

PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Promoting economic growth, leadership and education within the City of Portsmouth

Newsletter No. 45

www.portsmouthpartnership.org

June 2014

CREATIVITY, CURIOSITY DRIVE PPS SPRING, SUMMER PROGRAMS

MANY PEOPLE COULD BE forgiven for thinking that today's kids are so preoccupied with viewing other people's stories and listening to other people's music that they are incapable of creating their own. Those people would simply not be familiar with the work of some of Portsmouth Schools' 4th thru 12th graders.

A PORTSIDE STORY, an original musical that was written and performed by PPS students and funded by the Portsmouth Schools Foundation, was performed at I.C. Norcom High School on Friday, April 11, to a full crowd. The show addressed the themes of bullying, humility and pride, plus the effects of judging others based on appearance and peer pressure. If these themes seem a bit mature for such young folks, don't be surprised. These kids simply showed what they can do given the encouragement – and a little funding – from teachers who encourage them to think, and do, for themselves.



MATRIX SUMMER CAMPS are once again offered to rising 4th thru 12th grade students, offering a rich array of activities to keep young minds sharp and challenged over the summer months. Subjects include: LEGO robotics; geo-referencing a map of Olde Towne; Crime Scene Investigation (including DNA analysis, handwriting and more); Android App creation; introductory 3D CAD software design; a STEM Academy program (in collaboration with the NNSY and SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic; a 4-day RiverQuest residential gig exploring careers in Environmental Science, Oceanography, and the Maritime Industry; model race car engineering and design and race track construction at

Victory Elementary School; and more. While some activity is centered at ODU and on the Elizabeth River, most groups will meet at STARBASE Victory. The camps are **FREE to ALL PPS students**, and are paid for through grants and donations.

IN THE CHROME ORGANIZATION'S recent LEGO competition, which included teams from Portsmouth's 8 elementary schools, students from **James Hurst Elementary School** enjoyed the benefits of having worked with mentors from the **NNSY's Outreach Program**. Seven volunteers from NNSY met during nine 1 ½ hour sessions with the school's 38 active CHROME members to prepare for the event. The result? 2nd place in the "Base Plates" category, 3rd place in "The Submersible," and a determination to continue the effort for 2015's competition. Many thanks go to the NNSY and its volunteers for their commitment to the program and to the kids.

In Other School News . . .

WESTHAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL proudly recognizes several students for their accomplishments in the PTA **REFLECTIONS** contest. Second-grader Ariel Stokley placed 1st in the Citywide Division, and brothers Ronan (6th grade) and Rendelle (5th grade) Flores won the Virginia State Division of the multi-state 2014 Cyber Security Awareness "Kids Safe Online" poster contest. As state winners, their posters will automatically be entered in a national contest.



THE PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION'S INNOVATOR GRANT program creates a unique professional development opportunity – a teacher network for sharing new ideas that work in the classroom. It also funds the materials costs for innovative hands-on projects ranging from the creation of a scale-model whale to costuming period re-enactors for history lessons to be shared with other students. The 2013-2014 program granted awards and funding to 26 teachers from 9 of our city's schools. Featured below are: Heidi Luong (left) Tyce Lymon (center), and Pamela Morris (right).



THE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION also awarded scholarships to 14 seniors graduating from PPS high schools from funds named for the following individuals or organizations: Aishah J. Mujahid, Bill Strikland, Bruce G. LaLonde, Carmen LaLonde, Dan Pendarvis, David C. Stuckwisch, Raymond and Cecelia Joseph, Roger Brown, W.E. Waters, and Willard & Bessie Stanback. Ten of the smiling recipients are pictured at right.



THE PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP CONGRATULATES SHAQUEL MAXWELL, a graduating senior from Woodrow Wilson High School, on his string of impressive accomplishments. A National Honor Society inductee, Shaquel graduates with a 4.65 GPA, including five AP course credits through TCC's "First College" program. He played on the Varsity football team, and was a member of both the Drama Club and the *Porte Towne Magic Strings and Jazz Band*. Working through the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's *Kappa League*, Shaquel volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club at Hodges Manor Elementary, and with Habitat for Humanity. In his remaining "spare time," he has volunteered with the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, and helped senior citizens in his neighborhood.

SHAQUEL enters Johnson & Wales this fall in Charlotte, NC on an annually-renewable scholarship as he begins work toward earning degrees in culinary arts and law. In setting his goals high, Shaquel also set an example to others – including his younger brother, Msha who, as a rising freshman at WWHS, has already joined the *Kappa League*. Congratulations, Shaquel, and many thanks for the example that you have set and the contributions you have made!

JOB, INTERNSHIP AND MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES . . .

Is your company looking for seasonal or summer help? The Portsmouth Public School System has responsible students eager to work in the areas of nursing, culinary arts, child care, the hospitality industry, industrial welding, and more. To find out how you, your company and our kids can benefit, please contact:

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GPDC 15 years 1,000 jobs \$22,000,000 tax revenue

