Help Your Child Succeed In School

Parents, families, and teachers have the most important job in the world. They share a passion and responsibility of providing our next generation with security and values along with the skills and education they will need to be successful adults. The participation of parents and families in a student's education is vital to the success of their child in the school environment. It is often difficult for parents to take time off from work, find transportation, and/or have the energy to come to school and meet with teachers. However, by making themselves present during school functions, being able to communicate by phone and/or emails, this can strengthen the parent-teacher partnership. Strengthening this relationship brings about valuable resources in helping a child develop to their full potential. Teachers will always teach, and students will always attend classes, but parents and families complete the connection and bring to life their child’s academic success and achievements.

Article by: Crystal Barnett, Senior, BSW Student -Indiana University School of Social Work

Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success

Mission- To advance the continuous development of a community wide partnership between the schools, families, health and human service agencies, faith based organizations, businesses, colleges/universities, maximizing the education and life potential of every child, young person and adult ----from cradle to career.

Vision- A highly educated, productive citizenry contributing to a thriving Martindale Brightwood Community!

School Contact Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Coordinators</th>
<th>School Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Kilmer, IPS 69</td>
<td>Francis W. Parker Montessori, IPS 56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regina Parrish &amp; Courtney Hunt</td>
<td>Maria Wright</td>
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<td>317.226.4269</td>
<td>317.226.4256</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Russell Lowel, IPS 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Studley</td>
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<td>317.919.0983</td>
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EXCELLENT EAGLES is a positive behavior support program, ran by Mr. Foster, at Joyce Kilmer Elementary School. The goal is for an entire classroom to earn compliments from adults other than their classroom teacher. Every classroom has the opportunity to earn a compliment anywhere in the building if they are following school wide expectations. Once a classroom earns enough compliments to fill in an excellent eagle chart, they will earn a reward. This program is one of the many positive programs being implemented at School 69 to encourage the best from their students.

Francis W. Parker Montessori School 56
Principal– Lauren Franklin

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is the largest child advocacy association in the nation, and School 56’s PTA has been recognized as an Honor Unit in the State of Indiana. This PTA group is the only one in the Indianapolis Public School system with this distinct recognition.

A primary role of this unit is to partner with the school to help provide additional resources. For example, the dinners that are provided during family nights come from the PTA. Volunteers are also recruited to assist with programs like Pictures with Santa and the school food pantry initiative.

Funding for some of the school’s field trips is also provided by the PTA. On February 28th, five 8th grade students will have the pleasure of having lunch and touring the State House on PTA’s State Legislation Day.

This year, in order to commemorate 100 years of PTA, School 56 is seeking to have 100 members. Dues are only $6.00 a year, and membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission and purpose of PTA.

James Russell Lowell School 51
Principal– Lauren Johnson

James Russell Lowell IPS 51 is home to a growing Latino community that has been organizing to develop parent involvement in the school. Parents have participated in Voices to Action, a facilitated dialogue designed to help parents better understand the educational system. These sessions were held entirely in Spanish. Inspired by this openness and the effort to bridge the language barrier, English as Second Language classes were created at School 51. These classes have been collectively supported by IUPUI, Ivy Tech and United Way. This group has grown around an important fixture in the school’s landscape, Isaias Guerrero. Isaias started at the school in 2009 as a Family Advocate charged with organizing the Latino parents to create a bridge between the school and this unique community. His organizing efforts have led to the creation of a new parent leadership group called – Progreso Para Las Familias en la Comunidad. This translates to Progress for Families in Our Community. They meet weekly on Wednesday nights for fellowship, discussion of school issues and efforts to collectively solve challenges with the school and community. Everyone is welcome at these festivities!

Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success Recognizes Black History Month

Did you know?

• Black History Month started in 1926 as Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. (Pictured Right)
• Dr. Carter G. Woodson selected the month of February to honor Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas who were both born in February.
• In the 1940s students at West Virginia started celebrating February as Negro History Month and 1976 was the year of the first official observance of Black History Month.

