

About the Newsletter

High Expectations is a publication of the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC). It is published and distributed quarterly as a tool to help keep members, schools, and community organizations informed, motivated, and inspired to act in positive ways to support students and our schools in closing the minority achievement gap in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Send comments to the following:

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Chantilly, VA 20153

For more information, go to www.cpmsac.org.

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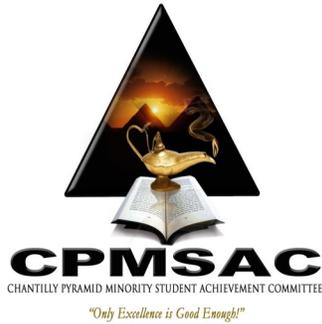
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High Expectations

www.cpmsac.org

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CPMSAC'S 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By Barbara Tyler



John Johnson and Dr. Johnny Nelson

The Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee's (CPMSAC) 25th Anniversary Celebration was held on November 8, 2009 at Hyatt Hotel in Fair Oaks, Virginia. The organization celebrated 25 years of commitment working with students, parents, and the community to close the achievement gap. We also celebrated Shirley O. Nelson's legacy to reach out to help minority and other students to achieve their highest academic goals. It was wonderful to see our charter members, current members,

and friends coming together to recommit and reconnect with each other to work to support the numerous programs that are being offered to our students and parents.

Fairfax County Public Schools were well represented at the banquet. School Board members, assistant superintendents, principals, and teachers were in attendance. Our keynote speaker was former Chantilly and Westfield High principal, Dale Rumberger. He and Shirley Nelson worked in partnership for many years to bring about educational and social changes on behalf of minority students in Fairfax County Public Schools. Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko said in his 34 years in public education, "I've never seen an organization that had the power to make the impact that CPMSAC has. And we look forward to working with CPMSAC for 25 more years to make even a greater impact on the community."

Special thanks and appreciation go out to the 25th Anniversary Committee team for a superior job, making this the highlight event of the year. We recognize the following: Rosalind Blunt, Louise Ford, Berdia Foster, Sylvester Smith, Pauline Morgan-Palmer, Meka Sales, Chuck Coffin, Darnelle Lightbourne, Sherelle Carper, Fran Blair, J.P. Gary, Ella Thomas, Joe Barr, Johnny Nelson and Barbara Tyler.



Barbara Tyler

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MESSAGE FROM CPMSAC'S PRESIDENT

Many of you may wonder why CPMSAC is still in existence. And why is the organization still facing the same situation it did when it started out over twenty-five years ago? Well, we can clearly answer the first question, but still lack the insight to answer the second question. We are still here because the community still needs us. There is still a need for a community voice regarding the academic achievement gap impacting minority students. The students still need to know the community stands behind them with its support. There is still the need to recognize and motivate students. We, as a community entity, still need to join schools and educational administrators to focus on the situation together as we seek lasting solutions.

Regarding the second, perplexing question, CPMSAC and educators across our nation still face many challenges to resolve the academic achievement gap between minority and non-minority students. We have had some success in Fairfax County Public Schools, but not nearly enough. While closing the achievement gap has not yet been fulfilled, it remains a quest which we vigorously pursue. The tools CPMSAC uses in this pursuit include our Saturday Towards Excellence (STEP) and Bulldogs Instructional Training (BIT) tutorial programs, our early evening to midnight Teach-In for students and parents, our quarterly recognition of minority honor roll students, and our Annual Academic Awards Programs for hundreds of students from over 32 different elementary, middle, and high schools. Yet, we do face challenges in effectively using these tools. Key among these challenges is finding ways to increase the involvement of minority parents in the schools. It is vitally important that schools know they have concerned parents and can count on their support. While parent involvement is certainly a crucial factor in increasing student academic performance, we realize this is only a part of the quest for answering the second question about permanently eliminating the achievement gap. Therefore, CPMSAC, and indeed we hope our nation, will remain focused on this matter and stay in the pursuit for an answer.

