



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 7, Issue 1

Walking Together in a New School Year

Turning the Page looks forward to the start of the 2009-2010 school year

On behalf of everyone at Turning the Page we thank you for a wonderful year, and we are excited for the momentum driving us into the 2009-2010 school year. Last year we completed a fantastic school year with Community Nights, Parent Leaderships Conferences, Literacy Through Photography, Community Visions, and summer field trips that fostered experiences that have us excited for the upcoming school year. We plan to kick off September with Turning the Page's third [Annual Gala](#). The night of fundraising, to be held September 12th, will include dinner, wine tasting, dancing and a silent auction as a celebration of another year of working to strengthen DC Public Schools.

This school year, we are excited to introduce our new theme, "Walking Together". We expect a year of fun, learning, and growing with our new and returning staff and VISTAs, parents, teachers, and children. The brand new VISTA team has traveled far to join us in our goal to help support DC students with high-quality educational resources.

New Partner

TTP partners up with Payne Elementary School

Turning the Page warmly welcomes our newest partner school, Daniel A. Payne Elementary! Located in the Southeast Capitol Hill area of the District, Payne Elementary school boasts a student population of 225 children in grades PK-5. Payne's "Payne Parent Partnership: group (PPP), meets quarterly with parent and holds monthly board meetings. In the coming year, Principal Vielka Scott and other members of the Payne community are dedicated to finding more efficient ways to reach out to parents and increasing involvement in the PPP.

In addition to their new partnership with Turning the Page, Payne has also been selected as one of Chancellor Michelle Rhee's "catalyst schools." This new initiative will create specialized programs in 13 neighborhood schools ranging from science and technology to the arts and languages. Payne will be participating in the World Cultures program; the school will study four different cultures each year as well as connect with local museums and embassies.

TTP looks forward to working with the parents, students, faculty, and staff of Payne Elementary school during the 2009-2010 school year!



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 7, Issue 1

Welcome 2009-2010 VISTA Team!

Seven dedicated team members join Turning the Page for a year of service



Meet Chelsea, Julie, Garth, Sean, Carla, Jason, and Yolanda, our brand new group of dedicated [VISTAs](#) (Volunteers in Service to America). Each VISTA is committing a year of service to work with TTP's partner schools on our projects and initiatives. We are so pleased they are joining us!

Chelsea Paige just graduated from Georgetown University with a major in International Politics and a minor in Russian. Originally from New York, Chelsea enjoys reading about Russian history and politics,

exploring the District, and playing music. After her year at TTP, Chelsea hopes to attend law school.

Julie McMillan just graduated from Bates College with a major in Political Science and double minor in Spanish and Education. She enjoys dancing (making up her own dance moves), reading, and exploring DC. Julie looks forward to meeting everyone and making lasting partnerships and friendships. She can't wait to get started!

Garth Walker just graduated from the University of Illinois with a major in Economics and minor Chemistry. Garth enjoys reading, working out, meeting people, and generally loving life. After his year at TTP, Garth hopes to attend medical school.

Sean Lorenz just graduated from the State University of New York -- Binghamton with a major in Sociology. He enjoys reading and sitting back and watching people interact. After his TTP adventure, Sean hopes to pursue a Master's Degree in Psychology/Family Planning and Marital Therapy.

Carla Mike just graduated from the University of Maryland-Baltimore with a major in Integrative Development Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa and minor in Social Welfare. She enjoys being outside, going to the beach, going to concerts, and reading. After her year at TTP, Carla plans to either pursue a PhD or continue work in a non-profit setting.

Jason Shachner just graduated from Florida State University with a double major in Political Science and Religion. He enjoys playing basketball and hanging out with friends. After his year with TTP, Jason hopes to pursue a degree in education policy.



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 7, Issue 1

Yolanda Acree graduated from the University of Delaware in 2005 with a degree in Anthropology and Latin American Studies. She enjoys reading, going to museums, listening to music, and dancing. Yolanda looks forward to getting to know all of the TTP staff, parents, and students and making this another successful year.

