



SCOOP

A quarterly publication of DC SCORES

Fall 2008
Volume 10, Issue 1



Left, a Tubman student chats with a visiting Argentinean coach (p 3). Right, students celebrate at Fall Frenzy (p 5).

Red

Red reminds me of the best
team in the world, and
everyone knows who that is – Redskins!
And also sweet recalls of my American and
Dominican flags that shine so bright
A rose that smells so fresh, it stands
out from the rest – like me
The blood that runs through the beautiful me
and my bright red personality

Rochelle P.
Marie Reed Learning Center

I Am The Greatest

I am music loud and clear
I am a triangle like a guitar pick
I am a guitar, the greatest instrument ever
I am also a delicious meal
I am earth, the strongest substance
I am the greatest.

O'Jaye C.
MacFarland Middle School

DC SCORES inspires youth to lead healthy lifestyles,
be engaged students, and become agents of change in their communities.

Executive Director's Message

2008-2009
DC SCORES schools

Ward 1

*Bancroft Elementary School
Columbia Heights Education Campus
H.D. Cooke Elementary School
Marie Reed Learning Center
Tubman Elementary School*

Ward 2

Thomson Elementary School

Ward 4

*Brightwood Education Center
MacFarland Middle School
Raymond Education Center
Truesdell Education Center*

Ward 5

*Brookland Elementary School
Hyde Leadership Public Charter School
Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community
Freedom Public Charter School*

Ward 6

Jefferson Middle School

Ward 7

*Aiton Elementary School
Arts and Technology Academy
Anne Beers Elementary School
Burrville Elementary School
C.W. Harris Elementary School
Cesar Chavez Public Charter
Middle School for Public Policy
Kelly Miller Middle School
Smothers Elementary School*

Dear DC SCORES Supporter,

The fall season brings a lot of excitement to DC SCORES. We greet hundreds of new young faces to our after-school program while welcoming back returning students, soccer and writing coaches, and school communities. We've kicked off the year with programming at 19 elementary and five middle schools – truly a citywide effort as our program is hosted in seven District wards.

As you will see in this edition of SCOOP, we've already entertained international visitors (p 3) and gathered together for one of our biggest student celebrations, the Fall Frenzy (p 5). There is more work (and fun) to come – we have two nights of our marquee event, the 11th Annual Poetry Slam! in December and just prior to Thanksgiving, DC SCORES will host the only public middle school soccer championship on November 25th at Wilson Senior High School.

We always encourage our supporters to join us in our journey to bring quality after-school enrichment activities to DC youth. More than ever, DC SCORES is asking for the support of our long-time friends and donors and we urge you to bring new friends along. DC SCORES is a fun, effective, safe, and wide-reaching alternative to the boredom and distraction that can occur when the school day ends. It is imperative we provide services even in light of the current economic situation. Your support will ensure that DC SCORES has the capacity to provide services for over 700 youth ages 8-14 and to meet growing after-school needs.

As always, please join us in our journey – we want to host you at our program, wow you at an event, and introduce you to hundreds of poet-athletes who work hard and play hard every day after school. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best,



P.S. - You can also support DC SCORES through CFC #82924, United Way #8820, or online at www.DCSCORES.org.

QUICK FACTS

According to a 2007-2008 survey of teachers who have DC SCORES students in their classrooms:

- 88% said DC SCORES improves classroom writing skills
- 97% said DC SCORES students' attitudes toward school improved
- 94% said DC SCORES improves classroom speaking skills
- 82% said DC SCORES improves classroom reading skills
- 85% said creative writing skills improved a little or a lot



What is DC SCORES?



DC SCORES is an after-school program for 700 students at 24 DC public and public charter elementary and middle schools. Our core values of teamwork, leadership, and commitment are carried out daily in a program model where students participate in soccer, poetry, service learning, and homework help. We hire DC public school teachers to run the program at each school, thus providing each student with direct access to a trusted mentor. DC SCORES, in operation since 1994, seeks to increase student achievement, levels of physical activity, and students' sense of self-worth and belonging. We aim to fill gaps in an environment where students have little to no exposure to organized physical activity, childhood obesity rates are dangerously high, and literacy rates are far below average. DC SCORES is an affiliate of America SCORES, the nation's largest after-school soccer and literacy program.

