January 2008

Wisconsin Career Academy

WCA News... ...You Can Use

Special points of interest:

- Science Saturdays
- Final Exams
- U-Visit
- Character Counts
- Exchange Program

Inside this issue:

Director's Corner	1
School Closings	2
Season's Greetings	3
College Myths	4
Emergency Calls	5
Meet the Staff	6
Pre-Terra Nova	6
Science Saturdays	7
Turkey Dinner	9
Notes From Classroom	10
Scholarship Fair	12
Final Exams	12
Toys for Tots	13
Drivers' Education	13
Senior Dinner	14
U-Visit	14
Character Counts	16
Homecoming 2008	18
Online Safety	19
Lunch Menu	20
Calendar	21
Exchange Program	22

Director's Corner

Dear parents and students,

On behalf of the WCA team, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you our best for the New Year to come. We hope that you had a relaxing and warm celebration with your families and friends and will be returning to school refreshed and ready to greet the New Year with enthusiasm. May the New Year also bring you health, happiness, and success along the way.

WCA is committed to providing all students with the best education for their life. As you all know, our emphasis is on being a college bound school. We are working tirelessly to achieve this goal. We also recognize that parents are children's first and most important teachers. That's why we will continue to provide you with updates in our students' scores. Please see Mr. Bora's article with the updates on this issue, and ask for your student's individual report card.

WCA is a public school, chartered through the Milwaukee Public School district. Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) was required to label MPS as a District Identified for Improvement (DIFI). MPS was identified thus because the district's English language learners and students with disabilities did not meet the state's proficiency targets in reading and/or mathematics for two or more consecutive years. On the other hand, WCA is NOT identified as a school for improvement; however, as a part of MPS, WCA will also ensure that necessary steps will be taken as needed. As a result, the district has developed a "District Identified for Improvement Plan" that explains how the needs of these two student groups will be specifically addressed. The superintendent's letter on this matter has been mailed out to our parents explaining the situation. In addition, the plan includes high level strategies to support all students for the schools that have been identified as in need of improvement.

As a parent, your involvement is critical, not only to the success of your child but to the success of your school as well. Therefore, you can become more involved in your child's school by:

- participating in parental involvement activities at WCA, that will assist you in learning how to increase your child's academic achievement level;
- staying well informed about what is going on in your child's school and reading monthly school newsletters;
- becoming involved with the WCA Parent Advisory Committee (PAC);
- becoming a parent volunteer at WCA; and,
- talking with your child's teachers about ways you can help in the classroom and at home.

(Continued on page 2)

Director's Corner (Cont.)

On another note, I would like to remind you that, for the first time, WCA is having its own school science fair separate from MRSEF. Our students and parents are encouraged to participate in Science Saturdays to build enthusiasm in our science program. WCA is proud to be the leader in the region with its science initiatives. Please see the details in this issue.

We received our trophy by taking the 2nd place in the girls' volleyball league. Thanks to Ms. Wanezek and our volleyball team for getting better each year and making us proud.

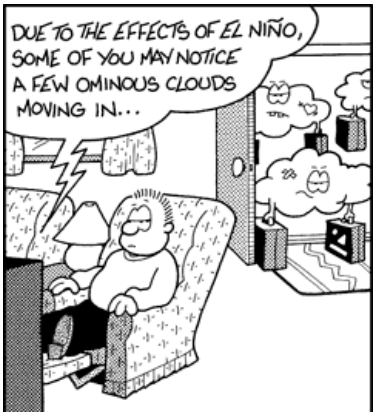
It was great to see our parents back-to-back over two days at our school for the Senior dinner and Turkey dinner, and we were pleased to see all of the families enjoy the programs. Starting January 2008 in our monthly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, we will give out $20 bus tickets to our parents who come to meetings and work with us on our children's needs. At this month's PAC meeting on January 24, we will review our school's education plan with parents.

It is exciting to announce two new aspects of WCA: Student Exchange program and Character Development program. You will find the details in this and upcoming issues.

Lastly, parents please talk with your child's teachers since it is going to be the end of second quarter and first semester on January 24, 2008. This will make you aware of possible low grades before the report cards go out and may let you take last minute precautions.

Sincerely,

Kemal Kaman



Severe Weather & School Closing Information

The time of year has come again when the potential for closing school may be necessary. If we must close school for any reason, please be sure to tune into the television stations listed below to see if you should send your child(ren) to school or not. Please watch the crawler on the bottom of the screen to see if Wisconsin Career Academy or WCA is closing or not.

- FOX 6 – WITI – Channel 6 (or go to their website at www.myfoxmilwaukee.com and look for closings)
- TMJ4 – Channel 4

There is no standard temperature for closing school. If the weather is below a certain temperature, the Health Department will advise schools if they should be closed or not. DO NOT assume that WCA is open or closed on severe weather days until you check the above stations to verify. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter!

Be advised, if MPS schools are closed on a district-wide level, then WCA will also be closed!!!

WCA 2007-2008 Team Wishes You,
Gentle, joyous, lovely happy New Year...Fill us with your peace.

Debunking College Myths

You've probably heard, and might believe, some of these common myths about college. Read on for the realities.

MYTH: My teen can make a good living without a college education.
REALITY: There is no doubt that some people have done well without a college degree. However, a college graduate will earn on average about a million dollars more than a high school graduate in his/her lifetime. For most people, college pays.

MYTH: I don't have the money and my teen can't afford to take out loans to pay for college, even if she wanted to go.
REALITY: Almost all students today can get low-rate education loans to help them pay for college, and education loans typically don't have to be paid back until a student is out of school. The average loan debt of undergraduate students today is roughly $20,000 – that's less than the cost of most new cars! A car lasts a few years. A college education lasts a lifetime.

