



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

December 2009

Volume 7, Issue 5

Friends,

Seasons Greetings! As we finish our fall 2009 programs, we wanted to share our successes. Over 530 parents attended one of our 28 Community Nights held this fall at our seven partner schools. Fifteen Literacy Through Photography classrooms toured an exhibit of photography at the National Museum of American History and four classrooms each visited the National Building Museum and the National Postal Museum. In addition, 41 parents attended one of two parent leadership trainings and parent teacher organizations started their years successfully. We're so thankful for your support in making our programs stronger and more successful this year! Happy Holidays!

Funder Spotlight: World Bank

Local Business Steps Up To Support Turning the Page

Over the past 12 months, many non-profit organizations in DC have relied on the generosity of individuals and organizations in varied ways. During a time when many foundations and corporations were cutting back on their gifts to and support of local charities, [The World Bank](#) stepped up in a big way for Turning the Page. In March, The Bank awarded TTP a special grant to allow us to maintain programs despite a funding shortage. In addition to the grant, The Bank also lent their financial support to our [parent leadership training](#) in February. The Bank donated space in one of their downtown office buildings and also provided meals for the day so that Turning the Page parents could attend the event and become more informed about getting actively involved in the fight to improve the District's public schools.

In the fall when Turning the Page was searching for a store front to host our fall [book sale](#) to raise much-needed funds for programs, The World Bank once again stepped forward, helping procure a spot at 17th and Pennsylvania Avenues. The Bank made a call to Tishman Speyer, who lent TTP retail space in one of their downtown office buildings to host the sale, which raised \$20,000 for TTP's programs. (The two businesses have been working together on new office space for the World Bank.) Finally, during the holiday season, World Bank employees purchased 300 holiday gifts for families in TTP's programs. Although these gestures may have seemed insignificant, combined they made all the difference to our organization as we worked to secure funding to finish out the 2009-2010 school year strong.



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

December 2009

Volume 7, Issue 5

Literacy Through Photography Exhibit at Tyler

Exhibit allows students to display their photographs and written reflections



On Wednesday, December 9th, [Tyler Elementary School](#) hosted their Literacy Through Photography (LTP) [exhibit](#), marking the successful completion of LTP, a 10-week program that teaches students about the mechanics of photography, how to read photographs and how to use photography as inspiration for writing. In [LTP](#), students are given the chance to become photographers and take their own pictures as well as to develop written work about the themes and emotions portrayed in those images. Ms. Dawkins, a

third grade teacher at Tyler and an LTP veteran, felt that the program enhanced her students' creativity because it involved a lot of inference. She explained that the students were able to enhance their visual focus and interpretation, which she believes to be an important practice that translates to reading graphs and diagrams.

The six participating classes at Tyler put their work on display in the auditorium-turned-gallery for the exhibit. Many families and friends attended the event to view the students' work where they also enjoyed food, punch, and had the chance to take a family photograph. Principal Terry Dade welcomed everyone to the celebration with a few short words about the school's growth in the arts. He thanked Turning the Page for "starting this journey towards arts integration. We really started with Turning the Page and Literacy Through Photography... This, for me, is a testament to arts integration and I am excited for us to continue moving forward..." This fall, Tyler was selected by the District to receive a [catalyst grant](#) to support arts integration in the coming school years.

Two Tyler students from Ms. Dawkins' class presented their writing reflections of their photographs to the crowd of parents and students. When asked about how they felt about having their art on display, one student explained, "It feels great! And I'm proud I got to show my mom how hard I worked on it!" Another student, whose photograph depicted the school entrance from a snakes-eye view, had similar sentiments, "I feel like—I'm shocked. I like to see my picture up for my whole school to see!" More Literacy Through Photography exhibits will be held in January as other partner schools complete the program.



