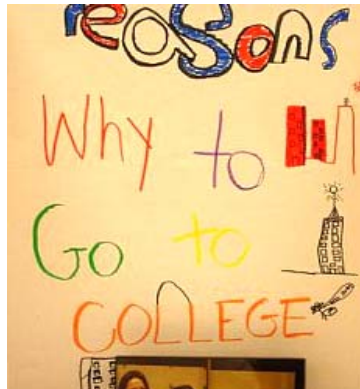


BOSTON RENAISSANCE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNER NEWS

April 2009

Highlighting programs and accomplishments of Boston Renaissance Community Partners.

CREATING COLLEGE AWARENESS AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL LASELL COLLEGE AND BOSTON RENAISSANCE WORK TOGETHER FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS



What started as a simple tutoring program, matching college students with elementary students, has grown into a mutually beneficial relationship between two institutions addressing issues of academic success, college preparedness and social justice. Boston Renaissance and Lasell College connected in 2004 when Jessica Dugan, Renaissance's Partnership Director, met **Sharyn Lowenstein, Director of Lasell's Center for Community Based Learning** at a local service learning workshop. Quickly, the pair realized that their needs and goals aligned and a partnership was born.

IN THEIR WORDS

Boston Renaissance students comment on the Lasell College tutoring and ACES college awareness programs.

"I am smart, but I like to talk a lot. When my tutor is here she keeps me from getting distracted."

"Having a tutor makes math easier."

"Tutors teach you, but not like a regular teacher."

"ACES gets me excited about going to college."

"We have ACES so more kids can go to college and help our economy."

"I know I have to start working on college now, even though it's a long time away."

"I'd like to be a mentor when I am in college—I will know where the kids are coming from."

"ACES has shown me lots of opportunities."

Partnership Highlights:

- * The **America Reads and America Counts tutoring programs** matches 26 Lasell students with 26 Boston Renaissance students for reading and math tutoring in the after-school program. Tutoring sessions are twice a week through the entire school year.
- * 5th and 6th grade class **tour the Lasell campus** experiencing life at college from classes to cafeteria lunch to basketball practice.
- * Lasell students conduct **in-school and after-school workshops** for 5th and 6th graders covering topics including: the different types of colleges, scholarships and financial aid, benefits of a college education, majors and career paths, and how to start preparing for college now.
- * Parents are involved through **College Night** featuring presentations by students about what they have learned.
- * On **Shadow Day**, 12 Boston Renaissance students spend a day at Lasell shadowing a college student in a major of interest including education, fashion design and merchandising, and sports management and training.
- * Boston Renaissance students attend the **Lasell Fashion Show**.

This entire tutoring and college awareness partnership is supported and funded by Lasell College. The program is run through Lasell's Center for Community Based Learning and staffed by a Program Coordinator and MACC Americorps Vista. Lasell student volunteers, faculty and staff have embraced visits from Boston Renaissance students and believe this program is an important part of their commitment to connected learning.

At the end of this year, Boston Renaissance students will visit a variety of college campuses around Boston. Next year, the program plans to include joint community service projects.

SAVE THE DATE

June 2, 2009 ~ 9:00 am-10:30 am
*Business and Community Partner
Appreciation Breakfast*

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOSTON

SATURDAY ENRICHMENT: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND ARTS APPRECIATION



Since 2002, volunteers from the **Junior League of Boston** have been spending their Saturdays with girls from Boston Renaissance. Through the League's programs, JLB Arts for 5th graders and Leader Within for 6th graders, girls and volunteers come together two Saturdays a month to discover and explore their communities and themselves.

JLB Arts, the program for 5th grade girls, includes 22 volunteers and 26 girls. In a mentoring environment, the group explores different arts related themes including Fine Arts, Arts & Crafts, Music & Dance, Cooking, Photography, Fashion Design, and Theater. So far, the girls have been able to create paper Mache masks, tour the Museum of Fine Arts, paint their own pottery, record an original song at a local recording studio, and much more!

Leader Within, the program for 6th grade girls, includes 18 girls and 19 volunteers. The program encourages girls' inner confidence and natural leadership strengths through team building activities, art-related projects and field trips. The girls and their mentors identify and discuss issues relevant to their lives and ultimately take action in their communities by designing and implementing a community service project. So far, the group:

- * visited **Artists for Humanity**, touring the amazing AFH building, a 100 percent renewable energy green facility, and participating in a dance class.
- * recorded 3 public service announcements for **Griz Radio** in Dorchester, a nationally recognized radio station run by and for teenage girls.
- * attended an overnight retreat at the **YMCA Camp Burgess** in Sandwich to explore teamwork and leadership concepts and plan their upcoming community service project.
- * volunteered on April 4th for **Boston Shines 365**, a neighborhood cleanup program sponsored by the **Mayor's office in the City of Boston**, beautifying the outdoor spaces and flowerbeds at the **Whittier Street Apartments**.
- * participated in the **Art Street** program, creating sidewalk displays on leadership and community involvement.



The girls involved in Leader Within and JLB Arts have a very high level of interest in the program and look forward to their Saturday sessions each month. In addition to arts experiences and leadership development, the girls benefit from the strong mentoring relationships they form with the Junior League volunteers. Boston Renaissance is tremendously grateful for these programs and for the commitment of each Junior League volunteer.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE WORLD

Thanks to **Junior Achievement** and volunteers from **Summit Partners** and **Fidelity Investments**, kindergarten students at Boston Renaissance are learning basic concepts routed in business and economics. Through 5 volunteer lead sessions, students hear compelling stories about helping, working, earning and saving. Hands-on experiences help students understand concepts including income, saving and entrepreneurship. Great work!

INVESTMENT ADVISORS SUPPORT MORNING MATH

In the world of investment advisors, not many spend a morning a week reviewing 2nd grade math. At Boston Renaissance, 18 volunteers from **Cambridge Associates** do just that. Morning Math matches volunteers with 2nd grade students to develop math fact and fluency skills, critical building blocks for student success. We thank the volunteers for their weekly commitment and enthusiasm. Their support makes a difference in our classrooms as we prepare students for the future.

BECOME A PARTNER

It takes a village to raise a child and Boston Renaissance depends on the community for support. To make a donation to the Boston Renaissance School or to become a community partner, contact us!

www.bostonrenaissance.org

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