



# GOOD NEWS



PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT • OFFICE: (513) 363-0020 • FAX: (513) 363-0025

March 27, 2009

***Cincinnati Public Schools is proud to highlight district achievements and community support.***

### **Ethel Taylor Students Get Active in the Community**

A select group of students at Ethel M. Taylor Academy in grades 3-6 have been selected as the first members of the Junior Community Action Committee, an organization sponsored by Union Savings Bank that exposes students to volunteerism. The effort is part of the Adopt A Class program, which pairs businesses with classrooms in urban schools. Members of the Junior Community Action Committee had to apply to be part of the effort and were selected based on the strength of their application and teacher recommendations. Not only do the students choose and conduct outreach activities, they also learn how to facilitate meetings, create agendas and manage accounting tasks. The students are currently raising money for Heifer International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering sustainable solutions for hunger.

### **Oyler's Julia Hulett to be Honored**

The Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) has been awarded a grant of \$7,500 through the Neace Lukens Insurance Agency and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company to teach local students the importance of fire safety and of having a home escape plan. CFD will celebrate this accomplishment with a recognition event at Oyler School to honor the memory of Julia Hulett, a student who lost her life in a fire at her family's home last November. Oyler officials will rename the school's main hallway "Hulett Hall," and there will be a bronze plaque mounted to honor her memory. The recognition event takes place Friday, April 3, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at Oyler.

### **CPS Educator, Parents Tapped for Expertise on Literacy**

Rita Hoppert, literacy specialist for CPS, along with Penny (Beatrice) Mays and Brenda Richardson – both parent liaisons for Books In Action – were asked to present at the International Reading Association's conference last month to share strategies for improving literacy among high-risk preschool children. Their presentation, *Employing Shared Book Experience or Dialogic Reading with High Risk Children: a Systematic Public School Program Integrating Literacy and Social-Emotional Development, and its Research Results*, was well received by the hundreds of researchers, trainers and administrators from schools throughout the country.

### **Two CPS Students Earn Scholarships from Leading Women**

Nianah Shaw, an 11<sup>th</sup>-grader at Withrow International High School; and Rawan Al Sheyyab, an 11<sup>th</sup>-grader at Clark Montessori High School, were awarded scholarships from Leading Women of Cincinnati, an organization that honors the accomplishments of women and girls. Nianah received a \$750 scholarship and Rawan received \$500. They each presented essays on women who inspired them. Nianah wrote about Dr. Alexa Canady, the first African-American neurosurgeon, and Rawan wrote about the challenges faced by some women in Arabic cultures. Congratulations to both of them.

-more-

**Former SCPA Student in Running for an Emmy Award**

Kevin Macku, a member of the Class of 2005 at the School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA), is being considered for a regional Emmy Award for his portrayal of a peasant thief in the feature film, *Beowulf: Prince of Geats*, an all-volunteer motion picture project that was filmed in six states and Norway to raise money for cancer research. Other CPS alumni featured in the film are Joe Sofranko, a graduate of Walnut Hills High School, and A.J. Cann, a graduate of SCPA. The award will be presented in July. Good luck to Kevin.

**Walnut Hills Graduate to Record Her Original Song with Queen Latifah**

Ingrid Woode, a graduate of Walnut Hills High School, was selected as the winner of rapper/singer/actor Queen Latifah's contest for aspiring singer-songwriters. For her prize, she will record her original composition, *Fairweather Friend*, with Queen Latifah, and the song will appear on Queen Latifah's upcoming *Persona* album scheduled to be released this spring. Ingrid's song was selected from among thousands entered into the contest. To see the video of Ingrid's contest entry, visit <http://tinyurl.com/aus3tu>.

**If you have Good News you would like to share, please forward it to Dawn L. Grady at [gradyda@cps-k12.org](mailto:gradyda@cps-k12.org). Thank you!**