MYTH: Anyone can get into a public university, but it's hard to get into a private college.
REALITY: Some public universities are among the most competitive to get into, while other public universities are required to take nearly all applicants. It's true that some private colleges are very selective, but others take students who wouldn't even be admitted to a home state public university. Check with the colleges you are considering to learn more about the average academic credentials of its students and its admission policies.

MYTH: Courses and grades in the spring of senior year aren't important because students already have been accepted by a college by the time those courses are done.
REALITY: Most colleges make statements in their admissions materials that they will look at a senior's spring grades. If the student's academic performance has dropped off substantially, colleges have been known to cancel an offer of admission.

MYTH: To make it in today's world you need a four-year college degree.
REALITY: Someone with a four-year degree may have more career options, but there are many satisfying and good-paying jobs that are possible with certain technical or two-year degrees. Your teen should start with the fields that are of interest to him and learn what kind of education is required and what the job opportunities are in those areas. Then get the degree he needs for the type of career he wants.

MYTH: The college with the lowest price will be the most affordable.
REALITY: Not necessarily! Some of the colleges with a high "sticker price" have raised significant amounts of money for scholarships from their graduates and friends. As a result, they have more money to give to students in the form of scholarships, which reduces the "sticker price." After taking financial aid into consideration, a seemingly more expensive college may be more affordable than a college with a lower list price. Tip: Find out what kinds of scholarship options are available at the colleges you are considering.

MYTH: It really doesn't matter if I wait a year or two to go to college.
REALITY: Many students who don't go to college right after high school never get around to it. Others bring great experience to the college when they enroll because of what they did with the time off from school. It is wise for a student to apply to colleges of interest during senior year just like any other student. She can then ask a college to defer enrollment for a year or two, if the student needs the time away. Most colleges will hold the offer of admission, especially if the student has plans that will ultimately make the student even more interesting or valuable as a member of the campus community.

Debunking College Myths

MYTH: You need to start planning for college during your junior year of high school.
REALITY: While some students may wait this late to do certain things like visiting potential colleges or taking the SAT's, there are other things that should never wait this long. For example, high school course selections and grades represent the single most important consideration in most colleges' admissions decisions. High school course decisions are made sometimes as early as the middle school years. Financial planning, saving for college, and finding out which colleges will be affordable also should be done well before the junior year.

MYTH: Students today have so much loan debt that it doesn't make sense to pay a lot to go to college.
REALITY: Most students who have huge loan debt usually have either done a poor job of finding a college where their family's financial aid works well, or they made a conscious decision to take on that kind of loan debt so they can attend a particular college. (Remember, the average loan debt of undergraduate students today is roughly $20,000 – that's less than the cost of most new cars!) The goal for most families is to find in advance schools that will be financially reasonable for them, usually by using a published financial aid estimator to understand where they stand under the federal formula for financial aid.

MYTH: There isn't a lot of financial aid available, and what is available only goes to a few of the very best students.
REALITY: During the 2002-03 academic year, over $105 billion dollars in financial aid was awarded. The vast majority of this money was doled out by the federal government through grant, loan and work-study programs, while colleges' own grants and scholarships accounted for almost 20% of all financial aid. States helped too by contributing over $5.5 billion to the pot. That's a lot of money for a lot of students. In fact, over 70% of students nationally receive some kind of financial aid.

MYTH: No one in my family has gone to college – why should my teen be the first?
REALITY: After high school, your teen may have 40 or 50 years of employment ahead. Many changes will occur in the job market during this time. A college education will certainly give him more options for the long term. Many of today's jobs which require only a high school diploma may no longer exist a few years from now. His education should prepare him for the job market of the future, not the present.

Reminder! Reminder! Reminder!

The telephone located in the main office is for emergency phone calls only. If a student wishes to make a phone call for a non-emergency reason, there is a pay phone located immediately outside of the office in the main hallway. It costs 25 cents to place a call from the pay phone. **Please make sure that your children have extra change for pay phone use, if needed.**

Examples of emergency calls:

- **A student is sick/ill**
- **A student is hurt/injured**
- **A student needs to leave school early and forgot the parent/guardian permission note from home (office staff must always speak to a legal parent/guardian for any student leaving school early)**

Examples of non-emergency calls:

- **A student needs to call for a ride home**
- **A students needs to call someone to bring them something (homework, notebook, etc.)**
- **A student forgot their uniform and needs one dropped off**

Meet the Staff... Once Again!

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.

As we approach the Christmas season and end of semester, we eagerly continue to welcome new staff members! If in the school building, please take some time to also welcome the following staff member in the Science Department.

Ms. Abigail Forst is excited to join the WCA team. She is currently teaching Physics, 6th grade science, and 7th grade science, with tutoring hours Tuesdays through Fridays after school. She is also working on the MRSEF team to get the science fair ready and foster students' interest in science. She received her degree from Carroll College and taught at Franklin High School. Before coming to WCA, she was also working at a daycare. She enjoys movies, going to sporting events, and reading.

Pre-Terra Nova Test Results

The TerraNova is a standardized achievement test designed to provide achievement scores that are valid for most types of educational decision-making. Students are assessed in the areas of Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. WCA administers the TerraNova test at the beginning and end of each school year to measure students' improvement in grades 6-10.

Students took the pre-TerraNova test in September. In the pre-test, we measure the level of the students at the beginning of the year in order to adjust our curriculum so that teachers can make a plan accordingly and help them efficiently. Basically, the reason for the testing is to identify and examine areas of strengths and weaknesses in the performance of students and provide a basis for reports to parents and students as well as informing teachers of the needs of their students. Pre- and post-TerraNova tests help in working toward increasing student achievement and closing achievement gaps.