An Argentinean Exchange

CORY CHIMKA - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

"This was the best writing day ever," announced fifth grader Kevin A. to his DC SCORES teammates at Harriet Tubman Elementary School, as well as his new friends from Argentina. Nine year old Kevin had just participated in a cultural coaching exchange sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the Academy for Educational Development.

On Wednesday, September 24, 12 coaches from Argentina, one representative from the U.S. Department of State, and three translators descended upon the DC SCORES office to spend an afternoon with our staff and students. The festivities began at the DC SCORES office with a tour and panel discussion on DC SCORES programming and youth development in Argentina including getting young women and disabled Argentineans involved in the game of soccer.



After collaborating at the office, the coaching delegation from Argentina headed a few blocks north to meet Kevin, his teammates, and coach Renee Jacobs at Tubman Elementary School to participate in a poetry workshop. The coaches paired with poet-athletes at Tubman and got to know one another by writing poems about each other's worlds. In creating poetry together the coaches and students found their worlds had much more in common than not, and smiles lit up Coach Jacobs' classroom all afternoon.

After a teary farewell to their new friends at Tubman, the Argentinean coaches hit the field for a playful scrimmage against the young women of DC SCORES' Columbia Heights Education Campus team. "The DC SCORES visit garnered rave reviews!," reported Shannon Roe of the Academy for Educational Development. "Seeing such a well organized program working in the school with children of such a young age was both fun and inspirational for the Argentina coaches delegation."

DC SCORES Student Work

I Wish...

How I wish that I had a big house
And a mat for the cat and a hole for the mouse
And a clock going tock in the corner of the room
And a cricket and a ticket and big, brick broom
I'd laugh and play the day away
While the cat and the mouse scurry away!

Tamera W.
Arts & Technology Academy

Teamwork

Teamwork is all about respecting others,
Taking care of equipment
Not making fun of each other,
Not talking back to the teachers,
Using proper language,
And not being chaotic.

Teamwork!
Jorge S.
Raymond Elementary School

DC SCORES Student Work

Blue

Blue makes me think
I am on top an
air conditioner. Blue
makes me feel like
I am on Antarctica.
When I look out
my window I see
a big snow hill
with my friends
skiing on it.

Anthony E.
Bancroft Elementary School

I Wish

I wish I could rewind the times
I wish I had a trillion dimes
I wish things could cause no harm
I wish I hadn't damaged my art
I wish people wouldn't kill a tree
I wish I could remember back when I was 3
I wish I couldn't hear the trouble I'm seeing
I wish I could start my life from the
beginning

Hermonie B.
Howard Road Academy

Poetry and Music Professionals Help Students Find Their Voice

SHERIE BILLINGSLEA - MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR
& HILARY WINN - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Each fall, DC SCORES hires music and poetry specialists to facilitate workshops with our students in preparation for the annual Poetry Slam!. With the 11th Annual Poetry Slam! scheduled for December 3-4, the specialists prepare our students to deliver their poetry by sharing their knowledge of stage performance and creativity.



Eight different poetry specialists will visit DC SCORES' elementary schools to help students generate new poetry and enhance their performance skills. The poetry specialists come from a range of backgrounds and bring with them diverse skill sets. To energize and inspire students at Thomson Elementary, poet Anna Mwalagho (*left*) performed original poems in both English and Swahili, her native language. Born and raised in Kenya, where she first gained success as a poet, Mwalagho has released a spoken word/poetry CD in the United States entitled "Ukweli: The Truth." The students at Thomson were enthralled to learn that poets can publish their work on CD and eager to share their own original poetry with Mwalagho.

