THE Empowering Students to Become Responsible Leaders

Character Education and Leadership Development Newsletter

Winter Edition

Inner Vision International, Inc. — Matteson School District 162



FROM THE DESK OF DWAYNE BRYANT, **CEO of Inner Vision International, Inc** www.dbrvant.com

Happy New Year!!!

ast year, we celebrated some of the highest achievements within Matteson School District 162's 150 year history. Academic achievement is at an all time high while suspensions are at an all time low. Last school

year, we celebrated record high ISAT scores at Huth and Sauk, while Arcadia brought home the Blue Ribbon Award. (Go Arcadia Bears!!) This year, Indiana is poised for record growth. Students, teachers and administrators are focused like never before. We have a lot to be proud of.

Matteson School District 162 is number one in the state as it relates to academic achievement on the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT) with its current demographics (over 80% African American / over 55% poverty rate). This certainly is a time for celebration...

Now that we've celebrated our successes. it is time to take it to the next level. For the past five years, Inner Vision International, Inc. has partnered with Huth Middle, Indiana



Guest speaker, Jason Reynolds



and Sauk elementary schools. Twice a week, our highly motivated consultants implement a number of character education workshops. Workshop topics include, but are not limited to: Self Concept/Self Esteem, Building Positive Relationships, Time Management, Power of Words, Conflict Resolution, Hope and Goal Setting. All workshops are designed to motivate students toward their maximum academic and social achievements.

Each year I am blessed and amazed by the quality of individuals we are able to recruit to join our team. This year is no exception. I am excited about our dynamic team of motivated educational consultants. Week after week, our Visionaries present character education workshops that challenge students' thinking. Our workshops are designed to equip students with life management skills that will ensure their success beyond college. As I listen to my team present to your children, I know within my heart that I would want the same message presented in the same way to my own children.

In an effort to reflect our student Continue on pg 10

"Before You Can Change Your World...

You Must Change Your

Vision!"

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"For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." African Proverb

WHAT'S NEW!

INTRAMURALS

or the past few years, Mr. Jones wanted to infuse some excitement after school by developing an intramurals sport program at Huth. Inner Vision partnered with O.W. Huth and began developing interactive games and competitions for

porta

students who wanted to participate. Spearheading the effort was Mr. Matthews from Huth and Derrick Young and Randall Townsell, from Inner Vision. Each week, students compete in an assortment of organized games, including Floor Hockey, Basketball, and Softball, Dodgeball, Double Dutch and other team sports. Students understand that in order to participate, they





must display qualities of leadership, good sportsmanship, character and integrity. Inner Vision's Visionaries stay after school in order to challenge some of the Huth Knights. Not only are the intramurals a great way for students to have a safe place after school, they are also a great way for students to bond with adult leaders in a nonacademic environment which

develops a mutual level of respect. Thank you, Mr. Jones for your Intramural Vision.



WHAT'S NEW!

Lady Knights of Distinction

he Lady Knights of Distinction was born of the desire to give the female students at O. W. Huth Middle School the opportunity to learn (in a small group setting) what it means to grow and mature

as a young woman. Brenda Calvin, Dean of Students had this vision and reached out to the Inner Vision team to make it a reality. The mission of the program



knowledge, skills and confidence to be successful in any social setting. In an effort to meet the mission of Lady Knights, part of the female visionary team

is to empower the young

ladies of Huth with the

Knights, part of the female visionary team which includes, Ms. Berg, Mrs. Reyes and Ms. Smith have and will continue

to introduce topics such as: poise, communication, per-

sonal style/grooming, dining and social skills. It is our hope that each week when the ladies attend their sessions, they walk away with more confidence and faith in themselves to be successful in any setting. The Lady Knights of Dis-



tinction program meets once a week after school. Tuesdays are dedicated to 7th grade girls and Thursdays are dedicated to 8th grade girls. Currently, there is a combined total of approximately 30 girls that have participated in the program.