By giving the TerraNova test, we measure achievement of individual students relative to a current nationwide normative group and relative program effectiveness based on the results of groups of students. We use TerraNova results to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of a student's achievement in each content area, to plan for curriculum development, to report progress to parents, and make a plan for the students.

Students from 6th grade through 10th grade will be taking the post-TerraNova test in May, and we will mail you the test results for your child(ren). You may compare pre- and post-test results to see the increase in your child(ren)'s grade level and achievement.

If you have any questions about the test results, please feel free to contact Mr. Bora.

Science Saturdays- Learning Beyond the Classroom

During Saturdays in January and February, MRSEF will be hosting Science Saturdays events in which students go to different facilities to better their scientific knowledge. This year, MRSEF is offering 6 Science Saturdays. Dates are listed below along with a short description. If you are interested in participating, please see one of WCA's science teachers.

Saturday January 12, 2008:
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District

A tour of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District will be given along with a presentation on pollution.

Age Group: 5th-8th Grade
Available Seats: 25
Time: 9:00am – 11:30am
*Weather permitting

Saturday, January 19, 2008:
Urban Ecology Center

Students will have the opportunity to tour the Ecology Center and also get hands-on experience.

Age Group: 5th-8th Grade
Available Seats: 20 (Register Soon!)
Time: 11am – 1pm

Saturday, February 2, 2008
UW-Milwaukee Planetarium

There will be an introduction to the planetarium and the motion of the earth followed by a tour of the solar system with up-to-date information on the planets and important moons. A description of the constellations and objects in the current night sky will be done. The presentation will end with a question and answer session.

Age Group: 5th-12th Grade
Available Seats: 45
Time: 10:30am – 11:30am
*Visitors should dress in layers: it can be cool in the theater.

Science Saturdays- Learning Beyond the Classroom

Saturday, February 9, 2008
WE Energies

Students will tour the Valley Power Plant and learn how electricity is produced. They will also see how the power plant generates electricity and steam. Students might have the opportunity to go on the roof of the power plant and use an anemometer to conduct an experiment with wind speed.

Age Group: Ages 10 and up
Available Seats: 40
Time (Choose one tour):
Tour 1— 9am-10am
Tour 2— 10:30am-11:30am
Extra Information: Since the students will be in a power plant, wearing jeans and long-sleeve shirts is recommended. No dresses, heels, or white clothes. All people going inside the plant will be required to wear a hard hat, safety glasses, and ear plugs at all times.

Date: TBD
UW-Milwaukee
Plasma Processing and Nanotechnology Lab

There will be a brief lecture on nanotechnology, focusing on what nanotechnology is and how nanotechnology can help improve the quality of life. A handout will be distributed to each student. Students will then have the opportunity to get some hands-on experience with three different activities: 1) practicing the dispersion of carbon nanotubes using an ultrasonicator, 2) participating in the production of nanoparticles using a reactor, and 3) testing a nanoparticle sensor against a known gas.
Age Group: 9th-12th Grade
Available Seats: 15
Time: TBD

Date: TBD
Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin

We are working towards getting a presentation at Discovery World. We have not yet confirmed this Science Saturday but are hoping to still get response from schools to determine interest.

Turkey Dinner... and all the Trimmings!

The 1st annual turkey holiday dinner was a success!

Around one hundred people showed up with bells on to celebrate our WCA family. The celebration included entertainment by Bianca Perez and her sister Brittany Lovejoy, singing "Lord You Know", and two songs from Brandon Sims's CD, all of which were original compositions. In addition, a variety of Christmas carols were sung with the help of our younger guests.

The event culminated with a drawing in which four people won $25.00 gift certificates to Wal-Mart; the winners were Tim Reddick, Ms. Arndt, Olivia Farmer, and Ms. Silvia Gines. Many thanks to all those who helped decorate, set up tables, shop, run errands, and organize the event.

A special thank you also to Mr. Kaman for coming up with this idea, with the word "family" in mind. Good food, engaging conversation, wonderful ambiance, and delightful entertainment are all reasons to plan on attending next year. Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!!

Parent participation in education is positively and significantly related to student achievement. Students whose parents are actively involved in their education have better grades, test scores and long-term academic achievement. Students also attend school more regularly, complete more homework and demonstrate more positive attitudes and behaviors than those with less involved parents.

Notes From the Classroom...

English 9

The WCA freshman English classes are finishing up their unit on John Steinbeck's classic novel, Of Mice & Men. The students have enjoyed the book which always helps, as they thoroughly learned the four methods of characterization. The students identified with the characters and the themes presented in the book regarding loneliness and the value of close friendships. Students also further developed their close reading skills and continued to practice the basic five paragraph essay with topics presented in the book. The book also brings to light attitudes and cultural norms during the time of the Great Depression. Students have discussed the topics of immigration, migrant workers, racism, and the value of life in general.

Honors English

For the past several weeks WCA juniors and seniors have been analyzing Shakespeare's classic play, "Macbeth." Contrary to what is often brought to mind when Shakespeare is mentioned, this play is filled with murder, betrayal, ambition, superstition, and corruption. Students have enjoyed identifying character traits and how those can lead to different interpretations of ambiguous circumstances and events. Though the language is difficult, large group discussions have brought themes into today's terms, which is a reflection of students' analyzing skills. Students are learning the tools necessary to interpret difficult poetry on their own, so it can be applied throughout their academic careers.

Science

In physics, the students will begin to look at momentum and collisions along with work and energy. After studying these concepts, they will use their knowledge and apply it to amusement park rides. In 7th grade science, the students will further their knowledge of the world around them. They continue to study the basics of life, including cell processes, heredity, and adaptations. In 6th grade science, the students will finish looking at interactions of matter (electricity, magnetism, and waves) and then move into a study of the Earth and its changing surface.

GET INVOLVED IN WCA (School Wide) SCIENCE FAIR!
February 8, 2008

Notes From the Classroom...

