



SCOOP

A quarterly publication of DC SCORES

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photo: Eric Schlein

Left, students from Arts & Technology Academy with Isaac Newton Farris, Jr., President and CEO of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center of Atlanta (p. 4). Right, Marquetta W. from H.D. Cooke performs during the 2008 Poetry Slam! (p. 3).

One Day

One day I was walking down the street.
And I saw you look at me.
So I put a smile on my face.
With my hands on top of my waist.
I was alone by myself.
I had nobody else with me!
One day.

Delica H.

Kelly Miller Middle School

Nature Life

My life is like air blowing in the wind.
It's like a bird flying so high
but can never touch the solar system.
If I were to fly, I would touch the sky.
My life is an ocean floating through the sea.
My life is so fun that I forget to breathe.
I wonder in my dreams,
what would it be like to see a hungry animal
that would not like to be teased.

Rosalie T.

Bancroft Elementary School

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

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 Education Center
Hyde Leadership 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*

Ward 8

*Howard Road Academy
Turner Elementary School*



Executive Director's Message

Dear DC SCORES Supporter,

It is an exciting time to live in our nation's capital. The buzz and energy leading up to and surrounding the Presidential Inauguration was intoxicating. The hundreds of thousands of people who descended upon Washington, DC were here because they wanted to be a part of something monumental, historic, and for many different reasons, because the "change" had struck a chord inside of them.

As I watched our DC SCORES students perform at the 11th Annual Poetry Slam! in December, I felt a similar satisfaction as I did leading up to January 20th. It was apparent to me that my pride in our DC SCORES students was not necessarily for their impeccable performance - it stemmed from watching students truly feel passionate and moved about something. They cared deeply about their piece's content, and impressively struck a chord with the audience. With spoken word pieces ranging from soccer to violence, friendship to political change for our country, our students touched every person in attendance.

DC SCORES prides itself on our balance of complementary after-school activities that truly develop the "whole" child. Throughout our fall semester, culminating in our Poetry Slam!, students found their voice, expressing it first on paper, then in the classroom, then in front of hundreds of family, school, and community members. These same supporters will now cheer our students on during the soccer season and assist them in implementing their service-learning projects this spring. At the end of the day, students who have multiple skill sets, passion, and an opportunity to express themselves will realize their ever-present ability to create change.

Thank you to the donors who contributed in 2008 – you have truly helped us create "change makers." Your help is again needed. Please attend a fundraising event (p. 7), donate, or volunteer in 2009!

Best,

P.S. DC SCORES is now on Facebook! Log onto www.DCSCORES.org to learn more.

QUICK FACTS

- In the spring, DC SCORES students spend 12 weeks participating in *Writing for the Community* and *Leadership in Action*, our service-learning curricula
- Students who participate in service-learning curricula show enhanced problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Students who participate in service-learning curricula exhibit enhanced community-oriented attitudes and behaviors

Source: Roehlkepartain, Eugene C., "Benefits of Community-Based Service-Learning," Search Institute, December 2007.

What is DC SCORES?



DC SCORES is an after-school program for 700 students at 23 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 school engagement, 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.

Poetry Slam! Draws Record Crowds

HILARY WINN - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

On December 3 and 4, DC SCORES students performed in the 11th Annual Poetry Slam! delivering high-energy, inspirational performances that wowed audiences.

The Slam! took place at two different neighborhood-based locations and was sponsored by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities and the Humanities Council of Washington, DC. Columbia Heights Education Campus hosted the Westside Slam! where Truesdell Education Center took home the Westside Golden Mic with their poetry about life and struggles and Columbia Heights Education Campus' song "Soccer" earned the first-place middle school award. During the Eastside Slam!, DC SCORES' poet-athletes took the stage at Kelly Miller Middle School. A packed auditorium cheered on Arts and Technology Academy's first-place performance about Barack Obama. In the middle school division, Cesar Chavez Public Charter Middle School won first place for their song "My Dove."



Students from Truesdell pose with the Golden Mic.



After preparing for their performances over the course of several weeks, DC SCORES students felt proud of themselves and their teams. "I was proud because I faced my fears when I was scared [to go onstage]," said Alexis L., a fifth-grader at Thomson Elementary School.

Unprecedented parental and community attendance gave both nights of the Poetry Slam! a fresh sense of excitement and importance. Almost 1,000 community members were in attendance. Performing in front of a large audience helped DC SCORES students affirm the value of their hard work and creativity.

This year's performances were hosted by Dwayne "Dagha" Simmons, Program Director of America SCORES New England. Dwayne, who has traveled the world as the music artist "Dagha," connected immediately with the audiences and kept both performances flowing. Dwayne co-hosted the Westside Slam! with Laurie Blair, co-founder of the DC Guerilla Poetry Insurgency and with Justine Love of WPGC 95.5 FM for the Eastside. Other special guests included D.C. United players Ben Olsen and Domenic Mediate who encouraged the students as honorary judges.

The 2008 Poetry Slam! provided some of the most impressive performances to date and the packed house left each night buzzing over the performances of DC SCORES poet-athletes.