Men of Honor 🗞 Ladies of Distinction

ince Inner Vision International sees potential in all the students in Matteson School District 162, we couldn't offer special programming only to the students of Huth. In order to make sure the students at Sauk and Indiana were receiving additional time to develop leadership skills, Inner Vision International developed Men of Honor/Ladies of Distinction. Students meet with the Visionaries weekly to discuss the key qualities of a leader and how to stand out from the crowd. The small group sessions allow time for students to talk about the difficulties of being a leader amongst their peers, at home, and in their communities. Men of Honor/Ladies of Distinction create a relationship of trust between the Visionaries and students that gives the students the freedom to ask hard questions and the Visionaries the opportunity to challenge the students to become exceptional leaders.





CREDO WINNERS

were encouraged to memorize and lead the class

in reciting the credo. Each successful student

was awarded a \$25.00 gift certificate to Target

in all things and to see themselves as a Vision-

ary. By empowering them to take control of their

dent with the opportunity to powerfully declare the

In 2009, the students went above and beyond;

73 students accepted the challenge and succeeded!

CONGRATULATIONS to the students who are on the road to becoming a Visionary!

In 2008, 11 students rose to the challenge.

The Credo is a statement of belief developed by Inner Vision International. Before each session, students recite the credo with their peers. The Credo challenges each student to become excellent

he students of Sauk Elementary,

Indiana Elementary and Huth Middle school did an OUTSTANDING job during the credo competition this year. During the first week of Inner Vision Character Education workshops, students





Diamond Price-Wright Sauk 4th Grade



Kimberly Tan Sauk 4th Grade



Alshi

Sauk 5th Grade

Home Aaron Madgett

Sauk 5th Grade



Sauk 5th Grade



Asia Wright Sauk 5th Grade





D'Anna Hayes Sauk 5th Grade



Dazjhanique Harris Sauk 5th Grade



John Long Sauk 5th Grade



Christina Thompson Sauk 5th Grade



Dave Baldivino Sauk 5th Grade



Isaiah Thomas Sauk 5th Grade



Lemar Hawkins Sauk 5th Grade



or Best Buy.

London Shumpert Sauk 5th Grade

Maya Dent

Sauk 5th Grade





Phoenyx Goosby Sauk 5th Grade



Ryan Johnson Sauk 5th Grade







Cydney Harston









Adam Fulcher Huth 7th Grade





China Buckner Huth 7th Grade

Ermahn Oduro-Kwarten Huth 7th Grade



Nathaniel Knighton Huth 7th Grade



Huth 7th Grade

Sophia Lam Huth 7th Grade Huth 7th Grade



Balcari Wade Huth 8th Grade



Sauk 6th Grade

Ricky Owens

Sauk 6th Grade

Brianna Waller Huth 8th Grade



Ryan Gross Sauk 6th Grade



Aaron Hutton Sauk 6th Grade









WE ARE VISIONARIES!

We are Visionaries.

We ARE positive leaders.

We are people of *integrity*. We respect ourselves and all people. We love ourselves and our heritage. We make wise choices. We make no excuses.

We are accountable for our actions.

We will not succumb to failure.



Huth 8th Grade

Cameron Earley





Chanel Brown Huth 8th Grade





Dante Barnes Huth 8th Grade



Huth 8th Grade





Karlito Richardson Huth 8th Grade



Latanya Gardner Huth 8th Grade



Huth 8th Grade



Corey Ellis Huth 8th Grade



Deana Coleman Huth 8th Grade



Jadah McIntosh Huth 8th Grade



Khiara Boone Huth 8th Grade



Lauren Helton Huth 8th Grade



Tremaine Ledbetter

Indiana 6th Grade Huth 8th Grade







Alyse Childress Indiana 4th Grade





Michaela Welch Indiana 4th Grade



Darriana Green Indiana 5th Grade

Indiana 4th Grade



Indiana 5th Grade

Demi Dickerson Indiana 5th Grade



Michelle Moore Indiana 5th Grade



Indiana 6th Grade



Indiana 6th Grade



Caturah Causey Indiana 6th Grade



Kiara Jordan Indiana 6th Grade



Chima Ndukwe



Majestic Lee Indiana 6th Grade





Michareen Layne Indiana 6th Grade











Mariah Daniels Indiana 6th Grade



















THE **Empowering Students to Become Responsible Leaders**

5 Power Packed Modules of Life Changing Curriculum For Students

The Vision[®] is a dynamic character education and leadership development curriculum designed to teach life management skills to 3rd - 11th graders. With over 22 motivational workshops and mentoring sessions, this curriculum is designed to help school systems improve overall school climate, increase standardized test scores and student academic achievement while decreasing drop out rates and deviant behavior.