In the meantime, thanks CPMSAC members, friends, partners, and supporters for joining us over the years in the quest for this speaks true to our motto of "Caring about what we care about, the children."

Dr. Johnny L. Nelson, President
CPMSAC

CPMSAC Membership

CPMSAC wishes to thank all members for their participation in this year's membership drive and ask for your continued support. Our goal of 100 new and renewing membership each year has fallen short for this year. We ask, if you have not participated this year, please do so. Your membership of \$25 .00 per family per year provides for many programs sponsored by CPMSAC. You can use your credit card at www.CPMSAC.org or make a check payable to CPMSAC and mail to CPMSAC, P.O. Box 221351, Chantilly, VA 250153.

UP-COMING CPMSAC EVENTS

April 16, 2010 – Westfield High School

Reality Store: An annual on-site event at the high school aimed to actively engage students realizing the importance of educational readiness for employment and handling personal budgetary matters

April 23, 2010 – Chantilly High School

CPMSAC's Youth Enrichment Teach-In: An early evening to mid-night session for middle and high school students focusing on school "survival" skills, specific academic skills, leadership training, and parent advocacy practices and culminating in games and other fun activities

June 5 and 6, 2010 – Chantilly High School and Poplar Tree Elementary School

Annual Youth Motivation and Academic Awards Program: A special program designed to recognize and motivate minority students in the presence of their peers and parents to achieve and maintain high academic performance

June 8, 2010 – Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School

New School Building Dedication Ceremony: CPMSAC invited to participate in the ceremony in recognition of its role in the school being named after a local and highly admired African American educator

September 24, 2010 -- South Riding Golf Course, South Riding VA

Fourth Annual Shirley O. Nelson Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament: "SAVE THE DATE" with more information to follow as the date approaches.

CPMSAC Gears Up for Its Annual S.O.N.-Light Student Enrichment Program

By JP Gary

The *S.O.N.-Light Student Enrichment Program* is an annual event which seeks to continue the vision and legacy of our founder Shirley O. Nelson. Her initials are found in the name and her tenants and vision are the driving force of the event. Once a year, we invite 6th to 12th graders to come take part in a program which seeks to better them as students, people, and citizens.

This year the event will be held at Chantilly High School on April 23rd from 6:00 to 11:30 p.m. and will feature young professionals from different walks of life. Traditional speeches have been replaced with interactive conversations where students will have an opportunity to speak in open forum style with the featured program volunteers. Parents are also invited to come enjoy the evening in our parent sessions which will arm them with tools to be better advocates for their children.

Visit our website, www.cpmsac.org, for more information.



PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Wanda Tanks-Gregory
Brookfield Elementary

Troy Carpenter
Centre Ridge
Elementary

Carla Johnson
Centreville Elementary

Deanna McRae King
Cub Run Elementary

Sheri Abrams
Deer Park Elementary

Dee Mitchell
Floriss Elementary

Kimberly Pinkston-Harper
Greenbriar
West Elementary

Kim Graham
Lees Corner
Elementary

Consuelo C. Villalobos and Tony Humphrey
London Towne
Elementary

Lynetta Hughes
Rocky Run Middle
School

Tiffany Thrasher & Norris Hard
Stone
Middle School

Wanda Tanks-Gregory
Chantilly High
School

Mark Richardson
Westfield High School

CPMSAC'S PROGRAMS

By Barbara Tyler

COMMUNITY PARENT REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

The Community Parent Representative is the liaison between the school and Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC) with the responsibility and authority to promote and foster effective communication on the needs and concerns of minority students and parents. This individual seeks and promotes programs and activities which foster better relations and involvement for minority students and their families in the school and its activities. The individual will have to join and attend his/her school PTA/PTSA Board meeting. He/she should also join CPMSAC and attend some of its meetings.

Presently, we have 33 schools in our clusters, but only 13 schools have parent representatives. Our hope is to get the 20 schools who are not participating on board. We thank the parent representatives for their time and commitment to reach out to students, parents and school administrators.

"YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

EDUCATION TEACH-IN FOR PARENTS

Mark your calendar to attend our next "Education Teach-In" for Parents segment on April 23, 2010 at Chantilly High School at 7:30 p.m. You will walk away feeling empowered with knowledge to work with Fairfax County Public Schools.

Last year at our Education Teach-In for Parents, we focused on four areas that were very informative.

- Dr. Patrick Murphy, assistant superintendent in the Department of Accountability talked about the "grading system" changes and what parents need to look for when the report cards come home.
- Dollars for Scholars: Ms. Danielle Blunt and Dr. Rosalind Blunt discussed how to locate scholarships for your college bound students.
- Parent Advocacy: Ms. Tabitha Morrison and Ms. Carolyn Beard presented a slide presentation on how to be an advocate for your child.
- "School Based Pyramid of Interventions": Ms. Darryle Craig, Fairfax County Public Schools, Office of Educational Planning, Department of Accountability and Dr. Jane Dreyfuss (Cluster Director, Cluster VIII) presented a new initiative on interventions for students who fail. The idea is for every school to have interventions in place that answer the question, "How will we respond when some students don't learn?" They wanted to get feedback from CPMSAC parents.

CPMSAC's PROGRAMS

By Barbara Tyler

THE ANNUAL PRINCIPAL'S RECEPTION

The Annual Principal's Reception was held on October 22, 2009 at Sully Station Community Center. Our theme was "Commitment to Mission" 25 years of School and Community Service. This reception focused on our strong working partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools for the betterment of minority and other students. We recognized and thanked all Cluster directors, representatives from the superintendent's office, principals, school board and county representatives, PTA/PTSA board presidents, parent representatives, and friends for their support. Each person in attendance was given a bottle of "sparkling cider" to toast the 25 years as an organization. We give special thanks to the principals for their outreach to our numerous programs, such as MLK festival, Annual Youth Motivation and Academic Awards, CPMSAC Achiever Academic Recognitions, Youth Enrichment Teach-In, and STEP and BITS tutorial programs.

SATURDAY TOWARD EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (STEP)

STEP tutorial program services are available to students in all Fairfax County Public Schools Cluster 7 schools and several schools in Cluster 8. STEP offers free tutoring for all students in grades 3 through 12. Students who could benefit from the program are recommended by their counselors, teachers, and parents. We have high expectations for students who enter the program. STEP helps students to build self-confidence, promote positive attitudes, promote setting goals, acquire new skills, and improve their grades. We meet three Saturday mornings each month from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Chantilly High School Media Center.

We have an open enrollment, and students enter the program each week. Currently, 65 students from 21 schools are enrolled. We have 45 volunteer tutors from the high and middle schools, corporations and the community available to tutor students with numerous requests in various subjects.

The following programs and activities are also offered:

- Study Skills and Writing Skills workshops
- Spelling and Mathematics "B" contests
- College Round-up
- Motivational speakers
- Book Club Café
- Parental Involvement Workshop

Our annual **College Round-Up** and **Study Skills Workshop** were held on January 9, 2010 at Chantilly High School. During the first part of the program, students had the opportunity to meet the following students: Angela Alvarez/ George Mason University, Rachel Cantor/Univ. of Virginia, Shari Francis/Pratt Univ., Kelly James/Longwood College, Willie McDuffy/Virginia Commonwealth Univ., and Coleman Young/Duke Univ. These college students shared their experiences and strategies that they used to survive in college. They also conducted small group discussions on getting good grades, getting along with others, and participating in their school activities.

During the second part of the program, Mrs. Andria Shoates from Northern Virginia Community College conducted the **Study Skills Workshop**. Students learned the importance of organizational, time management, test taking and listening skills which will improve their performance in their classes.

Saturdays Toward Excellence Program (STEP)

By Louise Ford

STEP

There are three ways in which you can assure continuous success of CPMSAC's

Programs:

- **Spread the word of the STEP tutoring services with friends, neighbors and business colleagues.**
- **Volunteer as a STEP tutor or motivational speaker.**
- **Make a generous donation to the STEP program.**

Please make checks payable to: CPMSAC (STEP) and mail to:

**P.O. Box 221351
Chantilly, VA
20153-1351**

Read Out Loud Program (ROL) - This elementary school program has grown from just a few students to more than 35 students. Students once in elementary, now in middle school, still wanted to be in the reading program, so Mrs. Andria Shoates volunteered to work with the 7th & 8th graders.

