February 2008

Wisconsin Career Academy

WCA News... ...You Can Use

Director's Corner

Dear WCA community,

This time it will be a short welcome letter from me, as our newsletter is already full of information and talks for itself. It doesn't need to have a long introduction summarizing itself. Read through "WCA News... You Can Use," and you will agree on this.

I just want to point out that we are more than half way through the school-year and are becoming fruitful already. We had our motivational speaker during the 2nd honor roll ceremony. We are getting ready for the WCA school-wide science fair to send eligible projects of ours to MRSEF. There has been three Science Saturdays, with three more to go. There are only six games left for the basketball team until the end of the season. MRAF is getting the word out for this year's event. Homecoming week is already in full swing. This is our fifth newsletter already. Our new website is full of up-to-date information for everyone to see and follow what is going on at WCA. Black History Month is on its way to being celebrated. Yearbooks are on sale. College visits are being scheduled. Trips and camps are being planned. But, the best of all these happenings is that four seniors of ours have already received their acceptance letters to colleges and have received $33,000.00 in scholarships so far. It is our motto that we are "college bound". Let's make sure that we see all our students at a prestigious college next year!

As I conclude, I would like to give you a heads up and alert our parents that it is time for enrollment season for the next year. You will see our brochures coming in, ads posted around town, and commercials aired. Let's move ahead for a better future for our students.

All the best,

Kemal Kaman

Director

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A Message From Ms. Hall

Dear Students and Parents,

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I will have to take the semester off. I will return for the 2008-2009 school year.

Fortunately, there will be a licensed teacher to replace me while I am gone. Because this person will be new and unfamiliar with your child, you may want to take a more active role in the student's education by doing the following:

Call your child's regular education teachers weekly for an update on incomplete or failed assignments.
Require your son/daughter to do free reading every night.
Schedule a monthly meeting with the school guidance counselor, social worker or a one of your child's teachers.
Require your child to stay after once or more weekly with the teacher to complete schoolwork.

Each teacher has a phone extension at which they can be reached, making them available to talk with you. And, remember, teachers arrive at 8:00 am and are required to stay after school hours until 4:00 pm so call before or after school hours.

Please help your child to be successful by helping them with schoolwork or finding someone who can!

Sincerely,
Patricia Hall
Special Education Teacher

Meet the Staff... Once More!

Zehra Tekin

I was born in capital of Turkey, Ankara.The streets of "Kizilay" and the cafes in the 'Sakarya Caddesi' bustled with college students from the many campuses in Ankara made me decide to go to college when I was just 7. Back then I wanted to become a journalist, but I ended up studying Computer Technology and Office Management in one of the best universities of the nation, Bilkent University. After graduation, I worked for Deloitte& Touché global finance firm, as Human Resources (HR) Administrator. The responsibility of the HR at there was challenging enough to make me want to pursue a degree in HR. Since I already had a degree from Turkey, in order to broaden my horizon and skill sets, I decided to study in the US and received admission from Strayer University in Virginia. My plan was to go back to the same job in Ankara, but life makes its own plans for each of us. Meeting my husband Koksal and getting married in a short time has changed my life. Due to his business, we have recently moved to Milwaukee which is the coldest city I have ever been.

Joining the team at Wisconsin Career Academy as the Director of HR and College Coordinator has been making it easier for me to get used to this new environment. It is a privilege to be a part of this institution.

Among my hobbies are hiking, cooking and playing tennis with my husband. We also like to spend as much time as possible with our one year old son Mehmet Sami.

Sandra Nelson

Sandra Nelson is thrilled to join the WCA team. She is currently replacing Ms. Hall who is on a temporary sick leave. Ms Nelson holds a Ph.D. in English from UWM, a MS in Educational Psychology with a major in School and Community Counseling, and an MFA in Art. She taught art at UWM for two years and taught at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design for ten years. She also taught English at UWM for seven years and was the editor-in-chief for the "Cream City Review", a literacy magazine, for two years. She has published over 130 poems, short stories, and literacy criticism in over 100 literacy journals. She enjoys reading, writing, and cooking.

NEW TARDY POLICY—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Attention Parents: *Please be aware of the following changes to our school's tardy policy. Please read the following very closely. All students will be held accountable for being in each class on time every day. THIS INCLUDES FIRST HOUR. Students need to come to school on time! We understand that sometimes there are circumstances where a student is late in the morning that cannot be helped. That is why students are allowed up to FIVE excused tardies to school per quarter. That means the parent/guardian must either call, send a note with the student, or come into the office in person to sign the student in. All other tardies will be considered UNEXCUSED. Also, if a student has already reached their five excused morning tardies for the quarter, all subsequent tardies will be considered unexcused unless the student brings a verifiable notice such as a doctor's note which will excuse a student for further incidents. If you have questions, please contact the school at (414) 483-2117.*

Tardiness

Tardiness is defined as a failure to be in the place of instruction at the assigned time without a valid excuse. Tardiness to school and to class—whether the result of oversleeping, missing the bus, car problems, baby-sitting, athletic workouts, socializing, or lingering in the halls—is unacceptable.

School Tardy Policy

Failing to arrive at school on time is a tardy. You must have your parent/guardian call the office and write an explanatory note if you arrive late to school. The school will accept up to five tardy excuses from parents/guardians per quarter. Report to the office and sign in when you arrive. The office staff person will give you a morning tardy pass. You may then proceed to your locker and straight to class. Tardies will also be reset to zero each quarter. The following are the consequences for repeated school tardiness:

- 1st-6th time: Warning. Student will sign an acknowledgement form.
- 7th-10th time: In addition to the student signing the acknowledgement form, parents will receive a phone call home.
- 11th-14th time: In addition to signing the acknowledgement form, student will have an after school 45 minute detention. Student will also receive a written detention notice to take home to their parents/guardians. Detentions will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays starting at 2:40pm. If the student arrives late or fails to show up to detention, he or she will receive an automatic day in the Alternative Learning Center (ALC).
- 15th+ time: In addition to signing the acknowledgement form, student will be referred to Dean of Students for further disciplinary action.