The key to success with this curriculum is training the right educational consultants to implement our dynamic workshops. To date, The Vision[®] has been implemented in the Chicago Public School system as well as other districts throughout the Chicagoland area.









MODULE 1

First Impressions

This workshop will help students understand the importance of 'first impressions' and will demonstrate the importance of a firm handshake, eye contact and an effective greeting.

Communication

This 2-day workshop examines how well we communicate and the effect communication has on our individual lives as well as those around us. Day 2 of this workshop challenges students in a fun-filled game format.

Hope

This workshop defines the term hope and explores the importance of maintaining it in your everyday life.

Power of Words This workshop will examine the powerful effects that our words have on our lives.

Self-Concept & Self-Worth This workshop empowers students to increase their self-esteem by encouraging them to recognize who they are internally as well as externally.

MODULE 2



Dealing With Intolerance This workshop defines prejudice and uncovers the reasons behind it. Students will also learn how to accept and appreciate other people's differences.

Sexual Assault



This workshop will address and teach students how to recognize and avoid potentially harmful situations involving sexual assault.

Substance Abuse

This workshop will teach students the FACTS about alcohol and drug abuse, as well as the importance of helping others that are involved and need help.



Test Taking Strategies This workshop is designed to build students' confidence and provide guidelines, strategies and tips to overcome testtaking anxieties.

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"The Vision® Program impacts a child's life today... but lasts for a lifetime!"

MODULE 3



Conflict Resolution This workshop teaches students the art of resolving conflict in their everyday lives in a positive and proactive manner.

Leadership

This workshop teaches students about positive leadership and helps them understand the qualities and personal attributes needed to be an effective leader.

Responsibility

This workshop teaches students the importance of fulfilling their responsibilities and the consequences that may arise from neglecting them.



This workshop illustrates the importance of teamwork in our eveyday lives. Working together as a team is a necessary part of life.

MODULE 4









Self-Esteem Self-Confidence This workshop will empower students to gain and maintain a positive self-image.

Reproduction, Puberty & Hygiene: Girls Only

This workshop will illustrate the importance of good hygiene and grooming; and will teach young girls the fundamentals of womanhood.

Reproduction, Puberty & **Hygiene: Boys Only** This workshop will illustrate the importance of good hygiene and grooming; and will teach young boys the fundamentals of manhood.

MODULE 5





dispels the myths of manhood. Boys will learn the distinct

Boys II Men

difference between being a male and being a responsible man.

This workshop addresses and

The Value of Life

This workshop teaches students to value life by exuding positive characteristics, avoiding negative influences and developing a plan for a successful future.

The Code of Silence

This workshop enlightens students of the danger associated with a code of silence. It encourages them to proactively alert the appropriate officials of potential criminal intent.

The Criminal Justice System

This workshop teaches students about their legal rights and the inner workings of the criminal justice system works.

COMING SOON!



Stop the Bullying: This workshop will teach students how to identify the act of bullying. Students will also learn how to avoid encounters with bullies and seek out help, as well as how to be a positive advocate for others who are being bullied.

Study Skills: This workshop teaches students the strategies, methods and skills essential to acquire good grades in school. Students will learn useful strategies that will help their learning process throughout life.

Grammar 101: This enlightening workshop teaches students the importance of speaking with correct grammar and utilizing the proper subject/verb agreements in their everyday communications.

Integrity: This workshop will inspire students to have the unwavering courage to do what is morally right even when it is unpopular.







