

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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End of Year Report: June 2009

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51 STUDENTS RECITE POEMS

AT JUNE FAMILY NIGHT

"Yea! It's Family Night!" shouted 9-year old LaMarr as he bounded through the doors of Edgewater Presbyterian Church. The families and tutors cheered later when they heard what LaMarr had said. 115-120 people were there. A few fathers and toddlers had to stand since there weren't enough chairs.

Tutor Heidi Aylesworth reflected, "I came not knowing what to expect, and when I walked in, Guadalupe (her tutee, (4th gr.) ran up and threw her arms around me. It made me feel so good."

As people came, they were handed three magazines with students' writings. The children hunted for the stories they had written, noticed other kids' stories, and shared them with each other. Guadalupe M. (4th gr.) had tears of joy at seeing her story in print, in her own handwriting. Keily F. and Brayant S. (3rd gr.) read their stories over and again. Such excitement over reading and writing!

Several tutors sat with the families of their tutees during the potluck supper. People brought buckets, bowls, and trays full of food to share. Everyone ate and ate. An Eritrean family brought injera, and an Ethiopian family brought a lamb dish to go with it. Karah P.'s mother brought two cakes that said, "Family Night." Sam M. brought a cake that said, "Thank you, Mrs. Beth." Susan Mattison's

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chocolate chip cookies were the biggest yet, 5½ inches in diameter!

The highlight of the evening was poems: 51 students, 1st grade through high school, each recited a poem by memory. Students lined up and came to the microphone one at a time. They recited their poems, smiled for a photograph, and received a certificate.

The audience loved to see the children saying the poems. All the relatives shouted for joy when Judit L. (1st gr.) recited "Jack Be Nimble." Tutor Danielle Montemayer mouthed every word as her tutee Edwin L. (3rd gr.) recited "If You Ever Meet a Whale." People were impressed when Hirut N. (8th gr.) recited Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise." Latrice T. (11th gr.) received the loudest cheer for reciting in Spanish! four stanzas of José Martí's "Versos Sencillos," which she had memorized for her Spanish class at school.

People stayed for the whole program -- adults from 25 families, 52 youth from the Tutoring Program, lots of little siblings, 17 tutors, and guests.

To open the program the Youth Choir sang two songs, belting them out with joy and gusto. Since it was a cloudy day, the 15-member choir led the audience in singing "The sun'll come out TOMORROW."

After the program Daniel A. (9th gr.) told Beth Palmer how important the Tutoring Program was for him and that he wanted to come next year, too.

The evening was joyously chaotic. Everyone enjoyed it.

Comments from Tutors:

“I appreciate what the program does for the kids. Family Night was GREAT! It was inspirational to see so many families there. The kids enjoyed themselves, the parents enjoyed themselves. There were different cultures all getting along. The kids were well rehearsed; they had learned their lines. The material was good. It was uplifting to see kids from different cultures interacting, getting along, and enjoying themselves. It was almost divine.”

~Tamara Clark, Karah’s grandmother.

“Just wanted to drop you a note to thank you for running such a terrific tutoring program. Last night’s Family Night was extremely impressive. Your energy and devotion to the kids is remarkable, and our neighborhood is certainly lucky to have you.

“Participating in your program has been a great experience for me as well. I’m looking forward to continuing next fall.”

~Kirsten Recknagel, Sam’s tutor

“Dear Beth,

“Kerbie [her tutor] and I would like to thank you for being a great instructor of the tutoring program. Over the years, the tutors you have provided me with have helped me with my school skills and my language skills. I really appreciate the effort you put in the tutoring program and the Inspired Youth Singers. I feel that this program will help me become successful in the future. Thank you.”

Jasmine T. (10th gr.), and her tutor, Kerbie Reader

2008-2009 WAS A GOOD YEAR

126 students, 138 tutors, and 48 junior tutors participated in the Tutoring Program, the Inspired Youth Singers, and the Summer Piano Program in 2008-2009. It was a good year.

STUDENTS TUTORS WJHS

Mon. HS	14	17
Tues. 5th-8th	28	31
Wed./Thurs. 1 st -4 th	30	64
Sat. K-9 th	53*	5
		48
Choir, K-HS	27**	3
Piano Program-708	33***	18
TOTAL	126	138

48

(*28 Sat. students were not in another tutoring section)

(** 10 Choir members were not in regular Tut. Prog.)

(*** 19 Piano students were not in regular Tut. Prog.)

The **2009-2010 tutoring year** will start with

tutors = meetings the week of September 14-17, 2009. Students will come beginning the week of September 21-24.