Algebra II

Both sections of Mr. Clark's Algebra II class, comprised of juniors and seniors, shared their love of math and music by providing their own versions of familiar Christmas carols to WCA staff the day before Winter break.

Below are their lyrics:

(to the tune of I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas)

I'm dreaming of algebraic equations,
Just like the ones we got for homework.
Where we solve for x and y
Even though we're unsure why
Only because, Mr. Clark said it'll make us smart.
I'm dreaming of multiplying matrices
And to myself each night I write.
May your matrices make you merry
And may all your answers be right.

AND

(to the tune of Santa Claus is Coming to Town)

Oh, you'd better watch out.
You better not cry;
You better not pout, I'm telling you why.
Math exams are coming to town.
We're taking good notes and racking our brains.
We're doing our homework, and we're going insane.
Math exams are coming to town.
Mr. Clark watches us as we substitute
And eliminate variables too,
But we prefer Cramer's Rule.
It's our favorite thing to do.
Soooooo, you'd better watch out.
You better not cry;
You better not pout, I'm telling you why.
Math exams are coming to town.

Multi-Cultural Scholarship Fair

Ronald McDonald House Charities and McDonald's offer several scholarships to assist intelligent and community-minded young people to attend college.

This year, they will be highlighting these scholarship opportunities as well as others from organizations in the southeastern Wisconsin area at the 4th annual Multi-Cultural Scholarship Fair on Tuesday, January 8 from 5-7pm. The event, which will be held at the McDonald's at 1931 S. 14th St. (14th & Burnham) in Milwaukee, will allow students and their parents to meet with representatives from a variety of organizations offering scholarships to African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and other ethnic groups.

This fair will be a one-stop-shop for high school students to learn about a variety of scholarships- don't miss this wonderful opportunity!!! For more information, call 414-270-7181.

Final Exams are Just Around the Corner!

We are almost done with the second quarter! High school students will take final exams on January 22-24, 2008. All final exams will be one hour long. Teachers will give their students a study guide or make a review to prepare them for the final exam. On final exam days, middle school students are going to have half days as well and will leave the school at the same time as the high school students. Please find the final exam schedule below:

Final Exam and Middle School Schedule

Tuesday, January 22

8:30 am – 9:45 am	1st period
9:45 am – 9:50 am	Break
9:50 am – 10:50 am	2nd period
10:50 am – 11:15 am	Lunch
11:25 am – 12:25 pm	3rd period
12:25 pm	Dismissal

Wednesday, January 23

8:30 am – 9:45 am	4th period
9:45 am – 9:50 am	Break
9:50 am – 10:50 am	5th period
10:50 am	Dismissal

Thursday, January 24

8:30 am – 9:45 am	6th period
9:45 am – 9:50 am	Break
9:50 am – 10:50 am	7th period
10:50 am	Dismissal
11:20 am – 12:20 pm	Make-up

Raising Money for Toys for Tots

In the week leading up to Winter break, the sophomore class, led by Mr. Clark, sponsored a coin drive to benefit Toys for Tots and foster holiday spirit. We exceeded our goal of $300 by raising a grand total of $315.02 over the course of five days. Mr. Wisniewski's first hour class had the highest class average ($3.16 per person), so they were rewarded with a class party before the holidays. Thank you to all of those who donated generously and helped count the change!!

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

Driver's Education

Registration for the MPS Spring 2008 Recreation Driver Education classes starts December 27, 2007. Classes will be offered at the following sites: Pulaski, Custer, and Marshall. Classes are open to all city of Milwaukee residents who will be at least 15years and 6 months old, but younger than 18 years old as of February 4, 2008. The fee for the course is $200. Upon successful completion of the course, students will earn a certificate of completion allowing them to take a road test to obtain a probationary license. Classes meet Monday and Wednesday for 1 ½ hours per session, running from February 4 through June 4, 2008. Please note that students will be dropped from the course without a refund if they miss three classes for any reason.

You can register through the Milwaukee Recreation Winter 2008 Activity Guide that will be mailed directly to your home, or see the options below.

6 easy ways to register for driver education:
1) **On-line** through Thursday, January 31 2008 at www.milwaukeerecreation.net
2) **Drop-off** through Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 5225 W. Vliet St., Room 162 or 2414 W. Mitchell Street (M-F, 8am-4:30pm)
3) **Fax-in** through Wednesday, January 23, 2008 until 4pm at 414-475-8183
4) **Mail-in** must be **received** by Wednesday, January 23, 2008
5) **Evening registration** on Tuesdays, January 15 & 22 from 5-7pm at 5225 W. Vliet St., Room 162
6) **Late walk-in registration** on Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 8-10am at 5225 W. Vliet St, Room 162 (Note: late registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis with limited enrollment.)

Senior Dinner & FAFSA Presentation a BIG Success

On Wednesday, December 12, the Grade 12 Team hosted a dinner and FAFSA presentation for seniors and their parents. Over 11 students attended with approximately 30 total people present throughout the course of the evening's events. The evening started with a delicious dinner of salad, mostaciolli, meatballs (not enough— one of the very few complaints!), garlic bread, and cookies. Following the meal, the director of MATC's financial aid office, Maureen Crump-Phillips, provided a slideshow presentation and many practical tips and information on completing the FAFSA and financial aid in general. Students were also given the following handouts: FAFSA on the Web Worksheet, Tips on Completing the FAFSA brochure, Stafford Loans brochure, American Legions scholarship pamphlet, and KnowHow2Go College Preparation mini-booklet.

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and over 70% of students attending college receive some form of financial aid. All seniors expecting to continue their education beyond high school, whether at a technical, career, 2-year, or 4-year college, SHOULD complete the FAFSA. In order to do so, students AND one parent must apply for a pin at www.pin.ed.gov. After receiving the pin and compiling your tax information, students can complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov as early as January 1, 2008.

