



City Neighbors Hamilton

WEEKLY SAMON PAGES

Student label goes here

MAY 8, 2017

The Week Ahead

Monday 5/8	Tuesday 5/9	Wednesday 5/10	Thursday 5/11	Friday 5/12	Saturday 5/13
	4th/5th Grades to Harper's Ferry 8 AM - 4 PM Board Meeting 6:30 PM	Open Mic Auditions 3:15 - 4:15	Student Gallery Night & Board Elections 6:30 - 8 PM		

Join us for Gallery Night Please join us this **Thursday, May 11** night when our school opens up for Gallery Night. Explore the hallways and classrooms as student art and project work will be displayed. This is a drop-in event, so come anytime between 6:30-8 PM. That night, we will also be holding Board Elections, so come ready to vote for the newest members of the CNH Board of Directors.

Obi Memorial The Baltimore memorial for Obi will take place here at CNH on **Friday, May 19**. We will gather at 6:30 PM in the auditorium with Obi's family and the greater Baltimore community for a service and celebration of her life and work that begins at 7 PM. This will be followed by a reception in the CNH cafe. There is an optional after party at The Fork and Wrench. We are asking you to register so that we can plan accordingly: <https://obiokobimemorialbaltimore.eventbrite.com/>

CNH Principal Hiring Process: An Update & an Invitation

The second and final City Neighbors Hamilton Principal Candidate, Chitamawe Mulwanda, will join us for two days this week and we invite you to meet with him!

Chitamawe comes to us with a Bachelors Degree in English (with Minors in Black History and Film Studies) from the University of Missouri and a Master of Arts In Teaching from Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Mulwanda has been a Resident Principal and Principal in Baltimore City Schools. For the last five years, he has served as the Managing Director for Teach for America here in Baltimore. Previous to his leadership work, he served as a classroom teacher for five years at the secondary level.

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

- Please join us this **Thursday, May 11** from 5:30-6:30 PM (right before Gallery Night). We have asked Chitamawe to lead our community in a workshop that helps us vision our future.
- This **Friday, May 12** from 8:30-9:30 AM, please join us for a Coffee Q and A with Chitamawe.

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

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, 5/17
Open Mic Rehearsal
3:15 - 4:15

Friday, 5/19
All School: Open Mic
2:20 PM

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

Friday, June 2
Field Day

Thursday, 6/8
8th Grade Graduation
7- 9 PM
Auditorium

Friday, 6/9
Final Report Cards Mailed

Monday, 6/12
1 PM DISMISSAL

Tuesday, 6/13
Last Day of School
1 PM DISMISSAL

All-School: Calling All Performers! Our final Open Mic of the school year will take place on **Friday, May 19** at 2:20 P.M. Any students interested in performing should return permission slips (attached to this Monday Mailer) to Ms. Novak by **Monday, May 8- TODAY!** Auditions will be held on Wednesday, May 10 and there will be a Rehearsal day on Wednesday, May 17. Any questions? Contact Ms. Novak at anovak@cityneighborshamilton.org.

PARCC Testing Continues This Week This week, every grade tests at some point:

- 3rd grades takes Math on Tuesday and Wednesday
- 4th grade takes Math on Wednesday and Friday
- 5th grade takes Math on Wednesday and Friday
- 6th grade takes ELA on Monday and Tuesday
- 7th grade takes ELA on Monday
- 8th grade takes ELA on Monday

After this week, middle-school students will be done with PARCC testing. Next week, we will finish testing (except for make-up tests). Grade 3 will test Monday through Friday. Grades 4 and 5 will test on Monday.

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.

Thank You To Our Parent Community Some words of appreciation from our teachers in response to Teacher Appreciation Week. These are also posted on the wall outside of the office:

- *Thank you CNH families for your ongoing support and love! We are so fortunate to have an amazing parent community to be there with us for both hard times and celebrations. You rock!*
- *I want to thank CNH families for an incredible Teacher's Appreciation Week. Your thoughtful gestures (not to mention yummy food!), remind me of how lucky I am to be working in true partnership with families. I feel so grateful to be working in such a supportive community.*
- *"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much."- Helen Keller It is an true blessing to be a part of such a supportive community. Thank you City Neighbors families! With your positive support, delicious food, and outpouring of love, we are energized and rejuvenated. Together we are able to create the most amazing educational experience possible for all our students. Thank you!*
- *Thanks for all you do! I feel grateful to work at a school with such amazing families!*
- *Thank you so much parents and for all of your kindness and support over the past few weeks. I truly feel appreciated, loved, and a valued member the City Neighbors team.*
- *Thank you for filling our bellies with food and our hearts with love. Your thoughtfulness and support is truly unmatched. We are definitely the luckiest educators in Baltimore City.*

Thank You from the Classroom Parent Committee Thank you to all the CNH families that contributed their time, energy, dollars, and home cooking to Teacher Appreciation Week. Our teachers truly enjoyed all the pampering and care they received (see above!). The week would not have been so successful without our school community contributing so much. A special thanks to Fab Lab Manager, Justin Eames, for taking the time to help with the teacher gifts and DiPasquale's Deli for our boxed lunches.