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

December 2009

Volume 7, Issue 5

School Spotlight: Garfield Elementary

Community Night excitement “spills over” into school community

“Renewing, reviving, and reconnecting Garfield Elementary to ensure success through effective education!” This mission statement of Garfield’s PTA captures well the new energy spreading throughout the [Garfield](#) school community. And as Principal Angela Tilghman states, “Turning the Page nurtures these goals through their well-planned and thought-out Community Nights.” In fact, Garfield saw 75 parents attend at least one [Community Night](#) this past fall; a 63% increase from fall 2008! Additionally, 14 parents attended at least three Community Nights, earning a certificate of completion from TTP. In its 8th year of partnership, Turning the Page is excited to take part in the dedicated efforts of staff, teachers, and parents, as Garfield, located in the Congress Heights neighborhood of Southeast DC, turns 100 years old, making it the oldest operating public school in the District!



Of course, this renewed energy would not be what it is without one important person. This year Garfield welcomed Principal Angela Tilghman who has quickly proven her enthusiasm and commitment. During Community Nights, parents often praise Principal Tilghman for the new spirit she has brought to Garfield, not to mention her dedication to the school uniform. Every day, Ms. Tilghman wears the yellow and green of Garfield as a sign of her support, and a way of encouraging each person to take pride in their school. Principal Tilghman, who is sure to take photos at each Community Night, has noted that the “excitement (from the Community Nights) spills over into the school.”

With the support of this strong leadership, the PTA jumped off to an exciting start this school year with the promise of supporting the Garfield community and most importantly, the school’s 280 Head Start through fifth grade students to reach high academic achievement. The first community kick-off event in October was a major success and demonstrated the commitment Garfield has to “walk together” as a community. The PTA now boasts over 20 members, including parents, staff, and teachers! This group of committed individuals is in the midst of planning a January event to serve the whole community when they welcome the [Far South East Family Strengthening Collaborative](#) for a workshop session.



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

December 2009

Volume 7, Issue 5

In addition to the PTA, Turning the Page is thrilled about the growth occurring in our other programs at Garfield. Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Lucas and fourth grade teacher Ms. Feldman are both participating in our [Literacy Through Photography](#) program and will be hosting their student exhibit in January. Garfield also recently welcomed [Capital BookShare](#), a TTP-partner organization that brought hundreds of books for the teachers and staff to use in classroom and school libraries. Turning the Page is excited to see all that will be accomplished in the new year as Garfield continues to “walk together,” not only as a school, but as a community.

Child Mentor Spotlight: Allison Tillman

Dedicated junior student learns that every student has a story



A day full of classes followed by working late evenings with excited, rambunctious children is not what every college student desires. But, dedication and persistence encourage Turning the Page’s Federal Work-Study students and volunteers as they immerse themselves in Community Night after Community Night. Two consecutive years of working with Turning the Page has set Allison Tillman, a junior at George Washington University, apart as one of Turning the Page’s most devoted child mentors. This fall, Turning the Page employed 41 [Federal Work-Study](#) students and volunteers from George Washington University; volunteers from Georgetown and Howard Universities also served as dedicated volunteers this semester

Allison learned about Turning the Page and opportunities working with DC public school children from a friend, Kim, a former TTP child mentor. Recalling her excitement and interest upon first learning about Turning the Page, Allison expresses, “I’d see [Kim] after work and she would have all these fun looking crafts and projects. I thought, hey! I want to make puppets too! [Kim] told me about what a great program TTP is and how much fun the kids are.” Working directly with our partner schools and children has allowed Allison to expand her knowledge of DC communities. “Being a part of TTP has allowed me to step outside of the Foggy Bottom bubble and experience first-hand the diversity that DC has to offer.” She has built powerful relationships with children, evening after evening, some of whom she will never forget.

Allison is pursuing a degree in Speech and Hearing Science, while minoring in Linguistics. She will always remember the children with whom she has worked and who have influenced her own personal development. “Working with the kids has truly made me more patient and understanding. Every kid is unique and has his or her own story to tell.”

Click to find information about [Community Nights](#) or for information about [becoming a mentor](#)!