Honorary judges hoist their cheer cards in support of the performers.

Printing Courtesy of The Washington Post

DC SCORES Student Work

Diversity

D is for how different people are around the world.
I is for the importance of every boy and girl.
V is for how valuable it is to get along.
E is for error because racism is wrong.
R is for the responsibility we all should take.
S is for the sense working together can make.
I is for the ignorant who want all to be apart.
T is for the togetherness that should be in our heart.
Y is for yourself, because that's where it should start.
Put it all together and you have diversity.
That means appreciating the differences
between you and me.

David W.
Marie Reed Learning Center

I Am A Shining Star

As stars we glow
At night no rest
But we are stars
Who do our best.

I am worthy
I am terrific
I am crazy
I am glad
I am angry
I am curious
And I am FREE.

Group Poem,
Aiton Elementary School

DC SCORES Students Commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LYNDSEY VIERRA - DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Eastside Poetry Slam! champions Arts and Technology Academy electrified the audience at a birthday celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., hosted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The students performed their award-winning Poetry Slam! selection – three poems about President Barack Obama – evoking laughter, praise, and energetic applause. The day's program entitled "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," featured a keynote address by Isaac Newton Farris, Jr., the President and CEO of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Atlanta. Arts and Technology Academy's poems represented both today and tomorrow, mixing today's realities with hopefulness and a positive outlook. With their performance only days before the Presidential Inauguration, the excitement was palpable as the audience rose to their feet in an enthusiastic standing ovation, truly stealing the show.

America SCORES Receives Presidential Honor

JOSH FREEDHOLM - COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

In November, America SCORES was nationally recognized as one of 18 programs to receive the prestigious 2008 Coming Up Taller Award, presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and support outstanding programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people and provide them with new learning opportunities and a chance to contribute to their communities. America SCORES was selected as a winner among more than 300 youth-based organizations.

DC SCORES veteran, sixth grader Ingrid M. from Columbia Heights Education Campus, accepted the award on behalf of America SCORES in a visit to the White House to meet First Lady Laura Bush. "I was nervous at first," says a smiling Ingrid, "but the best part [of the experience] was shaking hands with Mrs. Bush."

This year also marks America SCORES' 10th anniversary, a decade that has witnessed the organization expand from just one site in Washington, DC to a national organization with 12 affiliates nationwide. DC SCORES would like to congratulate America SCORES on 10 successful years!



*Ingrid M. with Laura Bush
and Nick Beckman, America
SCORES Director of
Volunteerism.*

DC SCORES Welcomes Barack Obama

JOSH FREEDHOLM - COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

As students took the stage during the 11th Annual Poetry Slam!, it was apparent that the District's enthusiasm for then President-Elect Obama did not simply belong to voting adults. Team after team of elementary school students used the stage to express their hope and interest in Barack Obama.

Students were treated with a surprise when they received the most recent edition of the America SCORES Kicker! magazine containing a letter from none other than Barack Obama himself. "After-school programs like America SCORES play an essential part in keeping kids engaged in constructive activities," said the President in his letter. Now officially our nation's 44th President, DC SCORES would like to not only thank President Obama for his words, but to welcome him and the entire first family to Washington, DC.

"I'm glad you're involved in your community and in after-school programs. I hope you will always be an active participant in the world around you, and that you will seize every opportunity to make the world better. Creating change and making the world better is not always easy, but accomplishing big things will make you feel good. So challenge yourself to make a difference."

Barack Obama

Second Annual DC SCORES Capital Cup

KENNY OWENS - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The DC SCORES Capital Cup marked the culmination of DC SCORES' middle school league which, this year, included ten DC public and public charter schools. The games were held under the stadium lights of Wilson Senior High School, setting the perfect atmosphere for the battles that were about to ensue.

On a frigid November night, an excited crowd saw a repeat of last year's boys championship between Deal Junior High and defending champions Columbia Heights Education Campus. The game featured end to end action as the lead changed hands multiple times. Deal was able to solidify their lead by scoring two goals in the last ten minutes of play, winning the championship 7-5.



The Cesar Chavez girls team takes home second place in their first DC SCORES program year.

In the girl's championship, first year team Cesar Chavez faced defending champions Deal. Both teams played extremely hard and were focused on winning the championship. By the end of the match, Deal's attack proved to be too much for Cesar Chavez, whose first year was filled with positive accomplishments.

Congratulations to all the teams who made the fall middle school season a success!

DC SCORES Student Work

I Am

I'm an anaconda,
I'm at the top of the Jefferson food chain.
I am a reptile slithering side to side.
I am a goalie
looking for my prey.
I am a Jordan
running up the field.
I am unstoppable
with my own style and mind.
I am.

Nicholas A.
Jefferson Middle School

Teamwork

My teammates are special
We work as a team
to make the goal
Use great sportsmanship
Be safe
Try, try again each time
Don't give up
Have fun!