Class Tardy Policy

Failing to attend class on time is also a tardy. When the bell rings, students should be inside their classrooms and the teachers will close the classroom doors. If a student is left in the hallway, they must report to Room #210 to get a tardy pass. Tardies will be counted and accumulated for all class periods combined each quarter. Tardies will also be reset to zero each quarter. The following are the consequences for repeated tardiness:

- 1st-6th time: Warning. Student will sign an acknowledgement form.
- 7th-10th time: In addition to the student signing the acknowledgement form, parents will receive a phone call home.

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NEW TARDY POLICY—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

- 11th-14th time: In addition to signing the acknowledgement form, student will have an after school 45 minute detention. Student will also receive a written detention notice to take home to their parents/ guardians. Detentions will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays starting at 2:40pm. If the student arrives late or fails to show up to detention, he or she will receive an automatic day in the Alternative Learning Center (ALC).
- 15th+ time: In addition to signing the acknowledgement form, student will be referred to Dean of Stu-

NUEVA POLÍTICA EN CUANTO A LAS TARDANZAS ¡LEA CUIDADOSAMENTE!

***PADRES**: Queremos que Uds. estén conscientes de la nueva política en cuanto a las tardanzas. Lea la siguiente información, por favor. Los estudiantes son responsables por llegar a tiempo a todas sus clases, todos los días. SE INCLUYE LA CLASE DE PRIMERA HORA. ¡Los estudiantes necesitan llegar a tiempo a la escuela! Entendemos que a veces hay circunstancias que hacen imposible la llegada puntual de un/una estudiante. Por eso, se permiten hasta cinco tardanzas excusadas a la escuela por cada cuarto académico. Para que una tardanza sea excusada, un padre/un custodio tiene que llamar a la oficina, mandar una nota con el/la estudiante o venir a la oficina en persona. Si no hace Ud. una de estas cosas, la tardanza no se considera excusada. También, si un/una estudiante ya tiene cinco tardanzas excusadas para el cuarto académico, más tardanzas se considerarán NO excusados, salvo que el/la estudiante presente una excusa del doctor. Si tiene una pregunta, llame a la escuela a (414) 483-2117.*

La tardanza
Se define como no estar en el lugar de instrucción al tiempo requerido sin tener una excusa válida. Llegar tarde a la escuela o a las clases – si es resultado de no despertarse a tiempo, o faltar el autobus, o tener problemas con el carro, o tener que cuidar a niños, o ir al gimnasio, o hablar con sus amigos, o pasar demasiado tiempo en el pasillo, etc. – no es aceptable.

La política en cuanto a llegar tarde a la escuela
No llegar a tiempo a la escuela se considera una tardanza. Es necesario que un padre o un custodio llame a la oficina y que escriba una nota para explicar la tardanza si el/la estudiante llega tarde a la escuela. La escuela aceptará hasta cinco tardanzas excusadas por padres cada cuarto académico. Vaya inmediatamente a la oficina cuando llega tarde. Una de las secretarias le dará un pase. Entonces, puede ir a su casillero y a su clase. Al principio de cada cuarto académico, se eliminan las tardanzas del cuarto previo. Estas son las consequencias de multiples tardanzas:

- 1-6 tardanzas: Un aviso. El/ la estudiante tiene que firmar un formulario para admitir cada tardanza.
- 7-10 tardanzas: Además de firmar el formulario, la escuela llama por teléfono a la casa de el/la estudiante.
- 11-14 tardanzas: Además de firmar el formulario, el/la estudiante tendrá una detención de 45 minutos al final del día escolar. También, el/la estudiante recibirá una notificación escrita para llevar a casa para que sus padres/custodios la lean. Se servirán las detenciones los miércoles y los jueves a las 2:40 en punto. Si un/una estudiante llega tarde o no viene para la detención, él o ella tendrá que pasar un día en el ALC (El Centro Alternativo de Aprender).

NUEVA POLÍTICA EN CUANTO A LAS TARDANZAS ¡LEA CUIDADOSAMENTE!

- 15+ tardanzas: Además de firmar el formulario, se envia el/la estudiante al Director de Estudiantes para más resultados disciplinarios.

La política en cuanto a llegar tarde a las clases

No llegar a tiempo a una clase también se considera una tardanza. Cuando suena el timbre, los estudiantes deben estar en sus clases y los maestros cerrarán las puertas. Si un/una estudiante todavía está en el pasillo, tiene que ir inmediatamente al salón #210 para obtener un pase. Se calcularán cuantas veces un/una estudiante llega tarde a todas sus clases combinadas cada cuarto académico. Al principio de cada cuarto académico, se eliminan las tardanzas del cuarto previo. Estas son las consecuencias de multiples tardanzas:

- 1-6 tardanzas: Un aviso. El/ la estudiante tiene que firmar un formulario para admitir cada tardanza.
- 7-10 tardanzas: Además de firmar el formulario, la escuela llama por teléfono a la casa de el/la estudiante.
- 11-14 tardanzas: Además de firmar el formulario, el/la estudiante tendrá una detención de 45 minutos al final del día escolar. También, el/la estudiante recibirá una notificación escrita para llevar a casa para que sus padres/custodios la lean. Se servirán las detenciones los miércoles y los jueves a las 2:40 en punto. Si un/una estudiante llega tarde o no viene para la detención, él o ella tendrá que pasar un día en el ALC (El Centro Alternativo de Aprender).
- 15+ tardanzas: Además de firmar el formulario, se envia el/la estudiante al Director de Estudiantes para más resultados disciplinarios.

Question: *My child never seems to get ready on time. How can I help her to be organized so that we are not late to school in the morning?*

Answer: One way to get your child organized is to design a chart that breaks down what she needs to do to get ready into manageable and specific steps. Then set consequences and rewards for accomplishing these steps. It is important to check the chart each day and review it with your child. Stress the importance of getting to school on time. You may want to talk about all the advantages of being on time — having extra time to chat with friends, having time to ask the teacher any questions that you may have, and preparing for the start of the day without being rushed.

Sample Contract

Week of February 4, 2008

I promise to finish all the chores on my chart every school day. If I miss two or more, I will not be able to go to the movies this weekend.

