

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH, Volume 25, Number 2, Fall 2015

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INDIVIDUALS IN PROGRAM, 2015-2016

	<i>STUDENTS</i>	<i>TUTORS</i>
		<i>ADULT HS/8th gr.</i>
<i>Mon. HS Tutoring</i>	9	25
<i>Mon. 5th-8th Tut.</i>	27	
<i>W/Th 1st-4th Tut.</i>	36	37* + 12 HS fr. <i>New Trier</i>
<i>Sat. Kind-7th (+2 HS)</i>	23** ^{54total} 8	51 8 th <i>WJHS</i>
<i>Individ. in Tut. Prog.</i>	<u>95</u>	<u>70</u> <u>63</u>

*Several tutors volunteered more than one day per week.

** Sat. students not in weekday Tutoring Program.

Of the 95 students in the Tutoring Program, 33 are new this year. Many are relatives of other students in the program, but many are the first in their family to be in the program. Ten students in the program are sons or daughters of “tutoring grads.” Others are relatives of tutoring grads. Parents want their children to have the same good experience they had.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT STUDENTS

David R. (11th gr.) was accepted at DeVry as a high school junior and college freshman. He takes high school courses in the morning and college courses in the afternoon. This past summer he went on a work-study trip to Guatemala with his church. We wish David well at his new school.

Jovanny S. (7th gr.) always liked math better than reading. Now he is getting much better at reading. He is the one who introduced a “PopDrop” to the Inspired Youth Singers, for the rehearsals where audio was needed.

Email from Mon. tutor, Margaret Sullivan: “Before we started tutoring last night, Cynthia (7th gr.) told me that she had gotten a ‘94’ on her homework from last week. She was so proud that she had to take the time to go through all of her folders and find the homework so that I could see the grade that the teacher had put on the assignment. When she works hard, she does good work.”

When A., 8th gr., entered the program in 6th gr., he didn’t know any multiplication facts and could hardly add or subtract. He could read a little, but he couldn’t write in sentences. He worked and worked. Now he can multiply and even divide. He brought his cousin to the program and is trying to get his older brother to come. A. is very helpful at the school and at home. He sets a good example for other students.

Many Inspired Youth had good report cards in the first marking period. Here are a few: Fatima E., 7th gr., Guadalupe E., 5th gr., and Giselle V., 4th gr., all received straight A’s. Phyllis R., 3rd gr., was on the AB honor roll.

FAMILY DAY FOR 1ST-4TH GRADERS

18 parents from 14 families came to the afternoon Tutoring Program to see what their children were doing and to meet the tutors. The tutors talked with the parents; the parents got to see how important the tutors are for their children’s education. Children from the Inspired Youth Singers sang 3 songs for the audience. Juice in non-spill boxes was served, along with thick cookies and mini-carrots. Around 68 people were present at the Family Day, including parents, tutoring children, their siblings, and the tutors. It was a very special occasion. (See the beautiful pictures on Facebook.com/inspiredyouth.)

CORRIENTES PERFORMS AT FAMILY DAY FOR 5TH-HS STUDENTS

Parents sing along in Spanish with all the songs, which they know by memory. A father rocks his newborn daughter. Students follow and understand all the Spanish lyrics. A family which rarely comes to Family Night is

there with their three young children and 7th grade son. An African-American family smiles during the whole concert. Six fathers are there with their children.

The occasion is the 5th-8th graders' Family Night with "Corrientes" performing familiar Mexican folk songs. "Corrientes" has 3 violinists (an adult, a 12-year old, and a 9-year old), 2 guitarists, and a performer who alternates on the guitar and accordion. The group is people who came to know each other at the Old Town School of Folk Music.

Before the concert people shared a bountiful potluck meal--hot dogs, fried rice, salad, and delicious desserts including flan, a Mexican- Filipino baked caramel custard, which was eaten up first! It was a happy Family Night.

