



WHAT'S GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

October 2, 2017

The Week Ahead:

Monday 10/2	Tuesday 10/3	Wednesday 10/4	Thursday 10/5	Friday 10/6	Saturday 10/7	Sunday 10/8
		Grades 4 & 5 on the bay with Living Classrooms 8:30-3:00	Kindergarten visits Petco 9:15-10:45	Picture Day! All Day Ms.Cohen's Advisory to SPCA 12:30 - 2:30		Fundraising Committee Meeting (All welcome!) 2:00-3:00 Zeke's (see page 2)

This weekend I started reading Sonia Sotomayor's memoir *My Beloved World*. Something that she wrote in the preface caused me to pause and consider the relationship between dreams, goals, and being fully present in the here and now. Often in education, we aim solely to prepare young people for life after school, at times creating a focus on the future without necessarily appreciating the present. This mindset can translate to families participating in multiple sports and afterschool activities for the purpose of getting into the right high school in order to get into the right college. It's good to have a goal. It's also good to celebrate the small accomplishments of each day.

Let's begin this week with some of Justice Sotomayor's words:

"But experience has taught me that you cannot value dreams according to the odds of their coming true. Their real value is in stirring within us the will to aspire. That will, wherever it finally leads, does at least move you forward. And after a time you may recognize that the proper measure of success is not how much you've closed the distance to some far-off goal but the quality of what you've done today."

Enjoy a week filled with dreams, momentum, and meaning-making!

Warmly,

Shyla

Looking Ahead:

Tuesday, 10/10
Board Meeting
6:30 PM
Atelier

Tuesday, 10/10
Spring Fling Meeting
5:30 PM
CNH Cafe
(see page 3)

Thursday, 10/12
Kirwin Commission
Hearing
5 PM, Poly
(see page 3)

Monday, 10/16
Kindergarten to Rodgers
Farm

Thursday, 10/19
3th, 4th, 5th Grades
Pot Luck
6 - 8 PM

Friday, 10/20
NO SCHOOL
Staff Professional
Development Day

Fundraising Committee Meeting OPEN TO ALL!

Sunday, October 8, 2-3 PM

(Early enough to not interfere with the Raven's game!)
Zeke's Coffee shop, 4719 Harford Road



If you have ideas for fundraising that could help to effectively support learning at our school, please join us! The more minds we bring together, the stronger the ideas can be.

Hope to see you there!



Olu Butterfly National award-winning spoken-word poet and performer, Olu Butterfly, has just concluded a week-long writing workshop with all middle-school students. The big idea of the workshop has been focused on “Unlikely Leaders.” In this workshop, students engaged with fictional narratives of unlikely leaders, critically engaged with videos of local music and poetry performances, and designed their own mini-performance for their peers, all focused on unlikely leaders. Adults, be sure to ask your middle-school young people about what makes an unlikely leader and how they translated that into a mini-performance!

Library Volunteers Wanted

Are you looking for a way to have fun and earn volunteer hours? Checking out books and encouraging student enthusiasm for reading is a rewarding way to contribute to CNH! Generally, classes come to the library for a half hour at a time, so no big time commitment is required. We would be glad to train you! The system makes it easy. If you are interested, please contact the library at library@cityneighborshamilton.org. Better yet, come by and see us when library volunteers are here: Thursdays from 10:30 -12:30 and Fridays from 9:30-1:30.

We look forward to seeing you!

~ Martha, Lisa, David, Tina, & Suranjan,
Library Volunteers~



Fall Work Day! The Facilities Committee has scheduled its first Work Day of the school year for **Saturday October 21, beginning at 8 AM**. We will be focusing on the playground, weeding, mulching, pruning and removing and re-planting some of the small trees on the campus.

Breakfast, coffee, and hot chocolate will be provided for those who join us in the morning, and pizza for lunch for all who attend in the afternoon. Bring the family and earn volunteer hours by helping to beautify our campus on what we hope will be a beautiful fall day! If you have any questions, please contact Parent Volunteer, Kristin Kasprzak, at kskasprzak@msn.com or Facilities Director, Leo Guevara, at leonardo_guevara2010@comcast.net.

Advocacy Alert! Over the next 8 months, we have the opportunity to change public school funding for ALL Baltimore City Schools for years to come. This opportunity happens only every 10-15 years!

