

"The Neighborhood Academy is a faith-based, independent, college-preparatory school whose mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by preparing low-income youth for college and citizenship."



THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

FALL 2016

NEIGHBORHOODnews

709 N. Aiken Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Letter from the President



As announced earlier this year, I became President of The Neighborhood Academy on September 1st, coinciding with the beginning of the new school year and the 15th anniversary of the

schools' founding. I am excited to have this wonderful opportunity to work with you, faculty, staff, donors, and our incredible students as we continue to build an exceptional learning environment.

Jodie Moore, Reverend Tom, and I have been working side-by-side since January to ensure a smooth transition of leadership, which has gone exceptionally well. Also, as many of you know, Jodie was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in February, which necessitated chemotherapy. But in typical Jodie fashion, she has not let it slow her down during the transition. With the transition complete Jodie is now focusing attention on her new role in spearheading our college internship and success coaching program to ensure that every TNA college graduate has a smooth entry into the job market.

I was a member of the founding board for The Neighborhood Academy and have served as a member in multiple capacities for over ten years. So when I began working full-time at

the school, I thought I had a good understanding of how it operated and an appreciation for the many challenges inherent in managing an urban school. Well folks, I couldn't have been more wrong! There is nothing like being at ground zero for a wake-up call! I now have a much better appreciation for the day-to-day challenges required to educate the urban poor. And a new found admiration and respect for the work that faculty and staff do every day.

The amount of time, talent, and treasure it takes to help each of our students learn cannot be overstated. In many respects TNA is a lifeline for our students, which is why our model has been so successful in helping our students succeed. There are no short cuts; there are no easy answers or quick fixes. This is very, very hard work, which is why our students go to school for 11 months a year and 12 hours a day. And while we have many challenges, our students are succeeding every day!

With the 2016-2017 school year getting under way, we are very excited to launch of our \$4.5 million Breaking Barriers Capital Campaign, which will allow us to add a 6th and 7th grade and retire our remaining debt. We expect to break ground in October. This new space will hold grades 6 through 8, creating a self-contained middle school. Jodie and I will be working closely with the Campaign Chairs Jill Ruppel and Tim O'Brien and our Board Chair Charlie Ferarra.

On a personal note, I want to thank Jodie for her exceptional leadership in guiding The Neighborhood Academy, along with Rev. Tom Johnson, from the early days as a street ministry to the construction and development of the school's 7.8 acre campus in Stanton Heights. There simply isn't enough space to express the deep appreciation and admiration that we all feel in our hearts for what Jodie has accomplished at The Neighborhood Academy. She has changed the lives of hundreds of children by believing in them, and what they could accomplish. She has been a shining light of love and kindness to so many people.

There is no doubt that I have enormous shoes to fill. I promise to carefully follow in Jodie's foot steps to carry on the mission of The Neighborhood Academy, and build upon the incredible foundation that she and Rev. Tom have created. I look to all of you for your help and guidance as we take this voyage together.

I look forward to getting to know each of you better as The Neighborhood Academy enters its 15th year as a special place, one where children can learn, excel, and enjoy a safe and supportive community.

Sincerely,

Mark Jay Kurtzrock

STATISTICS CORNER

At the end of the spring, we installed our first bee hives! Our bees will facilitate greater understanding of the ecology unit. Here are some stats on our new apiary adventure:

- Our two hives hold roughly 14,000 bees
- One queen bee can lay 1,000 to 2,500 bees per day and reign up to 4-5 years.
- Worker bees, on the other hand, live only 40 days.

All hail the Queen!



Micah gives Pulitzer-prize winning author Isabel Wilkerson a tour during her visit.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Micah is a student who takes advantage of all that The Neighborhood Academy has to offer. He joined our school the fall of his 8th grade year, and that spring he was given the Rising Star Award for his outstanding potential as a scholar and member of our community. Micah has certainly lived up to this honor. Not only does Micah serve as one of our Academy Ambassador tour guides, but he is heavily involved in extracurricular activities as well. When The Neighborhood Academy introduced him to cycling, he immediately found a passion. Our fall appeal will detail more of his journeys cycling across the country, so stay tuned!