FORMER STUDENTS

Myreanna S., gr. 10, flew to New York City on Columbus Day weekend to represent Epworth Church in a program sponsored by the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church called "Plumblin 2015," where high school students learn about the United Nations. To raise funds for the trip, Epworth Church and the Epworth Girl Scouts held a spaghetti dinner, which over 40 people attended. Myreanna studied hard in the Tutoring Program from 2nd – 7th grades. Now in Amundsen HS, she is in the International Baccalaureate Program. She also has a part-time job at Mariano's. We are proud of Myreanna.

Shirleen Smith's children were in the tutoring Program in the late 1980's-early 1990's. Now Rachel S., Amelia B., and Thomas B. all have jobs and are doing well. Rachel is teaching nursing!

Sandra A. was a student in the Tutoring Program in 1998 when she was in 6th grade. Her tutor helped her with math, and she gained 1½ years on the standardized test. Now she is a massage therapist, and she has a son in 3rd gr. She enrolled him in the Tutoring Program and wants him to do well, too.

Jamine B. and her brothers were in the Tutoring Program several years ago, her sister is in the program now, and her son is a kindergartener in the program. As a 7th grader Jamine wrote very interesting stories for our magazine. A couple of years ago Jamine became a substitute teacher with the Chicago Public Schools.

Rosamaria M. was in the tutoring program in the late 1980's. She worked hard and was the first one in her family to go to college. Now she is a social worker. Her sister and brothers were also in the tutoring program. Adriana M. lives in Chicago. Gilberto M. has a job in Mexico. Carlos M. is a mechanic in New Mexico.

SATURDAY TUTORING

The first day of Saturday tutoring was one of the best first days in the 30 years of the program. 35 Chicago children, kindergarten through 8th grade, came, despite the threat of rain. Some even walked through a heavy rain to get to the site, Margate Park. The students all worked well on reading, writing, and arithmetic with 8th grade tutors from suburban Wilmette Jr. High. Two kindergartners new to the program cried at the beginning, but were soon smiling and wanting to come again. In the (2 second hour students wrote scary stories based on pictures of art from the Art Institute of Chicago. The stories were excellent.

This year's Chicago roster had to be revamped from last year's. Almost a third of the Chicago students from last year could not come this year. Some had moved, many were taking confirmation classes, and a few were in other programs or had other plans. Despite this, many new children are participating this year. The Saturday program is a vital, exciting, educational program for youth.

On Nov. 21, a snowy, rainy Saturday, 42 Chicago children came to the Saturday Tutoring Program. There were 11 inches of snow in the suburbs, a hundred-year record. In the city, snow and rain alternated as most of the 42 Chicago children walked to the Saturday program--½ to 1½ miles. At the tutoring center at Margate Park, the students did wonderful academic work with their 8th grade tutors from Wilmette Jr. High. Students concentrated for over an hour.

After reading, writing, and doing math, the students and their tutors made altogether 55 Thanksgiving cards for people in the Mid-America Nursing Home. The cards were thoughtful and creative as the students wrote about their school- work and wished the seniors a happy holiday. The holiday cards were among the best that students in the Tutoring Program have made for seniors.

After making holiday cards, students lined up to receive – guess what! -- turkeys for Thanksgiving! Each of the 33 families present received a turkey. The one extra turkey was given to a family from Inspired Youth's

week-day program, which goes to a Confirmation Class on Saturdays. The Chicago families were very grateful for the turkeys, given by students from Wilmette Jr. High.

This year the turkeys were extra special because of a shortage of turkeys in the stores.

STUDENTS AS RECORDING ARTISTS!

Students from the Inspired Youth Singers sang the background “Ohooo’s” for a song on Jonathan McNulty’s new album called “Broken Leaves.” Jonathan wrote the words and the music and performed the instrumental parts.

To record, the students put on earphones so they could hear the rest of the music, and they sang with the recording. The children’s special part was to sing “Ohooo” between three sections. The children had to sing the song several times to get it perfect and for Jonathan to get the sound he wanted. Jonathan brought fancy equipment to Epworth Church to record the children. With his special equipment, he will take the “Ohoo’s” the children sang and layer it into the recording. The singers will get a copy of the CD when it comes out.