Please see Ms. Reuchlen with any questions.

U-Visit to UW-Milwaukee

On Wednesday, January 30 2008, 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.

Who wants to be LOCKED IN ?

Look for further announcements at school.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
UWMILWAUKEE
Learn more

presents

U-VISITS

What is a U-VISIT?
A U-VISIT is a multicultural Student Campus Visitation Program, designed to promote college attendance by providing students with information concerning:

- Admissions
- Financial Aid
- Majors/Programs of Study
- Academic Support Programs

How does a U-VISIT work?
U-VISIT picks up students at their high school (or other locations) and brings them to UWM for the day. The program also includes:

Round-trip transportation to and from UWM
Campus Tour
Lunch on Campus

INTERESTED?

Contact: Ms. Reuchlen

Date Scheduled: Wednesday, January 30, 2008

Character Counts at WCA

Part 1: Justification for Change—The Need

(Over the next few months, Mr. Glen Dawursk, our Assistant Principal - Dean of Students, will explain WCA's new Character Development Program. His first article explains the reason or need for such a program at WCA. Next month he will discuss the pieces necessary for change, and in subsequent months he will explain the components of the program.)

Introduction

"To develop the reasoning faculties of our youth, enlarge their minds, cultivate their morals, and instill into them the precepts of virtue and order…" In this simple statement, Thomas Jefferson proposed a radical idea, which would revolutionize our new nation. He set forth the need for public education, but not simply for the instruction of concepts of knowledge and formulas. Thomas Jefferson sought public education as a necessary requirement to formulate character in the youth of our new nation.

"To form them to habits of reflection and correct action, rendering them examples of virtue to others and of happiness within themselves. These are the objects of that higher grade of education, the benefits and blessings of which the Legislature now propose to provide for the good and ornament of their country." (1818 Report of the Commissioners for the University of Virginia)

Jefferson new from history, that nations with depleted morals, inconsequential ethics, and "no-absolutes" or relativism were fated for failure. From the Roman Empire to Napoleon, countries whose leadership and constituency lost "virtue" were destined for ruin. Jefferson would be appalled and gravely concerned about the "virtue" of today's youth and the lack of "citizen virtues" or character development offered in today's public education. For this reason, Wisconsin Career Academy- as a provider of public education- must proffer a radical overall of its discipline structure, insist upon one-on-one mentorship for its students, create a character development plan, and implement a system of rewards – thereby role-modeling students who demonstrate "habits of reflection and correct action."

Statistical Information and Data

In the 1987 movie "Wall Street", the main character demonstrated that cheating led to success. At one point in the movie he even confesses, "Greed is good." It is this mindset that has overcome our country's youth over the past two decades. Our students no longer know right from wrong and condone unethical approaches to achieve their goals. In a recent national survey conducted by the Josephson Institute, 82% of middle school and high school age youth admitted they lied to their parents over the last year, almost 60% two or more times and over 60% did it to a teacher; 33% plagiarized material; 60% cheated on a test at school; almost 25% of youth surveyed stole from a family member and 28% from a store; and 60% affirmed, "in the real world, successful people do what they have to do to win, even if others consider it cheating." Almost a fourth of today's youth believe that by lying, cheating, and breaking rules – you can be successful. Even more sadly, our youth are desensitized into thinking that this is normal, as 92% said they were "satisfied with their own ethics and character." (The Josephson Institute's Report Card on the Ethics of Today's Youth, 2006)

These horrifying statistics are consistent with a freshman survey I conducted in my English classroom at WCA in Fall 2006. To better know my students, I asked for a response on six simple statements. The statements were:

- Cheating is acceptable. Never – Sometimes – Always
- My education is essential for my success. Yes – Maybe – No
- I will do whatever it takes to be successful, even if it is illegal. Yes – Maybe – No
- I may cheat during the next four years. Yes – Maybe – No

Character Counts at WCA

- I may cheat during the next four years. Yes – Maybe – No
- Copying songs from someone else's CD or a movie from someone else's DVD is acceptable. Never – Sometimes – Always
- I will graduate in four years. Yes – Maybe – No

Of the almost 90 students that I surveyed at WCA, 72% said they would consider doing something illegal in order to succeed. 86% said they would consider cheating- almost 70% said during their high school career- and 84% of students considered pirating music and movies acceptable. Ironically, 72% of the freshman still considered education essential for their success, and 82% of them planned to graduate by their fourth year of school. It is obvious that WCA students are not exempt from the "values" issues affecting public education.

To make matters worse, during the 2005-06 school year, Milwaukee Public Schools identified WCA as having too many suspensions and ranked it 23rd among all MPS schools for the total number of suspensions. With a student body of just 327 students, there were 851 suspensions (91% were school violations), and WCA was 11% higher than the MPS average. These behavioral suspensions were predominately given for disrespect toward teachers and/or peers, inappropriate behavior, and total disregard for rules. A perusal of the suspensions shows violations for burglary, sexual impropriety, inappropriate language, and bullying and cheating— in essence, an overall breakdown in student values and "character." This value breakdown is re-enforced by our school's designation as an "at risk" student body by the Department of Public instruction.

Our community does little to stabilize these disheartening statistics. Last year, several local MPS schools had all-out riots that included participation by some disillusioned parents, and gang activity is on the rise again throughout the city. Racism prevails as Newsweek magazine has called Milwaukee the second most segregated city in America, and last year we were honored with the distinction of having the largest teen pregnancy rate in America.

Where do we go from here?

