



# LYON @ BLOW NEWS



Spring 2013

Issue No. 15

The 2012-2013 Lyon @ Blow Academy Girls Basketball Team. Pictured far right, Coach Ms. Lynette Berry.



Oh, the places you'll go!

## STUDENTS & STAFF STAY BUSY

Throughout the year, Lyon at Blow has welcomed support from district office. Mr. John Windom and Ms. Kathleen Taggart are among those educators from the SLPS administration who have come to the school to provide individual tutoring for Lyon at Blow students. Mr. Otis Bryant has worked with the young men of the Lyon at Blow Gentlemen's Club. Lyon at Blow welcomed Ms. Gail Stuckey to oversee the Lyon at Blow Community Education Center programs. Our Counselor, Ms. Fulton, organized a number of assemblies, two which raised student awareness on the topic of bullying and ways to prevent it. The quarter drew to a close with a Black History Celebration and a visit from a St. Louis Rams Q.B.!

St. Louis Rams Quarterback, Austin Davis, reads Dr. Seuss to the Elementary students on Read Across America Day, March 1, 2013. See related pictures beginning on page 15 of this issue.

*Students at Lyon at Blow are learning to read for deep meaning. They are learning to write based on careful analysis of details and sound organizational principles. The following essay was created by 8th grade student, Armoni Fields, and reflects her close reading of Maya Angelou's poem, "Alone."*

## MAYA ANGELOU'S "ALONE"

by Armoni Fields

In the poem "alone" by Maya Angelou, there are a lot of emotions, meanings, and figurative language. You can really see how hurt the speaker feels. She feels very strongly about coming together and making a change. She feels alone in this world, and she thinks that our brothers and sisters cannot survive without the help of each other; but we are forgetting that. She feels that without each other, money is of no use. She wants us to know that nobody, but nobody, can make it out here alone.

"Alone" is about a person who is very lonely and tired of everyone only caring for themselves without thinking twice about helping one another. In the poem, the speaker talks about the rich people who can't even use their money, so their wives complain. Meanwhile, there are poor people and sad children; even their own children are lonely. She also talks about how careless they are with their hearts of stone. But the speaker is looking for a solution to all of this because even rich people get lonely, and money can't buy you happiness. Instead of trying to make money, we need to make bonds and friends. If we don't come together, the world will only get worse, and times will get much harder. The speaker is a very lonely person, who was just up thinking one night. She feels alone, and once again, we need to help each other, and everybody needs somebody.

The theme of this poem is that, once again, nobody can make it out in this world alone. I know this because the poet/ speaker talks about this repeatedly throughout the poem. She constantly talks about how we all need each other. She says that that even the rich get lonely, which I believe to be very true. Some things that give off hints of the theme are when she says "Nobody, but nobody, can make it out here alone" and "the race of man is suffering", and even when she says "They've got expensive doctors, to cure their hearts of stone". When I put all of these

clues together, I came to realization that the theme is that nobody can make it in this world alone.

In "Alone", Maya Angelou used a lot of different types of figurative language. Probably the most I've seen in one poem. She used rhyme when she said "how to find myself a home, where water is not thirsty, where bread is not stone,". She used personification when she said "hearts of stone" because hearts aren't stone, but she's saying that they are careless. The last thing I saw was an allusion, and it was tricky to figure out. When she said "where water is not thirsty, where bread is not stone" she was referring to biblical days. As you can see, Maya Angelou used a great number of figurative language techniques.

"Alone" is by far the most touching poem by Maya Angelou to me. It is one of the best because I can really understand what she's saying and relate. I can relate because sometimes I sit and think about the things that are going on in this world too. The theme is that nobody can make it alone in this world. It's an excellent theme and motto. I loved how she used an allusion to biblical times. After reading, I felt like making a change because even I depend on others sometimes because it's true that nobody, but nobody, can make it out here alone.

\* \* \*



**Read Across America!** Mr. Archer wears the classic Cat in the Hat head-gear on Reading Day in his 6th Grade communication arts room, celebrating Reading and the work of the legendary children's author Dr. Seuss, whose birthday was marked in American classrooms throughout the nation on Read Across America Day, March 1, 2013.