CROP WALK

22 people from Inspired Youth and Epworth Church walked in the 2015 CROP Walk to raise money for needy people around the world and in Chicago. 10 students from Inspired Youth walked, along with 3 teenagers and 4 adults from Epworth, 3 adults from Loyola University, and 2 preschoolers. Most people walked the 2-mile family route, but 3 people walked the 6-mile regular walk. The day was beautiful, a perfect, sunny autumn day.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Halloween day, the rain poured down, and the costumed children poured into Epworth Church. Over 100 children and parents came to Epworth to celebrate Halloween. 20 years ago sane people didn’t go outside on Halloween Day, or they’d get covered with shaving cream, raw eggs, or whipped cream, or their candy bags would be snatched. But times had changed. In 2015 everyone came to Epworth’s party – through the rain -- for a joyous, celebrative time.

The costumes were beautiful, elaborate, and creative. They were home-made and bought in stores, and all beautiful. Pirates (boys and girls), princesses, pumpkins, werewolves, sheep, and Disney characters came to the party. Even a newborn had a costume. The parents must have had so much fun creating costumes for their children! Two teens at the party, Zoria and Daisy, did face-painting, and everyone was special.

Children at the party were from Inspired Youth, Epworth Church, and the Uptown-Edgewater neighborhoods. To publicize the party, Frank Palmer of Epworth Church colored his face with green food-coloring and passed out fliers all week at

Goudy, McCutcheon, and Swift Elementary Schools. 100+ people came to the party--in the rain.

At the party the children decorated cupcakes, colored pictures, and played games – balloon volley-ball and wrap-the-mummy (friend) in rolls of toilet paper. Everyone had fun. They especially enjoyed the pizza, cupcakes, and candy.

It was a great Halloween party. Just look at the (3 pictures on [Facebook.com/epworthchurchchildren-chicago](https://www.facebook.com/epworthchurchchildren-chicago), and you’ll see!

CHILDREN SING AT THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. GERTRUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

“Is that all?” a 7th grade girl from Inspired Youth asked at the end of the Thanksgiving service. Everything was so beautiful, she wanted more.

Eleven students from Inspired Youth and the Epworth Church School Singers, along with six adults, took the train to St. Gertrude Catholic Church for the annual Edgewater community Thanksgiving service. St. Gertrude’s is a huge, sumptuous Gothic church. It was a religious experience just to be there.

The Inspired Youth and Church School Singers sang “Child of God”: “No matter what people say, I am a child of God.” The choir was conducted by Stacy Arroyo. Jasmine T. sang with the group.

A notable part of the service was when the many Boy and Girl Scouts of the Ismaili Mosque processed in a long single file, carrying to the altar bags of food which people had brought for Care for Real to give to people in need.

The final song was a solo by an 8-year old girl who had a voice of pure silver. The audience was moved by the beautiful solo. On the last part of the song, the soloist was accompanied by five child violinists.

After the concert our children talked with two tutors who had come, Carolyn Kryl and Kate Coatar.

Afterwards people got to have cookies and samosas, a Pakistani food. A few Inspired Youth tried the samosas; Dayveana, a 3rd grader, loved them.

DIFFICULT NEWS

M. became pregnant as an 8th grader last year. She delivered a baby boy in October 2015, a baby with special needs and hooked up to many tubes. The baby died after 2 weeks. M's friends were very supportive, and the memorial service was beautiful.

On Oct. 25, Dorie Burrell's nephew was killed in a drive-by shooting on the west side of Chicago. He lived in Wisconsin, but was visiting for the weekend, and he was driving a friend home when he was shot, a case of mistaken identity. He had been working as a construction worker, and he had a 2-year old son. All of Dorie's family are grieving.

Ricardo Gamboa wrote about Dorie Burrell's nephew, Rakim Fanjacker Burrell, on Facebook.

"I seldom post about death on Facebook, because something about it never seems right. In my view, grief really is one of those things you do in private and sparingly. Someone's tragedy is not for your public emotional indulgence. On the other hand, it feels just as off updating on events happening in my life or giving my unsolicited ranty commentary on current events without acknowledging that someone I cared about was shot, in the head, on Saturday night.