In a city seeking solutions and a school district concentrating more on closing schools, parents are fleeing to alternative havens of education. They are hoping for a change in the education of their children. They are looking unsuccessfully to charter, choice, and parochial schools, only to see that the problem prevails across district borders and classroom methodology. For this reason, WCA has proposed a change in how we deal with your children. We feel that the hope is not in a different school, it is in the re-applying of "values" within our school. It is the re-introduction of morals, precepts of virtue, and the teaching of order – all prescribed by the founder of public education, Thomas Jefferson himself.

Over the next few months, I will identify the pieces necessary to accomplish this change in values and ethics as well as the solutions WCA has put into place.

Glen Dawursk, Jr.

Mr. Dawursk has a MAED with an emphasis in education and administration from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN. He is currently completing a second master's in Principal Specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Mr. Dawursk is also a trained "Youth Builders" instructor and has spoken nationally on media's influence on youth.

Homecoming 2008

Second Annual WCA Homecoming: "Back in the Day"

Celebrating WCA's 8th Anniversary

(Following announcement is subject to change. Please look out for updates!)

February 4-8, 2008

Spirit Week Events: Prizes given for greatest percentage of students participating from each grade level.

Monday, February 4: Class Color Day (Class Color Competition)

Special Program: *American Idol - Star Search*

Tuesday, February 5: Decades Day (Class Costume Competition)

Special Program:

Wall Judging
Wolf Away Basketball Game

Wednesday, February 6: Nerd / Clash Day (Class Costume Competition)

Special Program: Drive-In Movie Day (without the cars)

Thursday, February 7: Sports Jersey Day (Class Costume Competition)

Special Program: Homecoming Dance (semi-formal)

Friday, February 8: School Color Day (Class Costume Competition)

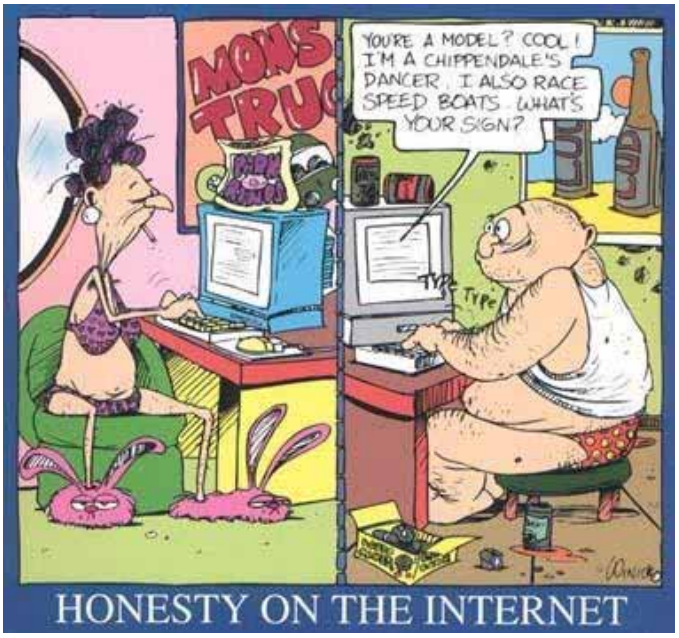
Special Program:

Pep Rally
B-Ball game against Atlas Prep HS

ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

It can be difficult to monitor your children and their use of the Internet, but it is extremely important to establish open lines of communication regarding safety and appropriate behavior online. Everyone should use caution and common sense when using Internet, E-mail, instant messenger, and other such forms of technology. Listed below are safety tips provided from NetSmartz.

1. Establish rules for Internet use. Keep house rules posted near the computer.
   - What sites can your child visit?
   - Who can they talk to?
   - How long will they be online?
   - Where can they use a computer?
2. Keep the computer in a common room (not a child's bedroom).
3. Discuss the importance of telling you or a trusted adult if something ever makes your child or teen feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused while online.
4. Communicate.
   - Prepare yourself beforehand.
   - Talk and be open with your kids and teens.
   - Keep your cool. Be cool. Encourage them to confide in you.
5. Be Informed.
   - Learn everything you can about the Internet.
   - Ask your kids to show you places they go.
   - Learn chat-room lingo by going to www.cybertipline.com for a list of acronyms like POS = Parent Over Shoulder.
   - Know what other access your child may have, including text messaging.
6. Consider safeguarding options.
   - Check out blocking, filtering, and rating applications.
   - Learn about filtering and monitoring software and WHEN TO USE THEM.
7. Report incidents to the CyberTipline by calling 1-800-843-5678 or at www.cybertipline.com.
8. Know who your children talk to online.
9. Check your children's E-mail addresses for appropriateness.
10. Don't post your child's E-mail address in any directory.
11. Always read a web site's privacy policy.
    - Don't "unsubscribe" to unwanted E-mail.
    - Don't sign up for "free" things.
12. Don't forward E-mail to "everyone" in your address book.
13. Talk to your children about what personal information is and why they should never give it out.
14. Make sure children only exchange E-mail with people they know, and let them use chat areas you supervise.
15. Make sure you are aware of any other places your child may be using the Internet, such as a friend's house or the library.
16. Show your children how to turn off the monitor when something makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
17. Access more tips on the "Parents & Educators" section of www.NetSmartz.org.
18. Know how to:
    - Set parental controls.
    - Check history files.



