

William Monroe Trotter Innovation School

Partnerships Newsletter

March 2014



SAVE THE DATE

Trotter School Community Service Day
Saturday, March 29th, from 9am to 1pm



Parents, students, teachers, partners, and friends welcome!

Hope you can join us in cleaning the school and showing our school pride.
Contact Mr. Allwood to sign-up and for more details.

*Coordinated by the Trotter School, Grace Chapel, & Global Ministries.

Playworks

Written by Molly Smemo

- **Playworks Matters Event** As you may know, the Boston Public Schools are facing significant budget challenges. We are asking families, teachers and principals to join together to share with Boston's school, civic and philanthropic leaders about why you value Playworks in your school. Will you share your story? If yes, please join us at our Playworks Matters Event! February 27th 5:00-7:00pm at the Tobin School 40 Smith Street Roxbury, MA 02120.
- **Junior Coach Leadership Conference** Over February break the Junior Coaches from the Trotter will join their peers from around the city at the Junior Coach Leadership Conference held at Northeastern University. Here Trotter Junior Coaches will build upon their leadership skills, tour the Northeastern campus, and connect with other Junior Coaches from across Boston.
- **Co-ed Volleyball** Starting March 3rd, twelve 4th and 5th grade Trotter students will be competing in the Playworks Co-ed Volleyball League. Games will be held on Wednesday evenings at the UP Academy Dorchester gym. The league is open to all ability levels and focused on skill building and fun. Registration is still open for interested students, contact Coach TK for more information!
- **Playworks 5k and 1 mile Fun Run** On May 3rd Playworks will once again be hosting a 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run to support recess at Franklin Park. Register to run or walk on behalf of the Trotter and raise money for the Playworks program at our school. The event is a fun way to get active with your family, student, Playworks Coach, and community. Contact Coach TK to register!



Generations Inc.

Submitted by Leah Hoang, Generations, Inc.

Making Every Day Count

Generations Incorporated is excited to roll out our attendance initiative at the Trotter Elementary School. Our organization has literacy volunteers from the community serving in kindergarten through second grade classrooms and supporting Trotter teachers. This initiative is a way for our volunteers to connect with parents, share milestones attained in the classroom and to open and encourage a conversation on the importance of attendance.

William Monroe Trotter Innovation School

Partnerships Newsletter

March 2014

Generations Inc. (continued)

“Every year, one in ten kindergarten and first grade students miss a month of school with excused and unexcused absences. By middle and high school, the rates of chronic absences are far higher. Research shows that starting as early as Kindergarten, these absences can affect academic achievement, especially for low-income students unable to make up for lost time. They can leave children unable to read well by the end of third grade, exacerbating the achievement gap. They can set a pattern of poor attendance and academic failure for older students, fueling the dropout rate.” Attendanceworks.org

Our volunteers will be reaching out, as a support and resource, to families whose children are at risk of or are chronically absent (on track to miss or have missed at least 18 days of school). Since they serve directly in the classroom, our volunteers are in a unique position to provide additional, in class support for students who have missed valuable learning time. We are excited to be a part of the Trotter School Attendance Initiative.

“I feel this is the opportunity to become familiar with our student's parents and to form a bond that would enable us to share the impact attendance has on getting a good education beginning with KI through the 12th grade.” –Pat Larts, Site Team Leader

Franklin Park's Outdoor Classroom

Written by Pareesa Charmchi, Americorps member, Franklin Park Coalition

Franklin Park Coalition worked with current and retired Trotter School teachers, Mary Smoyer and Alma Wright to plan a series of trips to the park this past fall for second graders. Each class came to the park three times to learn about the 200 acre native forest in their own backyard, in advance of their tropical rain forest study this spring. Students walked to the park with their teachers, an occasional parent volunteer, and Franklin Park Coalition staff. Many of the students had been to the park's playgrounds with their families, but exploring the forest was something new and exciting!



The second graders gained new vocabulary and observational skills on the trips. They learned about why a forest in the middle of the city is so important and did hands-on study of the forest floor, the forest canopy and animal habitats. Throughout our woodland hikes, students stopped to dig in the forest floor and list their findings: worms, twigs, bark, dirt, rocks, tiny bugs and spiders. Children raced through the park and peered into old trees looking for animal homes; they spotted a bird's nest, a squirrel's nest, rabbits' brier patches, chipmunk hovels, snails in logs and spider webs. The students used their observation skills and their new vocabulary to understand their surroundings.