SAT WINNERS

xcitement greeted Dwayne Bryant and the Visionaries at the kick off assemblies in. The cheers officially marked the 5th year of Inner Vision's Character Education and Leadership Development in Matteson School District 162. The 2009 school year ended with outstanding accomplishments as Matteson School District 162 gained the highest academic achievement within the history of the district including a Blue Ribbon Award and ISAT composite scores of 82%. Attaining these recognitions has paved the road for even greater performance in 2010. A new goal of 90% has been set by Superintendent, Dr. Blondean Davis. Our visionaries will work hard alongside staff and administration to accomplish this goal by providing a variety of life management skills workshops. Our ultimate goal is increasing students' self-esteem and enhancing overall school climate.



In order to reward academic achievement, Inner Vision International awarded 24 of the highest ISAT score winners at Huth, Indiana and Sauk with a \$50. The students roared with elation as Mr. Bryant pulled out a stack of fifty dollar bills. Whoops and hollers erupted from the faculty and students as he boomed over the microphone the names of the students who won the challenge for Huth, Indiana and Sauk. The students walked with pride as they came forward to accept their certificate and feel the 50 dollar bill in their hands. Inner Vision knows the competition will be fierce for 2010.















Nick Johnson, Tashauna Yates

ny Montgomery, Shelby Washington Jarel Robinson, Grant Williams

Joshua Randle El, Ebere Ogwo

Christian Williams, Nicole Dixon

DAD'S DAY

ad's day was more successful than ever! Indiana doubled its number of participants for Dad's Day. Parents and guardians shared powerful and inspiring messages to Indiana's Wildcats. Students sat attentive as Indiana's group of distinguished gentlemen shared



ments, yet the overall theme was overwhelming support, unconditional love, and pride in one's self.

Sauk's Dads came out in full force with over 170 fathers, grandfathers, uncles and big brothers all on one accord: To celebrate and encourage the Sauk Eagles towards high academic and social achievement. The morning began with breakfast, followed by a dynamic presentation to the fathers. Dwayne Bryant, along with Randall Townsell discussed the current state of affairs in urban America. Various statistics and interactive media were used to facilitate the workshop. Dads left with a sense of empowerment and a clear understanding that their role within the family and community is vital. Prior to the end of the day, the men of Sauk recognized the need for their involvement and committed to meeting quarterly in order to volunteer quality time within the school. One thing is for sure...there will be powerful developments coming out of Sauk and Indiana Elementary School.

MEET THE VISIONARIES!

ur, consultants were chosen based on their experience motivating youth and their unique backgrounds. All of our consultants are well educated and have a passion for your children.

Kelly Fair is the

Founder and President of the Reflections Foundation, a non-profit that seeks to assist

individuals in recognizing and achieving their true potential in life-educational and professional advancement, mastery in application of critical life skills, and organization and business growth. The Reflections Foundation fulfills this mission through direct programming for individuals (specifically youth and women) and structured support of various organizations (non-profits, community, faith-based, and private sector businesses). Ms. Fair is also a graduate of Howard University and holds a master's degree from the University of Iowa. As an active member of the Chicago community, Kelly serves as a member of the advocacy council of Women Employed, Inc., the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League, Las Caras Lindas Girls Mentoring Program Board, and previously the Christ Universal Temple Board of Directors. As a manager at McGraw-Hill, Kelly implemented launch campaigns for innovative literacy programs as well as implemented training for Chicago Public School research studies.



Everett Gutierrez attended Loyola University, where he was the first recipient of a

degree in Public Relations/ Advertising with a double bachelors' degree in Organizational Leadership and Development. Currently, he attends North Park University, where he is perusing a double master's degree in Nonprofit Management

and Seminary. He has a huge passion for leadership, public speaking and community organizing, as he has been noted for his work in the city. Everett has received an award from the mayor as well as other organizations for his dedication of service and guidance to various communities. He has an inner desire to develop and mentor future leaders to create change in society, as he has an array of experiences. Everett has worked to develop programs for various organizations highlighting marketing strategies, youth leadership development programs, fundraising, event planning, management and service. Currently, he serves as a visionary with Inner Vision International to share knowledge and build youth to realize their divine potential.



was the first in her family to graduate from college. She graduated from

the Moody Bible Institute in 2005 with a BA in Print Media Communications. She later went on to earn her Master's Degree from Columbia College Chicago in Journalism. Since then she has worked for CNN Worldwide at the Atlanta Headquarters as a Video Journalist. Also she has worked for numerous mentoring programs in Chicago with inner city youth. She is passionate about life and making a difference in the lives of young people.