Mrs. Barbara Gillison, volunteer tutor, heads up the elementary school ROL Program with seven volunteer tutors who are assigned small groups, which allow time for individual assistance with emphasis on mastery of basic reading skills that are critical to academic success. Students special practices include recalling details, making inferences, using prior knowledge, comparing and contrasting, and learning to write sentences and paragraphs. Several students were selected last year to write articles which were placed in the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC) Youth Motivation and Academic Achievement Awards Program booklet.

Volunteer Parents - Parents are asked to participate three times during the school year. This program is set up for parents to participate with their children while they study. In the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Ford, coordinator of this program, provides a calendar from which parents can select the dates they want to participate. The parent assignments range from setting up and serving snacks to serving as hall monitor, cleaning up or being a motivational speaker. Mrs. Marianne Adams, volunteer parent, volunteered to bring healthy snacks on Saturdays, setup and serve the students and tutors with the assistance of other volunteer parents.

Banquet - At the end of each year, STEP celebrates by having a banquet for the students and tutors. Last year there were over 130 guests, parents, students, and tutors in attendance.

The Program guest speakers were Mr. Frank, Assistant Principal, Chantilly HS; Dr. Johnny Nelson, President, CPMSAC; Mrs. Barbara Gillians, FCPS Volunteer Tutor; Mr. John Maul, Aerospace Volunteer Tutor; and Jonathan Jones, student.

The students received a certificate honoring all who participated in the STEP program, and the tutors received a certificate and a rose for motivating students, volunteering their time and services, and encouraging students to strive and achieve their goals and to work harder in their studies. McKenzie McKoy, 6th grade winner of "The Spelling "B" Contest," received a trophy.

CPMSAC Sets Record with Number of Quarterly Academic Achievement Recipients

By Mark Richardson

For over 25 years, CPMSAC has rewarded African American and Hispanic students who have achieved good grades in school. One of our methods of rewarding high achieving students is to recognize students through our quarterly academic achievement certificate program. Over the years, CPMSAC has issued on average over 1,500 quarterly academic achievement certificates each quarter for the first two quarters of each school year to deserving elementary, middle, and high school students. The number of African American and Hispanic students attending CPMSAC sponsored schools has significantly increased since the inception of the quarterly academic achievement recognition program. This year, CPMSAC awarded nearly 2,800 quarterly academic achievement certificates to deserving students attending western Fairfax County Public Schools. What a great accomplishment for CPMSAC and, moreover, what excellent achievement from our students. For the quarterly Academic Achievers recognition roll, the criteria are as follows:

1. "A" Highest Achiever certificates are issued to students achieving all "As" on their quarterly report card.
2. "AB" Highest Achiever certificates are issued to students achieving all As and Bs on their quarterly report card. No Cs, Ds, or Fs are allowed.
3. "B" High Achiever certificates are issued to students achieving an overall "B" average on their quarterly report cards. No Ds or Fs are allowed.

Over 950 elementary students and over 1,800 middle and high school students received recognition certificates for the first quarter. Please join CPMSAC in congratulating all of our award winners for the first quarter. As the second quarter comes to a close, look for even higher numbers of award winners. Keep up the good work!!

Summer Opportunities for Students

Now is the time to apply for a summer learning experience. Study a new subject, explore a career, earn college credit, or live and study as a college student on a college campus. To learn about summer programs, visit the following website.

<http://www.enrichmentalley.com/programs/alphabetical>

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
“We Dream a World of Love, Vision, Democracy, and Hope”
MLK Festival 2010

By Kim D. Graham



Jonesha Fullerton

What a wonderful celebration we had at Westfield High School on January 17th. Dr. King truly would have been proud to see all of us together as we remembered him for all of his many accomplishments! He would have been smiling as he watched the performances of so many talented, self assured, cooperative, educated children, and adult role models! Dr. King would have been thrilled to see the dedicated teachers, sponsors, school administrators, friends, and families supporting one another. His applause would surely have been heard over everyone else's!