Pre and post questionnaires showed student growth. The second graders journaled about their experience and drew their own findings from the trips. Thank you Trotter Elementary School teachers and students for working with us, exploring and learning with us! The native forest study was a remarkable school and community collaboration involving: the Trotter School classroom, computer, and science teachers; the Trotter library and curriculum coaching staff; and from the community, the Egleston Square Library and Franklin Park Coalition.

William Monroe Trotter Innovation School

Partnerships Newsletter

March 2014

Community Music Center of Boston

Written by Kerry Glennon

The first half of the year was filled with lots of dance for the students of Ms. Mayo, Ms. Irrizarry, Ms. Im, and Ms. Douglas' classes! I was so impressed with every student who participated in classes with me. Not only did they learn dance technique in various dance styles including jazz, ballet, hip hop, and lyrical, but each group learned and memorized a choreographed piece as well. After not having class for a month due to snow days and vacations, these classes wowed us all in a wonderful performance! Congrats to all!

I am now having a great time working with Ms. Cloyd, Ms. Freeman, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Sheehan's classes. Although we have only been dancing together for a month, these students have impressed me immensely, not only with their talent in dance, but also with their awesome attitudes, effort, and behavior. I'm looking forward to teaching these groups new dances and working on a performance for June!

Dance with Books

Written by Sharon Shakur, MA, Dance Educator, DANCE WITH BOOKS™

Students in *Dance with Books* danced wonderfully at the Dance Presentation. It was also great that the Parents participated in a dance activity.



For the Dance Presentation, Students performed *Pandogo*, an African Dance from Ghana. Then, Students created movements to the book "*Watch Me Dance*." They did character walks to interpret the characters in *The Nutcracker*. For their last dance, they created letter shapes and danced with a partner. Then, Parents were asked to participate. The Parents and their children created movements using colorful scarves. They took turns copying each other. Parents were also given a "Letter Shapes Dance" Worksheet as a fun activity to do with their children at home.



Big Sister Association of Greater Boston

Submitted by Susan Johnson, Coordinator of Impact Services

Big Sister Association of Greater Boston's High School Mentoring program had a great fall and is off to a strong start in 2014! The mission of Big Sister Association's High School Mentoring program is to help girls realize their full potential by providing them with positive mentoring relationships with female students from Boston Latin Academy who become their Big Sisters. We are currently serving 32 Little Sisters at the Trotter Elementary school in one to one mentoring relationship. The Big and Little Sisters meet from 3:30 to 4:45 once a week and spend their time playing games, doing crafts and learning about different topics such as stress management and self-esteem.



William Monroe Trotter Innovation School

Partnerships Newsletter

March 2014

Big Sister Association (Continued)

In early February, Big and Little Sisters had fun making positive music videos as a way to redefine the way the media portrays girls and women and to dance together! In upcoming weeks, we will be discussing topics such as healthy relationships, body image, and career awareness.

We currently have 2 slots available on Monday and 2 slots available on Tuesday for girls in grades 2, 3 or 4. Please contact Susan at sjohnson@bigsister.org to apply, or ask the main office for an application.

William Monroe Trotter Innovation School

Principal
Mairedad Nolan

Assistant Principal
Romaine Mills-Teque

Director of Partnerships
and Development
Kim Connolly

135 Humboldt Avenue
Boston, MA 02121

(617) 635-8225

www.trotterschool.org



Partners

Ballet Rox
Big Sisters
Bird Street @The Ellis
Boston After School & Beyond
Boston Cares
Boston University
Boy Scouts
BUILD (Boston University Initiative for Literacy Development)
City Year
Columbia Management
Community Music Center of Boston
Core Yoga
Cub Scouts
Dads Read
Dance with Books
Family Independence Initiative
Franklin Park Coalition
Friends of the Children
Generations Inc.
Girl Scouts
Global Ministries
Grace Chapel
Greater Boston Food Bank
Home for Little Wanderers
Mary Smoyer
MCAS Tutoring
Playworks
Play to Learn, Countdown to Kindergarten
Project Right
Strong Women Strong Girls
UMASS Boston Athletics Department
YMCA