

## TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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### INDIVIDUALS IN TUTORING PROGRAM

2018-2019, as of May 30, 2019

#### STUDENTS TUTORS

Mon. HS Tut. 5 19  
Mon. 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Tut. 16  
Mon. PS-4<sup>th</sup> Tut. 7  
W/Th 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Tut. 24 22\* + 12 HS fr NewTrier

Sat. P4- 8<sup>th</sup> 24\*\*52total 7+ 49 fr. WJHS  
Indiv. in Tut. Prog 76 41 + 61 HS/Jr Hi Tutors

\*Several tutors volunteered more than one day per week.

\*\* Sat. students who are not in weekday Tutoring Program.

### STUDENTS EXCEL

Many students gained during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Mario O., 4 yrs. old, loves to write the letters of the alphabet. Ashley S. is gaining in math and reading; her mother is also helping her.

Melissa H., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. has improved significantly in reading. She can read! One day in March she finished one basal reader by herself and started another one. Gabriel O., 4<sup>th</sup> gr., has improved significantly in sentence writing and in penmanship. He has a good time writing creative and humorous sentences. Sarahi R., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., is a hard worker. She continues to improve in math; her reading is already excellent and her writing style fluent. Jeffrey V., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., is working hard to learn about fractions. Marwan D., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., Mushtaq D., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and Hassan D., 4<sup>th</sup> gr., came from Somalia in July 2018. Their academic work keeps improving as they keep gaining in English.

Dayveana B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., has caught on to how to add and subtract fractions! Marco O., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., has Improved significantly in written expression in the past year. Fidel V., 7<sup>th</sup> gr., is doing well, especially in math. Alejandro S., 8<sup>th</sup> gr., has become an excellent student. He occasionally helps his teacher move equipment after school. Marco's and Mario's mother is learning English. She was excited (huge smile) to have a tutor who was talking with her and helping her pronounce words in an English child's dictionary.

Layla S., 4<sup>th</sup> gr., commented in January: "The day before yesterday I wished that there was a *Dorf Diary* on the shelf at Margate Park ['Take a book, leave a book']. And there was

one there, *Dorf Diary, No. 8*. And then the same day, I wished it would snow, and the next day it snowed!"

Jordynn J., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., performed an acrobatic dance in February. It was remarkable. You can see it on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

From the mother of Tanish A., pre-K: "I'm so happy and so thankful to you. Tanish, he is improving a lot. It's more than he could do. Before coming to your class, the Tutoring Program, he didn't know how to write and now he's writing and he's doing two-digit numbers in addition. That's a lot. He's 5½ and he is doing addition and subtraction. And now he's reading the books, simple, simple books. He's reading the books. I'm so happy, I'm so thankful to your program, and I'm so, so happy. Thank you so much."

### STRAIGHT A'S, A/B HONOR ROLL

Many students in the Tutoring Program got straight A's on their January report cards. These are some of them: Emily P., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., Angel L., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., Bianca V., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., Jessica K., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., Jocelyn L., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., David C., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., and Jordynn J., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. Many tutoring students were on the A/B honor roll: Jessica K., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., Jason R., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., Raul V., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., Reaisha J., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., Dayveana B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr. Congratulations to all these students.

### LEARNING IS HARD FOR MANY STUDENTS

Many students in the Tutoring Program are gaining significantly and are doing very well. For some of the students, school work is hard: AS, KS, and SR in first grade, UM and CC in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, MH in third grade. The students are gaining, but the school work is hard.

### FAMILY DAY FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

It was a glorious day, warm and sunny, when parents of the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders came to Bezazian Library for Family Day. As the families came into the library, they got to read the three magazines (six issues) of the children's writings. The mother of Girivar M., kindergarten, was impressed at what the children wrote. (See the article on "Writing Projects" later in this newsletter.)

### ***Family Day for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Graders, continued***

The center of the program was 16 children reciting various poems, into a microphone, on the library stage. All the students recited the poems by memory! They were wonderful. Two other children had memorized poems but were not able to be there. Some of the children had practiced with the microphone on the stage the day before. All were excellent. The announcers for the poems were Yaritza A., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and David C., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. They enjoyed announcing the students.

Photos taken by Megan B., can be seen on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

A group from the children's choir led the people in singing four songs. Raul V., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr accompanied one, and kindergartner Girivar M. accompanied another. People enjoyed the singing.