Our Mistress and Master of Ceremony were Alexis Askew and Malcolm Gregory, both seniors at Chantilly High School. The Westfield High School Chamber Singers opened the evening with several numbers, including “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” McNair Elementary School's Singers and Recorder Club performed “There Will Be Peace.” A poetry reading, “Martin Luther King,”

was done by Elanna Gregory, Cameron Vaughn, and Trent Pace. Jonesha Fullerton, an 8th grader from Franklin Middle School, sang, “When You Believe.” Centreville High School's Wildcat Guitarists and Westfield's Drum Line displayed their talents and vigor with the audience.

Lees Corner's Fifth Grade Chorus did a rap, “I Have a Dream,” and it was filled with positive energy! The 6th Grade Chorus from Greenbriar East sang, “Amani Utupe” and Brookfield's 5th and 6th Graders entertained us with “I Am a Small Part of the World.” Some of our youngest talents came from Colin Powell as they mesmerized us with “The Quest for Peace.” Piano solos were performed by pianists Kathryn Young from Rocky Run and Kendra Sung from Rachel Carson; both played beautifully.

We were fortunate this year to be entertained by one of our professional local talents, Tara Byrd, who sang, “Hero” which was truly fitting of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Guest artist singers included, Elmeria Buckhalter, who moved us with “Still I Rise,” and a returning favorite, Anthony Ogburn, who performed “If,” both joining us from New York City. We were moved by a beautiful dance selection by Tracy Parris-Caballero as she moved to “I Can See in Color.”

We know the many hours of practice and thought that each of the performers committed for this wonderful outcome, and we appreciate their participation which made this a memorable event!

Committee Members: Deneen Vaughan, Wanda Tanks-Gregory, Brenda Johnson, and Kim Graham

Students from Colin Powell
Elementary School



SCHOLARSHIPS

March

Army Emergency Relief's MG James Ursano Scholarship Program

https://www.aerhq.org/AER_Child/AER_childform_text.asp

For: dependent children of soldiers on federal active duty, retired, or deceased while in active or retired status

Deadline: March 1, 2010

Persina Scholarship for Diversity in Journalism

Ellen Masin Persina/National Press Club Scholarship (\$20,000 at \$5,000 a year for four years of undergraduate studies)

<http://npc.press.org/activities/aboutscholarship.cfm#persina>

For: high school seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or better and interested in majoring in journalism

Deadline: March 1, 2010

Richard G. Zimmerman Journalism Scholarship

<http://npc.press.org/activities/aboutscholarship.cfm#zimmerman>

For: high school seniors with a 3.0 grade average

Deadline: March 1, 2010

American Architectural Foundation AIA/AAF Minority/Disadvantaged Scholarship Program

<http://www.aia.org/education/AIAB081881>

For: minority/disadvantaged high school seniors and college freshmen who plan to study architecture at a NAAB-accredited program

Deadline: March 12, 2010

Jackie Robinson Four-Year Scholarship

<http://www.jackierobinson.org/apply/general-applicants.php>

For: minority high school students showing leadership potential and demonstrating financial need to attend an accredited 4-year college or university of their choice

Deadline: March 15, 2010

April

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

http://www.mcsf.com/site/c.ivKVLAMTluG/b.1678341/k.7C5C/Eligibility_Requirements.htm

http://www.mcsf.com/site/c.ivKVLAMTluG/b.1696095/k.9BB0/for_Students.htm

For: sons and daughters of Marines and children of former Marines, particularly children whose parent was killed or wounded in action

Deadline: April 1, 2010

Virginia Police Chief Foundation College Scholarship Program

http://www.vapolicefoundation.org/scholarships/scholarships_rf.html

For: dependent children of active police officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Deadline: April 2, 2010

AMVETS National Service Foundation

<http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships.html>

For: A son, daughter or grandchild of a veteran/active military or deceased veteran based on academic excellence and financial need

Deadline: April 15, 2010

Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association

<http://www.vcta.com/vcta-events-scholarship-information.html>

For: Virginia students attending Virginia colleges

Deadline: April 15, 2010

Search the
following websites
for scholarships.