To sign up, call 773-561-4759 or email inspiredyouth2@yahoo.com.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT STUDENTS

Several students got straight A’s on their January report card: Fermin E. (9th gr.), Bsrat N. (4th gr.), Nubia D. (2nd gr.), Kedus K. (2nd gr.), Eduardo L. (1st gr.), and Abeye K. (kind.). Karah P. (3rd gr.) got all A’s and 1 B. Jonathan D. (2nd gr.) got mostly A’s on the January report card. Ckoryna L. (6th gr.) got straight A’s on her April report card. Abaigail P. (6th gr.) and Omega N. (2nd gr.) made the honor roll in April. Elija W. (4th gr.), Ladaja S. (3rd gr.), and Brandon W. (1st gr.) made the honor roll in June. Cortez Y. (7th gr.) brought up his grades in June.

Although Marleni R. (2nd gr.) did very little work as a 1st grader, this year as a 2nd grader she worked hard and progressed tremendously. She did homework; she read book after book; she worked on math; she wrote sentences and

stories. She wrote this to her mother in May
(reprinted with only minor editing):

Dear Mom,

I am writing a letter because it's going to be Mothers Day and I would like to tell you Happy Mothers Day. I want to give you a big hug and say that I will help you clean the house. I want to say thank you for helping me. You buy me things that I need for school. I want to thank you for making food for me and for school. I want to tell you that I love you a lot. From: Marleni R. To: Rosalva C.

At the end of the school year LaMarr S. (3rd gr.) received a special award from his teacher for being the nicest student in the whole school. LaMarr helped other students do better in their school work so they didn't have to go to summer school. When students got hurt, he helped them. His teacher gave LaMarr a \$20 bill for being such a nice student. He was the only one in the class to get that award. His teacher told LaMarr to spend it wisely.

Good news of Students, *continued*

This is why we keep going in faith, hope, and love: On Feb. 4, 2009 seven-year old Chris S. (2nd gr.) wasted the whole tutoring session. He refused to work for an hour and a half. No work, nothing. The next week he helped pass out folders, he helped correct the math homework of another boy in his class, and he and the other boy read *Bony-Legs* ("The Hut on Chicken Feet") together. Chris was helping the other boy sound out the words! Four months before, Chris was reading pre-primers. Now he was helping another boy in his class read! After the boys read, Chris passed out envelopes for a Valentine's Day project and later collected the scissors. We never know what the students are capable of.

Tony Y. (1st gr.) began singing in the Youth Choir when he was in kindergarten. At that time he sang only part of the time. He wiggled and squirmed, and hardly sat still on a chair. At one concert, he fell asleep just before the choir was to go on stage to perform. At the choir's concert this March, Tony was an entirely different boy. He sang the whole time and behaved like a gentleman.

When Mario D. (3rd gr.) was in 1st grade, he hardly talked or read at all. Starting in the middle of 2nd grade he began to read and write a little. This year, in 3rd grade, he began reading a lot. He wrote page after page of sentences using spelling words. In May when the Loyola tutors had gone back to their home states, Mario started writing short articles--by himself-- for our magazine *Sunshine*. Altogether he wrote five stories (with pictures) for this year's magazines and drew two other pictures. Mario has come a long way.

When students wrote letters to the law firm Much Shelist thanking them for the award they gave Inspired Youth, Inc. ("*Student Writings, 2009*," on website.), Beth Palmer told the children the award would allow the Tutoring Program to continue for another year. Tora S. (2nd gr.) moaned, "Oh!" Beth P. said, "What do you mean?" Tora replied, "One year? Is that all? I want it to go on and on and on."

Oscar B. (6th gr.) made a remarkable journey from Sept. 2007 to June 2009. In Sept. 2007 we discovered he couldn't read, in Spanish or English. We gave him our easiest pre-primers to read. He kept coming to the Tues. evening tutoring session even when his friend dropped out. He began to come to the Saturday program. He started reading books that were a little harder. Patient tutor/mentors kept encouraging him, even though he kept saying, "No" -- Jessica Hertel, Jessica Dixon, Tom Walsh. In 2007-2008 the only homework he brought was math. In the spring of 2009 he began bringing social studies homework (reading) to do at the Tutoring Program. In May 2009 he completed the tutoring assignment of reading about a country and writing a short paragraph about it. The progress Oscar has made in the past two years is remarkable.

Shonesha J. (8th gr.) won 1st place in the Goudy School Spelling Bee and went to the area semi-finals. She has been studying spelling words for the contest since 4th grade. In the area semi-finals Shonesha made it to the 2nd round. Goudy's principal, Ms. Brant, took

Shonesha and another Goudy finalist out to lunch on the day of the area semi-finals. Way to go, Shonesha!

On Jan. 8, tutors from Loyola University were still on vacation, so three children helped as tutors. Tora S. (2nd gr.) worked with Kalip T. (1st gr.), and they did beautifully. Karah P. (3rd gr.) worked with Myreanna S. (3rd gr.). They wrote page after page of sentences using spelling words. They were so excited. Karah exclaimed, "Look what Myreanna did! Look what I did!" Yulisa R. (6th gr.) helped three 1st graders and a 2nd grader. She went from one to the other, helping them and making sure they were engaged. All three showed real leadership.