The Kirwin Commission (officially the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) is holding a hearing at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (Poly) on **Wednesday, October 11 at 5 PM** for community members to advocate for equitable funding from the state to Baltimore City Schools.

This is our opportunity to show our support in numbers by simply showing up! We even have some City Neighbors parents testifying officially! Please join us, with or without your children, to this public hearing. Participation in this important event will count as volunteer hours for your family.

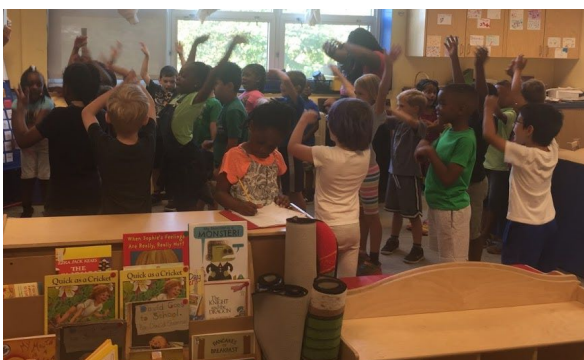
Poly is located at 1400 West Cold Spring Lane. We look forward to seeing a crowd of you there!

Spring Fling! Pre-Pre Planning Meeting Last year, for the first time, all three City Neighbors Schools worked together to plan the *Spring Fling!*, an old-fashioned carnival with music, games, good food, and lots of fun held on the Hamilton campus! This year we are getting an early start to begin designing a great fundraising event for our schools.

If you are interested in helping create this end-of-year event, please join us on **Tuesday, October 10 at 5:30 PM** in the CNH Cafe.



Independent Reading At first glance, the photo above might look like a class that's taking a break in-between work time. In fact, these students are deeply engaged with learning during independent reading time. The more kids read, the more kids read! Meaning, the more we help our students enjoy reading and spend time reading in ways that are comfortable, the more they will choose to read on their own.

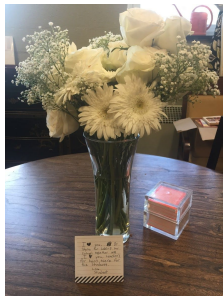


Embodying Learning In order to learn the sounds that letters make, first-grade students incorporate movements and different noises that relate to each letter. Brain science helps us understand that learning content through a variety of different modalities helps students learn content more deeply with more long-term retention.

Potluck Ice-Breaker

On **Thursday, October 19 from 6- 7:30 PM**, 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade families will share a family favorite entree, side dish, or dessert and dine together in the CNH Cafe. We'll also be hosting a couple of "get to know each other" games, so be prepared to have fun and share a meal!

Look for more information in weekly correspondence from Mr. Dietzen and Ms. Marilyn, as well as the CNH Facebook page for updates and details on how to help make this a great evening. Reach out to Jellema Stewart at stewarj1028@gmail.com or Juliana Wood julianamwood@juno.com with any questions! Hope to see you then!



*Our parents are the best!
Thank you, anonymous parent and student, who
left this beautiful bouquet in the Teachers
Commons room last week!
These gestures make such an impact!*

Late Arrival Procedure Update

Thanks to everyone who have been making sure your children are arriving every day in time for classes to begin at 8:15! Our new late arrival procedure is in effect and going smoothly. We look forward to a steady decline in the number of late arrivals and will report our stats to you as we compile them!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The first P-T Conferences of 2017-18 will take place on **October 25, 26, and 27. School dismisses at 1 PM each of those days.** Aftercare will be available, as usual, for those students who are enrolled in the aftercare program. Student Progress Reports will be issued at this time and this is your opportunity to get valuable feedback from teachers and to discuss your child's progress so far this year. Teacher's schedule their conferences with each family. In the coming days, look for a sign-up sheet or information on how to schedule your conference from your child's teacher.

Policy Review: Dress Code

At City Neighbors Hamilton, students are not required to wear a uniform. However, we do have a dress code which all community members must follow. The purpose of the following CNH clothing guidelines is to promote a safe and respectful learning environment while still allowing all community members creativity and self-expression. A dress code can help ensure focus on learning in the classroom.

With that said, the dress code that currently lives in our School Handbook is the same as it has been for a number of years. This year's middle school students have empowered their voices to question the current dress code. This week, the middle school team is organizing a student committee (elected by their peers) to revisit the dress code and propose new language for the Handbook. Stay tuned for updates!

We are so proud of our young people for appropriately advocating for that which they find important!