Signed:

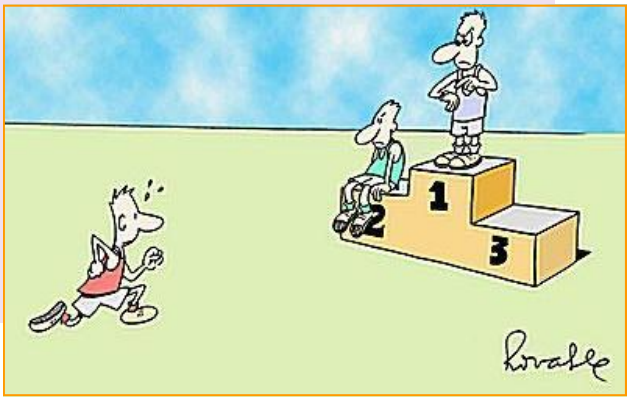
_____

Child

_____

Parent

By Dr. Ruth Jacoby.



Honors Assembly and Words of Wisdom

On Friday, February 1, the second Honors Assembly was held in order to acknowledge and reward those students who qualified for the High Honor Roll, Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, and No School Consequences lists for 2nd quarter. In addition, first-hour classrooms were compared to one another to see which one had the greatest percentage of students meeting one or more of the four aforementioned categories. Also honored at this assembly were Most Improved students, based on grades and reports from 1st quarter compared to this quarter. Congratulations to all the students who were recognized. Keep up the dedication and hard work!

The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.

During the awards ceremony, Ron Glodoski spoke to the student body, speaking from the heart of real life experience. He has lived--and thrived--on both sides of the law. He's a dynamic businessman who survived an abusive childhood by escaping to the street. At age 12, he was a gang member. By the time he was 15, he was a gang leader with a felony record consisting of armed robbery, strong-armed robbery, assault and battery, and car theft. In his twenties, he became one of the most successful drug dealers in Milwaukee--commanding an extensive criminal network. After 20 years as a criminal, Ron hit rock bottom and finally woke up. He had lost his family, and most of his friends were either dead or doing time. He wanted out of the gangster life.

His decision to change his life led him on a path to self-discovery. He stopped dealing and using drugs and began successfully applying his skills to a series of legitimate businesses--including a teddy bear company he grew from a home-based business to a company employing 35 people and generating $1.8 million a year. Today, he is an author and motivational speaker; leads workshops and support groups on gang life, violence prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse; is a volunteer counselor for social service agencies; and a popular speaker in schools, prisons, and detention centers. As someone who has been there and made it through, Ron reached out to the students with respect, and taught them how to take back their right to choose a better way of life.

HIGH HONOR ROLL

Conway, Amanda

Conway, Danille

Cook, Samara

Cruz, Jessica

Gonzales, Freddie

Marquardt, Julia

Marquardt, Rebecca

Pikalek, Christopher

Ramirez, Alonzo

Raspberry, Precious

Reyes, Celeste

Sithy, Claudia

Sithy, Victoria

Ziervogel, Taylor

Abbott, Andrew

Brown, Corinna

Cortez, Lesette

Graef, Ryan

Guy, Sarinthia

Mason, Akilah

Messer, Cory

Sims, Brandon

Vang, Nicholas

Sithy, Kenneth

Vang, Peter

Vrchota, Andrew

Hawthorne, Ashley

Vang, Mai Ger

Abdullah, Habeeb

Abu Ain, Ahmad

Bostic, Kenya

Perez, Lourdes

Reddick, Timothy

Villa, Pedro

Quiles, Frank

Wilkerson, Shakari

Williams, Brennae

HONOR ROLL

Bell, Nyjal

Collingwood, Marguerite

Garcia, Emily

Fuentes, Jose

Jacobs, Akeem

Jandron, Elizabeth

Jeske, Timothy

Johnson, Shanice

Knippel, Kyle

Martinez, Jonathan

Miller, Jokeisha

Oliver-Cooper, Brenda

Orta, Anel

Orta, Jaqueline

Pagelsdorf, Amber

Pantojas, Kianah

Ponga, Matthew

Raspberry, Jasmine

Torres, Estefania

Vang, Ricky

Vang, Sarah

Rush, Valencia

Jasmine Wilder

Gonzalez, Carlos

Guzman, Sasha

Fox, Simone

Abdullah, Ibrahim

Addison, Sharmaine

Belt, Phillip

Bradby, Dale

Cobb, Bianca

Cole, Diamond

Diggs, Kevin

Flores, Jose

Character Counts at WCA

Part 2: The Elements in Need of Repair

The Pieces

America's degradation of ethics has been attributed to many societal flaws. Some would say a decline in religious values. Others would point to the rise of dysfunctional families. Most would blame the predominate use of the media to parent our youth. Whatever the reason, the focus on absolutes has been watered down and today's youth can no longer discern right from wrong. Relativism is especially rampant in our middle and senior high schools as students seek adolescent individuality and independence. *See the report on Media's Influence of Youth that I wrote for my Master's thesis at http://www.mediaandyouth.com*. Without a solid foundation of core societal norms, our students will simply continue to relegate relativism to their future generations and this replication will induce what Thomas Jefferson equated to as "decay" upon our country. (Thomas Jefferson's letter to Doctor Thomas Cooper, Monticello, November 2, 1822)

I suggested that WCA's issues of decay included the following four areas:

- **Discipline** – WCA's prior discipline structure (including limited consequences, communication deficiencies and inconsistency)
  Mentoring – Inadequate and inconsistent individual student mentoring,
- **Character Development** – The suspension of a collaborative character development program,
- **Incentives** – The lack of an organized system of incentives or rewards for academic and behavioral success.

In 25 years of teaching and youth worker experience (of which most has been with at risk inner city youth), I have seen these issues of decay in many schools and districts. However, when I became the Dean of Students at WCA in late October 2006, I immediately sought to develop a plan for change. While I did not initially document a formal proposal, mentally I had an idea about what was needed to positively impact our school's negative behavioral issues. I knew I did not want to simply be the school's central disciplinarian, modifying behavior externally through reprimand and consequences; instead, I desired to modify their behavior intrinsically through a combination of discipline and character development. The change I envision today requires a new way of thinking and a more focused approach to dealing with these key decay areas.

Dealing With Discipline, Mentoring, Character Development, and Incentives

As I developed this plan into a written format, I included aspects of my initial response; therefore, some issues were already in their first stages of being dealt with. I simply included them and have continued where they left off. For example, the discipline structure was modified second semester last year and this school year is being tweaked to coincide with the other aspects of the proposal. Also in direct response to this proposal, second quarter 2007 was the beginning of a mentorship pilot program where a teacher-mentor has been assigned to every student in the school. Finally, the WCA grade chairs have been meeting with me bi-weekly to develop a character development program tailored to the individual grade levels, and we will be discussing a rewards / incentive program soon. While each of these components is critical and must be individually addressed, a collaboration of the four is necessary for complete success. Over the next few months, I will discuss each of the four areas in more detail.

