

OK – at this point, we are all aware that the CAPCS Rand Campus will more than likely close at the end of the current school year. This action follows the DC Public Charter School Board's (PCSB) vote in favor of CAPCS being considered for Charter revocation and comes on the heels of intense discussions with the PCSB and opposition to the action by the CAPCS Board. If there is a Brightside to these developments, it is that CAPCS other five (5) campuses will remain open.

According to the PCSB, their initial action was taken due to Rand's failure to meet academic expectations including its performance last year as measured by the PCSB's new Performance Management Framework (PMF). The PMF is the PCSB's new Charter School grading system. It allows the PCSB to review and provide a score for a charter school's performance which then allows one school to be compared to other charter schools.

So, how important is school attendance? Attendance is one of the criteria the PMF uses to determine a score for a school. Within the PMF process, a school actually receives points for attendance that contribute to the school's overall, final score. So, once again, how important is school attendance? **The Rand campus fell short of getting a passing grade under the PMF by half (1/2) a point.** If Rand had received the total of points it could have received for attendance, Rand would have received a passing PMF score, CAPCS would not have been considered for Revocation, and Rand would not be closing. **That's how important attendance is!!!!!!**

Parents, the purpose of this article is to get your attention not to slam Rand or make Rand a scapegoat. So, Amos 3, what are we willing to do to make certain the same thing will never occur here. Are we ready to commit and step up to preserve the educational opportunities our children have here at Amos 3.

Parents, the question becomes, how can we fail attendance? How can we fail at bringing our children to school and on time? What could be more important? **Any points Amos 3 receives for attendance under the PMF should be automatic.** All we have to do is show up and show up on time. Poor attendance actually becomes a double-whammy. You see, under the PMF, schools also receive points for student test scores.

But how can our students score well on tests when they are not at school or are constantly late? That's a double-whammy. We lose points for (1) poor attendance and (2) the poor test scores that result.

In reality we are setting our own children up to fail when we do not take on the responsibility or consider it important enough to bring our kids to school. Sure, situations arise. That's understandable, but not to the degree that it causes your child and then your school to fail.

Our building always has heat in the winter, air conditioning in the warmer months, breakfast is ready when the children get here, lunch is served each day, and some of the best teachers in the

business, equipped with the best learning tools, are ready and waiting to teach. And, lest I forget, there is also an abundance of love and nurturing to go around at CAPCS.

Take a look, below, at the words of the CAPCS school song. *This school is your school, This school is my school, Community Academy, pre-school through high school, This school is your school, This school is my school, This school was made for you and me!*

Parents, this is your school. Take hold of it. What do you want to happen at CAPCS? What do you think should happen at CAPCS? We always claim we want the best for our children. If this community were to lose CAPCS, what would your next move be? What would we do then, just settle for our 2nd or 3rd choice? We chose CAPCS for a reason.

What should I do to get involved in my child's education and preserve the quality of education in my neighborhood I desire:

Bring your child to school everyday and on time – attendance matters!

Join the Amos 3 Parent Association!

Attendance is a double-edged sword.

1. Our school is going to be penalized if your child has poor attendance!

Our school is going to be penalized again because your child has poor test performance because they're not in school or always late.

Its Time For A Change!!!!!!!!!!

As always, please pass this information on to those who might benefit.

Volume 1, Issue 3

The Parent Source

February, 2011

CAPCS AMOS 3 PARENT ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED

How Important is School Attendance? – The DC Public Charter School Board’s new Performance Management Framework

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All votes are in. The following individuals have been elected as Parent Association (PA) Officers for the 2011-2012 school year:

President:	Micki Hurtt	hurtt8@aol.com
	202-327-1368	
Vice President:	April Gilliam	
2 nd Vice President:	Louvenia Bland	
Secretary:	Shawn Dick	
Treasurer:	Shameka Ware	
Special Consultant:	Joseph Stephenson	

The Parent Association is currently discussing the following agenda items:

- 8th grade class sizes
- Selection of quality teachers
- Literacy & Math Nights
- Men & Women’s focus groups
- Health Fair: health and hygiene for the upper grades
- Parent Workshops
- Fundraising – Labels for Education/Boxtops for Education
- Cheerleaders for the Boys Basketball Team

Fundraising: Supporting your school can be as easy as sending your family’s used

“JuicyJuice” packages to school. Our Association President, Micki Hurtt, is the coordinator of two fundraising efforts – Labels for Education and Boxtops for Education.

