



City Neighbors Hamilton

WEEKLY SAMON PAGES

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The Week Ahead

APRIL 24, 2017

Monday 4/24	Tuesday 4/25	Wednesday 4/26	Thursday 4/27	Friday 4/28	Saturday 4/29
		Parent-Teacher Conferences 1 PM DISMISSAL	Parent-Teacher Conferences 1 PM DISMISSAL (as usual)	Parent-Teacher Conferences 1 PM DISMISSAL Coffee with Mike 8:15 - 9 AM Conference Room	CNH Community Work Day 8 AM - 4 PM 8th Grade Returns from NOLA

Parent-Teacher Conferences This Week CNH will hold its third and final progress report conferences of the year on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week. This is an important time to connect with your child's teacher, make plans for this final stretch of the school year, and think about ways to keep your child's progress continuing over the long summer months. We look forward to seeing you all here this week. **Note for Middle School Parents:** We will not be holding overall progress report conferences for middle school, as we will be meeting with all students and parents in Presentations of Learning (POLs) in just a few weeks. We have extended invitations for progress report conferences only to parents of middle schoolers who are currently struggling. Those conferences will be held in Mr. Smith's classroom. Stay tuned to hear more about a date and time for your child's end of year POL! And, remember, school closes at 1 PM on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week!

Arrangements for Ms. Okobi This weekend, many of us from the City Neighbors family, including parents, Board members, and staff attended Ms. Okobi's funeral in Pittsburgh. We brought with us the energy, love, and compassion of our community and joined a larger community of her friends and family from so many different parts of her life who were doing the same. The service was difficult and beautiful. With mixture of prayer, ceremony, testimony and stories, it captured the energy and impact of Obi and her life and the great loss in her death. The funeral ceremony ended with the most beautiful Thanksgiving, as Obi's family and the Nigerian community gathered around Obi and sang and chanted traditional Nigerian songs and Christian hymns; a powerful moment that anyone there will not forget.

The family will now continue its process of grieving, healing, and celebrating Obi's life - partly as they work with us to plan Obi's Baltimore Memorial here on **Friday, May 19** beginning at 6:30 PM. After the memorial, everyone is welcome for to gather for refreshments. Children are welcome. Please register to attend the memorial here: <https://obiokobimemorialbaltimore.eventbrite.com/>. See page 4 for more details.

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.

Looking Ahead

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

Thursday, 5/11
Student Gallery Night &
Board Elections
6:30 - 8 PM

Friday, 5/19
Memorial for Obi
6:30 - 8:30 PM
(see attached flyer)

Saturday, 5/20
Spring Fling
11 - 3

Monday, 5/29
SCHOOL CLOSED
Memorial Day

8th Graders Are In New Orleans! Our 8th graders have safely arrived in New Orleans and started their week-long field work. After arriving on Saturday, the group of seventeen eighth graders (along with Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Wright, Mr. Harris, and several parent chaperons) spent Sunday on a swamp tour, examining both the impact of the swamp on culture and the ecological aspects of the swamp.

This work 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 the idea of 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.

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.

This week, grade 6 will take the Mathematics PARCC test on Tuesday through Thursday. 7th grade will take the English/Language Arts PARCC on Thursday, and the Math PARCC on Friday.

Next week, grade 7 will finish the Math PARCC and continue the Language Arts part. Grade 8 will take Math. And 6th grade will begin the Language Arts part.

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.

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.

CNH Workday The next CNH Work Day will be held this **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 2&cid=3ab2e796540e498dbe1414c6348670cd](https://www.gofundme.com/city-neighbors-hamilton-garden-fund?pc=exptemco%20shareflow%20m89%20&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 Summer Camp is Filling Up - Only 8 Slots Left! The City Neighbors Children’s Summer Camp has just eight open slots left for this summer. This camp, now in its third year serving rising first through fourth graders, is designed to create a rich summer experience of arts, gardening, bike riding, field trips, project work, literacy support, creativity, imagination, and friendship. Please submit your application as soon as possible before the slots fill up! 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.

All School Shout Out Last Friday, we welcomed Urban Foli to the All-School stage for an African Drumming performance. Students learned the different sounds of the Djembe and even turned their bodies into instruments. Thank you for a fun and engaging All School! Is your child interested in learning African Drumming? Look for a flyer attached to this Monday Mailer for more information!

CNH Principal Hiring: An Update and an Invitation City Neighbors Hamilton Principal candidate finalist, Shyla Rao, will join us for two days next week – **Tuesday, May 2 and Wednesday, May 3.**

Shyla comes to us with a Masters of Arts in Teaching from MICA 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 to 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.

The CNH Principal Hiring Committee is also excited to invite another candidate back for a second interview – a day-long visit of observations and conversations – on Thursday, May 4. We will keep you posted on the progress of this candidate.

The CNH Principal Hiring Committee seeks to make a recommendation to the CNH Board of Directors in mid-May.

Join us for Student Gallery Night Mark your calendars for Student Gallery Night on **Thursday, May 11.** More information to come next week!

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.

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.

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!

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). <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!

Remembering Obi



A decorative banner with a purple ribbon reads "MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR". Below it is a photo of Obi Okobi, a smiling woman with short dark hair wearing a colorful patterned shirt. To the right of the photo, the name "Obi Okobi" is written in a large, elegant blue script. Below the name, the date and time "MAY 19TH, 2017 | 6:30-8:30PM" are listed in purple. The location "CITY NEIGHBORS HAMILTON" and address "5609 SEFTON AVENUE | BALTIMORE, MD 21214" are in purple. A paragraph in black text describes the service: "Please join us along with Obi's family to celebrate and remember a life well lived. Service begins at 7:00pm in the Auditorium". Below that, in black text, it says "Wine and Cheese Reception immediately following in the City Neighbors Hamilton Café". The entire announcement is framed by a decorative border of colorful flowers and hearts.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

Obi Okobi

MAY 19TH, 2017 | 6:30-8:30PM

CITY NEIGHBORS HAMILTON
5609 SEFTON AVENUE | BALTIMORE, MD 21214

Please join us along with Obi's family to celebrate and remember a life well lived. Service begins at 7:00pm in the Auditorium

Wine and Cheese Reception immediately following in the City Neighbors Hamilton Café

OBI OKOBI MEMORIAL FUND

The Board of City Neighbors Hamilton has created this fund dedicated to teacher professional development.

www.gofundme.com/ObiOkobiMemorialFund



ONE OF OBI'S FAVORITE QUOTES

When I dare to be powerful—to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

-AUDRE LORDE

Late Night



[OPTIONAL] JOIN US FOR DRINKS, BITES AND CONVERSATION AS WE CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF OBI.

♥ **FORK & WRENCH** // 2322 BOSTON ST, BALTIMORE, MD 21224

RSVP ONLINE - WWW.TINYURL.COM/OBIOKOBI