Character Counts at WCA

The Solutions

Discipline Structure

Discipline is not easy. Thomas Jefferson recognized this in a letter he wrote to a supporter of public education:

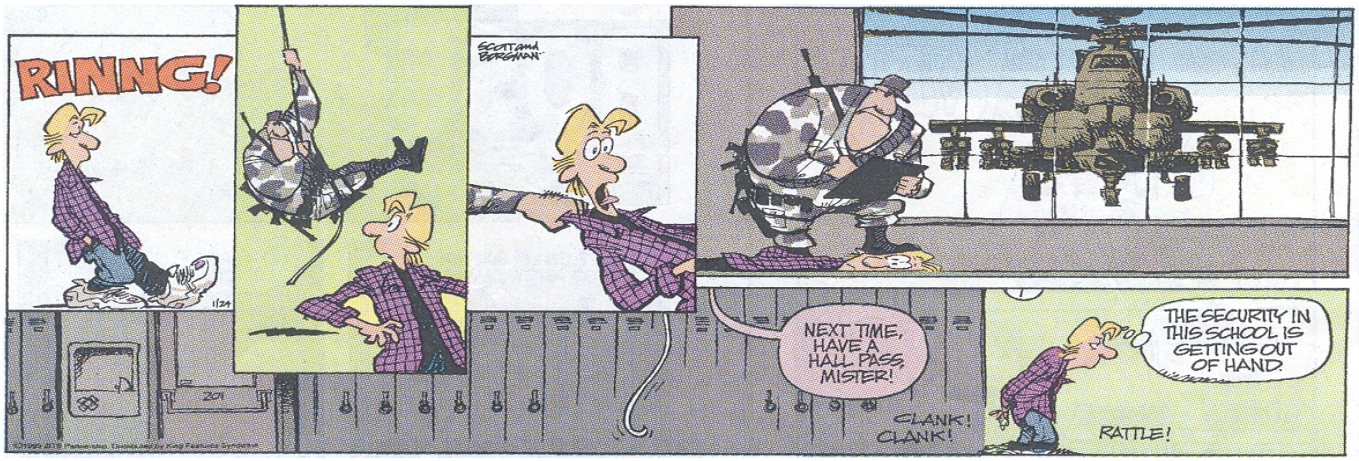
"The article of discipline is the most difficult in American education. Premature ideas of independence, too little repressed by parents, beget a spirit of insubordination, which is the great obstacle to science with us, and a principal cause of its decay since the Revolution. I look to it with dismay in our institution, as a breaker ahead, which I am far from being confident we shall be able to weather. The advance of age, and tardy pace of the public patronage, may probably spare me the pain of witnessing consequences."

(Thomas Jefferson's letter to Doctor Thomas Cooper, Monticello, November 2, 1822)

Jefferson clearly saw behavioral issues as a roadblock to education. He knew that in order for the new nation to succeed in establishing citizens of virtue, discipline would have to be the starting point. Similarly, the creation of focused, consistent, and fair discipline was my first goal in dealing with the other issues of decay. The following section encapsulates the changes I have made in the discipline structure at WCA. Note that this structure is still evolving and is being tweaked everyday.

During the last three quarters of 06-07, the suspension rate decreased dramatically at WCA. This decrease was predominately due to new leadership in the area of Dean of Students, the addition of the Alternative Learning Center, better collaboration and communication with staff and the Special Education Department, education of rules to the teachers and students (special assemblies and faculty meetings), and a more reasonable and consistent sequence of consequences. Next month, I will discuss the revised discipline structure at WCA and subsequent months the three other characteristics of our solution.

Glen Dawursk, Jr.



Notes From the Classroom...

Literatures of the World

On January 17, 2008, Mrs. Sue Fono visited WCA. Ms. Fono is a Holocaust survivor from Hungary and now works with the Jewish Education Foundation where she visits schools to pass on her message of tolerance. Ms. Hartzel's class had been reading the novel Night by Elie Wiesel. In Night, Mr. Wiesel recreates the story of his life in Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration camp in Poland. Mrs. Fono visited WCA to give her own story of survival and personal loss as her family also fought against discrimination and injustice in Hungary. During the presentation, students perused Ms. Fono's family pictures and her father's drawings of war torn Hungary.

10th Grade English/Language Lab

Ms. Kellner will be sending home a classroom procedure that needs to be signed by every student AND parent. Parents, please sign this if you have not already. For the Language Lab class, students are going to be expected to purchase 100 notecards and at least 3 different color highlighters. They are able to purchase them from Ms. Kellner if they need to. Students will be writing college bound research papers, and the notecards are used for research. During this research paper, students are going to be expected to borrow at least three books and one newspaper/magazine from any library. All parents are encouraged to help their child if needed in getting a library membership and finding the books they need for their research topic

Spanish II/Spanish for Spanish Speakers

Students from Ms. Hallinan's Spanish for Spanish Speakers class were assigned a project in which they had to interview someone they respect. Students chose who they wished to interview and what to ask. Upon completing the interviews, the students were asked to translate them into Spanish and now have submitted them for the school newsletter. The students picked teachers, counselors, and loved ones, and they enjoyed getting to know more about those people. Keep your eyes open for the interviews!

Soccer Club

Attention all students! Soccer club will be on Thursdays, starting January 31st and running until the end of the year. We will be playing from 2:45-3:45. Make sure to have some gym clothes and good shoes. See Mr. Clark with any questions.

Yearbook

The “normal” order deadline for yearbooks is January 31st, however; students can still purchase a yearbook after that point in time. The yearbooks will have a slightly increased ordering cost, and personalization of the yearbook will not be available. If you are interested in still purchasing a yearbook, please know that you can do so! See Ms. Kellner with any questions.

Basketball

On Friday, January 25, the boys’ basketball team sponsored a Family Night, providing free admittance to the game for any family members of the basketball team. During half-time, all parents in attendance were recognized by name and presented a certificate for their support and encouragement of the program and their children. Thanks again to all the parents!