After the singing and the poems, pizza, cookies, and juice were served. Serving the food were Armando S., a high school student, and tutors Mary Blankenheim and Diane Danek. Everyone gobbled up the treats.

Ten parents from 9 families came to support the children. Everyone enjoyed Family Day.

After the program, tutor Dan Hutchins wrote, "THANKS Miss Beth for a great semester and a really nice party. I enjoyed it all a great deal They are great children and it's a pleasure to work with them. Your friend, Dan Hutchins."

Girivar's mother wrote, "Hello, yesterday's program was very nice. Both of my children enjoyed it and we had a great time. Madhu M."

At the end of the Family Day, Marisol P., mother of Emily P., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., spoke in English and Spanish to tell how grateful she was for the Tutoring Program. She had been in the Tutoring Program as an elementary and high school student.

"I want to thank Ms. Beth and all the tutors who have taken their time to help all the children. I was part of this Tutoring Program myself when I was in elementary school and going into high school. I also see the knowledge that my daughter gained, and I'm so grateful because we do remember all the tutors that have helped us. We remember them because they made a difference. Thanks to them we were able to complete our homework and graduate on time. The

difference that tutors make is something that can't even be put into words, so I want to thank all the tutors because they provide the future for us and our kids.

"I'm 25 and I still remember the difference that my tutor made. I still remember how much work we put into my homework, and seeing my daughter go to the Tutoring Program and know that somebody's there to help her and answer her questions, it makes a difference. It really does."

### **FAMILY NIGHT FOR MONDAY TUTORING PROGRAM**

It was a beautiful day, and a beautiful evening for a beautiful Family Night for the Monday Tutoring Program at Bezazian Library. At least 67 people came: 32 tutoring students, 17 parents, 13 tutors, and 5 brothers/sisters/and/friends of the tutoring students.

The main feature was the poems. 29 students each recited a poem for the audience, and most of the poems were memorized. (See the pictures on Facebook/inspiredyouth.) The announcers of the poems were Yasmine H., 9<sup>th</sup> gr., and Alejandro S., 8<sup>th</sup> gr. After reciting the poem on stage into a microphone, each student received a certificate. Itzel F., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and Leydi A., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., handed out the certificates.

Before the poems, people got to read the stories and articles the students had written during the year, which were published in three magazines. The magazines will appear on Inspired Youth's website.

To make the evening even more festive, the Inspired Youth Singers performed four songs for the audience. Two of the songs, were accompanied by student pianists, Michelle F., 4<sup>th</sup> gr., and Eduardo F., 7<sup>th</sup> gr. The photographer for the evening was tutor Meghan F., who did an excellent job. Her photos can be seen on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

To conclude the evening, people gorged on pizza, chocolate chip cookies, and punch served by the tutors. Not a scrap of food was left afterwards.

The whole program—even the clean-up--had to be concluded within 80 min. Everything was leisurely, except the clean-up, which was fast and furious. Everyone pitched in to clean up, and we were done with 5 min. to spare. It was a splendid Family Night.

## SATURDAY TUTORING

On a Saturday in early January the temperature was expected to be very cold, but 23 Chicago kids came to the Tutoring Program at Margate Park. They worked hard on the work in their folders, and then --- they got to see how tall they could build a structure using toothpicks and mini-marshmallows! All the structures were different. The students were engrossed in the project. When it was time to go, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade girl said, "What? It's time to go?" She enjoyed the project so much she wanted to keep doing it.

In February the Saturday students and their 8<sup>th</sup> grade tutors made Valentines to give to their friends and relatives. Many students also made beautiful and imaginative Valentines for senior citizens, which we took to the Uptown Care Center.

## WRITING PROJECTS

Inspired Youth wants the students to learn to write, and practice writing. Here are the writing projects the students wrote essays for this year:

"Story based on a Picture (Harris Burdick),"

71 students

"Editorials," 56 students

"My Favorite Teacher," 46 students

"Scary Short Stories," 20 students, along with their Sat. tutors

"Kindness and Respect," 19 students

"Sunshine," 19 students

Extra writing, 2 students (4 articles)

Altogether 80 students wrote one or more stories/articles for the magazines. The youngest students dictated the stories to their tutors. Most of the students wrote the stories themselves. Read the articles on [Facebook.com/InspiredYouth](https://www.facebook.com/InspiredYouth)

## TUTORING GRADS

Shaton W. sent this Facebook message in Jan. 2019: "Hello Beth Palmer. How have you been doing? I miss you so much and want to thank you for everything you did for me and my family."