is a character education consultant, personal trainer and pro-



fessional health coach. Since 1990, Derrick has mentored, coached and trained individuals on a wide range of personal development topics. Derrick's experiences playing football at the University of Illinois and as a top salesman for the IBM Corporation, Johnson and Johnson, and Wells Fargo instilled in him a passion for breaking through personal barriers. The valuable lessons of perseverance and selfdiscipline that Derrick learned during those experiences drove him to want help others remove their roadblocks toward personal growth and success.

Derrick began working with youth in 1990. Derrick's passion for youth development lead to him establishing a fitness-based character education company through which he has improved the lives of thousands of youths throughout the Chicago land area. Derrick's philosophy is success is a journey of self-improvement and conditioning.

LaTrice A. Smith

Prior to working with Inner Vision International, LaTrice A. Smith worked with the

Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago (BGCC) for more than seven years. She began her tenure at the Robert Taylor Club, where she developed monthly Teen Summits to allow members the platform to utilize their voices. LaTrice also served as the Program Director for the Englewood High School Club and Site Director for the Fiske Elementary School Club. In her most recent role, Ms. Smith was the Director of Program Services for BGCC, where she oversaw the implementation of programs grounded in social and character development for 24 traditional and school based clubs across the city of Chicago, serving 17,000 young people during the after school hours.

LaTrice received her Bachelors in Social Work and she volunteered for one year at a group home for adolescent boys in Staten Island, NY. She then went on to obtain her Masters of Social Work from New York University. LaTrice returned to Chicago to pursue a career working with youth in a diverse setting. Inner Vision International gives La-Trice the opportunity to work with and on behalf of America's children.



Bryant, Founder and Director of Olivia's Performing Arts, LLC relocated to Chicago,

Maria

Illinois in 2006. She has a passion for working with the youth. She has taught Music for a total of ten and half years in the public school system of: Matteson School District 162, Department of Education New York, Brooklyn/ Queens Borough and Florida (Orange, Broward and Miami-Dade counties) to include: The Boys & Girls Club, Community Organizations,

Continue on pg 10

MEET THE VISIONARIES! cont'd from pg 9

Nursing & Rehabilitative Centers and Churches. While working in the school system, she founded "Olivia's Performing Arts" in 1995. OPA, LLC is a fun energetic program that develops ages 3-19 in the Expressive and Creative Arts. The program helps to motivate, educate, build self- esteem and challenge individuals to reach their full potential. Maria believes so many people have not developed their individual treasures, because they are afraid to believe and live their dreams. OPA, LLC allows Maria to give back what she has learned through the years. She inspires her students to become audacious individuals because this is what her mom Martha "Olivia" Bryant has instilled in her children.

Maria is also an anointed inspirational recording artist who writes her own lyrics. Her gifts and talents allowed her to travel many places including: Europe, Germany (North Seas), Switzerland, France, Italy, Belize, Cozumel, Acapulco, Costa Rica, Panama, as well as domestic travel in the United States. She has performed with such notable celebrities as Vickie Winans, Marilyn McCoo & Billy Williams Jr., Dennis Edward & The Temptations Preview, Tommy Ford, Jimmie Reid and Ray Hush of the Hush Brothers. This songbird's musical repertoire includes Gospel (her first love), Opera, Broadway, Classical, Motown, R & B, Hip Hop, Jazz and Blues.



Randall Townsel has over 15 years of experience as a real estate professional and business owner. Throughout his tenure, Randall has acquired, managed and sold over \$15M in both residen-

tial and commercial real estate. In addition, Mr. Townsel takes pride in working with student-athletes. Mr. Townsel has over 15 years of coaching experience. Recently, Mr. Townsel founded Turbo Athletics a company created to train and enhance student-athletes performance in various sports. After graduating from Northern Illinois University, Mr. Townsel spent four years as marketing consultant and presenter for the IBM Corporation. He represented the company at many trade shows and was selected as the keynote speaker for various IBM marketing events.