Guadalupe M. (4th gr.) is a fiend at working. She devours all the assignments we give her. She is also helpful with the Youth Choir. She sets up the stand for the keyboard, sets up the keyboard, and passes out the folders. Guadalupe loves to sing.

Karah P. (3rd gr.) sang a solo at a worship service in April. She was poised, and her voice was steady. People commented even weeks later how much they enjoyed it.

March 11, 2009 was a remarkable day. Six students in grades 1-4 finished reading the entire basal reader which they had been reading for a month. Two finished one book, 2 another book, and 2 more two other books. The next day another student finished another basal reader. In stressing reading we want the children on the 1st and 2nd grade levels to gain fluency, and then continue to work on comprehension. Congratulations, seven students!

"EVERYDAY MATH"

Goudy Elementary School, which many of the students attend, is using "Everyday Math," published by the University of Chicago. Staff from Inspired Youth designed math worksheets based on material from the Everyday Math website, in order to expand and extend students' understanding of math. The material deals with money, "In Out" (functions), logic, fractions, estimation, and short cuts for doing

mental math. The students enjoy it and it invigorates them.

GOUDY 8TH GRADE GRADUATION

On June 10, 78 students graduated from the 8th grade at Goudy Elementary School, which many students in the Tutoring Program attend. Of the students who graduated, 14 had been in the Tutoring Program or Youth Choir, and siblings of two others had been in the program. Around 20% had been influenced by Inspired Youth. We wish all the graduates well as they continue into high school.

SATURDAY PEER TUTORING: 8th graders from Wilmette Jr. Hi help Chicago students

Founder of Saturday Program: In 1994 Jack Jacobson set up the relation between Wilmette Jr. High and the Saturday Tutoring Program, whereby 8th graders from WJHS come to Chicago twice a month to tutor city children.

Jack Jacobson retired in 2000, but in February 2009 he came to visit the Saturday program. When he saw this year's 8th graders working so well with the Chicago children, he said, "It's beautiful. I see former students all the time who tutored in the program. I wish I had a list of all the WJHS students who volunteered." Then Jack asked, "How's Jasmine? I still have a huge picture of Jasmine and her two brothers when they were little [2-, 3-, and 5-years old]." Jasmine was one of his favorite children. She is now 16 years old, and 6' 2" tall!

Mar. 7, 2009: It rained the first Saturday in March, but 43 Chicago kids came to Margate Park *to study*, in the rain! They came on the bus from Albany Park, Rogers Park, and Uptown. They came in cars. They walked between half a mile and a mile and a half, from Edgewater and Uptown, *to study!* And it was a calm scene! The 8th grade tutors were great, and the Chicago kids were great.

Seven-year old Chris worked with an 8th grade tutor named Maxime all year. She was very gentle with him. On Mar. 7, Chris began reading the book in his folder. Everything was fine. Then it came time to do math ("borrowing" in subtraction), and he refused to

do anything. He didn't want to write either. Finally he started doing a little math. Then he kept working and working. When it was time for the group to hand their folders in and change subjects, Chris finished the page, on his own! Then he turned the page over and began to do the problems on the other side! It was a good day.

Images from the Last Day of Saturday Peer Tutoring, May 2, 2009

Teacher/coordinator Stephanie Raue did a 12k run at 8 am before coming to the Tutoring Program at 10 am.

Jamileth D. (3rd gr.) wrote: "We have tutoring every other Saturday. I work with Bridget every time and she is nice and pretty. I love doing math a lot. I learned multiplication. I love when we go outside and play with Bridget. ... Dear Bridget, I will miss you a lot. I wish you were in tutoring all the time. You are the bestest tutor in my life and I like your name.
~Jamileth"

The Last Day of Saturday Tutoring (cont.)

Cordell Y. (5th gr.) said, "I really like working with Melanie. I'm going to miss her."

Shkreara P. (2nd gr.) started crying because she came late and had to work with an adult rather than an 8th gr. tutor. She announced, "I'm never going to be late again."

The session ended with a Pizza Party. 46 Chicago children came that day; only three were absent. They didn't want to miss the last day with their tutors, and they didn't want to miss the pizza.

As the Pizza Party was finishing, they gave coordinator Beth Palmer a gift -- a huge, framed photo of the entire group. Around the border of the picture everyone had signed their name during the previous session -- without Ms. Palmer seeing it! What beautiful memories, 93 names -- from a kindergarten boy who could hardly write his name, to a 3rd grade girl who signed her name and then wrote "Have fun," from the 8th grade tutors, to the adult coordinators. As Ms. Palmer opened the magnificent present and elegant card, all the kids gathered and were watching, silent with awe. Ms. Palmer almost started crying. It was

a treasured moment. The program brings out the best in people.

The 8th grade tutors got on their bus to go back to Wilmette, and several Chicago kids stood outside the bus saying good-bye. The bus started leaving, and Ashton B. (7th gr.) jogged after the bus. He ran after the bus all the way to the end of the park (1/4 mile), keeping up with it until it turned and went out of sight. Coordinator Ms. Raue followed after, shouting, "Come back, Ashton." Finally he came back. The students will miss the camaraderie, the good times.