STUDENT LIFE

THANK YOU TICKETS FOR KIDS

for providing the opportunity for our students to experience the finer side of Pittsburgh. This spring, our students saw Cirque Du Soleil's Toruk, Damn Yankees, and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

To keep up on all of our student life news, watch our social media channels for our new video newsletters hosted by John McClelland. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

CORPORATE CORNER: THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR BUSINESSES!

Many of our companies have been with us for 15 years! Whether we've known you for 10 years, 5 years, or 1 year, we simply could not do what we do with you. The donation of dollars, as well as career exposure presentations, internships, job shadowing, and other involvement in our school, has helped our students enter corporate America prepared to take on the challenges that await them!

For the last 15 years, CentiMark has been a corporate donor, mentor and friend to the students of The Neighborhood Academy. Top in their field in innovation and in the forefront of the roofing industry, they share the values of hard work, dedication and excellence that is the hallmark of The Neighborhood Academy.

Thank you CentiMark!

The **EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit)** and the **OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit)** are vital programs for The Neighborhood Academy. Individuals can not receive the same 90% tax credit for their contributions to The Neighborhood Academy. For more information, please contact Sheila at sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org or at 412-626-6851 to find out how.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Opening
Fall
2017*



This October, The Neighborhood Academy will begin construction on a 6th and 7th grade expansion, serving all boys. We are compelled to begin educating at a younger age because the community has called for it. Seven local middle schools are considered "Failing" by the PA Department of Education. Additionally, the education failure rates for African-American males are much higher than their peers, and indicate a need for an education model that meets their needs. By catching these young men earlier, they will be better prepared academically and more acculturated, which will create more success in high school.

The middle school will open for the 2017-2018 school year. If you have any questions about the middle school or Capital Campaign, please contact Jodie at jodie.moore@theneighborhoodacademy.org or Mark at mark.kurtzrock@theneighborhoodacademy.org.

UNITED WAY

Unite with us through United Way!

Name The Neighborhood Academy as your designated organization or invite us to participate in your kick-off event.

Use United Way Agency Code: 221578.

Contact Sheila for more information at sheila.rawlings@theneighborhoodacademy.org.



United Way

CONVOCATION

ON SEPTEMBER 6TH, our school community celebrated the beginning of our fifteenth calendar year with our convocation ceremony. Dr. Michael Driscoll, President of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, joined our students, faculty, parents, and board to impart his wisdom on the importance of character. "All the talent and all the smarts in the world will never mean much of anything unless they are supported by a strong character," he remarked. Dr. Driscoll's presence also heightened our focus on college-readiness and we are so thankful that he could join us for this special tradition.



Dr. Michael Driscoll

ALUMNI NEWS

Our alumni are keeping busy this summer.

Below are just a few of the internships and career milestones our former students have achieved:

- **Shante Wright '14** - Internship with the City of Pittsburgh
- **Jerico Berlin '15** - Marketing internship with Jones, Lang, and LeSalle
- **Cherice Jackson '15** - Returning internship with Steel City Squash
- **Bianca Hooper '08** - Began a new job as an Assistant Bank Manager at Citizens Bank
- **Ian Brown '08** - Celebrating one year at Allegheny Chesapeake Physical Therapy
- **Keka Shipman '06** - Began a new job with Quintiles' research lab
- **Isaiah Boswell '11** - Promoted to Global Analyst for American Eagle Outfitters

If your corporation has internship opportunities for either our current students or alumni, please contact Jodie Moore at jodie.moore@theneighborhoodacademy.org



Isaiah Boswell, 11'

WISHLIST

Our institution runs on the generosity of supporters like you!

