to help families get better services, improve communications with service providers, prevent some problems encountered with big impersonal systems, and reduce family stress; will be wrapping up by the end of December.

Our next activity will be offered after the first of the year. We are considering a different day of the week, as well as a new meeting space. Dinner and childcare will still be provided.

For more information and/or

to reserve a space please call Rochelle Drake, our facilitator, at 818-3294.

casey family programs
fostering families. fostering change



"Parents are children's first and most influential teachers. By reading to children or having them read to us, by making sure homework is done, by monitoring television use, by knowing how children spend their time, parents can have a powerfully positive effect on their children's learning."

~ U.S. Secretary of Education

Child and Family Support Program

The Child and Family Support Program is a peer run program within the Mental Health Association of Erie County that focuses on issues affecting children with emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges.

The Child and Family Support Program offers a range of services:

- * Advocacy
- * Child and Family Friendly special events
- * Community Respite
- * Conferences
- * Information and referrals
- * Judgment-Free understanding
- * Lending Library
- * Parent Training
- * Phone Support
- * Short-term respite

And so much more.....

The following resources have been recommended by the Mental Health Association of Erie County:



American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

www.aacap.org

Child & Adolescent Bipolar Foundation

www.bpkids.org

Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

www.chadd.org

Department of Mental Health

www.erie.gov/health/mental_health

Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

www.ffcmh.org

Girls & Boys Town's Parenting. Org

www.parenting.org

Kid's Health

www.kidshealth.org

National Mental Health Association

www.nmha.org

"The aim of education is to teach us how to think not what to think"





Child and Adolescent Treatment Services
21st Century Community Learning Center
556 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
www.catswny.org

How can I help?

Child & Adolescent Treatment Services' 21st Century Community Learning Center promotes the emotional well-being of enrolled students and their families by providing academic and enrichment services during non-school hours, in child-friendly environments. We are generously funded by New York State Education Department, private foundations, and individual donors.

Your Donation Of:	Can Help Us:
Time	Set up, during sign-in, prepare mailings, welcome visitors, etc.
Used cell phones	Raise money to continue our quality programming
Movie passes, etc.	Reward positive behaviors
Art Supplies	Inspire our Students Creativity
Office Supplies	Maintain accurate records and organize workspace

