

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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GOOD NEWS ABOUT STUDENTS (BOYS)

Nathan B., 7th gr., has been in the Tutoring Program for several years. His parents know how important the Tutoring Program is, but Nathan has always had a hard time in school. Finally, in 7th gr., Nathan is starting to do better. He is bringing his homework to Monday night tutoring and also doing the work in the tutoring folder after his homework. His regular tutor, Amanda S., has been patient and thorough with him. When she couldn't come one day, substitute tutor Bob G. was reluctant to work with Nathan because of past experience. But after giving it a try, Bob G. wrote, "He was focused and worked very well and worked hard." This was a strong compliment.

Meinor C., 6th gr., entered the Tutoring Program in March 2017. He does our hardest math series and is doing well in it. His math and science grades went up from C to B on the April report card.

Alejandro S., 6th gr., entered the Tutoring Program two years ago, in 4th gr. He could read quite well, but he was poor in math; he couldn't multiply. In the tutoring sessions, he worked and worked at math. In 5th gr., he continued to work at math. By April of 6th gr., he loved math, and he got a B on his report card, but he got a D in reading! Now we'll focus on reading!

Marco O., 5th gr., has made tremendous gains in his first year in the Tutoring Program. His math has improved greatly. His written expression has dramatically improved. Marco's mother brought her two sons, 5th and 7th grades, to tutoring every Monday night and every Saturday session. She really cares about her sons' progress.

Marco's brother, Miguel O., 7th gr., was consumed in doing his online math homework, IXL, at the tutoring sessions. His teacher at Goudy wrote about Miguel, "Lots of untapped potential –has ability to make A's on report card."

Giovanni R., 4th gr., enjoys math and is improving in reading and writing. He also has a lot of potential.

Byron C., 2nd gr., entered the Tutoring Program in March 2017. He worked steadily on his homework and the work in the folder. He loved math and worked furiously on it. His grade in math on his April report card went from C to B. His grade in social studies also went up from C to B. His written expression has also improved, but it still has to be reflected on his report card.

First Grade Boys

The Tutoring Program has an amazing group of boys in the first grade. David C., 1st gr., is very serious. He always focuses on his homework. He got straight A's in school, and he likes art.

In September, Jason R., 1st gr., couldn't do simple math or read any words. He worked and worked and kept learning. On the January and April report cards he received all A's, with one B. He received an award in his class for the student who improved the most in math. Now Jason has to focus on anger management,

becoming aware of when he is angry and not physically lashing out. Jason has a lot of energy. As we walk from the school to the Tutoring Program and then walk home, he loves to run fast to the next street and wait for the rest of the children.

Raul V., 1st gr., keeps working in the Tutoring Program. He writes excellent sentences but has to keep working on math and reading. In Inspired Youth's Children's Choir, Raul is one of the strongest singers. His mother says Raul always plays the Inspired Youth CD at home and sings along. Raul has been in IY's Summer Piano Program for two years, since he turned five. Raul and his sisters are also in a running program with the Park District. His sister Itzel, 4th gr., ran a half marathon this spring, at age 9!

Andre M., 1st gr., entered the Tutoring Program at the end of February. His mother knew about the Tutoring Program because when she was in early elementary school, several of her friends were in the program. Andre loves to read and he is very alert. When he first entered the Tutoring Program it was hard to understand him. He didn't enunciate clearly, and his voice was high and soft. By the beginning of May, he started to speak clearly. It was a real difference. In his academic work, we worked hard on math and on writing sentences. He is improving in both.

Good News: A Kindergarten Girl

Here is good news about a girl! Jessica K., kindergarten, didn't talk much at the beginning of the year. Her parents were from the Congo, and they spoke French and another language at home. In Inspired Youth's Saturday Tutoring Program we worked on reading, and speaking, and math. Jessica also had a wonderful classroom teacher at school, Ms. Guiragossian. By February, the grades on Jessica's report card went up significantly. By April she was reading first grade books, and she was talking non-stop.

