Summer Learning

Just as the rain in spring prepares the earth’s flowers for a gorgeous summer bloom, summer learning programs can prepare students for a successful academic school year. According to Ron Fairchild, executive director of the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University, children can lose over 2 months of instruction during the summer. However, many programs offered in the summertime are designed to help supplement academic growth. These programs typically incorporate learning into activities that are fun such as going on field trips, science projects and working on outdoor activities. Help your child to blossom into what they are destined to become by encouraging academic success through a summer learning program. For more information on these opportunities contact the school coordinator at your child’s school. Contact information is below.

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:**

- Joyce Kilmer, IPS 69
  - School Coordinators
  - Regina Parrish &
  - Courtney Hunt
  - 317.226.4269

- Francis W. Parker Montessori, IPS 56
  - School Coordinator
  - Maria Wright
  - 317.226.4256

- James Russell Lowel, IPS 51
  - School Coordinator
  - Mary Studley
  - 317.919.0983
Happenings In Your School!

James Russell Lowell School 51 - Principal, Lauren Johnson

**Intervention at its Best**

At 3:00 pm in the afternoon the hallways at James Russell Lowell Elementary are a busy place. Small groups of students are bustling from room to room like travelers trying to catch a flight. Every inch of the school is dedicated to instruction and every instructional staff member including teachers and instructional assistants are working with a small group of students. Even the social worker is a reading teacher. It is truly a joyful time. All students are huddled around their intervention teacher and engaged in targeted learning. This focused academic intervention time is part of the newly adopted 8 Step Process, an academic intervention that is showing results for School 51. Students are grouped according to test scores every three weeks and given very specific instruction to build mastery in the skills that were identified by the testing. The eight step process requires a strong instructional focus from the administration. Vice Principal Pearson and Principal Johnson work very hard to ensure data and time is used strategically. “I am very proud of the hard work on the part of our teachers and students and test score are rising,” Principal Johnson reported to the Education Task Force this month.

Francis W. Parker Montessori School 56 - Principal, Lauren Franklin

**Remembering the Children**

A choir composed of students from Francis W. Parker School 56 and George W. Julian School 57 opened the Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis' Annual Gospel Concert on Feb. 19th in the Pike Performing Arts Center. The students presented a program called "Remembering the Children of the Civil Rights Movement" in the Studio Theater. After their performance, the students led a procession from the theater to the center's main stage to the sounds of "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around" and "We Shall Overcome." The students, who were under the direction of teacher Roberta Lovenheim, were the guests of honor at this gospel concert event.

Joyce Kilmer School 69 - Principal, Tihesha Guthrie

**ISTEP Prep**

At Joyce Kilmer School 69 students and staff were diligently preparing for the ISTEP test. The school implemented an 8 week ISTEP preparation plan to ensure that students would be ready for the test. During those 8 weeks, teachers focused on Constructed and Extended Response Questions along with Writing. In addition, the 8 week plan required that Grades 3 - 6 not participate in Enrichment activities during Success Period but, instead were administrated writing prompts. As students wrote, teachers walked around and noted what they observed. The goal was to have each student be able to successfully get through a 55 minute writing prompt. Also, as part of the 8 week ISTEP plan, each classroom were provided a co-teacher that stayed in their assigned classroom to assist with the ISTEP related activities. Finally, in preparation of the ISTEP test, after school tutoring was offered to the students that wanted additional help.

Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success

**“I Step, You Step, We All Step for ISTEP!”**

*We want to encourage “ALL” students to have a positive attitude!*

**“Don’t stress, on the test, just buckle down & do your best!”**
Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold, by providing hands-on programs that address the challenges girls face today. Our programs empower girls to be confident in their own skin, prepared for their futures, proud of who they are, and ready to take their place in the world. By partnering with schools and community organizations, we offer educational and empowering programs to girls at their facilities.  **Girls Inc. has provided programs in the Martindale Brightwood area since 2008 and currently has partnerships with IPS Schools 69, 56 and 51, Brightwood Community Center, Wheeler-Dowe Boys & Girls Club and three charter schools.**

Girls Inc. offers an affordable six-week summer day camp that focuses on the words in our mission statement – strong, smart, and bold. Split into three two-week sessions, girls ages 6-14 will build confidence, enhance their physical ability, learn about money management, and participate in weekly field trips, all in a girl only environment. Camp staff members are trained in First Aid, girl development, conflict resolution, and overall safety to ensure that your girl has a great camp experience. Our “Find The Champion In You” day camp begins June 11 and registration opens February 24.

Visit www.girlsincindy.org/summer_camp for more information.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis, Wheeler-Dowe Unit will offer summer programming for youth between the ages of 5 - 18 in. The program will begin on June 18th and run through July 27th for the Martindale Brightwood community and surrounding Indianapolis area. The Club will be open from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Summer activities include: educational activities, art projects, computer games, gym activities, field trips, swimming classes, outdoor activities and much more! Lunch and snack will be provided each day at no additional cost. The cost for the summer program is $25 for members or $35 for non members. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Eric Reid, Unit Director, at 317-926-4222 or reid@bgcindy.org.**

Indy Parks and Recreation provides after-school services such as arts & crafts, tutoring, homework assistance and life skills support to IPS Schools 51, 56 and 69. This summer season, there will be more exciting programs and services to keep students and their entire family entertained. Check out our Summer Fun Guide for a list of aquatic centers, spray grounds, concerts, classes and programs. And don’t forget to register for Summer Day Camps. Indy Parks offers a broad variety of camps for all ages and interests including environmental education camps, creative arts camps, therapeutic recreation camps, and traditional day camps with fun weekly themes! Find a park near you or a camp that suits your interests, and start having fun this summer with Indy Parks! For more information visit www.indy.gov/parks or call (317) 327-PARK.
Parents of IPS Schools 51, 56 and 69 you are invited:

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

When: Saturday, March 24, 2012
Where: Martin University
Time: 8:30am – 1:30pm

RSVP at 205-2595 or via email to rduerksen@fscp.org
Walk-ins are also welcome!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

37 Place
100 Black Men
Boy Scouts of America
Bright House Networks
Brightwood Community Center
Child Care Answers/ Play & Learn Choices Inc.
Edna Martin Christian Center
Felege Hiywot Center
Girls Inc.
Gleaners Food Bank
HealthNet Inc.
IMCPL Brightwood Branch
Indiana Partnerships Center

Indianapolis Public Schools
Indy Parks and Recreation
IU School of Dentistry
IU School of Education
IU School of Nursing
IU School of Social Work
Ivy Tech Community College
Learning Well
Making Connections
Martin University
Martindale Brightwood CDC
Rebuilding the Wall
United Way of Central Indiana
Wheeler-Dowe Boys & Girls Club