Saturday Tutoring, Mar. 14, 2009: Mothers of two kindergarten boys told us how important it was that their sons had this study time one-on-one with a "teacher." One said there was time to work on things. Another wanted her son to learn the "teen" numbers better.

Students usually don't bring school homework to the Saturday Tutoring Program. They work on the reading-writing-arithmetic assignments the program provides in the students' folders. But on Mar. 14, a 9th grade boy brought his algebra book, two 6th grade girls worked on writing a fable for their school homework, and a fifth grade boy wrote a summary of a book he read for school. Their 8th grade tutors helped them with their school work.

CHOICES

Tues., Mar. 17, St. Patrick's Day, was a hot summer's evening in Chicago. It was time to go to the Tutoring Program, but many of the kids were at the Goudy School playground. Beth Palmer went by the playground to see if she could convince any kids who were in the Tutoring Program to go to the library to study that evening. (Unlikely chance!) Several mothers sitting on a bench chuckled at the contrast of that middle-aged woman trying to pry kids away from their friends and the playground on that warm, bright March evening, and the unlikelihood of the kids going to the Tutoring Program that evening. (It'll never happen!)

Ms. Palmer left the playground, crossed the street, and rang doorbells of two apartments to see if any kids were coming to

tutoring. As Y. and another student came out of the building, 4-5 young teens ran from the park. One, Y.'s cousin, said another cousin had just been stabbed at the playground. He lived four blocks away and was in another gang's territory. Y. (6th gr.) said that V. (6th gr.) had warned them not to come into their territory. As we proceeded to the Tutoring Program, Y. said, "Do you hear the sound of the ambulance?" Later she said, "They must all be at the hospital." She couldn't get it out of her mind.

Y. mentioned a couple of people in V's gang. (Ms. Palmer thought with horror, "V's gang? He's just a little kid!") Y. mentioned Fr. being in the gang. Ms. Palmer cried, "Our Fr.?" Y. laughed, "No, not *your* Fr!" She noticed that Ms. Palmer considered the Fr. in the Tutoring Program to be *her* Fr.

On that 72 degree day in March, 13 kids, 10-14 years old, came to the library to study with their tutors. All the kids made choices.

DIFFICULT TIMES

In Sept. we thought 11-year old Myanna wouldn't be coming very often to Tues. night tutoring, but she started coming every week. She did wonderful work with her tutor, Margaret Sullivan.

Myanna writes beautiful letters. Her holiday letter to a senior in a nursing home and her thank you letter to the law firm Much Shelist for their award to Inspired Youth were thoughtful, heart-felt, and articulate. We told Myanna she could be a writer, or use writing in her profession.

In December Myanna and her grandmother went downtown to Chicago's Loop to buy some Christmas presents. While they were downtown, her grandmother said her eye was hurting. Then her grandmother started to cry. There was 11-year old Myanna, all alone in downtown Chicago with her grandmother crying. They went into a nearby McDonald's to sit and rest.

The next week Myanna told Beth Palmer her grandmother was in the hospital. The week after that she said her grandmother had a fake eye. Beth said, "Did she have a

cornea transplant?" Myanna said, "She has a fake eye." Her grandmother's diabetes had caused an infection, and her eye had to be removed.

A week later Myanna said she had to do everything at home because her aunt (her grandmother's younger daughter) always had to go some place. Myanna said she made breakfast for her grandmother: "Not cereal – sausage and eggs!" Beth said, "Do you cook them?" "Yes." Beth said, "You might not appreciate it now, but later you'll realize the good experience you're getting. You're showing a lot of responsibility. You could get your bronze award in Girl Scouts. Maybe all the cooking you're doing could go toward a bronze award." Myanna was indignant. "I'm not doing this for a dumb award. I'm doing it because I love my grandma."

FIRE

On Mar. 2 (a "Monday holiday") an apartment building on Hollywood Ave. caught on fire. The fire was all over the news because Hollywood is a major thoroughfare between the suburbs and downtown Chicago. The burning building was home to a devoted tutoring family (Summone S., 2nd gr., and LaMarr S., 3rd gr.). Luckily their whole family was out of the building when the fire occurred. Ten people had to go to the hospital, none with life-threatening injuries. Summone and Lamarr stayed with relatives for a week and then were allowed to go back into the building. They had to get new doors because their doors were crashed in.

NEWS OF TUTORING GRADS

Alex Harris graduated from DePaul University in June 2008 and landed a job in marketing, which is his field. His mother is very proud of him.

Ashley L. (age 18) started in the Tutoring Program when she was 1½ years old. She was called "Little Ashley" because she was the smallest child in the preschool section. After elementary school, she went to Lincoln Park High, transferred to Amundsen H.S., and then spent the last two years being home schooled. She has been admitted to DePaul

University where she will be a freshman in Sept. 2009.