Science Saturdays

Science Saturdays are in full swing. We have already gone to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) and Urban Ecology Center. At the MMSD we learned about wastewater treatment and took a tour of the grounds. We observed where the water comes into the plant and the processes that water goes through to become clean. At the Urban Ecology Center, the students took a tour, conducted experiments in air pressure, observed a feeding of the animals in the center, and visited the teepee. It was a cold day but everyone had a great time!

There are still four Science Saturdays remaining before the Milwaukee Regional Science and Engineering Fair (MRSEF). We will be going to the UW-Milwaukee Planetarium (February 2), UW-Milwaukee Nano Technology Lab (February 23), WE Energies (February 9), and Discovery World (February 16). Any student interested in going to one of the remaining events should see a science, math, or technology teacher. There is also a Science Saturday board outside the gym. There is no cost for the events and transportation is provided from WCA to the event.

U-Visit to UW-Milwaukee

The planned UW-Milwaukee trip on Wednesday, January 30 2008 was postponed due to weather conditions. We will announce the schedule later.

Ms. Reuchlen and other faculty will be accompanying up to 30 juniors and seniors interested in UW-Milwaukee for a day-long program at the college.

UW-Milwaukee is providing transportation to and from WCA, so that students can expand their horizons to the possibilities of college and learn more specifically about their school. Upon arrival, students will be split into two groups, one being given a campus tour and the other being given a presentation by UW-Milwaukee admission counselors. The two groups will then switch places, so all students receive the same information and opportunity to explore campus. Lunch will be provided by UW-Milwaukee as well, and the day will finish will a question-and-answer session led by current UW -Milwaukee students.

Seniors who have applied to UW-Milwaukee and juniors selected by the Grade 11 Team will be given first priority for participation.

See Ms. Reuchlen with any questions.

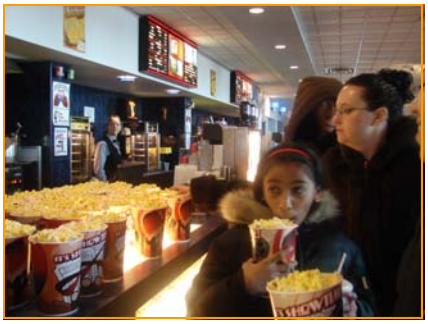
Spring Break Florida Trip

To celebrate the end of the cold winter and for a little escape from the stress of the school year we are planning to go to Atlanta and Orlando.

We are looking for adventurous travel mates who would love to visit the Coco Cola Museum to taste the cokes produced for different countries, ride roller coasters, doesn't afraid of getting splashed, meet Superman, Batman, fly with Spiderman and more...

For more information please contact Mr. Tan.

"The Great Debaters" Inspires WCA



As an attendance award, WCA took almost 200 students to the movie "The Great Debaters" on Friday, January 18th.

The movie, starring and directed by Denzel Washington traces the true story of Professor Melvin Tolson, a controversial civil rights leader and debate team coach from a small African-American college in Texas. The movie was produced by Oprah Winfrey and visualized events of racism in the 1930's. The focus was on the six students who traveled throughout the country debating teams from other black colleges. However, because of the tenacity of Tolson, they are offered the opportunity to debate Harvard— the first time a white college had ever debated a black school. While the actual historical school was the University of Southern California, the true fact remains that the event was broadcast throughout America on radio.

WCA's students were treated to free admittance, popcorn, and soda. As it was a half day anyway, the special field trip was especially special. Last year, WCA took the student body to see the movie "Freedom Writers." Who knows what movie we will see next year?

Mayor Tom Barrett's 2008 Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP)

History

This is the 4th year of Mayor Tom Barrett's 2008 Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP) that puts close to 1,500 young people to work in 2007. The 1,500 jobs were broken down into three separate components: the city's program that employed 245 youth, a non-profit/faith-based initiative implemented with state funding that hired 450 youth, and a private sector initiative that helped more than 800 young people gain employment with private companies and businesses.

Why is this program important?
Provides better opportunities and a bright future for our youth
Develops Milwaukee's future workforce that will build our community and local economy
Gives youth the ability to earn money and learn different skills

City Positions- SYIP Facts
8 week program beginning June 16
20 hours per week, including a Friday Education Day
$7.13 per hour
Good school attendance determines ranking
Juniors and seniors encouraged to apply (ages 16 to 19)
Apply online at www.mkedcd.org/syip

Milwaukee Regional Art Fair (MRAF)

Today, more than ever, students are inundated with images from a variety of sources. Television, movies, magazines, the internet, and other sources disperse these images, effectively creating a visual culture. As educators, it is imperative that we educate students on the culture that surrounds them; Art classes provide that opportunity. Art teaches students to decipher, interpret, understand, and create images that shape the world around them. In addition, Art allows students to develop problem solving abilities, enhance performance skills, see the world from different perspectives, and formulate new and exciting ideas. Overall, art is communication through imagery, and it is important that we continue to teach this visual language in our schools.

The Milwaukee Regional Art Fair (MRAF) is founded on the belief that students deserve the opportunity to create and communicate their ideas through art. Part of the artistic process is public display of one's work, and MRAF provides that opportunity. Students and teachers submit works to the preliminary judging stage, from which the final show is selected.

During the preliminary process, independent jurors select the best work from High School two-dimensional and three-dimensional art, and Middle School two-dimensional and three dimensional art. Final selections will be displayed in the Milwaukee Regional Art Fair, and an independent juror will determine overall awards.

MRAF recognizes the importance of publicly displaying student art, as it provides an opportunity for students and teachers to gain recognition for their dedication, allows the public to witness the impressive art being created in schools, and builds confidence and character in young artists. Student voices need to be heard, and their art needs to be shown.

Wisconsin Career Day

On Friday, January 18, WCA took part in a State of Wisconsin sponsored "Career Day" held at the downtown MATC campus. Four students, Brennae Williams, Sharmaine Addison, Precious Raspberry, and Brandon Sims, participated in the day-long event in which they heard Governor Jim Doyle speak and attended three different workshops showcasing one of the numerous departments within the State of Wisconsin, such as the Department of Public Instruction, Department of Health and Family Services, and Department of Corrections- to name a few.

The event was to highlight job opportunities within government with the State of Wisconsin and that as an employee of the State of Wisconsin, you will lead a fulfilling life because you are being a good citizen and helping other people, ultimately serving your country.