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Division of School Nutrition Services

MENU for JANUARY 2008

Menu subject to change without prior notice

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCH MEAL PRICES *Elementary Paid: $1.50 ($7.50 / $30.00)* *Secondary Paid: $1.75 ($8.75 / $35.00)* *Reduced: $0.40 ($2.00 / $8.00)* *Adult: $2.75* *Student Milk: $0.30* *Senior Citizens: $1.50* *Adult Beverage $0.30*		***BREAKFAST MEAL PRICES*** *Elementary Paid: $0.75 ($3.75 / $15.00)* *Secondary Paid: $0.80 ($4.00 / $16.00)* *Reduced: $0.30 ($1.50 / $ 6.00)* *Adult: $1.50* *Adult Beverage: $0.30*	**3 Breakfast** Fruit Juice Blend Choice of Cereal Cinnamon Belly Bear Cracker **Lunch** Cheese Quesadilla or Chicken Quesadilla Picante Style Rice Tender Green Beans Mixed Fruit with Strawberries	**4 Breakfast** Chilled Pineapple Tidbits Choice of Cereal Choice of Breakfast Cracker **Lunch** Diced Chicken in Gravy Mashed Potatoes Wisconsin Blend Muffin Choice of Diced Pears
7 Breakfast Apple Juice Scrambled Egg with Tortilla or Warm Pan Roll **Lunch** Cheeseburger or Fish Sandwich Potato Wedges Glazed Carrots Pineapple Tidbits or Chilled Peaches	**8 Breakfast** Diced Pears Choice of Cereal Graham Cracker **Lunch** Hot Ham* & Cheese or Grilled Cheese Hash Brown Potatoes Garden Green Peas Manager's Choice Fruit or Frozen Juice Bar	**9 Breakfast** Orange Juice Choice of Cereal Blueberry Waffle Cracker **Lunch** Rotini Pasta & Meat Sauce Garlic Breadstick Garden Salad w/ Dressing or Whole Kernel Corn Fresh Orange Wedges or Chilled Mixed Fruit	**10 Breakfast** Chilled Applesauce Cup Egg & Cheese Mini Sandwich **Lunch** Mock Chicken Leg* Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Wisconsin Blend Vegetables or Fresh Baby Carrots with Dip Pan Roll Chilled Diced Pears	**11 Breakfast** Fruit Juice Blend Choice of Cereal Sports Bites Crackers **Lunch** Beef Hard Shell Taco Lettuce, Tomato & Cheese Picante Style Rice Wisconsin Blend Vegetables Chilled Peaches or Pear Half

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
14 Breakfast Chilled Pears Cherry Vanilla Yogurt Choice of Cereal **Lunch** Cheese Pizza or Pepperoni* Pizza California Blend Vegetables or Tender Green Beans Choice of Applesauce or Fresh Red Grapes	**15 Breakfast** Chilled Apple Juice Hot Oatmeal or Choice of Cereal Choice of Breakfast Cracker **Lunch** Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun Baked Potato Rounds Whole Kernel Corn Chilled Pineapple Tidbits or Mixed Fruit with Strawberries	**16 Breakfast** Chilled Applesauce Choice of Cereal Strawberry Waffle Cracker **Lunch** Mozzarella Pizza Dippers with Marinara for Dipping Wisconsin Blend Vegetables or Garden Salad w/Dressing Kiwi or Chilled Peaches	**17 Breakfast** Chilled Orange Juice Scrambled Eggs with Salsa in Tortilla Shell or with a Pan Roll **Lunch** Diced Chicken in Gravy Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Glazed Carrots or Cucumber Coins Pan Roll Diced Pears with Red Grapes	**18 Breakfast** Chilled Mixed Fruit Choice of Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick **Lunch** Bratwurst* or Turkey Hot Dog on Whole Grain Bun Oven Baked French Fries Baby Carrots or Green Peas Fresh Apple Wedges Chocolate Brownie
21 Martin Luther King Day 	**22 Breakfast** Chilled Fruit Juice Blend Breakfast PB&J Uncrustable or Cereal and Graham Crackers **Lunch** Chicken Nuggets or Fish Nuggets Macaroni & Cheese Tender Green Beans or Celery Sticks with Herb Dip Chilled Peaches or Fresh Pear Half	**23 Breakfast** Pineapple Tidbits Choice of Cereal Manager's Choice Muffin **Lunch** Turkey Mini Corn Dogs Oven Baked Potato Wedges Whole Kernel Corn or California Blend Vegetables Diced Pears or Orange Wedges	**24 Breakfast** Chilled Apple Juice Choice of Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick **Lunch** *Breakfast for Lunch* French Toast Sticks w/ Syrup Pork Links* or Turkey Patties Golden Hash Browns Strawberry Cup or Cinnamon Applesauce	**25 Records Day**
28 Banking Day 	**29 Breakfast** Chilled Pears Choice of Cereal Lemon Dinosaur Cracker **Lunch** Pepperoni Hot Pocket or PB&J Uncrustable Wisconsin Blend Vegetables or Baby Carrots Applesauce or Manager's Choice Fruit	**30 Breakfast** Chilled Orange Juice Strawberry Banana Yogurt Choice of Breakfast Cracker **Lunch** Chili & Melted Cheese Sandwich Seasoned Carrots or Garden Salad w/ Dressing Pineapple Tidbits Freshly Baked Cookie	**31 Breakfast** Chilled Strawberry Cup Hot Oatmeal or Choice of Cereal Cinnamon Breadstick **Lunch** Hearty Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Garden Fresh Green Peas or Tangy Coleslaw Pan Roll Chilled Peaches or Orange Wedges	*Resolve to Eat Wise & Exercise Regularly in 2008!*

All meals include ½ pint of milk. Students may choose skim, 2%, chocolate flavored skim or strawberry flavored skim for lunch and skim or 2% for breakfast.
*indicates Pork 12/11/07
JK 12/7/ 07 Revised ***NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS AND CARBOHYDRATE COUNT AVAILABLE AT www.wellnessandpreventionoffice.org

...You Can Use

WCA News...