Ashley remembers many things about the Tutoring Program. She went to see *Beauty and the Beast* (tickets from the CBA); she was in the Youth Choir and went to sing for nursing homes; and she can still play "Amazing Grace" on the recorder. Her brother Ramiro graduated from Amundsen a couple of years ago.

Ashley is a friend of Joseph O.'s family. Joseph, age 18, was in the Tutoring Program from 1st-4th grades. Joseph died at 1 pm on April 24, 2009, in an accident. He may have gotten in with the wrong crowd. His whole family and everyone who knew him are full of grief.

Janeen Boyce had a baby. Cecily Noble had a baby. Jesus Gomez and Carla Salazar had a baby.

Sophia Watson graduated from Amundsen H.S. in June 2009 and will attend the School of the Chicago Art Institute beginning in September. She received a scholarship and grants in order to attend. She plans to major in fashion design. While in elementary school Sophia was in the Tutoring **Tutoring Grads**, *continued* Program, which bought her glasses. Then she went to Belize to live with her grandmother. In fall 2008 she returned to Chicago for her senior year and was a tutor in the Tutoring Program during fall 2008.

Jacki R. will be attending DePaul University as a freshman in Sept. 2009.

Augusta B. has been working for Home Depot, after graduating from high school two years ago. Crystal B. is working for a company that sells beauty products. Solanna B. is working with children.

Shana Slater is working and going to Harper College to get her Associate's degree.

Sherrita P. just gave birth to a 3rd daughter. Her oldest daughter, Shkreara (2nd gr.) was in the Saturday Tutoring Program this year. Sherrita, her brother and sister were in the first year of the Tutoring Program, 1985-86.

Maurice T. was in the Tutoring Program and Youth Choir in the late 1980's and early 1990's. He moved to Nebraska but has since moved back to Chicago. He served as a tutor for 4th graders this spring.

Sharon W. graduated from Uplift H.S. this spring. The Tutoring Program (Dr. Walsh) got her glasses when she was in 3rd grade. She was in the Youth Choir then.

Andrew T., Jacki A., and Martika M. graduated from high school in June 2009.

NEWS OF TUTORS

Two tutors are marrying this summer, Jim Conlon and Heather Thome. Jim has been volunteering since Oct. 2004. Heather has been volunteering since Oct. 2000. They both tutor high school students on Mon. evenings. In 2008 Jim won the "My Hero" award from the Sun-Times Judge Marovitz Lend-A-Hand Program of the Chicago Bar Association.

Steve Duncan has generously "re-gifted" the Tutoring Program, sharing with the students gifts he has received. In Oct. he took two students to a Bulls game with tickets from the parents of his trombone student. In January he shared with the 1st - 4th graders cracker jacks he had received as a gift. In February he gave the students boxes of Girl Scout cookies he had received from a music student's parents. In March he gave the Tutoring Program a gift certificate for Amazon.com, which he had received. The Tutoring Program selected interesting used books to add to the Tutoring library for the students to read. Thank you, Steve!

Several tutors moved away in the past month: Jessica Hertel moved to Atlanta to work for the CDC. Peter Yoon moved to Korea to do research and to experience another country before beginning medical school. Patrick Yonkin moved to Austin, TX. Yim Yan moved to Florida.

A woman named Heidi left a phone message saying she would like to volunteer as a tutor. When Beth Palmer called her back and asked for her full name, Aylesworth, Beth realized that this was the Heidi whose father, David Aylesworth, was part of the team which founded the Tutoring Program in 1985. Heidi's brother, David, had been a tutor in the program, and her niece Reiko had been in the Youth Choir; Beth also knew Heidi's mother Dahlia Aylesworth. Several years ago Heidi's family had donated Heidi's penmanship book from 4th grade to the Tutoring Program. It was

fun for Heidi to hear about all these connections with her family. Heidi has been a wonderful tutor for two fourth grade girls.

INSPIRED YOUTH SINGERS

Singing at the Alden-Lakeland

On Lincoln's birthday, a school holiday, the Youth Choir and Girl Scouts sang at the Alden-Lakeland nursing home. After lunch and a rehearsal at McDonald's, the group--12 Youth Choir members, 8 Girl Scouts, and 2 mothers--drove to the Alden-Lakeland. When the children got off the elevator, a resident squealed, "Look at how beautiful they are!" She stroked the children's faces. "Look at all the people who've come to visit us!"

A blind man in a wheel chair has enjoyed the Youth Choir every year. The Youth Choir started singing, and the music carried down the hall to all the residents on the floor. The man heard it and asked to be wheeled to the concert. He came in late, but he got to hear most of the concert.

The Girl Scouts sang "Miss Mary Mack," doing a clapping game along with the music. One resident shouted along with the girls, clapping her hands high in the air. She had a good time.

The Youth Choir sang beautifully, with Cortez Y. (7th gr.) announcing the songs. On "Thank You, Lord," several youth sang solo verses. Ben Milici (6th gr.) played the snare drum and cymbal, which added excitement.