# ART FAIR



Lyon at Blow Art Teacher Ms. DeLeon took artwork to the St. Louis Zoo last February. Ten pieces created by Lyon students were selected to appear in the 12th Annual St. Louis Art Fair. Mr. Phoenix and his son, Will went to the Living World at the zoo, and tracked down the following pictures on display in the rotunda. (Right: a drawing by 2nd grader Jericka Williams. Below: a painting by 5th grader, Keonna James.)







Painting by 8th grade student, Jasmine Tullock.



Artwork by 7th grade student, Dawn Beer.





Artwork by 7th grade student, Aleisha Jones.



A tiger drawn by kindergarten student, Cora Robinson.





Artwork by kindergarten student, Khaliya James.



A tiger drawn by 1st grade student Vinni Vongnaraj. Is that at Liger?!





Panda by 8th grade student, Zachary Strickland.





Congratulations to 7th grader, Jacob Hiltibidal. His rain-forest lizard won 2nd Place honors at the Art Fair.



Will visits the SLPS Art Fair.

View of the Art Fair in the Rotunda of the Living World at the St. Louis Zoo on Saturday, March 2, 2013.



# BLACK HISTORY



Mr. Mark Clark, Lyon at Blow Music Teachers directs the school's annual Black History Celebration. In addition to the reading of an original poem, songs and a performance by Lyon at Blow Percussion, the event was highlighted by a one-on-one interview with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. which was originally broadcast on national television following the historic bus boycott at the beginning of the civil rights movement in the 1950's.





Ms. Martin, Ms. Mosby, and Ms. Weiss at the assembly.



8th Grade teachers, Mr. Pearl and Mr. Archer



Jericka sings for the house.



# SCHOOL WORK



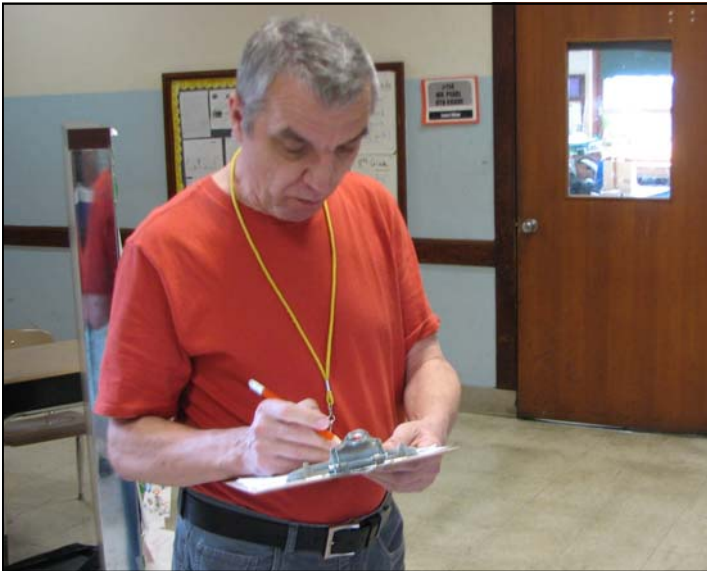




Principal Iskali takes time during her day to read to Mr. Hennen's Kindergarten children at her office conference table.



Some assembly required... Thanks to Cheryl VanNoy of SLPS Technology, Jim from TSI, Pete from Dell, Dr. Iskali and Mr. Schwerdt for covering classes, and Jamie and Deonte from Room 04. Could not have done it without all your help.



Mr. Wolynski prepares attendance and conducts an inventory.



New computers, increased bandwidth, and more Internet drops for the Lyon at Blow Computer Literacy Classroom.



Mr. Hennen and Ms. Davison stand in for a picture at the start of the Read Across America assembly on March 1, 2013.