Mr. Townsel dedicates his time to working with Chicago's youth and motivating others. He partnered with Probation Challenge, a community based not-for-profit organization, to speak to Cook County Jail inmates about transforming their lives and situations from negative to positive. Mr. Townsel assisted with the coordination of the first African American youth conference in Chicago. Mr. Townsel has participated in Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Principal for a Day program and Career Day programs at various CPS schools. Mr. Townsel has had the opportunity to speak to and motivate numerous students, as a Visionary for Inner Vision International. Mr. Townsel considers it a "Blessing" to work with God's children and to do his part with making some ones life better.



Autumn Berg has an extensive background working with young people and their families. She started running summer camps for youth as a Junior in High School and has remained committed to cultivating the lives of young people. Through

teaching, serving as Lead Case Manager for National Able Service Connector and Training Coordinator for the Workforce Investment Act. she has experience in developing and implementing programs that help individuals and families to advance toward their goals. Autumn is dedicated to supporting a healthy community and serves as Vice President for the Douglas Park Advisory Council. Autumn Berg holds two bachelor degrees in Urban Theological Studies and Sociology. She will be starting the Masters of Social work program at Chicago State in the fall.



Bishop I.D. Harris Sr. was ordained by the Monument of Faith Evangelistic Church In 1975. Apostle Harris completed a Bachelors and Masters in Theology and a Doctorate of Ministry In Christian Education. He also

holds a Masters Degree in Political & Criminal Justice and an achieved minor in the area of Substance abuse from Governor State University. In keeping with Acts 2:42, Apostle Harris has made it his personal ministry of worship, fellowship, education and outreach and applies this to his passion for positively guiding the lives of our youth.

Bishop Harris began his civil service in the US Army (Vietnam Veteran) and continues his outreach 27 years later with Inner Vision and District 162 as a visionary, mentor and substitute teacher. His professional career has included working with foster care, case management, radio ministry, public policy and health education, as well as probation and parole agent. He is currently pasturing at Rehoboth Evangelistic Church in Olympia Fields.

From the Desk...Cont'd from pg 1

population, I have diversified my team of educational consultants, affectionately known as 'Visionaries'. Regardless of their ethnicities, all of our Visionaries are passionate about your children and were ready on day one to motivate, educate and inspire your children to reach their maximum potential.

We believe that by positively impacting a student's self esteem, that student in turn will take their academics more seriously. We help students understand that TODAY is the future. If we want powerful, intelligent, caring, respectful, courageous adult leaders, then we must instill those values and develop those principles today. Success is not an accident, neither is failure. They both are achieved with consistent thoughts, beliefs, words and actions. For our students, regardless of their backgrounds or family structures, failure must not and cannot be an option.

Parents, now, more than ever before, WE NEED YOU! If we (Matteson SD 162) are to achieve greater academic results, the difference will be made at home. When we implemented our time management workshop, several students stated they spend more time playing video games, watching television, talking on the phone and playing with friends than actually studying. This is not acceptable for the type of leaders we need. We have to give our children a fighting chance at success. In order for them to excel in college or even high school, they must begin to get serious about their academics. China and India are emerging as leading economic powers. If America is going to regain its competitive footing within the global market, we must start with our children.

We are passionate about motivating youth to excel. Thanks to the support of Dr. Blondean Davis and Matteson SD 162's Board of Education, we successfully mentor nearly 1,500 students each week within the district. This newsletter is our endeavor to highlight our dynamic mentoring program entitled, 'The Vision'™. We hope you will find it enjoyable. Let's make this year even greater than the past!



THE Students to Bacome Pasponsible Leaders

Empowering Students to Become Responsible Leaders

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

The Vision® curricula are 15 to 20 pages of vital learning tools designed to help visionaries facilitate student empowerment workshops. Each workshop contains the following:



The Vision[®] curriculum has everything you need to empower students to become responsible leaders.

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THE FUTURE DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN... IT IS CREATED!

HE

Empowering Students to Become Responsible Leaders

For more details, additional topics and booking information, please visit: www.inner-vision-international.com or www.dbryant.com or call 866-551-5585



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