Families Engagement: Get Involved!

As we start to collaborate again on family, school and community partnerships in the Martindale Brightwood community, it’s important to reflect on the power of partnering with families.

Family engagement is inclusive of all family and guardians who are invested in a child’s future. Nurturing engagement that begins early from birth and continues through to the career pipeline is critical. We know this based on three decades of research that documents the importance of the families’ role in children’s academic, social and emotional development. When families are A) honored for what they are already doing at home, B) communicated with regularly about how to strengthen classroom efforts and C) connected to additional supports, children are more likely to have:

- Better grades and take higher level classes
- Higher rates of graduating on time
- Better attendance
- Higher rates of attending college
- Better behavior and social skills

Let’s keep in mind that family engagement is not just a good thing to do, but that our children, our schools and our communities are stronger when we all partner together!

Article By:
Jackie Garvey, Executive Director
The Indiana Center for Family, School and Community Partnerships

Visit our new website at
www.mbaes.iupui.edu
James Russell Lowell
School 51
Principal, Jennifer Pearson
Bingo for Books, Family Movie Night, Family Math Night, PIT Day the list goes on of the monthly opportunities to visit your elementary school. Why do you receive so many invitations and what is this parent engagement stuff all about? Well, family nights are designed to offer a casual atmosphere with a fun activity for the kids where teachers and family members can visit about student work, behavior, development and many other things. Family Nights are also an opportunity for you and your student to give back to the school. Service learning is a valuable lesson and Family Nights are a great opportunity to demonstrate that. Help put out chairs, man the sign in table or just invite a friend. Everything is helpful. The world is so busy these days. Slow down, take advantage of the Family Night opportunities your school offers and remember this is an opportunity to HAVE FUN while learning.

Article By: Mary Studley, School Coordinator

Francis W. Parker
School 56
Principal, Lauren Franklin
The National PTA defines Family, School, and Community as a shared responsibility where schools are committed to engaging families in meaningful and culturally respective ways, and families are committed to actively supporting their children’s learning and development. The staff and families of School #56 are working towards this goal. Marvelous Montessori Mondays are a collaborative effort between staff and parents to increase awareness of both the philosophy and curriculum of Montessori. This month the PTA and staff will join together for a Fiesta in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Article By: Maria Wright, School Coordinator

Joyce Kilmer
School 69
Principal, Kris Walker-Guess
National Grandparent’s Day was on September 8th and Joyce Kilmer Academy celebrated this holiday on September 25th. Grandparents were invited to attend school with their grandchildren to be acknowledged for the help and hard work they give raising their grandchildren. A nice relaxing atmosphere was created while they listened to Motown music, played Bingo for Books and received free manicures. The organization, Safe for Families was also in attendance and offered resources and support to those who were in need. There are many parent engagement opportunities like this to come at School 69.

For more information contact the School Coordinator Sharon Wade, 317.226.4269.

Article by: Omo Agans-Oliha, IUPUI DCS Work Study Student
Family Works, Inc. is a private, community based agency that provides counseling and support services to children and families experiencing challenges. We recently have been contracted to serve the families and students of schools 51 and 69. Some of the services offered consist of but are not limited to individual and group therapy with various students to assist them in:

- managing hostile or aggressive behaviors,
- personal issues at home or in school,
- managing depression and anxiety,
- dealing with withdrawal or isolation,
- and the development of social skills.

For more information please contact Tiffany Toles, 317.923.4437 Ext. 418

Art With a Heart is now at 37 Place! This means that in addition to our afterschool programs at IPS #51, #56 and #69, we will also have programs available in the Elizabeth Odle Studio (Suite 302) on the third floor of 37 Place. Starting September 28th we have our Honors Art program; there are three classes for different age groups:

- Minis (k-1) 9:00am to 10:00am
- Beginner (2-5) 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Advanced (6th grade and up) 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Afterschool programs are free to participating families thanks to a grant from IUPUI and support from the Indianapolis Foundation. Honors Art has a sliding scale of fees so every family should be able to afford to help their emerging artist become a success. Engaged parents are very important to the success of a child and so we provide the parents of our Honors students with guidance in how to talk to their child about the art they produce.

For more information about after-school or Honors, please contact Kaitlyn Akin at 317.602.7222 Ext. 5# or by email at ka-kin@artwithaheart.us

You’re Invited

Friday, November 1st

37 Place

2605 East 25 street Indianapolis, IN, 46218

Harvest Festival

Come join us to celebrate the season! Bring the whole family and enjoy fun activities such as a Petting Zoo, Carnival Games, Raffle and Door Prizes, Music and Food! For More Information please call Altina at 317.637.3776.

Visit our new website at
www.mbaes.iupui.edu
**Improve Your Employment Skills!**

There is a new program at the Brightwood Library, The Job Center! Assistance with improving your computer skills, job searches, resume writing and interview skills are being offered.

**Brightwood Branch:**
2435 N. Sherman Drive

**Program Hours:**
**Mondays:** 11:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
**Thursdays:** 1:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.

*Also, inquire about the library’s Earn and Learn Program to reduce your library fees!*

**Upcoming Events:**
- School Bus Driver Employment Fair, Oct. 14 & 15, 8:00 AM
- MBAES Partners MTG, Oct. 17, 10:00 AM
- School #69 Community Council Partnership Meeting, Oct. 18, 11:00 AM
- Harvest Dinner, Nov. 2.
- School 51 Task Force MTG, Nov. 8, 10:30 AM
- School 56 PTA Meeting, Nov. 18, 5:30 PM

**Community Partners**

- 37 Place
- 100 Black Men
- Art W/ A Heart
- Boy Scouts of America
- Bright House Networks
- Brightwood Community Center
- Child Care Answers/ Play & Learn
- Edna Martin Christian Center
- Family Works
- Felege Hiywot Center
- Girls Inc.
- Gleaners Food Bank
- HealthNet Inc.
- IMCPL Brightwood Branch
- Indiana Partnerships Center
- Indianapolis Public Schools
- IU School of Dentistry
- IU School of Education
- IU School of Nursing
- IU School of Social Work
- IUPUI Midwest Center for University Assisted Community Schools
- Ivy Tech Community College
- Learning Well
- Making Connections
- Martin University
- Martindale Brightwood CDC
- United Way/ Bridges to Success
- Wheeler-Dowe Boys & Girls Club

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For information pertaining to the Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success contact Sereta Douse, Project Specialist, sldouse@iupui.edu or Mary Studley, FSCS Coordinator, studlm@ips.k12.in.us / 317.278.9700 or