Karah P. is a first-year student at Harris Stowe Medical School in St. Louis, Missouri, where she is studying on a 4-year college scholarship. During HS she worked at Rush Hospital and was also elected to the National

Honor Society. She is working to become a doctor.

Fabiola G. graduated from Truman College with an Associate's Degree the first week in May 2019. She has developed leadership skills and is helping Eva Schwinge with the Girl Scouts. Fabiola remembers when she was in the Tutoring Program first grade and we had fig newtons. "Mr. Fig" was a character in one of beginning readers.

Jasmine T. received an Associate's Degree from Truman College a couple of years ago. She just began working on a college degree from National Lewis University. She currently works at the Museum of Science and Industry.

Marisol P. passed the pharmacology test, on the 1<sup>st</sup> try! Marisol also was accepted to work at Rush Hospital. Her daughter Emily P., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., is doing very well in school.

Janeen Boyce bought a home near the United Center.

Keith Barnes and his five sisters and brothers all have jobs and are all doing fine.

Caprice King has written a book, which is about to be published.

April Dean, the mother of tutoring grads, Mallory, Kevin, and Marcus, reported: "My name is April Dean. When my children were younger, they used to go to the Epworth Church Tutoring Program with Ms. Beth. I really appreciate what it did for them and the difference that it made in their lives. They're all young adults now. [Kevin has a career in the Navy and is stationed in Hawaii. Mallory and Marcus also both have jobs.]

"I really appreciate what the Tutoring Program did for my children. The Tutoring Program helped out in giving to us through the Christmas program, and they gave us turkeys for Thanksgiving. Ms. Beth helped my family tremendously through picking the children up from school and taking them to the Tutoring Program. Also, the recitals they used to do. These things really made them very perceptive in life. I really appreciate everything the program did for them. It really just blessed our whole family throughout the year. I really appreciate that."

## PROBLEMS AND OTHER NEWS

There was a fire in the building of a tutor, Zak Y. Zak Y., did the pictures for the Inspired Youth's Facebook page, and he is a tutor on Wednesday afternoons. The fire was on the

floor below him. He is safe, but all his clothes and belongs are filled with smoke. He put all his things in storage and was looking for a new apartment.

Imelda S. died recently. Her children Alex, Brayant, and Valeria all grew up in the tutoring program.

As for good news, two mothers of children in the tutoring program are pregnant. They are trying everything they can do not to lose their baby.

### **SINGING FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH, at the People's Church Community Dinner**

6 children, 2 adults, and 2 parents went on a Wednesday evening in mid-February to the People's Church (made famous in earlier years by Preston Bradley). The group performed at the weekly community dinner, that day celebrating Black History Month. Around 100 neighborhood people came, and were treated to huge slices of pizza and fried chicken.

The first performers were a violin quartet, the Fuller family, Gregorio, 7<sup>th</sup> gr., Donovan, 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., Baron, kind., and their father Ian F. They played two pieces: "Good Pierrot" and "French Folk Song." It was stunning to see that family of four, including two little boys, all playing violins. After the violin pieces, six members of the Inspired Youth Singers sang: Raul V., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., Bianca V., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., and Layla S., 4<sup>th</sup> gr., and the Fuller family. The group sang six songs, with the audience joining in. They sang "Lift Every Voice," "When the Saints Go Marching In" (Donovan F., keyboard), "I'll Do My Best" (Raul V., keyboard), "Firm Foundation" (Gregorio F., keyboard), "One Day," (Bianca V. led the motions), and "Soon and Very Soon." It was an exciting concert. As a gift of appreciation, the group was given an African-American plaque. Videos and photos are on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

On the program also were five drummers, led by Tamara Clark, grandmother of tutoring grad Karah P. The drummers played various kinds and sizes of African drums, and were a dynamic group.

Among the guests at the dinner were Jennifer S., a tutoring grad, and Ms. DelaRosa, who taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Goudy School for many years. She taught in the "Goudy Branch" before that WWII "temporary" structure was torn down in the late 1990's.

The evening was a wonderful celebration.

### **38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH CHOIR FEST**

The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Choir Fest was held at Epworth United Methodist Church on April 7, 2019. 16 children and one adult sang 12 songs in the concert, with 6 of the children accompanying songs on the piano and one other student, Dayveana B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., singing a solo. An audience member, Denise Ward, was very impressed that **six!** children were playing the piano to accompany the songs. Epworth's Praise Team also sang two songs with the audience joining in. Dorie Burrell and Philinda Carter conducted the children. The concert was beautiful.