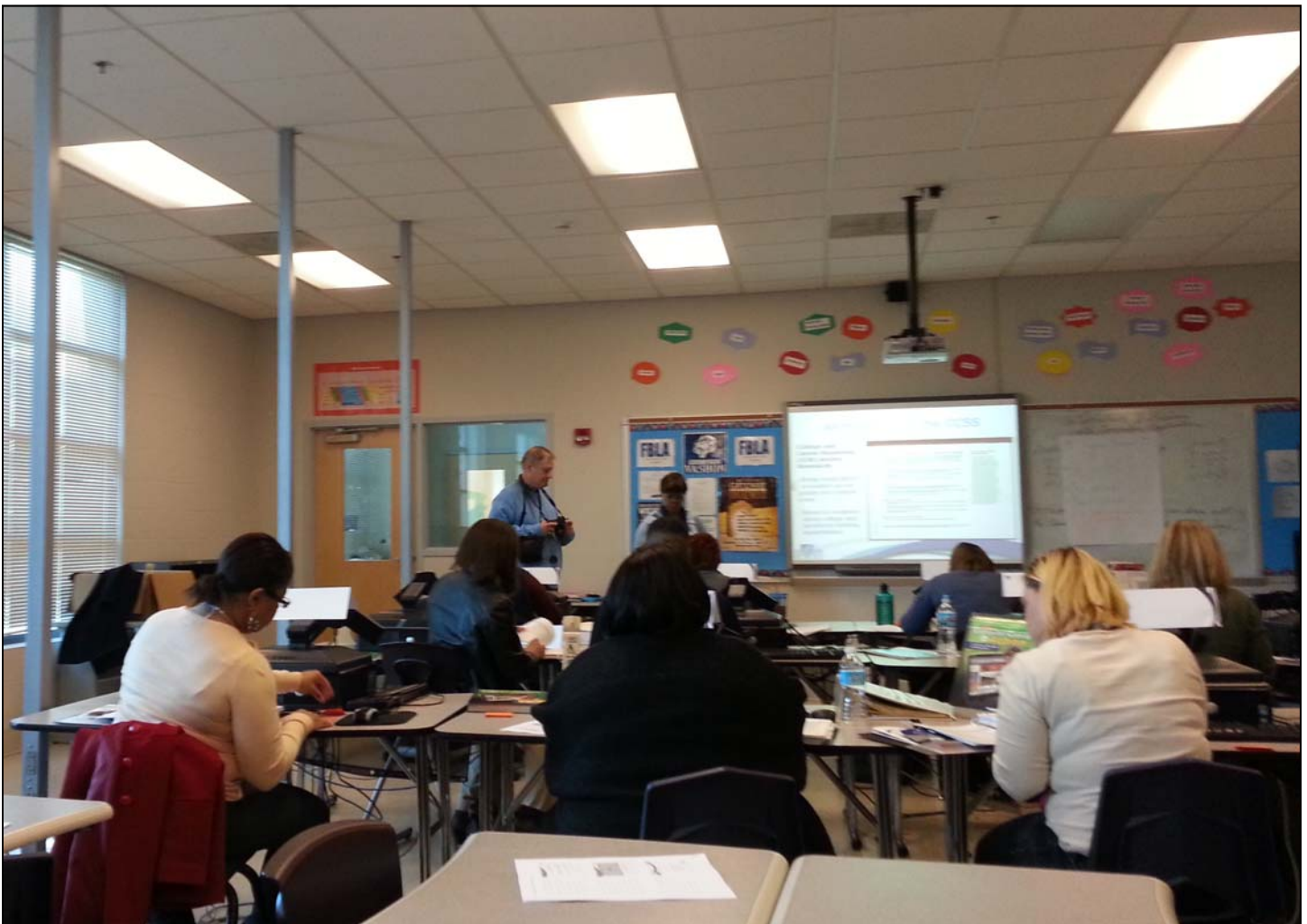


Installation of Dell Optiplex 790's in room 210, freed 25 Optiplex 780's with flat-screen monitors and furniture to the library, a tutoring center, and classrooms throughout the building. The machines were only a year old and in like-new condition.





Principal Iskali, Mr. Owings and Ms. Willman attend District-Wide Professional Development Day on January 18, 2013.