~Maryhelen Pflug, Classroom Parent Committee Chair (formerly Parent & Family Relations Committee)

Presentations of Learning (POLs) in Middle School Each year, as part of our increasingly rigorous Middle School program, each student is required to complete an end-of-year Presentation of Learning (POL). During the months of April and May, students collect exemplars of their work, construct a series of reflections on their year, and organize a portfolio.

During the week of May 22, each student will have 30 minutes to speak in front of their faculty advisor, their parents or guardians, an invited guest, and other teachers about their year – their growth, their struggles, their learnings, and their goals going forward.

Middle-school students are deep in the mix of preparations now. Parents and guardians should have received an invitation to sign up for a time for the week of the May 22. We, on staff, look forward to seeing our middle school students step up this middle school challenge.

Last Day of School and First Day of School We have recently been notified that the last day of school will be **Tuesday, June 13**. There will be a 1 PM dismissal on Monday, June 12 and on Tuesday, June 13. And in case you are wondering, the first day of school for 2017-18 will be Tuesday, September 5.

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.

City Neighbors Summer Camp is Filling Up The City Neighbors Children's Summer Camp has just a few 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.

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!



Lost and Found The Lost and Found bin in the Café is overflowing! Please be sure to check it for any items your child may have lost. Items not picked up will be donated to a local charity.

The 2016-2017 CNH Yearbook is Still Available to Purchase! This year, the CNH yearbook was co-designed by students. They had a hand in laying out some of the pages and taking photos. The yearbook highlights the amazing work happening in classrooms, fun field work, performances like Open Mic and Winter Arts Festival, Buddy Days, the smiling and silly faces of our community, and much more! This yearbook is dedicated to Ms. Okobi.

The yearbooks are priced at \$22. Online sales are closed, but you may still order a yearbook by turning in an order form (see attached) and payment to Miss Cohen. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about purchasing a yearbook: hcohen@cityneighborshamilton.org.

~Miss Cohen, Atelierista~



Thank You, Work Day Volunteers!

I hope everyone enjoys the new gardens! Thanks to Facilities Director, Leo Guevara, parent volunteers Mary Alice Yesky, Erica Coughlin, Martha Graf, Jellema Stewart, Liz Spann, Chris Ryer, Pat McMahan, and student volunteers 5th grader Troy Stull, and 4th grader Ben Stull who worked so hard on the last Work Day. Special thanks to Kim Lane and Jenni Williams who put in two days of work with me. So grateful for all of you.

The playground still needs work. If anyone can work for any amount of time, call or text me at 410-961-8310 and I will come out with you to weed and mulch our playground plants.

And please, walk on the new paths, not the gardens! We'll garden again in the Fall! Until then...enjoy!

~Kristin Kasprzak, Parent Volunteer~

Policy Review: Illness There is mini outbreak of conjunctivitis (pink eye) in first grade. Ms. Gardner has been promoting healthy hygiene habits such as frequent hand washing but pink eye is very contagious. Please do not send your children to school if they exhibit any symptoms of pink eye. Upon return, a note must be provided to the Health Suite from the student's physician indicating the student has been treated for the condition and is safe to return to school. Please note the following policy regarding communicable diseases or conditions, excerpted from the School Handbook:

"Children should not attend school when they are exhibiting contagious symptoms such as fever, thick nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhea, or heavy coughing, or have a communicable disease or condition such as chicken pox or head lice. Students should be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

If your child has been absent due to a communicable or contagious disease or condition, i.e. strep throat, a note from his/her doctor or nurse practitioner is required upon his/her return to school stating the student has been treated for the condition and is safe to return to school. This note should be provided to the Health Suite."

2017-2018 Board Elections It's that time of year again! Board elections will be held during Spring Gallery Night, Thursday, May 11. Please stop by the table and vote for the three open positions we have this year. Biographical information for each candidate is attached and will be posted in the hallway outside of the office this week. Thank you!