The PA can always use the help. What are your ideas? What are your concerns? How can you help? Would you like to serve or lead a committee? Contact your President, information above, or Tyrone Howze, Amos 3, Parent Involvement Coordinator 202-445-3051 or tyronehowze@capcs.org.

8th grade class sizes Selection of quality teachers Literacy & Math
Nights
Men & Women’s Focus Groups Health Fair Health and Hygiene for
the
Upper Grades Parent Workshops Fundraising – Labels for Education/
Box tops for Education Cheerleaders for the Boys Basketball Team

In the Spotlight

Leonard Upson, Upper School, Academy Leader

Upper School Goes the Extra Mile with Saturday School

Did you know the Amos 3 campus of CAPCS is open for learning on Saturday mornings from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm? It certainly is! Mr. Upson, the upper school academy leader, provided the scoop on Saturday School and how it is helping to take education in the upper school to new heights.

There are actually two components to Saturday School. One is the “traditional” program. The second is the S.T.E.M. program. The overall goal of both programs is academic improvement which is accomplished through remediation and enrichment.

The traditional program which is a continuance of weekly school takes students who have not performed well in reading or math and focuses on improving those skills. On the other hand, students who have performed well and achieved high DC-BAS scores are provided with opportunities to take on even more challenging exercises. The DC-BAS or (DC Benchmark Assessment System) is administered 4 times a year to students in grades 3 – 10. It measures their progress in the reading and math categories that are assessed on the end of the year DC-CAS or (DC Comprehensive Assessment System).

There are a couple of other ways students can qualify for Saturday School, but they are not recommended. Students who exhibit poor behavior are rewarded with Saturday School instead of out of school suspension. Students are not learning while they’re not at school. Five (5) or

more absences, excused or in-excused, from school will also earn your child a mandate to attend. After all, if a child misses school excessively, they certainly won't be prepared to move forward in school.

The **S.T.E.M.** program which stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics** is centered around these subjects and the careers associated with these subjects. CAPCS has been designated as a S.T.E.M. school. What's great about this is jobs in these fields are growing faster than many other occupations, and there is currently a shortage of minorities and women filling available positions.

Professionals in these fields, scientist; professors; engineers; internet technologists; etc., come in to talk to CAPCS students about S.T.E.M. careers. They also lead experiments and participate in other projects with students. Under the guidance and direction of these professionals, our CAPCS students have conducted experiments on alternative fuel sources for cars, filtering water from the Potomac river for drinking, and, one project that everyone loved, making ice cream.

Participation in the S.T.E.M. program at CAPCS is by invitation only. Invitees are students that adhere to CAPCS uniform policy, earn good grades, avoid referrals for behavior, and are generally top scholars. The next session will occur in February. If you'd like your child to be considered for this program, make sure he or she is meeting the qualifications for an invitation.

Last, but not least, regarding the upper school, each Wednesday the staff participates in professional development. Instructional coaches, other teachers, or consultants present demonstrations or modeling of effective lessons which, in turn, will help our teachers to build greater capacity.

Keep up the good work Upper School!

The PMF and Attendance (continued)

Parent Association (Continued)

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Black History Month

At CAPCS Amos 3

Have a happy and pride
filled

Black History Month!

The CAPCS Vision:

Our vision is to raise children to become competent, responsible adults who actively pursue lifelong learning opportunities.

The CAPCS Mission

The mission of Community Academy Public Charter school is to create a caring learning community where students acquire the knowledge, skills and habits of mind to think critically; to read, write, speak and listen effectively; to reason mathematically; to inquire scientifically; and to develop the social competence that ensures meeting the qualifications for acceptance to a competitive high school.

Dorothy Height Community Academy Public Charter School

1400 First Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

(202) 234-2122 (o)

(202) 234-2166 (f)

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Technology plays a major role in education at CAPCS. Students from pre-school through 8th grade benefit from technology as a learning aid. Director of Technology, Kyle Williams, allotted

Kyle Williams, Director of Technology Technology At CAPCS

some time to get us up to speed on just how technology is used to enhance the educational process at CAPCS. Pre-school teacher, Ms. Dewana Talley provided additional insight.