For more information visit (http://www.asalh.org/blackhistorymonthorigins.html)
Edna Martin Christian Center

Edna Martin Christian Center’s mission is to encourage, empower and en-gender a vision of hope for all people. Since the 1940’s, Edna Martin Christian Center has been Indiana’s training ground offering education, social services, faith services, age-appropriate activities, mentoring and guidance. Our programs focus on the holistic needs of the community—spiritual, physical, economic, social and mental. Currently, through our partnership with the MBAES initiative, we are working with Indianapolis Public Schools 51, 56 and 69 offering after school programming which includes homework completion, tutoring, and club activities.

For more information contact:
Edna Martin Christian Center
317-637-3776/www.ednamartincc.org

37 Place

Currently under renovation 37 Place is becoming a multiservice community center. Through a unique set of public and private partnerships the Martindale Brightwood community worked to reopen the once closed Indianapolis Public School 37. This project involves Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) and a host of partners. “What makes this project really unique is that the community is involved in every step of this process” says CICF. Indianapolis Public School 37 was a beloved part of the African American community for its long history of educating students prior to integration. 37 Place is slated to reopen July 2012.

BRIGHTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Martindale-Brightwood community has its very own neighborhood library. Currently located at 2435 N Sherman Drive in the Brightwood Plaza shopping center, the library has been serving the community since 1901. The Brightwood branch was the 6th library opened by the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library system.

Brightwood Library serves an ethnically diverse population. The collection contains a wide range of written and audiovisual materials for every interest. The branch has a collection of over 16,000 items; including books, DVDs, music CDs, and magazines. Free access to the internet and Microsoft Office software is provided via 14 computers available for public use. The library also provides free Wi-Fi for laptop users.

Library programming is held throughout the year and includes story times for children, cultural programs, an adult book club and the Summer Reading Program, of which 186 students attended last summer from IPS 51, 56 and 69.

To find out more about the various programs the library offers stop in the branch to pick up a monthly calendar, check out the library website at imcpl.org, or “like” Brightwood Library on Facebook.
Upcoming Events

- **Family Night**
  School 51, Jan. 25
  5:30 PM

- **Java for Justice**
  Rebuilding the Wall,
  Jan. 28, 7:00 PM

- **Community Council Meeting**
  School 69
  Feb. 8, 10:00 AM

- **Montessori Monday**
  School 56, Feb. 13,
  5:30 PM

- **Bowling Party**
  School 69
  Feb. 24, 1:00 PM

Contact Information:
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Project Director,
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Sereta Douse
Project Specialist
sldouse@iupui.edu
317.278.7600

**Coming in March...**

**Whatever It Takes! Successful Children with Promising Futures...**

**An Event for Families Making a Difference**

- Learn strategies to help your child be successful in school.
- Understand more about local resources in your community.
- Meet other parents and find out ways to make a difference in your child's education.

**Free Admission - Lunch Provided**

More information coming soon!

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

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<th>37 Place</th>
<th>Indianapolis Public Schools</th>
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<tr>
<td>100 Black Men</td>
<td>Indy Parks and Recreation</td>
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<td>Boy Scouts of America</td>
<td>IU School of Dentistry</td>
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<td>Bright House Networks</td>
<td>IU School of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brightwood Community Center</td>
<td>IU School of Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Answers/ Play &amp; Learn</td>
<td>IU School of Social Work</td>
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<td>Choices Inc.</td>
<td>Ivy Tech Community College</td>
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<td>Edna Martin Christian Center</td>
<td>Learning Well</td>
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<td>Making Connections</td>
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<td>Girls Inc.</td>
<td>Martindale Brightwood CDC</td>
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<td>Gleaners Food Bank</td>
<td>Rebuilding the Wall</td>
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<td>HealthNet Inc.</td>
<td>United Way of Central Indiana</td>
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<td>IMCPL Brightwood Branch</td>
<td>Wheeler-Dowe Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana Partnerships Center</td>
<td>And many more to come!</td>
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Don't FORGET!