Parents Make the Difference

VISTA orientation includes parent panel with lasting impact

On July 20th, Turning the Page hosted a parent panel with parent and teacher leaders from [our partner schools](#). This was a great first opportunity for our new VISTA Fellows to meet active parent leaders as well as hear personal perspectives on the relationship between Turning the Page and our partner schools. Parents Ms. Patrina Swinson from Aiton, Ms. Tyree Wall from Browne, and Ms. Shameka Stewart from Tyler participated, as well as Ms. Claudette Carson a teacher from Garfield.

Each leader discussed their experiences with TTP and their participation in past TTP events. Even though each school is experiencing different successes and challenges, the conversation sparked much enthusiasm for getting started with the new year and all participants are excited to continue and develop the partnership. Parents found the panel to be a valuable experience as well. When asked about the panel, Ms. Stewart remarked that listening to other parents on the panel speak gave her the opportunity to better understand Turning the Page's goal of partnership and reflected the support and "the extent of assistance Turning the Page is able to provide to parent initiatives." The new VISTAs were able to ask questions and join the discussion to gain a better understanding of what the year ahead may have in store. Sean Lorenz, school liaison for Browne, reflects on the panel, "The passion in the room displayed by the parent leaders further encouraged my motivation to give my all to the program this year."



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 7, Issue 1

A Walk Through History at our Nation's Capitol

Students and parents explored the Capitol as part of the **Summer Museum Experience series**

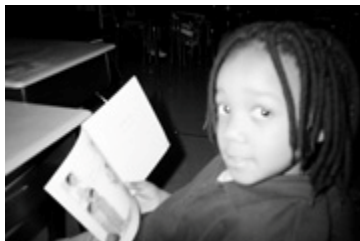


A visit to the newly opened Capitol Visitor Center was just one of the many exciting stops on this year's [Summer Museum Experience](#) series. Locations included The Phillips Collection and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, as well as the National Postal Museum, National Museum of American History and finally the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. All together this summer's museum tours were an educational and cultural experience that each participant will carry with them forever.

Sitting atop Capitol Hill is the Capitol itself, the meeting place of the United States Congress. It is this spot on the eastern side of the Mall where laws are debated, changed and ultimately set in motion. This historic spot is also the location where over twenty TTP families came together on one Saturday afternoon to experience for themselves a little bit of American history. The Capitol visit proved to be one of the favorites for TTP's families. Students and parents noted they liked seeing the rotunda and the state statues, while also learning history in the process from some of the Capitol's excellent staff of tour guides. The experience began with a historic film at the freshly finished Capitol Visitor Center. The film was followed by a guided tour through the Capitol building itself. Families were led through many of the building's great halls which included a stop at John Adams's "whispering spot," located in Statuary Hall. Finally, the afternoon concluded with a well deserved snack for the children and their parents. Also let's not forget the always-anticipated book giveaway, where each child picked two history-related books to take home.

Community Visions Exhibit

Check out these students' work!



Currently, Turning the Page's 2008-2009 [Community Visions](#) exhibit is housed at The Phillips Collection in Dupont Circle. The exhibit opened in late May with hundreds of parents, teachers, and students in attendance at two receptions held at the museum. Students proudly showed off their work, completed as part of their year-long involvement in Turning the Page's newest program, known as Community Visions. During the year, students visited four museums and took multiple rolls of film over the year documenting, through pictures and words, their stories. The work will be on display at the museum through the end of August.



Turning the Page

TTP Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 7, Issue 1

Students from Browne/Gibbs/Young E.C., Garfield, Martin Luther King, Jr., and MC Terrell Elementary Schools worked on collaborative art pieces that included photography, writing, and collages throughout the year with the final pieces on display at The Phillips Collection. In addition to partnering with The Phillips Collection, students also visited the National Building Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Postal Museum as part of the program.

At the Phillips Collection, students learned about the celebrated African American artist Jacob Lawrence and The Migration Series (1941). Lawrence created a series of 60 paintings that documented the migration of African Americans from the South to the North in the mid 20th century. Throughout the program, students were encouraged to think about and observe their own communities. They took photographs of things that they felt were important or that interested them and then wrote about why those photographs were meaningful to them. Each classroom also created a collage which represented their communities. The collages were divided into four sections that displayed the students' migration of thought.

Visit the Exhibit:

Where: [The Phillips Collection](#), 1600 21st Street NW

When: Through August 31st, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, with extended evening hours on Thursdays until 8:30 pm, and on Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm.