



City Neighbors Hamilton

WEEKLY SAMON PAGES

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APRIL 18, 2017

The Week Ahead

Monday 4/17	Tuesday 4/18	Wednesday 4/19	Thursday 4/20	Friday 4/21	Saturday 4/22
SCHOOL CLOSED Spring Break	2nd Grade to Oakcrest	1st Grade Field Trip to Dinosaur Park CNH Trivia Night Clementine 5 –7 PM		1st Grade to Oakcrest All-School, African Drumming 2:40 PM Auditorium	8th Graders Depart for NOLA

Arrangements for Ms. Okobi We hope that you all had a warm, wonderful, rejuvenating Spring Break. As we move ahead with the events, tasks, field work, projects, and learning that will mark these final eight weeks of school, we will continue to mourn, process, and come to terms with the sudden loss of Ms. Okobi. These coming weeks will mark the times when we will be able to publicly celebrate, honor, and remember her life, her work, and her impact on each of us.

A viewing for Ms. Okobi will take place this Friday from 4-8 PM at the McCabe Funeral Home (6214 Walnut St., Pittsburgh, PA). The funeral will take place this Saturday morning, 11 AM, at the Calvary Episcopal Church (315 Shady Ave. Pittsburgh, PA). Please see the attached flyer with more details about attending or contributing. On Friday evening, May 19, there will be a Baltimore memorial for Ms. Okobi held here at City Neighbors Hamilton. Please mark your calendars. More information to come.

During these weeks, we will be closely watching and supporting our own CNH community – students, staff, and families. We will, as issues emerge, respond with the necessary supports and resources. Please let us know if you or your child need anything. In the meantime, let’s all continue to support and hold each other with compassion and strength – in the City Neighbors way.

8th Graders Are New Orleans Bound This Saturday, many of our 8th grade students – along with Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Harris, Ms. Wright, and some 8th grade parents – will take off for a one-week field work excursion to the city of New Orleans. This powerful week will include an in-depth study of New Orleans, its neighborhoods and cultural influences, its arts communities, and community service.

This trip is part of a cross-curricular twelve-week project study, “Rise Up: A Study of New Orleans”, that integrates Science, Language Arts, and Art in our middle school. Using New Orleans as a case study, students are examining how people and communities “rise up” after tragedy and challenge – from a physical, ecological, artistic, and psychological perspective. Their work will culminate in the “Rise Up Gallery”, a one-night photography and arts exhibit currently scheduled for June 1. Stay tuned for more details!

Looking Ahead

Monday, 4/24

7th Grade Field Trip
Washington DC

Wednesday, 4/26 - Friday, 4/28

1 PM DISMISSAL EACH DAY
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, 4/28

Coffee with Mike
8:15 - 9 AM
Conference Room

Saturday, 4/29

CNH Community Work Day
8 AM - 4 PM

8th Grade Returns from NOLA

Monday, 5/1 –Thursday, 5/4

Teacher/Staff Appreciation

Friday, 5/5

SCHOOL CLOSED

Staff Professional Development

Saturday, 5/6

CNH Paint Night
Café
6 PM

City Neighbors Foundation’s
Night in the Fab Lab Fundraiser
7 -10 PM

Tuesday, 5/9

Board Meeting
6:30 PM

PARCC Testing Begins This Week PARCC (Partnership for Assessment for College and Career Readiness) testing begins this week in schools across the city and state – and here at City Neighbors Hamilton. PARCC Testing is a standardized test in English/Language Arts and Mathematics taken once a year used to measure school and district progress.

While City Neighbors is clear on its deep concern over PARCC testing, its validity in measuring student progress, and its impact on effective schools, teaching and learning, we also want every student to have the best experience possible. If our students are going to have to participate, we want them to do the best they can, feel the most confident, and learn the genre and strategies of testing. To that end, we have in recent weeks, introduced our students to the format and structure of the test and discussed some best strategies for test-taking. You can help your child be ready for testing by:

- Encouraging them to try their very best – using all their time, checking their answers.
- Helping them get a good night's sleep.
- Making sure they have a good, hearty breakfast.
- Minimizing anxiety or any fears they may have about testing.

This week, grades 4 and 5 will take the English/Language Arts PARCC test on Wednesday through Friday. Next week, grade 6 will take the Mathematics PARCC test on Tuesday through Thursday. Seventh grade will take the English/Language Arts PARCC on Thursday and the Math PARCC on Friday. See the attached schedule.

If you have any questions about PARCC testing, please let us know. Thanks to Hannah Cohen and Tara McGarvey who have done tremendous work in the tricky organization of PARCC testing for our school.

Please Join Us For All-School This **Friday, April 21** from 2:40-3:15 PM, we welcome URBAN FOLI, a musical theater performance group that expresses traditional African drumming and dance bridged with contemporary sound and movements. We are excited to have them at All-School – and just want to mention that they come to us courtesy of 5th grader Malaya Wiggins' family!

Coffee with Mike As we move forward in this difficult time, continue with the important work of this year, and look ahead to next year, please join Mike for coffee on **Friday, April 28** from 8:15-9 AM. This is an informal opportunity to talk, consider, create, ask, answer, and connect.

CNH Workday The next CNH Work Day will be held on **Saturday, April 29** from 8 AM - 4 PM. Parent volunteer, Kristin Kasprzak, has created a Gofundme page to help cover the costs of flowers, mulch, and a few new trees, including a new tree for the playground. Sadly, our willow did not survive the wind damage it sustained. If everyone gave just \$5, we would have enough for spring and fall maintenance needs. Donate here:

[https://www.gofundme.com/city-neighbors-hamilton-garden-fund?pc=exptemco shareflow m 89 &cid=3ab2e796540e498dbe1414c6348670cd](https://www.gofundme.com/city-neighbors-hamilton-garden-fund?pc=exptemco%20shareflow%20m%2089&cid=3ab2e796540e498dbe1414c6348670cd)

If you have any questions about the CNH Workday, please contact either Facilities Chair, Leo Guevara at lquevara@cityneighborshamilton.org or Kristin at kskasprzak@msn.com.

City Neighbors Children Summer Camp Registration is still happening for our third summer session at the City Neighbors Hamilton campus for rising 1st through 4th graders. Program Director, Nadiyah Herrera, will lead a staff of caring and committed professional educators from City Neighbors. Their exciting programming will challenge children to learn physically and academically. We look forward to summer adventures with you! CN Summer Camp will run Monday through Friday from July 10 through August 4, 9 AM - 3 PM. Before and aftercare will be available onsite for a reasonable fee. For any specific questions about City Neighbors Summer Camp, contact Program Director, Nadiyah Herrera, at nherrera@cityneighbors.org.



Congratulations, Miss Marilyn! Zander Parker Pierce made his world debut on Friday, March 24. A healthy boy, Zander weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces; he and his mama are doing well! Please join us in congratulating Marilyn and her husband, Brad, on the newest member of their family and of the City Neighbors Hamilton family!

CNH Principal Hiring: An Update and an Invitation The City Neighbors Hamilton Principal Hiring Committee continues its work to find our next school leader.

To date, we have received over 50 resumes, vetted approximately 25 candidates, invited 10 candidates to interview with the full CNH Principal Hiring Committee (which includes parents, Board members, teachers, and staff), and invited three candidates to return for a full-day visit to City Neighbors Hamilton.

The process is intense and the standards high. The final step in the process is a two-day visit which includes work with students, staff, and parents. Only those candidates who the Committee can envision as our next school leader are invited to participate in this final step of the process.

We are pleased to share that we have invited Shyla Rao to participate in the final two-day visit. Shyla comes to us with a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Maryland Institute College of Art and a Doctorate of Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. As part of her doctorate, Shyla earned a certificate in Cognitive Intelligence of Organizations and conducted her thesis on sustaining arts integration at an urban elementary/middle school. Shyla is currently the Graduate Director and faculty member at MICA's Masters of Arts in Teaching program. She has previously been a teacher for grades K-12, an arts integration curriculum coach, on the faculty of JHU, Teachers College, and other universities, and published numerous works on race, privilege and equity, arts integration, assessment and many other topics in education.

We invite you to participate in two opportunities to connect with Shyla and provide feedback for the committee.

Please join us on **Tuesday, May 2** from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. We have asked Shyla to lead our community in a workshop that helps us vision our future.

On **Wednesday, May 3** from 8:30-9:30, AM please join us for a Coffee Q and A with Shyla.

While we continue the process with Ms. Rao, we continue the process with other candidates and will update you as any of those candidates emerge.

Teacher Appreciation Week Monday, May 1 through Thursday, May 4 It is that time of year again—time to celebrate our teachers and staff. Celebrate all that they do, their hard work, their care, the nurturing and understanding they give each of our children every day. Please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BACAD22A7FF2-teacher> to donate items for teacher appreciation week. If you have any questions, please contact Maryhelen Pflug at mpflug@cityneighborshamilton.org.

Logging Your Participation Hours We know how busy you've all been this year, so the Board has created a form to try and capture the volunteer hours you've all done. Please see the attached form. And, as always, if you find it easier, you can add hours online via our Google form: <https://goo.gl/wH4rUQ>. Thanks for all you do! If you have any questions about logging volunteer hours, please contact Board President, Felicity Knox, at fknox@cityneighborshamilton.org.

Trivia Night Please be sure to join us at Clementine restaurant, 5402 Harford Road for CNH Trivia Night, **Wednesday, April 19** from 5 –7 PM. No need to pre-register—just show up and be prepared to test your knowledge in the most trivial ways! \$10 per person. Teams up to five people. Please be aware that this event is designed for adult participation only. Hope to see you there for some friendly competition!

Night in the Fab Lab Fundraiser The City Neighbors Foundation is hosting its annual fundraiser, Night in the Fab Lab, on **Friday, May 6**, from 7-10 PM. The evening will be a unique and eclectic experience of jazz music, oysters, duckpin bowling, great food, and fun Fab Lab activities! This year we will also be showcasing student work from the Fab Lab, and taking a moment to thank some of our Internship hosts.

We are excited to announce that, thanks to a sponsor, we are able to offer 2 tickets for the price of one to any City Neighbors family. Tickets are \$120 (for two people) or \$60 for one.

There are 20 of these two-for-the-price-of-one tickets available and you can purchase them HERE. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-night-in-the-fab-lab-at-city-neighbors-tickets-32021999663>

We hope you will consider joining us for this funky City Neighbors evening!

You Can Donate to CNH Through our FB Page! As you know, our Annual Giving campaign is in full swing! And now, we've made it even easier for you to give! If you haven't already, please join our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityNeighborsHamilton>. Look for the blue "donate" icon on the upper right hand side of the page. Thank you!

Help for Mr. Kevin On Easter Sunday, a fire broke out at the home of our custodian, Mr. Kevin. Thankfully, Kevin was not injured in the fire, but he lost all of his possessions. Kevin has been part of City Neighbors Hamilton for many years and has been cleaning up after all of us with a smile on his face for all of those years. If you would like to contribute cash or gift cards to help Mr. Kevin during this difficult time, please see Stephanie or contact her at sking@cityneighborshamilton.org.

Advocacy Teams Are you someone who is interested in the bigger picture of schooling? How do we maximize funding for Baltimore City Schools? How do we create the best political and policy environment for innovative schools like City Neighbors Hamilton to thrive? How do we make sure that school quality is determined by much more than standardized testing? How do we ensure that our school has the autonomy and support it needs to thrive in years to come? How do we help create a thriving school system here in Baltimore City?

City Neighbors Hamilton needs two or three dedicated folks to comprise its Advocacy Team. The team meets with colleagues from our other two City Neighbors schools monthly to discuss current issues and engage in advocacy planning. And, when the time comes, this team will connect with Board and School Leadership to mobilize our community.

If you're interested or have questions, email Mike at mchalupa@cityneighbors.org.

Parent - Teacher Conferences Parent-teacher conferences will be taking place on **Wednesday, April 26, Thursday, April 27, and Friday, April 28. School will be dismissed at 1 PM each of those days.** Each teacher will set up her/his own conference schedule. If you have any questions about parent-teacher conferences, please contact your child's teacher.



Spring has Sprung I think we can say with some degree of accuracy that spring has arrived in all her glory. With the warm days, we know that many families remain on the playground after school. And who wouldn't?

However, please be sure that, on those playground days, you bring water for your kids, wipes for dirty hands, and remind them to use the bathroom before school is dismissed. Students unaccompanied by adults will not be permitted back into the building after dismissal. This is particularly important to remember on Thursdays when school closes at 1 PM. After that time, there is no guarantee anyone will be available to let students back into the building, as staff are in meetings during that time. Thank you for your cooperation and enjoy our lovely playground!