WCA January 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. Winter Break Dec. 25-Jan.4	2.	3.	4. B-Ball game Maasai Institute @ WCA JV @ 5:30 Varsity @ 7:00 ACT Registration Due	5.
7. Class Resumes	8. Multi-Cultural Scholarship Fair @ 1931 S. 14 Street 5-7pm	9.	10.	11.	12. Science Saturday Milwaukee Metropoli-tan Sewage District
14.	15.B-Ball game Destiny @ WCA JV @ 5:00 Varsity @ 7:00	16.	17.	18.B-Ball game WCA @ South Central Knights JV @ 5:30 Varsity @ 7:00 Milwaukee Career Day Trip HALF DAY	19. Science Saturday Urban Ecology Center
21. Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	22. Final Exams B-Ball game WCA @ Mil. North Div. JV @ 5:30 Varsity @ 7:00	23. Final Exams	24. Final Exams PAC meeting @ 5:30 End of 1st Semester (2nd Quarter)	25. B-Ball game Atlas Prep @WCA JV @ 5:30 Varsity @ 7:00 NO SCHOOL for students	26.
28. 2nd Semester begins (3rd Quarter)	29. B-Ball game Wis. Conservatory of Lifelong Learning @ WCA JV @ 5:30 Varsity @ 7:00	30. UW-Milwaukee U-Visit Trip	31. B-Ball game WCA @ Destiny JV @ 5:00 Varsity @ 7:00		

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.

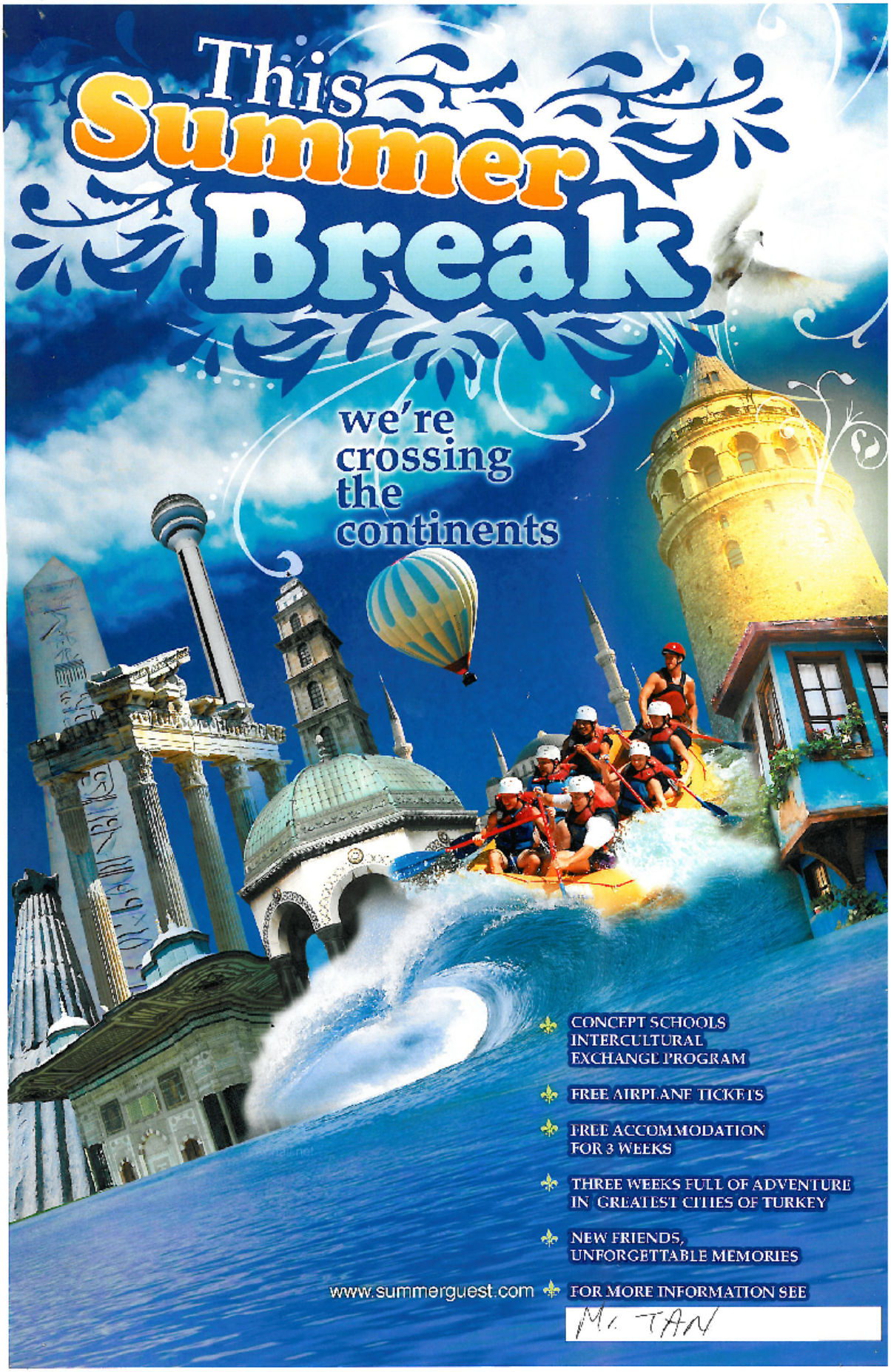
There are two program options;

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)


This Summer Break
we're crossing the continents
CONCEPT SCHOOLS INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM
FREE AIRPLANE TICKETS
FREE ACCOMMODATION FOR 3 WEEKS
THREE WEEKS FULL OF ADVENTURE IN GREATEST CITIES OF TURKEY
NEW FRIENDS, UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES
www.summerguest.com
FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE
Mr. TAN

MRSEF

Milwaukee Regional Science and Engineering Fair

March 7–8, 2008

organized by WISCONSIN CAREER ACADEMY

Application deadline: February 22, 2008
4801 S 2nd St Milwaukee WI 53207
414 483 2117 x 114
www.mrsef.org