An early start is needed to keep pace in this rapidly changing and ever-progressing, technological world. The hottest new gadget today is replaced by a sleeker, faster, upgrade tomorrow. At CAPCS, we recognize this, and our students, as early as pre-school age, are introduced to the world of technology. Each of our pre-school classrooms is equipped with, at least, two desktop computers.

One of the computer software programs Ms. Talley utilizes in her pre-school classroom is Number World: "Building Blocks". Building Blocks helps students learn to recognize numbers, identify geometric shapes, and, in general, begin to learn mathematical and computer concepts. In the process of using the software, students learn to manipulate the "mouse". For example, in learning how to count, a student might have to click on a picture that represents "one" object and then click on the actual number "1" to show that they understand the concept of the number "one" and then two shapes, click two, etc. In addition, students begin to learn computing terms, how to move from screen to screen, and begin to develop a familiarity with the keyboard.

All classrooms, 1st thru 8th, are equipped with interactive whiteboards. An **interactive whiteboard (IWB)** is a large interactive display (it resembles a large, erasable whiteboard). The IWB connects to a [computer](#) and [projector](#). The projector projects whatever is on the computer's [desktop](#) onto the whiteboard

which is usually mounted on the wall like a blackboard. The whiteboard can then be manipulated like a touch-screen smart phone using a [pen](#), [finger](#), [stylus](#), or other device.

IWBs are used in a variety of settings, including [classrooms](#) at all levels of [education](#), in [corporate](#) board rooms and work groups, in training rooms for [professional sports coaching](#), in [broadcasting studios](#) (like the Weatherman uses) and others.

Another tool Amos 3 teachers are able to incorporate into providing effective lessons is the “document camera”. This camera replaces the old fashioned overhead projector. You remember that machine that required teachers to write information onto a transparency which would then be projected onto the wall of the classroom. Though effective and the best we had in its time, writing lessons on those transparencies could be quite a cumbersome process.

The document camera works on the same principle as the overhead except the transparency is not needed. The camera is simply positioned above pages in a book, teacher’s notes, or any other material which is then projected onto a surface. This innovation, available to CAPCS teachers allows lessons to be presented in an efficient, effective, and time-saving manner.

In addition to the technological enhancements discussed above, all classes have mini-labs consisting of at least 2-3 computers. There is also a classroom computer lab with 24 computers which allows students to work on special projects, for instance, where all students would be required to have computer or internet access. And, last but not least, a mobile lab consisting of 25 laptop computers, which provide instant internet access, is available which can be moved from classroom to classroom as needed.

See you on in cyberspace!

**Dewana Talley,
Preschool Teacher**

In The Spotlight

Next Parent Organization Meeting Tuesday, February 21, 2012

4:30 -- 5:30 pm
in the Auditorium.

Agenda: PTO Role in the Future of CAPCS

* Childcare provided and light snacks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wow!!!!!! We barely had enough seats at the last meeting to accommodate all of the parents that showed up. DO YOU SEE YOURSELF OUT THERE? Hopefully, we'll see YOU at the next meeting. We're only as strong as we are together.

Ms. Shirley Toussaint is happy the children have a time to learn and celebrate our black culture because they wouldn't have the same experience through conventional means. Oprah Winfrey stands out to Ms. Shirley as a role model, first of all, because they are both Aquarians and humanitarians, but, most of all because of where Oprah was able to take her life, considering her humble beginnings. That's truly inspirational!

Mr. Sean says about Black History Month – It's our month! He actually wishes we celebrated our history 365 days a year. And he believes God put black people on earth to tend to it. As evidence of that point, Sean raises the question, "Where and in what kind of condition would this earth be in if not for all the contributions that black people have made in this world?" President Obama stands out to Sean because he never conceived of seeing a black president during his lifetime. That was a game changer. There's nothing we can't do. Black History Month conjures up childhood memories for Ms. Deah Shaw. Ms. Shaw remembers being out of school on February recess when Black History Month rolled around. And her parents required that the kids complete special Black History reports over the recess period. Guess that wasn't always fun, but it helped (Deah) get a real and meaningful perspective of her black forerunners. As a child, Ms. Shaw already knew she wanted to be a lawyer and was inspired by Thurgood Marshall the 1st Black Supreme Court Justice. She admired Justice Marshall because although the times would not allow him to attend a major university, he was able to overcome hurdles he was confronted with through his diligence and persistence.