Governor Jim Doyle spoke on the importance of education and how it will help all students along the way of success. He expounded on the fact that the State of Wisconsin is the biggest employer in Wisconsin, having over 60,000 employees. He emphasized that in the next ten years over half of those employees will be up for retirement, and jobs will be available. He stated, "I'm not here telling you how great it is to work for us. I am here pleading with you. We want you. We need you. We hope to help you get the education you need. This state will go as far as you take us."

All of WCA's students enjoyed the day and learned a great deal about the job opportunities available within state government, as well as realized the vast array of programs

WCA Alumni Q & A

On Friday, January 11, five of last year's graduating seniors returned to WCA for a class period to speak with this year's graduating class about life after high school and handling college. Each student currently attends college, representing two-year technical and career colleges and four-year colleges, as well as public and private schools. The alumni who spoke were: Alicia Flowers (Cardinal Stritch University), Joseph Nash (ITT-Technical Institute), Shannon Stillman (MATC), Neil Syvock (UW-Platteville), and Pebbles Tillman (Bryant & Stratton College).

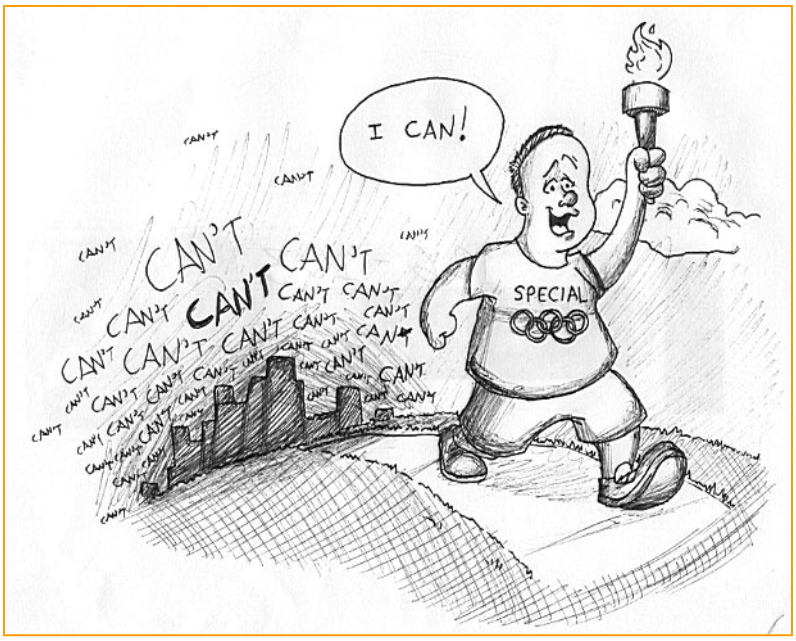
WCA's current seniors wrote questions beforehand to ask the alumni panel, such as "How much homework do you have in college?" and "What is a typical day like in college?" The students were able to hear first-hand experiences from WCA's own alumni, and they were given great advice and information on not only attending college but on preparing for college by completing the FAFSA and applying for scholarships. It was wonderful to see again and to hear from such successful WCA graduates, each pursuing different interests and attending different schools, and we expect the same of this year's graduating class!

College Goal Sunday

Attention seniors and their parents!!! Do you need assistance applying for college financial aid? Are you seeking sources of loans and/or grants? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is exactly what you should complete. This form is required of any student who wishes to attend college and is seeking financial assistance to pay for it. It can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, requiring information from both a parent and the student.

By filling out this very important form, each college the student sends it to can calculate a student's financial need and then provides a financial aid package relative to that school's cost of attendance. While students will have to pay back any loans offered to them (grants do not need to be paid back), the financial aid determined by the FAFSA allows students to attend college (whether for a technical diploma, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree) who wouldn't have been able to afford it otherwise. As a result of attending college, these students have a stronger education, a learned trade or skill, better prospects of finding a job, and higher wages with that job. The value of a college education greatly outweighs the value of any loans.

If you need assistance with filling out the FAFSA, please attend College Goal Sunday- a two-hour, moderated event running from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday, February 10, 2008. Step-by-step instructions for filling out the FAFSA begin at 2pm, and students and parents should arrive on time in order to have plenty of time to receive information and complete the FAFSA.



You should bring the following to College Goal Sunday:

- Correct social security numbers
- Driver's license
- 2007 federal tax returns
- 2006 federal tax returns, if 2007 returns are not complete
- 2007 untaxed income records (Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, welfare, or veterans benefits records)
- 2007 bank statements
- 2007 business and investment mortgage information; business and farm records; and stock, bond, and other investment records
- Alien registration card (if you are not a US citizen)

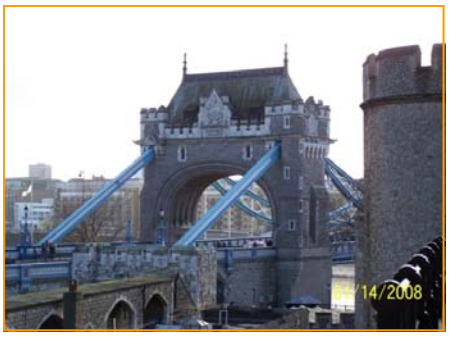
College Goal Sunday will be held at Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Pulaski High School, Riverside High School, and Rufus King High School.

For more information, go to **www.wicollegegoalsunday.org**

Mrs. Wolff goes to England...

WCA's own Mrs. Wolff and her family went on vacation to England this month and stayed at a 600 year-old manor house in Gloucestershire, England. This is in the area called the Cotswold Hills and is located in the southwest portion of the country. While there, Mrs. Wolff had the chance to speak with several archaeologists who were conducting excavations of Roan baths in the ancient city of Bath.

London is a large metropolis that has a subway system that they call the 'tube', and it took us wherever we needed to go. It was interesting and educational to see the ancient mixed in with the very new and modern. We saw the Tower of London, which William the Conqueror started to build in 1078 and that his sons and successors finished along with the complex surrounding it. The crown jewels are held here also.



The trip was both a fun and learning experience for all of us! We talked to a Vicar from the All Hallows Church for two hours about old sayings and the history of London itself. There has been a church on the spot of the All Hallows site for over 1200 years, and famous people are associated with it from all over the world. William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was baptized at the church on October 23, 1644; our own John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States, was married here in 1797; several people were beheaded there; and Albert Schweitzer recorded organ music at All Hallows.