Pastor Hope Chernich opened the concert with a prayer and closed it with a benediction. John Sansone of Epworth Church was the announcer. The children wore their special children's choir T-shirts. They looked beautiful. The cover of the printed program was made by one of the children, Freya J., 6<sup>th</sup> gr. Scart Javier took videos of the songs and photos of the children singing, which you can see on Inspired Youth's Facebook page.

The concert began with the Fuller Family Quartet playing two songs on their violins: Ian, the father, Gregorio, 7<sup>th</sup> gr., Donovan, 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and Baron, kindergarten. Their playing was remarkable. The audience was completely silent as the Fuller Family played.

A remarkable happening was that two children who hadn't sung before, joined the choir the day before the concert and sang every song. Jah'Lil C., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., and Dylin C., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr, both come from musical families, but hadn't sung before except in school. They both enjoyed it and sang well. A pre-school girl, Natalie G., Pre-K, also found she liked to sing. Dorieana B., K., and Josiah M., Pre-K, also sang well.

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Choir Fest was a wonderful success!

### **SINGING FOR EPWORTH'S MEN'S SHELTER**

Who would believe that 7 children and four adults would sound so good? They were a mighty choir, lustily singing over half an hour of songs for the Palm Sunday Dinner at Epworth Church, put on by the church for Epworth's Men's Shelter.

Dorie Burrell and Philinda Carter directed the singers. Three children accompanied

songs on the piano. The men in the audience were astounded that Donovan F., a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, accompanied the choir on “Jesus in the Morning.” Dayveana B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr. sang a solo with flourishes at the end. Everyone loved it.

The Epworth Church School Singers and Inspired Youth Singers appreciated being asked to participate in this ministry of the Men’s Shelter Palm Sunday Dinner.

### **SINGING AT “THE BREAKERS”**

The Breakers has a beautiful auditorium, with a **stage!** Nine children and two adults of the Inspired Youth Singers sang a wonderful concert during Spring Break on the stage at The Breakers. The Director of Activities, Christine, was all smiles during the concert. She said the children were wonderful. After the concert, many people from the audience said what good singers the children were.

The concert started with a violin quartet. The three Fuller boys and their father played two pieces on their violins. It was very special to see, and the audience was amazed.

Then the children’s choir sang 11 pieces; 3 were accompanied by children: Donovan F., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., Phyllis R., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and Gregorio F., 7<sup>th</sup> gr. A vocal solo was sung by Dayveana B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr. Several songs also had solo lead singers. Videos of some of the songs are on Inspired Youth’s Facebook page.

A special feature of the concert was children telling the audience about experiences they had with “Kindness and Respect.” A couple of weeks before the concert, Christine, the Director of Activities at The Breakers, had “commissioned” the children to tell about their experiences with kindness and respect. A week before the concert, during a choir rehearsal, the children thought about kindness and respect and wrote one or two paragraphs about their experience. Altogether 19 children wrote about their experiences with “Kindness and Respect.” During the concert, several children read what they wrote. It was a meaningful project.

The children love singing on the stage at The Breakers!

### **SINGING AND FESTIVITIES AT THE ALL AMERICAN NURSING HOME**

It was a wonderful afternoon at the All American. The audience was ready and waiting for the children to sing. There were

around 50 people, in neat rows, packed into the common room. 12 children, in dark pants, white shirts, and red vests, came to sing. When the children came, they set up the equipment, and the concert started. The choir sang 11 songs. The children sang the best they had ever sung. In the concert the day before, one girl hid her face because she was shy. At the All American, people could see her face, and she sang out.

To accompany the songs, three students played the piano: Donovan F., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., Phyllis R., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and Gregorio F., 7<sup>th</sup> gr. A vocal solo was sung by Dayveana B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr. The concert also included the Fuller family playing 2 songs on their violins. They played their best, and the audience was astounded that little children and a whole family could play violins. The entire concert was excellent.

After the concert, the children dyed Easter eggs for the residents. The children were given plastic aprons to put over their clothes, because of possible spills. The children had so much fun! Each child dyed several eggs. They wanted the eggs to be perfect. The eggs turned out beautifully!

After dyeing the eggs, there was a raffle. Each child was given a ticket with a number. For having winning numbers, three children won dollar bills: \$3, \$2, and \$1. The other children, plus those three, also won gift bags of candy.