Applications for the 2012 — 2013 school year are now being accepted. More information is available at the main office or call 202-234-2122. Join the CAPCS Amos III family today!

The Parking Lot — Please bear with us during the construction. As you know there is now only one way in and one way out. We are making the best out of a difficult situation. It is important that you follow the instructions of parking lot staff. They will get you in and out in the most effective and safe manner. **Be aware of the children at all times and maintain a very low speed while in the lot. SLOW DOWN!!**

PLEASE DO NOT:

Park directly next to the building during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up.

Park in the driving lanes within the parking lot. By doing so, you are causing traffic jams.

Free After School and Weekend Tutoring — Tutoring in a variety of subjects including phonics, reading comprehension, reading and test taking strategies & mathematics is provided by caring, highly skilled, certified staff. Call today 202-234-2122 or stop by the main office today for more information.

3rd Grader — Paula Ndjiki-Nya respects Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and President Barack Obama because he is representing us (blacks) and has shown the world that Blacks are not dumb, but smart and can handle anything.

3rd Grader — Jeffrey Ampedu's favorite Black History figures are Harriett Tubman because she helped free the slaves on the Underground Railroad and Barack Obama for being the first Black president.

Black History Month

At CAPCS Amos 3
Black History Month
At CAPCS Amos 3

4th Grader Chontell Hawkins likes Martin Luther King because he went to college and did great things in his life and Rosa Parks because she wouldn't give up her seat on the bus.

4th Grader Aaron Anderson likes Jackie Robinson because he was the first black major league baseball player and he made us proud. Aaron mentioned that he himself is a fantastic football player.

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Black History Month
At CAPCS Amos 3

Science is one of 8th Grader Summer Savoy's favorite subjects and, fittingly, Summer admires Mae Jamison for being the first Black female astronaut.

J'Keil Keys admires Maya Angelou. She admires the way Ms. Angelou expresses herself and the way she is able to bring out the inner feelings of others.

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6th Grader Antonio Seldon admires Martin Luther King because he got real freedom for Blacks. Antonio further says that if it were not for Revern King, he probably wouldn't have the opportunity to attend CAPCS.

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Save the Children has two job openings for after school programs as a Program Coordinator or After School Program Assistant. To apply go to www.savethechildren.com and follow prompts under "careers".

YOUTH PROGRAMS / WORKSHOPS / CLASSES / CAMPS

WHAT: DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Summer Camps 2012

WHEN: Summer Camp registration begins online on February 27th

WHERE: 2427 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue SE

DETAILS: The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announces that registration is about to begin for another season of engaging and exciting summer camp programs. DPR Summer Camp registration will open for DC residents on February 27, 2012 at 12:00 PM. Registration will be open to non-residents on March 7, 2012 at 12:00 PM. Registration can be completed online or in-person at the DPR Summer Camp Office located at 1480 Girard Street, NW. Space fills on a first-come, first-served basis and enrollment is subject to availability. It is recommended that parents create an online DPR account for all campers in our registration system prior to the registration period in order to be best prepared.

DPR SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM OPTIONS

- Little Explorers Camp (ages 3-5)
- Aqua Day Camp (ages 6-13)
- Discovery Camp (ages 6-10)
- NEW - Discovery Camp: Be Green (ages 6-10)
- NEW - Tween Camp (ages 11-13)
- Green Buds (ages 8-13)
- NEW - Verano Spanish Immersion (ages 3-9)
- REC Camp (ages 6-13)

DPR Sports Camps: (ages 8-13)

- GOAL! Soccer Camp
- Nothing but Net Basketball Camp
- Score Multi-Sport Camp
- Spirit Cheerleading/Tumbling Camp
- SETLC Tennis Camp

DPR Partnership Camps:

- ACHIEVE Triathlon Camp (ages 9-14)

DPR Therapeutic Recreation Camps:

- Camp Adventure (ages 3-16)
- Camp Funward Bound (ages 21+)
- Let's Play Together (ages 3-10)