Stop by Mrs. Wolff's office and talk to her about riding the train across the country, finding archaeological artifacts at a 2,000 year old site, eating traditional English foods, and driving on the wrong side of the road from the wrong side of the car!

FEBRUARY LUNCH MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 Breakfast Chilled Orange Juice Choice of Cereal Hard Boiled Egg **Lunch** Teriyaki Chicken Steamed White Rice Wisconsin Blend Vegetables or Baby Carrots Pears or Pineapple Tidbits
4 Breakfast Diced Pears Choice of Yogurt Choice of Cereal or Breakfast Cracker	**5 Breakfast** Chilled Fruit Juice Blend Hot Oatmeal or Choice of Cereal Choice of Breakfast Cracker	**6 Breakfast** Chilled Applesauce Choice of Cereal Blueberry Waffle Cracker	**7 Breakfast** Chilled Apple Juice Scrambled Eggs with Salsa in Tortilla Shell or with a Pan Roll	**8 Breakfast** Scrambled Eggs Cheesy Hash Browns Manager's Choice Coffeecake
Lunch Cheese Pizza or Southwest Pizza Fresh Garden Salad w/ Choice of Dressing Or Seasoned Carrots Choice of Mixed Fruit with Strawberries	**Lunch** Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun Baked Potato Rounds Tender Green Beans Chilled Pineapple Tidbits or Sliced Peaches	**Lunch** Italian Pasta Bake Garden Green Peas or Carrot Sticks Warm Garlic Breadstick Diced Pears or Fresh Kiwi	**Lunch** Diced Chicken with Gravy Mashed Potatoes Wisconsin Blend Vegetables or Cucumber Coins Pan Roll Peaches with Strawberries	**Lunch** Cheese Quesadilla or Chicken Quesadilla Picante Style Rice Whole Kernel Corn Mixed Fruit or Fresh Pear Half
11 Breakfast Chilled Orange Juice Choice of Cereal Strawberry Waffle Cracker	**12 Breakfast** Diced Pears Egg & Cheese Mini Sandwich	**13 Breakfast** Chilled Fruit Juice Blend Choice of Cereal Graham Cracker	**14 Breakfast** Pineapple Tidbits Grits or Choice of Cereal Pan Roll with Grape Jelly	**15 Breakfast** Chilled Apple Juice Scrambled Eggs Manager's Choice Muffin
Lunch Chicken Nuggets Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Or Celery Sticks with Herb Dip Pineapple Tidbits Or Fresh Apple Quarters	**Lunch** Cheeseburger or Fish Sandwich Potato Wedges Coleslaw or Whole Kernel Corn Applesauce or Sliced Peaches	**Lunch** Soft Chicken Taco with Lettuce & Cheese Picante Style Rice Mixed Fruit or Orange Wedges	**Lunch** Mock Chicken Leg* Mashed Potatoes & Gravy California Blend Vegetables or Fresh Baby Carrots with Dip Pan Roll Raspberry Sherbet	**Lunch** Hot Ham* & Cheese or Grilled Cheese Hash Brown Potatoes Green Peas or Cucumber Coins Manager's Choice Fresh Fruit or Mixed Fruit with Strawberries
18 Mid-Semester Break	**19 Breakfast** Sliced Peaches Breakfast Pizza*	**20 Breakfast** Orange Juice Choice of Cereal Lemon Dinosaur Cracker	**21 Breakfast** Chilled Applesauce Cup Oatmeal or Choice of Cereal Cinnamon Breadstick	**22 Breakfast** Chilled Fruit Juice Blend Choice of Cereal or Cracker Hard Boiled Egg
	Lunch Turkey Mini Corn Dogs Oven Baked Potato Wedges Whole Kernel Corn or Glazed Carrots Diced Pears or Fresh Orange Wedges	**Lunch** BBQ Pork* Sandwich on a Whole Grain Bun Oven Baked French Fries Green Beans or Celery Sticks Manager's Choice Fruit or Frozen Juice Bar	**Lunch** Diced Chicken in Gravy Mashed Potatoes Green Peas or Garden Salad w/ Dressing Pan Roll Diced Pears with Strawberries	**Lunch** Beef Hard Shell Taco Lettuce, Tomato & Cheese Picante Style Rice Wisconsin Blend Vegetables Chilled Peaches or Pear Half
25 Breakfast Banana Yogurt or Breakfast Cracker Choice of Cereal	**26 Breakfast** Chilled Apple Juice Scrambled Eggs with Salsa in Tortilla Shell or with a Pan Roll	**27 Breakfast** Sliced Peaches Choice of Cereal Blueberry Waffle Cracker	**28 Breakfast** Chilled Orange Juice Grits or Choice of Cereal Choice of Breakfast Cracker	**29 Breakfast** Chilled Mixed Fruit Mini Egg & Cheese Sandwich
Lunch Cheese Pizza or Pepperoni Pizza Fresh Garden Salad w/ Dressing Or California Blend Vegetables Chilled Pears or Manager's Choice Fruit	**Lunch** Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun Baked Potato Rounds Tender Green Beans Chilled Pineapple Tidbits or Mixed Fruit	**Lunch** Rotini Pasta & Meat Sauce Whole Kernel Corn Garlic Breadstick Diced Pears or Fresh Orange Wedges	**Lunch** Hearty Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Seasoned Carrots or Tangy Coleslaw Pan Roll Peaches with Strawberries	**Lunch** Bratwurst* or Turkey Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Oven Baked French Fries Baby Carrots or Green Peas Fresh Apple Wedges Chocolate Brownie

...You Can Use

WCA News...