Jordy G.
Raymond Education Center

Bag Lady

It's important to feel good about
yourself to know who you are
to know your wealth.
When you look in the mirror, look deep
and find you
look past the media, stereotypes, and
images and find the truth.
You are beautiful, your light shines.
Through this strong lineage goes way
back to your roots.

Group Poem,
Howard Road Academy

Coach Kenny Honored by Washington Wizards and Positive Coaching Alliance

TOHRY PETTY - COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS DIRECTOR



Kenny Owens, DC SCORES Athletic Director and Wilson SHS varsity boys' soccer coach, received the Pollin Award during halftime of the Washington Wizards basketball game on December 15 at the Verizon Center. At DC SCORES, Kenny manages the elementary and middle school soccer leagues for more than 700 DC public school students. In his first season this fall, Kenny coached the Wilson team, his alma mater, to the DC Interscholastic Athletic Association title. Kenny took a team that lost 14 seniors last spring and rebuilt the squad from the ground up - cultivating a winning team with a positive attitude in working toward the title. The Pollin Award, presented by the Wizards

in partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance, honors individuals in the Washington, DC metropolitan area who show an exemplary level of dedication to their community through coaching youth sports.

Healthy Living for DC SCORES Students

KATRINA HOCHSTETLER - MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Every spring, DC SCORES selects a theme which students use to inspire their service-learning projects. This year's theme is *healthy living*. Students will create projects that involve a range of issues, from violence in their communities to childhood obesity. On May 2, students will showcase these projects during the 2009 Shout!, a celebration of youth community service. Through these projects, students will learn to become agents of change in their communities and help educate their peers about healthy living. Test your knowledge with a few questions about healthy living:

1. What is the most nutritious part of a potato?

- The inside
- The butter you put on top
- The skin

2. What should you do for thirty minutes every day?

- Play cards
- Watch TV
- Break a sweat
- Eat candy

3. To help kids get healthy, we can encourage them to:

- Play outside more often
- Eat more fruits and vegetables
- Spend less time watching TV
- All of the above

4. Rank the following food items from most to least calories:

- McDonald's large Triple Thick Shake
- McDonald's Double Quarter Pounder with Cheese
- Wendy's Ultimate Chicken Grill Sandwich
- Wendy's Baconator

DC SCORES Student Work

Shining Stars

We're DC SCORES,
We score goals
in soccer, in our lives
Trying to reach what we want
We're leaders in our school
We can be who we want
'cause this is me, this is you
this is who we want to be
We're DC SCORES!

We've got goals that
drop in nets for wins
We've got goals to reach
our depths within
We've got goals and
dreams that help us be
The very best we strive to be

We live our lives as
well as we can
We try our best for our fans
We shine like stars in the west
We have success
Because we are the best!
DC SCORES!

Group Poem
Cesar Chavez Public
Charter Middle School

Healthy Living Quiz Answers:
1. C, 2. C, 3. D, 4. AD BC

Save the Date!

Join DC SCORES for a night out in DC filled with delicious food and fabulous auction items at the 2009 Soccer Ball or for a fun weekend of competitive co-ed soccer by fielding a team for the Sharks vs. Suits Shootout.

Monies raised during the Soccer Ball and Sharks vs. Suits Shootout will directly benefit more than 700 poet-athletes of DC SCORES.

2009 DC SCORES Soccer Ball presented by Latin Concepts March 12 Organization of American States

The Soccer Ball, highlighted in BizBash Magazine as one of "Washington's Top 100 Events," is DC SCORES' annual fundraising gala and auction and will feature the inspired cuisine of Latin Concepts restaurants.

Ways to get involved in the Soccer Ball:

- sponsor a table
- purchase a ticket at www.DCSCORES.org
- donate an auction item
- volunteer

7th Annual DC SCORES Cup: Sharks vs. Suits Shootout June 13 & 14 Athletic fields of Trinity University & Catholic University

DC SCORES is currently recruiting teams to participate in this summer's DC SCORES Cup: Sharks vs. Suits Shootout.

Join some of the nation's largest businesses and law firms on the pitch in the name of giving back to the community.

Ways to get involved in Sharks vs. Suits:

- enter a team into the tournament
- sponsor the event
- volunteer

Past teams include Arnold & Porter LLP, Booz Allen Hamilton, Clark Construction, Hogan & Hartson LLP, John Snow, Inc., Nathan Associates, Marriott International, Volkswagen of America, Inc., Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, and Zuckerman Spaeder LLP.



Maurico Fraga-Rosenfeld of Latin Concepts and Soccer Ball emcee Lindsay Czarniak of NBC4 Sports.



Soccer Ball Host Committee member Steve Chenevey of FOX 5 Morning News and Aiton Soccer Coach D'Andre Condrey.



2008 Champions Kirkland & Ellis LLP pose with D.C. United's Talon during the halftime award presentation.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO:

- volunteer,
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americascorers.org](mailto:VolunteerDC@americascorers.org)

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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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Corporation for National & Community Service
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DC SCORES serves over 700 poet-athletes in Washington, DC!



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CFC #82924
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helping kids score goals on the field and achieve goals in the classroom