[http://
www.uncf.org/
ForStudents/
index.asp](http://www.uncf.org/ForStudents/index.asp)

See this
opportunity:
Verizon Wireless
Black History
Month Essay
Contest
(Northeast Area)
Up to \$5,000.00
<http://>

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A YEAR IN REVIEW – 2009

2009 was a great 25th Anniversary Year for CPMSAC - cases in point, we had record attendance at both our Teach-In and Student Academic Achievement Awards Programs. Over 19,000 Quarterly Student Academic Achievement Certificates were awarded, and our Scholarship Fundraising Golf Tournament and Student Tutoring programs continued to be successful. Of special note also, CPMSAC was not only again published in the local *Centre View* newspaper, but for the first time in the nationwide *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine and featured on a popular radio program. As a crowning encore for the year, our 25th Anniversary Celebration event was a class act and absolutely fantastic!

Giving a quick glimpse to 2010, our first “it takes a village” event was CPMSAC’s ever popular MLK, Jr. Festival which was held in January. Once again the festival was truly heartwarming as children and adults alike exemplified the strength of diversity and the value of racial harmony in schools and communities. Also, during the opening of 2010, CPMSAC was recognized for twenty-five years of school and community service by the Fairfax County School Board in appreciation of our mission to support, motivate, recognize, and foster overall improvement of minority student achievement in Fairfax County Public Schools.

A big THANKS to each supporter for your dedication and service as you participated in helping CPMSAC carry out its mission and perpetuating its founder’s (Shirley O. Nelson) legacy.

Johnny O. Nelson

Read the article published by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* at <http://diverseeducation.com/article/13179/chantilly-pyramid-minority-student-achievement-committee-celebrates-25th-anniversary.html>

Read the article published by *Centre View* at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=335709&paper=62&cat=104>

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

For many years, I have presented writing workshops for STEP at the invitation of my colleague, Barbara Tyler, and I am pleased to assume the role of editor of *High Expectations*. Having been an educator in secondary and post-secondary institutions for more than 30 years, I share CPMSAC’s mission to “support, motivate, recognize and to foster overall improvement of minority student achievement in Fairfax County Public Schools.” This mission is an important one because statistics reveal that approximately 50% of African American and Hispanic students in the U.S. do not complete high school. Many who do graduate high school are not prepared for college. Data from the federal government reports that 43 percent of students at public two-year colleges and 29 percent of students at public four-year colleges enroll in remedial courses.

I look forward to joining the members in their advocacy for today’s youth, realizing that academic success requires commitment and diligence of educators, community members, and parents, as well as the students. I thank all persons who assisted in the production of this issue of *High Expectations* and look forward to your submissions for the next edition.

Rosalind Blunt

CHANTILLY PYRAMID MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

**\$25.00 per Year per Family
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



2009-2010 School Year

Checks Can be made payable to: CPMSAC

Souvenir Program (2007-2008)	()	\$ 5.00
Donation	()	\$ _____
Family Membership	()	\$ 25.00

A Souvenir Booklet is included free if you pay your membership dues today!

First Name	(Print)	MI	Last Name	(Print)	New	Re-new	Phone #'s
Mr.							Home
Mrs./Ms.							Office
Address		(Print)	City		State	Zip	Other
Child	Name		School		Grade	Parent	E-Mail

**THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CPMSAC
PLEASE CHECK THE PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN**

Annual Youth and Motivation Awards Program _____ Enrichment Teach-In _____
 Tutoring _____ Motivational Speaker _____ Principal's Reception _____
 Board Member _____ Annual King Festival _____ Shirley Nelson Golf Tournament _____
 Minority Student Achievement Parent Rep. _____ Fundraising _____ Newsletter _____