While some of the poetry specialists' workshops focus primarily on poetry and poetics, like Mwalagho's, The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange of Takoma Park, Maryland, held workshops that focused on using movement while performing poetry. Together, the dancers and students warmed up their bodies and practiced moving and speaking simultaneously. At the end of the workshop, students created and performed dances inspired by their poetry.

At the middle school level, students prepare for the Poetry Slam! by turning their original poetry into music. Local musicians work with the students to transform their poetry into lyrics for songs that the students will record. Music specialist Patrick Washington (*right*) is working with the students at Kelly Miller Middle School to record their original poetry as music. A member of the POEM-CEES, a local hip hop group, Patrick has also appeared on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam" and has a wealth of knowledge to share in each session.



The 11th Annual Poetry Slam! will showcase the hard work of these music and poetry specialists in collaboration with the talents of each DC SCORES team on December 3rd and 4th. For more information about the Slam!, contact Tohry Petty at tpetty@americascorers.org.

The Festivities of Fall Frenzy

JOSH FREEDHOLM - COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT



Students from Hyde get creative with mural decoration.

When I arrived at DC SCORES in September to begin my year as an AmeriCorps*VISTA, I was given the rundown of our major events within the first week and realized that within a month of being at DC SCORES I would soon experience our annual celebration of the fall season, the Fall Frenzy.

On Saturday, October 18, I arrived with staff and a number of amazing volunteers bright and early at Anacostia Park. Setup was a chilly process, but within a few hours the park had been completely transformed into a soccer festival. As our students started to arrive, my excitement began to peak. With over 700 elementary and middle school students unloading from buses coming from all across DC, I realized the day would be special.



A student gets creative at the fall poem station.

The warm October day began with a collective teamwork chant that kicked off fun, spirited, and friendly soccer matches with tons of enthusiastic family members and coaches on the sidelines. And soccer wasn't the only thing — Anacostia Park was host to a festival filled with a visit from D.C. United's mascot Talon and relays with over-sized clothes that entertained both players and volunteers. Almost everyone had his or her face painted while a graffiti artist created a mural with the students. Teams rotated between games and visits to the DC Public Library Bookmobile and each school decorated its own banner and wrote fall poems. Participating at booths and watching the kids go from table to table was a joy to see throughout the day.



As the buses pulled away, I was exhausted (as I'm sure our students were after all the soccer they played!), but also entirely fulfilled as my first DC SCORES event was exactly what I wanted it to be. DC SCORES would like to thank all of our volunteers, sponsors, staff, parents, and students for helping organize and participate in a great day.

DC SCORES Student Work

Who I Am

I am not girly, it won't be
Can't you see
I am sporty!!!
By the way I kick the soccer ball
I don't cry when I fall
I can take the pain
I'm not ashamed
Sporty!
Sporty!
Sporty!
That's what I am...
so BAM!!!
That's who I am.

Bernice H.

Cesar Chavez Public Charter Middle School

A Girl

She was a girl
full of imagination
never gave up
because she held
on so tight
She had big dreams
that no one could take away
but at the end
she was just a normal girl

Xiu Q.

Thomson Elementary School

Printing Courtesy of The Washington Post

Upcoming DC SCORES Events

Please consider this your invitation to our upcoming programmatic events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact VolunteerDC@americascorers.org. If you would like to receive electronic updates via our quarterly SCOOP*express*, please contact Tohry Petty at tpetty@americascorers.org.

Tuesday, November 25: The DC SCORES Capital Cup Championship will be held on the field of Wilson Senior High School. The DC SCORES Middle School Soccer League is the only public school-based soccer league in the District. Participating teams in the league are from Columbia Heights Education Campus, Kelly Miller Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, MacFarland Middle School, Cesar Chavez Public Charter School, Alice Deal Middle School, Paul Public Charter School, Friendship Edison Public Charter School, and SEED Public Charter School. The Capital Cup games will begin at 4:00pm with the girls championship followed by the boys championship game at 5:30pm.