The afternoon concluded with refreshments—delicious cookies and punch. This was all sponsored and set up by Shawn Gordon, the Director of Activities at the All American. Thank you, Shawn Gordon, for giving the children and the residents a beautiful day.

### **BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY OF THE U.S. COURTS**

For the fifth year, the Library of the U.S. Courts selected Inspired Youth as the recipient of its annual Book Drive. The books were given to 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders on Wed. and Thurs., to the children’s choir/Girl Scouts on Saturday, to children at Epworth Church on Sunday, and to 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders (plus a couple of preschoolers) on Monday. Children and tutors of Inspired Youth’s Tutoring Program were very happy to receive the books.

We told the children they could each take two books home, to keep. After choosing their two books, some children saw another book

they wanted and asked, "May I have another?" Some children didn't ask, they just took another book. A 10-year old girl finished some of her math homework, and then spent the rest of the tutoring time reading 90 pages of the book she had chosen.

On Saturday, Eva Schwinge, the Girl Scout leader, helped the children choose books. As a veteran CPS school teacher, she knows books. She commented, "These are some excellent books!"

On Monday the tutoring students each chose two books, and another family of three at the library came into the room where we tutor and also chose two books apiece.

Everyone took it very seriously.

Pictures of some of the children with the books are on Facebook.com/ inspiredyouth (the "Inspired Youth" with the red-white-and-blue logo of a child reading a book).

Thank you, Library of the U.S. Courts, for selecting Inspired Youth as the recipient of your annual book drive. The children of Inspired Youth are fortunate to receive the books and appreciate them very much.

## **THE GREAT "BOODINI"**

Neighborhood children were treated to a Magic Show at Bezazian Library. The great "Boodini" came and engrossed 75 children and parents in magic tricks.

Bianca V., 1<sup>st</sup> gr. and two other children were given tubes, which kept multiplying! Bianca was laughing and laughing. Yaritza A., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., was asked to pick a card from a deck of cards that the Great Boodini held out, but when she was about to pick a card, he pulled them away. It was cute. She may have been chosen for this because she was older than many of the other children. Yaritza had a good time.

Other children from the Tutoring Program were chosen to be part of the Magic Show. Raul V., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. was given a sword to use. Emily P., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., got to hold a pitcher and pour liquid into a flask which the Great Boodini held. He put a flat piece on top of the flask and turned it upside down. The liquid didn't spill out! Uriel M., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., got up in front and held a small object, and then a big spider climbed on it!

For the finale, all the lights were turned off, and the Great Boodini juggled red, blue, and green balls of light. Then he added a yellow ball. The light show was beautiful and

amazing. He also showed the kids how to juggle. He told them how many weeks (years) it might take, but that they should keep practicing.

In all the acts, the audience was very responsive. They laughed. They "ooo-ed and aaah-ed." The audience was very alive. The Magic Show was a delight for children and adults alike.

## **NORTH PARK NATURE CENTER**

What did you see? "Bugs." "Deer." "Big deer and little deer." "Big bull-frogs." "Worms." "Centipedes." "Beetles." "Red-winged black birds."

The end-of-year trip for the Inspired Youth Singers and the Epworth Church School Singers was wonderful. 13 children (ages 5-12) and 9 adults (parents, grand-parents, and tutors) visited the North Park Nature Center in June. They looked at skeletons of birds, bats, and turtles in the museum. Then they walked on the trail which wound through the Savannah, the Wetlands, and the Forest.

In the Savannah, the children saw deer: big doe, medium doe, and a little fawn. The children were mesmerized by the deer.

When the kids got to the pond in the Wetlands, they spotted the eyes and mouth of a huge bull-frog quietly resting in the water. Then the sharp eyes of the children saw several more bull-frogs in the pond. They also heard the whir of the red-winged blackbird's call. The group spent a long time by the pond.

In the Forest, the children were engrossed in looking under rocks to find living creatures they could collect. Each student had been given a small, clear, plastic jar with holes in the lid. They collected beetles, worms, centipedes, ants, and various insects, and put them in the jars. They showed them to each other and were amazed at all of it. One student, Dayveana B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., got two creatures, which were fighting. The students couldn't take their eyes off the creatures.

Look at the photos of these activities on Inspired Youth's Facebook page, which were taken by tutor Zak Yasin.

After walking the whole trail, the group had snacks around picnic tables outside the Nature Center. Some children played toss-and-catch with a plastic ball. Others played makeshift softball with a bat and a small

plastic ball. Still others tossed a frisbee or tried to spin a hula-hoop. It was a perfect day.