After the concert the Girl Scouts passed out Valentines to residents on all the floors. The Girl Scouts and Saturday tutoring students had made countless Valentines to share. The residents enjoyed the music and Valentines.

28th Annual Youth Choir Festival

Six youth choirs sang at the Youth Choir Fest this year at West Ridge United Methodist Church. Among them were 31 people from Inspired Youth--14 youth, 15 adults, and 2 others. The six choirs each performed 2-3 numbers. The choirs were exceptionally good this year. All the students were well-behaved, all sang well, and each choir demonstrated how important their music ministry was.

The combined choirs sang 5 songs, ending with "Rev. 19," a long, inspiring, three-

part choral work. As the children sang, they were led by several choir directors. The faces of the directors glowed with dedication.

Margaret Sullivan, tutor and driver for Inspired Youth, said she was glad she came because the choirs sang, "Let There Be Peace on Earth," which had been sung at her mother's funeral recently.

Rainey Koga, who had suggested some of the songs that were sung, came to hear the concert. At the concert she met up with her step-daughter, whom she had not seen for 4½ years. The concert was a happy reunion.

Phyllis' Birthday Party

Phyllis (Lee-lee) Rimmer, daughter of Dorie Burrell (co-director of the Inspired Youth Singers) and John Rimmer, turned two years old on May 31, with a big birthday bash in the back yard on May 30. The Youth Choir was invited to sing for the occasion. The back yard of two adjacent buildings was filled with adults, small children, and middle-sized children, everyone having a good time. After a huge barbecue dinner, the Youth Choir sang patriotic songs and songs from the Youth Choir Fest. Then they sang several "kiddy songs" for the young children. The highlight of the afternoon was when the choir was singing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," Phyllis, sitting on her new pink bike, sang along, too. Phyllis is very shy and hardly ever talks when people other than her family are around, but she sang "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" along with the choir. It was the highlight of the afternoon!

ON-LINE ARTICLE about Inspired Youth

Former tutor Sue Schwendener wrote an on-line article about Inspired Youth's Summer Piano Program for examiner.com. To find it, Google: Summer Piano Program Chicago.

NEW WEBSITE:

www.inspiredyouthchicago.org

Inspired Youth, Inc. has a new website! Dawn Low, who signed up to tutor in September 2008, said she wanted to create a new website for Inspired Youth. The tutors and board were excited. Dawn initiated the effort and did most of the work, and seven other people gave their input to various pages. The website has a new logo; a lively page

design with pictures of tutors/tutees on every page; newsletters and student writings in “pdf” format; and an application form for tutors on the Volunteer page. The new website has a link to PayPal on the Donations page so that people can give gifts to Inspired Youth directly from the website. Inspired Youth, Inc. is grateful to Dawn Low for thinking of making a new website and being so creative and skilled in designing and producing it. Thank you, Dawn.

DONATIONS NEEDED: Inspired Youth, Inc. does a lot with minimal funds because of the many people who volunteer. Your contributions are important for enriching the lives of children and families in Uptown in Chicago. Inspired Youth Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation with the IRS, so donations are tax deductible.

Contributions to Inspired Youth can be made through PayPal on the Donations page of the website: www.inspiredyouthchicago.org. Checks made to “Inspired Youth” can be sent to *Inspired Youth, 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660*.

Student’s Goal: Become Attorney, Judge

Marisol Pureco, 10th gr., sought out Inspired Youth in Nov. 2008 because she wanted to do better in geometry in school. Here is an article about her and a speech she gave, reprinted from the *CBA Record* of April 2009.

CBA Lawyers Inspire Goudy Graduate to Seek Legal Career

A former Goudy School student, who took part in the Lawyers in the Classroom program and the *State v. Bean* filming, spoke to the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago about how the joint program with the Chicago Bar Association influenced her to become an attorney.

Reprinted below is her speech and, as you will see, she is quite an impressive young woman who has been profoundly influenced by the CBA and YLS volunteer attorneys. She still carries the pocket constitution she received in 7th grade, and it is her dream to be a prosecutor and then a judge. She also carries the photo taken during the filming of the *State v. Bean* mock trial video, showing her sitting behind current CBA President E. Kenneth Wright’s bench, which she looks at every day to remind her of her career goals.

We hope you will enjoy reading what she wrote. To all the CBA and YLS volunteer attorneys: give yourselves a giant pat on the back for the students like Marisol whom you have influenced so positively over the years!

My name is Marisol Pureco and I am currently a sophomore at Mather High School. I attend the law academy.

I would like to tell you about my experience with the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago. It all began when I was in 7th grade. Attorneys from the Chicago Bar Association came to our classrooms and taught us about different legal situations. They prepared us for the Constitution exam by reviewing real life scenarios with us and gave each of us a mini book version of the constitution. I still use this exact same mini Constitution I was given in 7th grade, and have used it in my law classes, U.S. history class, and my Constitution exam. In a way, this small book has become part of my motivation to become a lawyer because when attorneys from the Chicago Bar Association came in and taught us about the different rights the Constitution granted us, I was amazed. There was so much that I did not know, and they taught it to us. I learned the different Amendments and what they meant within our every day life.