INDIVIDUALS IN PROGRAM 2016-2017

	STUDENTS	TUTORS
		ADULT HS/Univ./8 th gr.
Mon. HS Tutoring	5	29
Mon. 5th-8th Tut.	29	
W/Th 1 st -4 th Tut.	34	45* +12 New Trier HS 8 DePaul Univ.
Sat. PS-8 th (+2 HS)	29**(57total)	7 51 WJHS 8 th gr.
Individ. in Tut. Prog.	91	81 + 71
Choir, PK-HS	9***(41total)	5 + 71

Total Individuals 100 86 + 71

*Several tutors volunteered more than one day per week.

** Sat. students not in weekday Tutoring Program.

*** Choir members not in Tutoring Program

Tutors and Students Come from Many Different Countries

Some of the students were born in Chicago, but many other students or their parents came from other countries: Mexico, Ethiopia, Albania, and India, as well

as Congo, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. All the students speak English, but they need to keep working on vocabulary, English usage, and comprehension.

The tutors also came from many different countries. Most of the tutors came from the United States, and were Caucasian or African American. Other tutors came from Mexico, China, Gabon, Japan, the Philippines, and Turkey.

Many of the tutors found out about Inspired Youth through the Internet. Other tutors came from Loyola University through Volunteer Service Fairs held at Loyola in September and January. Students from Wilmette Jr. High have been volunteering in the Saturday Tutoring program since 1994! A student from the Latin School began volunteering after tutor, Jim C., made a presentation there about the Tutoring Program. The tutors are intelligent, strong leaders, and know how important it is to help the students. All the tutors are greatly appreciated.

FAMILY DAY AT WED./THURS TUTORING

50 people came to the Family Day for students and families of the Afternoon Tutoring Program. It was a beautiful, spring day.

23 children preschool through 6th grade were there, along with 11 parents and 1 older sibling from the 17 families in the afternoon program. 10 little brothers and sisters came to experience the program, and 6 tutors held the show together.

23 children recited poems. All memorized their poems perfectly, with one kindergarten boy needing help reciting his poem. 25 children had memorized poems, but 2 were not able to come. The “dress rehearsal” the day before was a little wild, but everyone was perfectly behaved for the Family Day.

Two students announced the poems, Eduardo F., 5th gr., and Reaisha J., 3rd grade. Both did an excellent job.

Before the poems came the singing. 15 children from the Inspired Youth Singers crowded together on the library’s small stage. They led the audience in 5 songs. Everyone enjoyed “Sing a Rainbow,” where singers and people in the audience held up colored placards as colors were mentioned in the song.

After the singing and the poems came the PIZZA, the children’s favorite part of the day. Everyone enjoyed pizza, chocolate chip cookies, and small boxes of juice (which wouldn’t make a mess on the library’s carpet).

The day was sunny and mild, a perfect day for Family Day. Last year Family Day was cancelled because the weather was too hot and the air-conditioner was broken. Then on the re-scheduled day, it rained! This year the weather was perfect. See pictures of Family Day on Inspired Youth’s Facebook page.

PLANTING FLOWERS

Layla S., 2nd gr., enjoyed looking at flowers as the tutoring director walked her home from the Tutoring Program. We decided to buy her some plants so she could learn more about them. She chose a beautiful begonia at the grocery store and took it home. The petals fell off, and the plant didn’t last with younger children in the apartment. Then the program bought her a small phlox plant and four small pansies. Epworth Church trustee, Bruce G., said the plants could be added to the flowers at Epworth Church so Layla could see them. Bruce chose a

spot near the door and planted the flowers while Layla watched. After a few days, the plants were already thriving!

STUDENTS' WRITING PROJECTS

84 students, preschool through high school, wrote one or more stories for magazines Inspired Youth published in 2016-2017.

In November 2016, 43 students wrote letters to President-elect Donald Trump. 46 students wrote editorials covering many topics, "Editorials!! Here's What I Think..." 36 students wrote essays imagining what their lives would be like "In the Year 2036." 33 students, with their 8th grade partner from Wilmette Jr. High School, wrote "Scary Short Stories—Round Robin—Based on Various Prompts." 21 students wrote longer articles for "Chicago: History, City, People."