As we begin the new school year, below are listed some of the items that we are looking to purchase. If you are interested in purchasing or donating any of these items, please contact Rachael at rachael.dittmar@theneighborhoodacademy.org

or call (412) 362-2001 x 134

- School supplies: \$35
- TI-83 graphing calculators: \$92
- Student Workbook: Google Docs (GAPE): \$68.95
- Volleyball knee pads: \$24
- Tickets to see Fun House: \$35
- Tickets to see Finding Neverland: \$45
- Team uniform shorts: \$23
- Acrylic paint: \$24
- TNA zip up jacket for a student: \$60
- Health teaching aid: \$100
- Referee for flag football: \$60
- Computer Speakers: \$26
- First aid supplies: \$18
- Art supplies: \$45
- Portable projector: \$79
- School uniform clothing (khaki, blue or black pants; white, yellow, gray, black, and blue button down shirts, & blue blazers)
- Semi-formal cocktail dresses

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

As of August 31st, 2016

IN HONOR OF*

Jodie Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Barry R. Sullivan
Albert & Clarissa
Burchfield Memorial Fund

Dr. Mary Means

Mr. G. Ogden Nutting
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Recker

John and Lucy Douglas

Mr. and Mrs. F. Brooks Robinson

Sven and Elizabeth de Jong

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Shelly

Christopher Burnikel
Ed and Noreen Levine

Barb Hall
Cass Carbaugh
Ronika Frank
Jeanette Lahm
John Douglas
Tom Johnson
Wink

Mr. Lou
Mr. Ray
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Palmer

Ann Leibrick
Mr. Ellis A. Wasson

Dane Ruetzel

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Peace
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rose
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wallace
Mr. and Mrs. David Koski
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gawronski
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Liszka
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reutzel
Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas Reutzel
Ms. Diane Koshi
Ms. Eileen Colianni
Ms. Ruth Tron

N MEMORY OF*

John Giovengo

Reverend and Mrs. Donald Green

John and Dodie Brodhead

Jodie Moore

Emily Dorrance

Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Dorrance

Elisie Hillman

Mrs. Barbara Frazer Lowe

Mrs. Margaret Houston

Mr. John D. Houston II

Mildred 'Rusty' Kurtzrock

Ms. Karen Kurtzrock

Robert L. Becker, Jr.

Mrs. Robert L. Becker, Jr.

Clarke Thomas

Mrs. Harold Sanders

Lucy M. Iman Senn

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Malick

Mrs. G. Paul DeBor

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Palmer

Charles Prine Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. McCartney

Sally Childs

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David Bennett Jr.

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Mr. and Mrs. Jay Troutman
Mr. and Mrs. George N. Stewart IV
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fulton
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Mrs. Andrew W. Mathieson
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Ms. Michelle Tiahi
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bowman
Ms. Marcia Whiten
Brookside Lumber Company
Ms. Anne Parker
Triax Sales Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Sauereisen
Mr. & Mrs. C Talbott Hiteshew, Jr.

MASCOT NAMING

On the last day of her Presidency, we presented Jodie with a large container of submissions for our then-unnamed mascot! At convocation, she announced the winner: **Socrates!** Thank you to everyone who submitted, and congratulations to **Sandy Levis** for writing the **winning name!**





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www.theneighborhoodacademy.org

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TEACHERS AND STAFF

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



David Gibbons,
TEACHING
ASSOCIATE



Kathryn Hardy,
HISTORY INSTRUCTOR



Jerry McMeekin,
MALE COUNSELOR



David Quinlan,
TEACHING
ASSOCIATE



Joe Roenker
ART INSTRUCTOR

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Rachael at
rachael.dittmar@theneighborhoodacademy.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Plan to
join us!*

Lessons and Carols-

December 15

Mock Trial Showcase-

February, date to be determined

Art Night-

March, date to be determined

EITC Luncheon-

April 26

Volunteer Appreciation Week-

April 23-29

Bulldog BBQ-

Early May, date to be determined

Commencement-

May 18

If you are interested in attending
or hosting any of these events,
please contact Rachel Dittmar
at rachael.dittmar@theneighborhoodacademy.org