



Monday's Letter

September 22, 2008

Dear Members of the ACCS Community,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the youngest members of our school community, the new kindergarten classes. We are so proud of them and how well they are adjusting to our school. They already know how to begin morning work right away when they come into the classroom. The kindergartners are learning letter sounds and some can already spell words. Before long these beautiful children will be reading short books and writing sentences.



Ms. Mars and Ms. Julia with their kindergarten class

We welcome our new kindergarten teacher, Ms. Mars and she would like to introduce herself to you:

"Hello, my name is Ms. Janice Mars. I was born in Amsterdam, NY and grew up in Johnstown, NY. I went to the finger lake region to obtain my bachelors degree in early childhood and special education, after which I returned to the capitol region to complete my masters degree in literacy education at Sage Graduate School. On a personal note I love to read, work out, and visit with my family. I have loved working with young students since I was in high school and am extremely excited to start my teaching career, with Kindergarten, in such a warm environment. I feel extremely blessed to be working with the students and colleagues here at the Ark."

Over the next few weeks I will be introducing new staff. This week I would like to welcome new staff in our main office. Ms. Iris and Ms. Jean will be joining Ms. Christine and Ms. Shenise.



Ms. Christine



Ms. Shenise



Ms. Iris



Ms. Jean

Ms. Iris would like to introduce herself to you:

“Hello everyone, my name is Iris Ponce De Leon and this is my first year with the Ark Community Charter School here in Troy, New York. Everyone here has been great to me, and I look forward to having many great experiences here at the Ark Community Charter School.

I am originally from the Bronx, New York, born and raised. I moved to Troy, New York in August of 2002 for a better life for my girls (two daughters). My oldest is in School 12 in the second grade and, the 18 month old attends the CEO early head-start program in Troy @ the FRC bldg. They are my finest creations and have brought much joy into my life. Both my mom and children, put the idea of working with children in my head, and I truly do love working with kids. I believe they are what keep us going.”

Ms. Jean Smith would like to introduce herself to you:

“Hello, my name is Jean Smith and I come to you from the CEO Foster Grandparent program. Born in Troy, and I am the mother of seven children and sixteen grandchildren. I love to sing and I sing all of the time. My favorite songs are gospel, spirituals and most all music. I am a member of the Fifth Ave. A.M.E. Zion Church. I also sing with the Albany District Zion Chorale. My second love is children. I am always learning from them and hopefully have something to offer them.

In 1977 I graduated from Hudson Valley Community College with an associate’s degree in Human Services. After graduation, I worked as a Vista Volunteer for three years, director of New Start for five years and Director of Neighbor to Neighbor for ten years. It was during that time that I became a Foster Grandparent and have been with them for 12 years. I recommended some of my friends to the program and they have loved it. If you are looking for a way to spend quality time each day, please consider the Foster Grandparents program. In the many years I have been with the Foster Grandparent Program I have had the pleasure of meeting many great people first at the Ark After-school program and now at the Ark Community Charter School.”

Welcome, Ms. Mars, Ms. Iris and Ms. Jean. We are so happy that you are with us each day.

Mary Theresa Streck, Principal

Ms. Hope's Kindergarteners are off to a busy start:



Ms. Hope, Ms. Wanda and Ms. Renee with their kindergarten class.



It has been an exciting start to the year for our new Kindergarten students. They are all taking the time to adjust to the new routines and schedules. We spend large parts of our day playing getting to know you games. This helps us to build a community at school. While we work on building our community the students are also starting the curriculum. Please look for books that are coming home. Believe it or not they are already reading! It is important that your child continues to practice their reading at home. The children are also focusing on letter recognition and rhyming words. In Math the students are learning about shapes, colors, and direction words. We will soon begin working on patterns.

We look forward to an exciting year. We are planning our beginning of the year fieldtrip to visit the apple orchard. As soon as a date is scheduled we will send home a permission slip. Other fieldtrips this year include a trip to the firehouse and the theater.

Tips on how to help your child get off to a successful start with reading this school year:



- Read with your child every day
- Have a regular reading time
- Let them choose the stories that interest them
- Talk about what you have read
- Visit the Public Library

Mark your calendars:

- **Tues, Sept 23:**
Sage After School Literacy Program Starts, 4:30-6pm,
(Homework & Games 3-4:30pm)
Parents, please pick up promptly at 6pm.
- **Wed, Sept 24:**
Welcome Back Picnic & Parent Open House,
5:30pm
- **Mon, Sept 29- Wed, Oct 1:**
Camp Chingachgook Trip, Grades 4-6

AT LUNCH THIS WEEK, MS. KIM IS SERVING:

**Monday: Macaroni & Cheese
 Veggies & Dip Fruit Milk**

**Tuesday : Baked Ziti Tossed Salad
 Fruit Milk**

**Wednesday: Baked Chicken Rice
 Broccoli Fruit Milk**

**Thursday: Cheese Nachos Tex-Mix Vegetable
 Salad Fruit Milk**

**Friday : Tuna Sandwich Chips
 Cheese Sticks Fruit Milk**

**DRAWING WILL
 BE HELD AT THE
 PARENT OPEN
 HOUSE ON
 WEDNESDAY!**

Parents,
 Return this signed
 for a **\$50 Price Chop-**
 event. One entry per student per week.

raffle ticket and you will be entered into a drawing
per gift certificate to be drawn at the next parent

Name of your ACCS Student: _____

Parent signature: _____

9/22/08