"While I was dancing it up in Hyde Park this past Saturday, Rakim Fanjacker Burrell or Perry was shot on the corner of Adams and Kilbourn. Last night, Perry's mom hosted a candlelight vigil at that corner for Perry where so many people came out to remember him. I couldn't sleep afterwards during the night, woke up late for a meeting this morning and am determined to stay out of the house today otherwise I wouldn't want to leave bed. I can't imagine what Perry's family is going through because this hurts really bad. A debilitating and haunting pain because Perry wasn't just too young, he was too good and tried too hard to avoid this. He deserved better.

"I met Perry when I was his high school English teacher at a charter school for former drop-out students. He walked into my class the first day pissed off at the over-policing staff for harassing him just before class started. I remember him shouting, trying not to get in further trouble for swearing, "I'm sick of this muthafather school and all the shitake mushrooms they be putting me through! These muthafathers stay blowin' me, they can kiss my aspirin!" I couldn't stop laughing. We became fast friends. He would come into my cubicle during his lunch period and we'd talk about our lives, share our creative writing and discuss our hopes for the future. I would let him share his raps and poetry at the beginning of class. He was a natural critical thinker, a brilliant writer, and an amazing performer.

"When I got fired for refusing to practice censorship in creative expression and left that school, Perry and I kept in touch. Actually, it was Perry's project that a teacher found that eventually led to my termination. The project totally did cross the boundaries. But that's because Perry was a boundary pusher--he wasn't going to be confined. I remember shortly after I moved to New York City, he called to tell me he was "getting out too" and moving to Wisconsin. He would send me his songs and often mentioned wanting to visit me in New York. I told him I would love that because now that we was in his 20's we could turn daf*ck up in an Empire State of Mind.

"He wasn't just marked by a great mind, sense of humor, or talent, but a big heart. Underneath the occasional tough talk or hard posturing he ever did, he was an extremely sensitive individual who cared for other people. He was willing to help raise children that were not his and always tried to give food for thought to the people around him. There were two things that you could see in Perry's eyes in any given moment: A frustration for how the world around him was and a determination or desire for something different and better.

"Perry never had it easy: He grew up in the Lathrop Homes and lost his brother to violence, 13 years ago, on the same day that he was shot. I'm so mad that this country makes it so hard for black people to self-determine their futures. When it's not killing black people directly, it's creating the conditions of desperation and volatility for black people to kill each other. I feel it's important to write all this, because Perry was not expendable. If he was a white kid that had the same amount of intelligence and talent that he had, he would've been a Harvard graduate or famous by now instead of spending his life working at minimum wage jobs to gain his livelihood and provide for his family. I don't think anyone deserves to die, but I also know a lot of motherf*ckers that barely deserve to live. Perry was someone who deserved and was willing to work for so much more. I know that whenever someone dies people quickly memorialize them by talking about how great that person was. That's not what I'm doing. I'm writing this because it's the truth.

"I'm writing this because I don't know what else to do. The headline for the article that mentioned Perry's shooting was "6 killed, 28 injured in Chicago weekend violence" (<http://wgntv.com/.../6-killed-26-injured-in-chicago-weekend-.../>). This is fucked up, because

Perry wasn't just 1 of 6, he was one in a million, one in a lifetime. His death wasn't just part of an episode of passing weekend violence, it is devastating violence that will haunt some of us for our entire lives. His life and his person deserve more than a fucking two-sentence mention. And, we're all so de-powered in this world that the only place I can try and correct this is on the small space of my Facebook profile.

“I attached a video of a poem that Perry wrote for his brother after he was shot. It was the first piece of writing that Perry showed me. I can remember the notebook paper and his handwriting. It was the first thing that he ever performed in my class. I remember him standing up there and performing it in his oversized white shirt and blue jeans. If I ever have a kid, I'm naming it Perry and hoping it has half the heart, go and guts, and talent that he had.”