CONTACT: E-mail DPR.camps@dc.gov or call (202) 671-0372

WHAT: Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.'s Bullying in Schools: A Presentation for Students Workshop

WHEN: Wednesday, February 22nd from 1:00-1:45 pm

WHERE: Mamie D. Lee School: 100 Gallatin Street NE

CONTACT: Email info@tmapchs.org or call 202 563-6862

WHAT: Presidential Family Fun Day

WHERE: American Art Museum, Portrait Gallery (8th and F Streets NW), Kogod Courtyard

METRO: Gallery Place-Chinatown, 9th Street exit

WHEN: Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 11:30 AM – 3 PM

DETAILS: Start off your Presidents' Day weekend with a family day at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery. Remember our shared history as you enjoy patriotic music, stories, craft activities, and some special guests!

COST: FREE!

CONTACT: Visit <http://si.edu/Events/Calendar/?trumbaEmbed=date%3D20120218#/?i=1>.

WHAT: African American History Month Family Day

WHERE: Postal Museum (2 Massachusetts Avenue NE)

METRO: Union Station

WHEN: Saturday, February 18 from 12:00 – 3:00 PM

DETAILS: Discover the struggles and achievements of African Americans in the postal service with family activities. Design a stamp honoring your heritage hero, make a stamp collection, and sort mail in the Railway Post Office! Meet sixth grader Jackson Davis V who was inspired by a school project to begin a campaign to honor York, an enslaved African American who traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, on a US postage stamp.

COST: FREE!

CONTACT: Visit <http://si.edu/Events/Calendar/?trumbaEmbed=date%3D20120218#/?i=1>.

WHAT: Intermediate Concert

WHERE: Eastern HS Auditorium (1700 E. Capitol Street NE)

WHEN: Sunday, February 19th at 4:00 pm

DETAILS: All students in levels C-H perform after first 5 weeks of rehearsals. Performance groups include: Concert Orchestra, Preparatory Orchestra, Preparatory Wind Ensemble, Intermediate D Orchestra, Intermediate C Orchestra, and Intermediate Wind Ensemble.

CONTACT: For more information visit our website Strathmore Free Open House: Duke Ellington (Celebrating American Composers)

WHERE: Music Center at Strathmore (10701 Rockville Pike)

METRO: Grosvenor-Strathmore

WHEN: Monday, February 20, 2012 from 11:00-4:00 am

DETAILS: Strathmore's annual inside-out family festival explores the wonders of all things Ellington in a free, all-day celebration for all ages. Enjoy performances, workshops, sample classes and roving entertainment.

COST: FREE!

CONTACT: Visit <http://www.strathmore.org/eventstickets/calendar/view.asp?id=7981>.

Reminder

WHAT: Medical Museum Science Café: "From Dustoff to Medevac: A First-Person Look at the Transformation of Aeromedical Evacuation from 1971 – 1993," a presentation by LTC Christopher M. Siedor USA (RET)

WHEN: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Silver Spring Civic Building, Fenton Room 1 Veterans Place Silver Spring, MD 20910

DETAILS: During the Vietnam War, more than 58,000 Americans died and more than 300,000 were wounded. It was the job of military personnel assigned to medical aviation units to evacuate wounded troops and civilians to aid stations and hospitals. Join the National Museum of Health and Medicine and LTC Christopher M. Siedor (Ret.) as he shares his experience as a pilot of a "dustoff" crew during the last year of the war. Siedor will also explore the differences between flying during a conflict and peacetime, as well as what it is like to fly a medevac helicopter versus an airplane.

COST: FREE!

CONTACT: For more information, please call 301-319-3303 or visit <http://nmhm.washingtondc.museum>. This program is open to the public and no RSVP is required.

Be the to apply for the 2012-13 school year at the C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) application event **TOMORROW, from 11am to 3:30pm at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center (1100 Michigan Ave., NE)**. *on the attached flyer for more information about the event and eligibility for the program.*

Let your child be a part of the 1,600 D.C. children already participating in the OSP this school year.

Spread the word about the OSP to your friends and family! Be the first to know

about future application events by following us on twitter [@DCosp!](#)

For more information about the OSP visit our website www.dcscholarships.org

Hope to see you tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Your Friends at the Trust