Seeing all the attorneys from the Chicago Bar Association come in—all different, well prepared, and professional—inspired me. Just seeing them walk into our classroom, made me think, “Wow, I want to be just like them when I grow up.” Several occasions the attorneys would tell us about the different procedures involved in a trial. I was amazed at all that was done to solve cases and decide a verdict. Truly, I was amazed! And, overall, what really got me thinking was when the CBA attorneys would give us real life scenarios and we would have to think as if we were attorneys using the law in an appropriate manner and being aware of the rights that were granted by the constitution.

My inspiration to become a lawyer was confirmed in 8th grade when I went along with my school, Goudy School, and lawyers from the CBA Young Lawyer’s Section to film a

mock trial called *State v. Bean* (based on Jack and the Beanstalk). We each played the role of a juror. Sitting there and watching the YLS attorneys do their work – giving the jury their opening statements, influencing the jury by telling a story – stunned me. And it was then that I said to myself: “That will be me one day, and someday, it will be me who will tell the jury a story.”

I have been guided on a legal career path starting when I was in 7th grade and, now, in my high school education at Mather’s Law and Public Safety Academy. I did two mock trials. Both in which I won best attorney! Not only that, but I joined the CBA/YLS Law Explorers Program. I traveled with the YLS lawyers to Boston last year, and this year I will be traveling with the YLS to Washington, DC, to compete in mock trial competitions [and have breakfast with President Obama].

Every time I review a case or I am about to start my mock trial, I always think of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago and the Chicago Bar Association attorneys. I am grateful because, thanks to them, I have been inspired to become an attorney. Not just a goal, but a dream, a dream to become a prosecution attorney in my future.

STUDENTS OF THE INSPIRED YOUTH TUTORING PROGRAM, 2007-2008

PRE-KINDER AND KINDERGARTEN: Kevin Rabadan, Efrain Benitez, Nabei Gender, Abeye Kebe, Elder Leon, Jovanny Salinas, Keshawn Smith, Valeria Soto*, Erick Sotelo

FIRST GRADERS: Josephine Arvidez, Salina Barih, Senite Barih, *Wudassie Denekew**, Saiffom Gender, Judit Leon, Everardo Luna, Leoncio Martinez, *Jennifer Pena*, Jimena Perez, Kalip Thomas, Brandon Wood*, Tony Darryl Young*

SECOND GRADERS: Alyssa Alvarez, Jonathan DeLaCruz, *Nubia Denekew**, Jonathan Escalante, Laura Estrada, Awat Gender, Edward Gomez*, Kedus Kebe, Omega Negassi, Shkreara Perkins, Marleni Rabadan, Teresa Reyna*, Joshua Serrano, Summone Sheppard, Christopher Smith, Yaheim Smith, Tora Stallings, *Ariana Torres, Yapolis Day*

THIRD GRADERS: Kevin Arvidez, Aman Bahir, Jamileth Benitez, Mario DeLaCruz, Keily Franco, Jaelyn Hammond, Adrian Hernandez, Jenny

Jimenez, *Kierra Jones*, Jasmine Lindsey, Edwin Lopez, Edgar Martos, Karah Powell, Ladaja Seals, LaMarr Sheppard, Myreanna Smith, Brayant Soto
FOURTH GRADERS: Mary Ann Bailey*, *Shi-Ann Chambers, Paris Ellis*, Leslie Gomez*, Guadalupe Marcial, Bsrat Negassi, Jennifer Salinas, Anton Seals, Elija Wood

FIFTH GRADERS: Lily Ann Bailey*, Fredy Franco, Jaime Franco, Gerardo Guerrero, Joaum Lara, Kimberly Lopez, Anahi Martinez, Efrain Martinez, *Steve Pena*, Fernando Reyna*, Cordell Young

SIXTH GRADERS: Leslie Arvidez, Oscar Bustamante, Clara Dotton, Jaison Garcia, Ckoryna Lara, *Ben Milici*, Abigail Peralta, Yulisa Rabadan, Angela Rousseau, Myanna Smith, Malik Stevens

SEVENTH GRADERS: Ashton Brown, Yesenia Guerrero, Sbhathleab Negassi, Christina Rousseau, Cortez Young

EIGHTH GRADERS: Ambar Arvidez, Oumou Salamata Barry*, Shonesha Jones, Luis Lopez, Desiree McGregor, Sam Murphy, Hirut Negassi, Portia Offie*, Alejandro Soto, Brianna Thomas, Corzay Young

HIGH SCHOOL: Betzabe Acevedo, Astar Andemariam, Daniel Arvidez, Frehiewt Negassi, Linda Offie*, Diana Oropeza*, Marisol Pureco, Danielle Steele, Andre Tripp, Andrew Tripp, Jasmine Tripp, Latrice Tripp, Deven Tucker, Steven Watson

Students involved only in Inspired Youth Singers are in italics.

