Returning To School Isn’t Easy, But It Is Possible!

Felicia Grady, a parent whose children attend School 51, has decided to better her life as well as her children’s by furthering her education.

MBAES News: What inspired you to go back to school?

Felicia: I want my own catering business and to be able to work for myself. I started cooking for other people and they enjoyed it so much that I decided to pursue this formally.

MBAES News: Do you think your academic pursuits are influencing your children?

Felicia: Going to school absolutely influences them! I do not tolerate C’s so I make sure that I don’t get C’s and my children hold me accountable. Often times they help me with my homework and by doing that they learn more as well. I tell them to make sure they get their work done so that they can do what they want to do in life.

MBAES News: How do you balance work, family and school?

Felicia: By staying humble. Without God none of this would be possible. I am tired all of the time but try to have a very structured life. I workout daily, then I go to school and then to work. I take online classes so that I am not at school everyday. I study once the kids are asleep because that is the best time for me to focus. My husband helps with the children a lot as well.

Felicia also has a degree from Harrison College and is proof that it is possible to pursue your dreams at any age or stage of life. The Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success initiative strives to make it easier for adults to return to school and pursue their dreams. Opportunities are being provided at local schools and through community partnerships. See page 3 to learn more.

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 Lowell, IPS 51
  School Coordinator
  Mary Studley
  317.919.0983
**ReadUP**

ReadUP is a United Way program that matches volunteer tutors with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who are reading below grade level. ReadUP tutors help students with vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. The intended goal is to bring them up to grade level reading. On April 19, 2012, Joyce Kilmer hosted “Family Night” for the tutors, students and their families. Parents were able to meet the tutors that have been working with the children. They were provided with information about the ReadUp program, as well as given useful tips that they can utilize at home. The event was a huge success and both the tutors and the families had a wonderful time.

**Boomer’s Boot Camp**

A wonderful time was had by all! That was definitely the buzz around school 56 Tuesday evening. The night included an all-star cast of Boomer the Pacer Panther and his FIT team counterparts. Boomer’s Boot Camp included a segment on healthy eating presented by Riley Hospital, dinner catered by Subway, up-beat music, and of course lots of great exercises! About 120 people made up of students and their families came out to sweat it out with Boomer and his crew. Boomer didn’t take it easy on us, and parents, students and staff alike were working out Boomer-style! We got some great tips on how to stay healthy and active. Our Family Fitness Night starring Boomer and his friends was a great success!

**Farewell to Reverend Debra Grady**

School 51 would like to bid farewell to our dear community partner Reverend Debra Grady who is at home with the Lord. Her years of tireless service and attention to the students and families of Martindale Brightwood have been invaluable. She was very child focused and her sage guidance at the monthly Education Task Force meetings have shaped programs, culture and spirit at 51. “Rev. Grady’s life has touched each of us. She has left us a legacy worth living into; one filled with grace, humility, compassion, love and service for mankind.” Says Minister Khala Granville, Interim Operating Director of Brightwood Community Center.

**Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success**

- IUPUI was recently recognized as an Honor Roll finalist for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award for its university-assisted community school partnerships. This recognition shows how instrumental colleges and universities can be with supporting youth, families and the community. See more at http://www.communityschools.org.
- MBAES and partners would like to say thank you to all of the teachers at James Russell Lowell School 51, Francis W. Parker Montessori School 56 and Joyce Kilmer School 69. We appreciate the hard work and dedication that you give to every student each and every day. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! (May 7– May 11)

- This will be the last MBAES News issue until August. Have a great summer!
IUPUI’s Division of Continuing Studies supports lifelong learning, in conjunction with the Indianapolis Public Schools. A vehicle for doing this are the Adult Learning Centers located at Francis W. Parker Montessori School 56, Joyce Kilmer School 69, and Arlington Community High School. Other schools are in line to offer courses in the future.

The goals of the IUPUI Adult Learning Centers are two-fold. The first is to increase accessibility to post-secondary learning opportunities in underserved areas, which include career skill development and certificate training. And the university’s second goal is to support adults as they consider college as an option. The programs of study include both continuing education, non-credit courses, as well as developmental, for credit, first year college courses. Classes focusing on study skills, reading and writing, computation, multiple literacies, (computer, science, etc.) will also be offered.

Together, with various community partners, IUPUI hopes to serve to make a positive impact in our neighborhoods. The University is committed to continuing its work of encouraging adults in the community who are seeking to start or complete their education.

For more information contact Sylvia Cunningham, Manager for the Adult Learning Centers at 317.274.2255 or scunnin@iupui.edu.

Ivy Tech Community College is the state’s largest public postsecondary institution and the nation’s largest singly accredited statewide community college system, serving nearly 200,000 students annually. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state’s engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana.

The Central Indiana region includes Marion and the seven surrounding counties. It includes two main campuses, the Indianapolis campus, located on Fall Creek Parkway and the Lawrence Campus, as well as 13 community sites throughout Marion and the surrounding counties.

For more information on Ivy Tech, visit ivytech.edu or call 888-IVY-LINE.

Martin University is a private, not-for-profit, liberal arts institution that provides excellence in educating and developing all students with expertise in serving and empowering low-income, minority, and adult learners in a healthy and collegiate environment. Martin prides itself on being unique, future-oriented, and student-centered and offers both theoretical and experiential learning experiences which allow students to fully immerse themselves in their chosen fields before entering the workplace.

Martin University offers 14 Bachelor’s Degrees and two Master’s Degrees. Students are provided with a well-rounded, liberal arts education designed to prepare them for graduate education and leadership roles in their chosen careers. Call 317-543-3235 for more information or visit www.Martin.edu.
Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success would like to pay tribute to the life and influence of Father Boniface Hardin, founder of Martin University. (Pictures provided by the Indianapolis Star)

Father Hardin will always be remembered for years of service and commitment to the community!

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317.278.7600

**Upcoming Events**
- Community Council School 69, May 16, 10:00 AM
- WorkOne Job Counseling, Rebuilding the Wall, May 22, 1:00 PM
- International Day School 56, June 6
- Boy Scouts of America, Adult Pinewood Derby Event, June 9
- Last Day IPS School June 12

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

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