WCA February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. B-Ball Game WCA @ Destiny, JV 5pm Varsity 7pm	2.
3. HOMECOMING WEEK, Feb 4-8	4. Talent Show Class Color Day	5. Wall Judging B-ball Game @ South Central Knights, JV 4:30pm Varsity 6:30pm Decades Day	6. Drive-In Movie Nerd/Clash Day	7. Homecoming Dance, 4-6:30 pm Sports Jersey Day	8. Pep Rally Homecoming Game @ WCA v. Milw. Academy of Science, JV 5pm, Varsity 7pm WCA's Color Day	9. ACT Test Date B-ball Game @ WCA v. Tenor, Noon Science Saturday WE Energies
10. College Goal Sunday, 2-4pm	11. B-Ball Game @ WCA v. Maasai, 5:30pm	12. B-ball Game @ WCA v. Atlas Prep, JV 5:30pm, V 7pm "Lion King Off-Broadway" Senior Trip, 5-10pm	13.	14.	15. B-ball Game @ WCLL, JV 5:30pm, Varsity 7pm HALF DAY	16. Science Saturday Discovery World
17.	18. Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL	19. B-Ball WIAA Regionals	20. WCA School Science Fair	21. B-Ball WIAA Regionals PAC Mtg, 5:30pm	22.	23. B-Ball WIAA Regionals Science Saturday Nanotechnology Lab @ UW-M
24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29. B-Ball WIAA Sectionals	

WCA Opens Another Window to the World!

...This experience changed my view so much, I love the Turkish Culture. I have never been around such a loving family that I lived with for 2 weeks out of 3 weeks. I wish I could have spent more time with them that would have taken time away from touring and that was the best part. (L.V., Participant, June 2007)

I definitely recommend this to others. You don't get to go to places like these everyday. With the historical sites, good food, and so much more, why wouldn't you go? (J.D., Participant, June 2007)

This summer, WCA students who can demonstrate maturity, good character, scholastic aptitude, flexibility, open-mindedness and responsibility will be able to stay abroad away from his/her family.

Interested participants must be graduating this June 2008, from 8th grade or higher.

The participants should pay $750 of non-refundable application fee. There will be no additional payment. This program includes airfare, lodging, meals, and entrance to major sites.

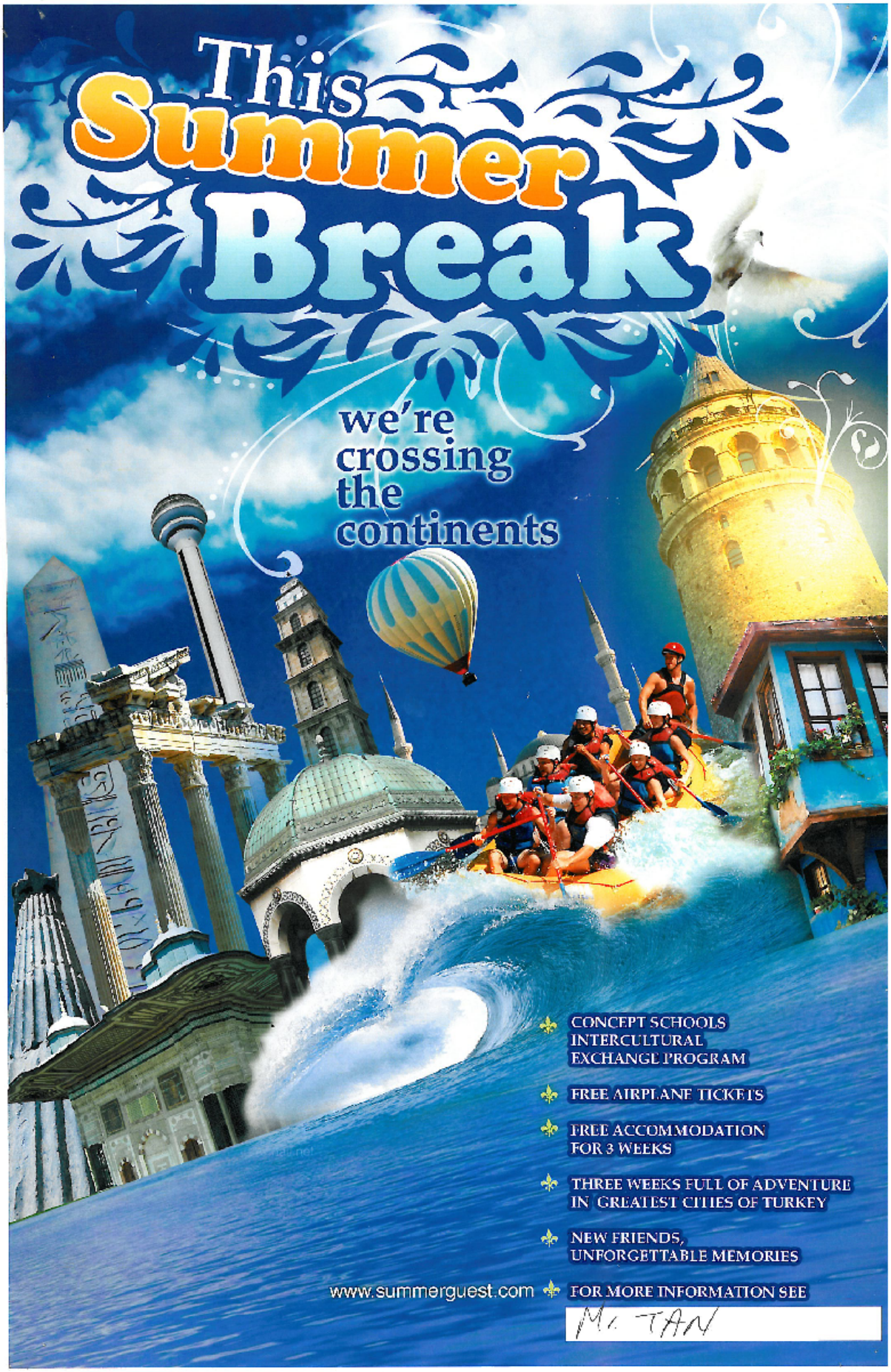
There are two program options;

1- Student Exchange Program : June 20 – July 13, 2008
2- Europe Trip : June 6 – 18, 2008 or June 13 – 25, 2008

There's a whole world of people out there, with different languages, foods, traditions; why not get to know some of them this summer? It'll be the most rewarding summer you've ever had.

For more information and applications please look for updates around the school or see Mr. Tan.

I would recommend this trip to others. Not only was it tons of fun and a great to meet new people, but it was also a once in a life time opportunity. In the past, I have traveled to other places through student ambassador programs and had to pay nearly 6000 dollars for the trip. Through this trip, I was fortunate enough to have paid only 750 dollars in fees and other personal expenses. If you love traveling, making life long friends, and being able to experience other cultures, I would definitely recommend this trip for you. (E.S., Participant, June 2007)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