*Students only in the 2008 Summer Piano Institute.

TUTORS: INSPIRED YOUTH TUT. PROGRAM: 2008-2009

MONDAY EVE. TUTORS OF HS STUDENTS: Michael

Bovill-F, Julie Buckley-F, Merlin Caro-S, Jim Conlon, Jesse Furmanek-S, Sam Gebresellasia, Monica Krzak, Sandra Kuhn-F, Pamela Loose, Alyssa Lytle, Samantha Masterman, Beth Palmer, Alisa Pierson, Kerbie Reader, Caitlin Salisbury-F, Heather Thome, Joe Ulfing-F, Brian Worley

TUESDAY NIGHT TUTORS OF 5th-8th GRADERS:

Amanda Armstrong, David Bell, Nicole Berg, Jake Bondhus, Regina Buerher, Kendra Burns-F, Jacki Calabrese-S, Bridgett Carroll, Mary Clark, Kenyetta Dillon, Jessica Dixon, Emily Dyer-F, Bob Guillen, Jessica Hertel, Rui Jiang-S, Arnold Kas-S, Aisha Khatoon-F, Erin Meehan-S, Beth Palmer, Bill Porter-F, Helene Price-F, Kirsten Recknagel, Gabrielle Richards-S, Margaret Sullivan, Tina Vo, Tom Walsh, Rachel Warren, Sterling Martin-S, Jennifer Wiczorek-F, Yim Yan, Peter Yoon, Leah Zedella-F

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY AFTERNOON TUTORS

OF 1st-4th GRADERS: Suzi Adams, Wasan Al-Azzawe, Heidi Aylesworth-S, Maggi Bansal-S, Michelle Barrie-S, Mary

Blankenheim, Heather Bollini, Patty Borowiec-F, Larry Bossom-S, Kyra Brown-S, Merlin Caro-S, Catherine David-F, Mike Delaney, Shruti Desai-S, Gabby DeRubira, Steve Duncan, Daniel Fortuna, Michelle Gibson, Nina Gornowicz, Lena Hartshorn-S, Megan Hersey-S, Syed Hussain-F, Zoe Katsaggelos-S, Nita Keating, Hillary Kenyon-F, Layla Khayr, Shira Kollins-S, Ellen Kroin-S, Saurikhane Konekeo-F, Sheldon Landy, Alexandra Lelchuk-S, Pedro Mariano, Susan Mattison, Jonathan McClintock-F, Cyndi Mendell-S, Adriana

Michilli-F, Moriah Moon-S, Meagan O = Malley-S, Tori Oman-S, Reggie Pacheco-F, Beth Palmer, Lauren Parente-S, Michael Peterson, Jill Robinson-F, Leah Rush-F, Stanley Rutledge, Santiago Salazar-F, Kelli Segerson, Katherine Shemmel-S, Bethany Slack-S, Maurice Thomas-S, Hieu Truong-F, Tina Vo-F, Maria Valencia-S, Sophia Watson-F, Jennifer West-S, Lisa Whalen-S, Tifarah Williams-S, Lisa Witmer-S, Patrick Yonkin-S, Peter Yoon, Eliza You, Michaelene Zawicki-S, Leah Zedilla-F, Jenny Zhao-F

ADULT TUTORS OF THE SATURDAY PROGRAM:

Michele de St. Aubin, Stephanie Rubenstein, Beth Palmer, Stephanie Raue, Steven Rish, Erin Meehan.

SATURDAY EUGHTH GRADE TUTORS FROM WILMETTE

JR HS: Abby Albrecht, Annie Armstrong, Lizzie Armstrong, Emily Avrick, Audrey Baer, Alex Berezin, Jordyn Bernstein, Kevin Bode, Alex Cottingham, Juliana Earvolina, Lane Eckensberger, Joseph Figura, Kristen Ann Fox, Laura Friedli, Rebecca Ganellen, Maggie Graham, Grace Hauser, Briget Maloney, Jake Marwil, Elizabeth Mayer, Allison McWeeney, Caitlin Medland, Anna Murphy, Kelsey Murray, Duncan Nakajima, Sarah Nelson, Maggie Noren, Brigid O = Donoghue, Betsy Powers, Joanna Psychogios, Jamie Quirke, Leah Roche, Courtney Roggekamp, Matt Ruby, Jeff Salvatore, Melanie Samuels, Audrey Schield, Nina Schield, Lindsey Seigel, Maxime Smeekes, Matthew Smith, Annie Stahl, Jessica Tetzlaff, Rachel Tenenbaum, Emily Tervor, Cassidy Tompkins, Emily VanDam, Emma Wold

YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTORS: Beth Palmer, Dorie Burrell, Jacki Calabrese

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