48 students, pre-school through 4th grade, wrote articles published in their own hand-writing for two issues of Inspired Youth's magazine *Sunshine*. 31 children wrote "Animal Reports" in March 2017, and 40 children wrote general articles in May 2017.

In addition to this, students practiced writing sentences using words from chapters in spelling books. All this writing is good experience for the students.

All the magazines except *Sunshine* are on Inspired Youth's website inspiredyouthchicago.org.

OTHER TUTORING NEWS

Ladaja S. is a junior at Lakeview H.S. She works at Mariano's in Edgewater.

Jovanny S., 8th gr., was accepted into the Senn International Baccalaureate program.

A business fraternity from DePaul University has selected Inspired Youth as a service project. Several students from DePaul are coming every Thurs. to tutor students in Inspired Youth's Afternoon Tutoring Program.

Problems

A tutoring grad and his girl friend had a baby in November, and the fellow dropped out of school. He was in the 11th grade.

A 4th grader in Inspired Youth spent two days in the park instead of going to school. The school recommended he enroll in a counseling program.

BOOKS GIVEN TO INSPIRED YOUTH BY THE LIBRARY OF THE U.S. COURTS

The children were very excited about receiving books which had been collected by the Library of the U.S. Courts. First through fourth graders crowded around tables where the books were laid out. They each got to select two or three books to take home. They picked up a book, saw another they liked, set the first book down, and reached for another book.

On a separate table were books we had set aside for older youth, books that were longer and at a higher reading level than the others. Those were the books the young children wanted.

When he was asked the next day about the two (long) books he had taken, Carlos F. 4th gr., said, "I already started reading one of them. I'm on page 9."

This is the third year that Inspired Youth has been selected as a recipient of the book drive for children and youth, conducted by the Library of the U.S. Courts, located in downtown Chicago. We are very grateful for the opportunity the children of Inspired Youth have to receive these books.

The books were available at Bezazian Library on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon for 1st-4th graders, at Epworth Church on Friday for the children's choir (many of the same children), on Saturday for Girl Scouts, also on Saturday for a different section of the children's choir, on Sunday at Epworth Church for other families of the Tutoring Program, on Monday for 5th-8th graders at Monday Tutoring at Bezazian Library, and on Tuesday afternoon outside Goudy School when the children were dismissed.

Inspired Youth is very privileged receive these books for its students. As of Tuesday afternoon, the children had taken home 118 of the 139 books which the Library of the U.S. Courts collected for Inspired Youth. We know the children will enjoy the books. The books that remain will be offered to students in Inspired Youth's Summer Piano Program in late June.

Thank you, librarians of the Library of the U. S. Courts, for this book drive and for selecting Inspired Youth as a recipient of these beautiful books.

GOUDY SCHOOL TALENT SHOW

2 singers, a clown, a keyboard player, a drummer, a dancer, an acrobat, and crazy man: These were students or "grads" from Inspired Youth in the Goudy School Talent Show. Cynthia E., 8th gr., has been in the Tutoring Program and Inspired Youth Singers for several years. She sang a beautiful duet with another 8th grader. Yulisa L., 8th gr., sang a solo. She will be going to Lane H.S. in the fall. Her mother and grandmother were in the audience and are very proud of her. Jovanny S., 8th gr., played drums in a trio. He was in the Tutoring Program, the Inspired Youth Singers, and the Summer Piano Program. He was poised and proficient as he played on the large drum set. Also in the trio was Jason L., 8th gr., playing keyboard. Jason was in the Summer Piano Program for the past 2 summers. Aaron A., 5th gr., wore a clown costume and did juggling with small balls and larger rings. He also rode a unicycle and managed to pedal in a circle around the small stage on the unicycle, quite a feat! Yaritza A., 3rd gr., was in a group dance, Melissa F., 2nd gr., was part of a tumbling group, and Lydia Y., 5th gr., recited a poem with another student. The final number of Goudy's Talent Show was Elija R., 5th gr., who did crazy motions so fast it was hard to follow them. Inspired Youth is proud of all these students.

GOUDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATION

The Goudy graduation was multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. Many countries were represented in the student population. Eight students of the many countries gave a greeting to the audience in their first language. For many of the parents, it must have been a humbling experience to watch the graduation and listen to the speakers speaking in a foreign language. They were proud of their children.

Of the 75 graduates of Goudy School this year, 14 were in the Tutoring Program for one or more years of their elementary school education. Two others moved or transferred to another school, and one from Goudy has to take math in summer school.

The “Tutoring Grads” from Inspired Youth did very well. Yulisa L. gave an introduction to the valedictorian’s Farewell Address. Jason L. received an award for Excellence in Language Arts. Fatima A. was on the honor roll. Valerie S., Yulissa L. and Jason L. had perfect attendance.

Several vocalists and instrumentalists performed in the three musical numbers: the “Star-Spangled Banner,” the 8th grade song, and the 8th grade ensemble. Valerie S., Cynthia F., and Yulissa L. sang in one or more songs. Jason L. played the keyboard on all three songs. Jovanny S. and Angel H. played the drums on the three songs. This was the first time that student instrumentalists accompanied all three songs in the Goudy 8th grade graduation. In addition, Miguel O. was part of the color guard at the beginning of the ceremony. It was a good experience in musical leadership for these students to perform.

CHOIR PERFORMS FOR KIWANIS CLUB

In June the Inspired Youth Singers went to a Greek restaurant, Barba Yianni Grecian Taverna, as guests of the Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood. Eleven children, ages 5-12, went, along with six adults. Tutoring director **Beth Palmer** gave a short talk telling about a former tutoring student, **Brenda Hernandez**, who had been a tutee of one of the Kiwanians, **Mike Delaney**, when she was 8-9 years old. This past spring, Brenda spent the semester as an intern in Washington, D.C., and this summer she is in Rome, Italy, in a special program at the John Felice Rome Center.

At the restaurant, the children got to eat huge cheese-burgers and delicious French fries, plus vanilla ice cream. After eating, the 11 children each said the poem they had memorized, and then they sang five songs for the Kiwanians. One of the songs was accompanied by **Phyllis R.**, 4th gr., on the electric piano.

When the choir had first arrived at the restaurant, 30 minutes before the Kiwanis Club meeting started, they wanted to practice their songs, but the wait-staff did not know how to hook up and turn on the electric piano. Then Phyllis R.’s, father, **John Rimmer**, came, and he and the tutoring director figured it out. There were at least six cables, connections, switches, and dials that were involved, but when everything was hooked up and “on,” the electric piano sounded great. When it was time for the concert, the children sang beautifully! It was fun!

HONORS FOR TUTORING STUDENTS

David C., 1st gr., and Raul V., 1st gr., were among the tutoring students on the Principal’s Honor Roll (all A’s). Jason R., 1st gr., and Reaisha J., 3rd gr., were among the tutoring students on the A-B Honor Roll. Congratulations!

BOOKS FROM EVANSTON SCHOOL SYSTEM

Inspired Youth received many graded basal readers from Evanston. The books were about to be thrown in the trash, when Eva S., of Epworth Church and a decorated Girl Scout leader, retrieved them. The books, in excellent condition, were given to tutoring students to read during the summer.

DONATIONS TO INSPIRED YOUTH, INC.

Inspired Youth has a wide range of donors. In the past year gifts have come from a foundation, church women's group, service organization, and around 55 individuals, including present and former tutors, parents of 8th graders from Wilmette Jr. High School, pastors, friends, family, and community members. Donations have ranged from \$25 to \$6,000. Inspired Youth appreciates all these donations.

Because of the many people who volunteer, Inspired Youth does a lot with minimal funds to enrich the lives of children and families in Uptown/Edgewater 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 mailed to "Inspired Youth," 5715 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660, or made through PayPal on the Donations page of the website: www.inspiredyouthchicago.org