Many teachers assembled in rooms at Vashon High School on District-Wide Professional Development on Friday, February 15, 2013 to learn more about the new Common Core Standards and how they might be used to plan instruction and teaching strategies. The St. Louis Public Schools Teachers Union was partially responsible for the event. Teachers received 8 gigabyte flash drives! The day was profitable and in addition to an excellent lunch, provided veteran teachers an opportunity to chat with old friends, former teaching colleagues and administrators from around the St. Louis Public School District.



# Mrs. D's Students Produce Handsome Artwork!

...but seriously folks, the hits keep coming from Mrs. DeLeon and her art students (which is basically the entire Lyon at Blow student body.) This time out, they tackle three dimensional artwork as they create these decorative "Hand Sculptures" on display off the first floor hallway by Room 124.





# THE GENTLEMEN'S CLUB



**Lyon at Blow Gentlemen's Club.** Once again Mr. Otis Bryant has sponsored a group of young men from Lyon at Blow. They form the Gentlemen's Club and are seen here standing-in for a group shot before attending the Read Across America program.



Photos Left: Members of the Gentlemen's Club pair-off with younger boys from the Elementary School. The older students help the youngsters with their homework, act as tutors, and serve as positive role models with high expectations for academic and social performance during the 2012-2013 year. Photo Below: Following the visit of St. Louis Rams quarterback, Austin Davis who read to the Elementary School students, members of the Gentlemen's Club met with "Rampage" the hugely popular Ram's mascot.





# READ ACROSS AMERICA

March 1, 2013



Having completed reading to the students, Rams quarterback Austin Davis had time to answer questions from the students.



**Photo Top Left:** During the question and answer session, De-Maria asked Mr. Davis whether playing football in the NFL was dangerous. He answered that it was, but that he loved playing the game. **Photo Top Right:** Mr. Davis, Coach Schwerdt and Rampage remind the students that reading and school work is important, but physical activity to also needed for good health and a sound mind. **Photo Bottom Right:** Rampage comes down to the gym floor and trades dance steps with students from Ms. Willman's First Grade class. Rampage was impressed my the dance moves and everyone had fun!



# GO RAMS!



Lyon at Blow Physical Education Teacher, Coach Nicholas Schwerdt is greeted by a host of cameras as Austin Davis, Rampage and members of the St. Louis Rams organization prepare to depart. Ms. Berry and Nurse Maye get a photo with Rampage.



**Oh, The Places You'll Go!** St. Louis Ram's Mascot "Rampage" and quarterback Austin Davis make a final stop in the Lyon at Blow Office before taking their leave. Davis holds the book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss, which Davis read to the school's elementary students. The quarterback also sports a pin on his chest, with the school's mascot, "The Lyon Liger" presented to him by Dr. Iskali as a keepsake of his visit.



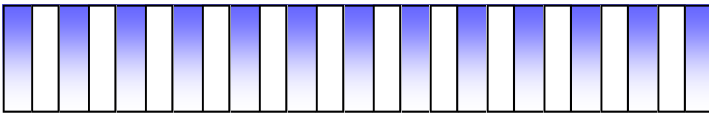
# NO BULLYING

by Raeven Doby, Grade 7

On February 26, 2013 at about 8:00AM there was a second, school-wide assembly about Bullying and how you can solve it if you or anyone else is getting bullied. The First Step is to tell a teacher or principal or parent if you are getting bullied. There are different types of Bullying; there is Verbal, Physical, and Cyber Bullying. Verbal bullying is when someone is bullying you with words or using them in a bad way against you. Physical bullying is when someone is hurting you with either objects or themselves. Last, but not least, Cyber Bullying is when someone is bullying you over the Internet. Officer Gilbert of the St. Louis Public Schools Safety Office delivered the talk to all the students. He has been giving his presentation to many schools in the District. He was very serious about a very serious subject. Don't Bully!



Veteran teacher, Ms. McCord talks student data with Principal Iskali. Ms. McCord has been on the forefront of the school-wide effort to analyze student academic performance, identify strengths and weaknesses, and to develop and implement teaching strategies and resources in the classroom to raise achievement levels.



School Safety Officer Mr. Robinson stands at the video surveillance monitors across from the front entrance metal detector.



## *From The Principal's Desk*

I hope you all have a fun and restful Spring Break, and I look forward to our return to classes on Monday March 25, 2013!