Wednesday, December 3 & Thursday, December 4: The 11th Annual DC SCORES Poetry Slam! is a city-wide spoken word performance and competition featuring DC SCORES students from each of our 24 schools performing their original works of poetry. Only one school from East and West of the Anacostia River will take home the coveted Golden Mic trophy (*left*) - who will it be this year? This event is free and open to the public. Check out our website for location information.

DC SCORES Student Work

I Am

In the morning I am curious
In the day I am attentive
After the sun goes down the sight
makes me sing

Float like a Butterfly
Sting like a BEE

In the morning I am clueless
In the day I am restless
After the sun goes down happiness
makes me sing

Float like a Butterfly
Sting like a BEE

Ezra C.
Aiton Elementary School

Untitled

I am a marimba that is so loud
like a drum that you bang with a hammer
I am the air of Nike shoes
that look so gold and shine like the sun
I'm a lion as I eat a big pizza
I'm a college student
that works a lot on a pentagon with shapes

I'm nervous mice
that eat lots of rice
that is so nice
I'm a negative thing
like an electron cloud
that has a charge of electron: shocking, lightning
I'm proud of being a soccer player
that is so smart
I'm also proud of my grades
and food that I eat everyday

Saul S.
Columbia Heights Education Campus

2008 DC SCORES Sharks vs. Suits Shootout: A Recap

TOHRY PETTY - COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS DIRECTOR

In June, the 2008 DC SCORES Cup: Sharks vs. Suit Shootout featured its largest number of competitors ever with a total of 20 teams vying to become the 2008 Shootout Champion. Presented by Volkswagen of America, Inc., the tournament raised over \$80,000 through entry fees and sponsorships to benefit DC SCORES. Held on the athletic fields of Trinity University, the tournament named newcomer Kirkland & Ellis LLP the victor over two-time-champion Marriott International.



The Kirkland & Ellis team with Talon on the sidelines of the D.C. United game against Kansas City.

The Kirkland & Ellis LLP team received their trophy during the halftime ceremony of the August 2nd D.C. United match against Kansas City in front of a crowd of over 18,000 United fans. All participants in the DC SCORES Cup received tickets to the August 2nd match courtesy of D.C. United.

The 6th annual DC SCORES Cup: Sharks vs. Suits Shootout was presented by Volkswagen of America, Inc., and sponsored by Quaker Snack Bars, DrinkMore Water, D.C. United, MLS Soccer, PNC Bank, Arent Fox and D.C. Stoddert Soccer League. Participants in the 2008 DC SCORES Cup: Sharks vs. Suits Shootout: Al Jazeera USA, Inc., Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Arnold & Porter LLP, BDO Seidman LLP, Bingham McCutchen LLP, Booz Allen Hamilton, Clark Construction, Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garret & Dunner LLP, Friedman Billings Ramsey, Hogan & Hartson LLP, Holland & Knight LLP, John Snow, Inc., Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, Marriott International, Nathan Associates, Inc., RAFFA P.C., Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, Venable LLP, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, and Zuckerman Spaeder LLP.

If your company or law firm would like to enter a team or sponsor the 2009 Shootout on June 13-14, contact Tohry Petty at tpetty@americascorers.org.

DC SCORES Student Work

Light Blue

Sounds like waves

Smells like the sea

Looks like the beach

Feels like freedom and fun

Moves fast and slow

Sheila S.

Burrville Elementary School



DC SCORES Staff

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Executive Director

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO:

- **volunteer,**
email
VolunteerDC@americascorers.org

- **receive updates from
DC SCORES electronically,**
visit
www.DCSCORES.org
to join our mailing list

DC SCORES would like to thank the following local and national funders who continue to make our SCORES program a success*:

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The Washington Post
Trinity University
*as of 10/31/08



DC SCORES serves over 700 student-athletes in Washington, DC!



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helping kids score goals on the field and achieve goals in the classroom