



Principal's Update

We are well into our second year of operation at Believers Academy, and the students are growing in number and content knowledge. The kids are working hard on their academic skills and preparing for their mid year assessments, this month.

We are excited to announce that we have incorporated a skills tutor program into our curriculum. This program is internet based, which means your child can use it anywhere he or she can access the internet. The program will teach (yes, it actually talks to you) the skills step by step and incorporates guided practice problems before moving into the assignment. Additionally, the students have the opportunity to practice and master every skill that the state of Florida requires for graduation using a different approach to the regular classroom instruction. As parents, this means we will be able to create documents that show you the skills your child knew before the instruction, the skills he learned and mastered, or which skills still need work. Please go to www.myskillstutor.com and check out the program for yourself. Call the school (561-340-2507) for your child's login & password.

UPCOMING EVENT

Believers Academy will be hosting a HOLIDAY DINNER for all our students and their families. The food, drinks and dessert will be provided. This is a great opportunity to meet the Believers Academy families. It takes a community to raise kids. It is time we unite our community to make even greater changes in our kids. We will also be planning for your child's and Believers Academy's future. If you have not sent in your RSVP yet, please call Jennifer (561-340-2507) to reserve a spot. We look forward to seeing each of you there!

Holiday Dinner

Date: December 6th, 2007

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Believers Academy

If you need transportation, please call 561-340-2507 and we will try to work something out. We would love to have everyone in attendance.

Spirit Week



I have to tell you the story about how Spirit Week came about. A group of students came to my office and said, "Ms., we want to have spirit week, just like all the other high schools." I thought, well they should be like all the other high schools and have one, but I have to make this a lesson of some sort. So I told the group, "You are right, but in the corporate world ideas have to go to the boss in written form. They are called proposals." I proceeded to tell them, "Simply write me a proposal. I will review it and get back to you." That was pretty much the end of that conversation. About one week later, I received two proposals on my desk requesting a Spirit Week and Halloween Costume Day. I reviewed the proposals (which were quite impressive), stamped them with my APPROVED stamp and called the involved students into my office for a meeting. During this meeting I asked, "Where did you learn to write a proposal?" One student responded; "The internet, Miss. We researched it and then wrote it." I was doubly impressed and very

proud of them for several reasons: they were persistent and worked through the obstacles that were placed in front of them; they solved their problems independently and finally; they were learning something new all on their own. Which as a Principal, teacher and parent these are the moments we cherish most. Those involved in the proposal, you know who you are. With that attitude, work ethic, and drive you will be successful in everything that you do. Spirit Week consisted of Mix Match Day, 70's & 80's Day (as the staff and a few students displayed above), Pajama Day, Jersey Day and School Colors Day.

Kravis Center Radio Production



Dracula's Radio Drama Group

The students were able to take a charter bus to the Kravis Center for a production of *Dracula*. This particular production was a radio version of the tale, so the students were forced to use their visualization skills and imagined the literary elements while listening to the story line and sound effects.

Our next venture into the performing arts culture will be December 13th at 10am, when we will once again travel to the Kravis Center to watch the Star Series Dayton Dance Troup.

We are always looking for parent chaperone. If you are interested, please call Ms. Jennifer (561-340-2507). Your tickets and transportation to and from the event will be covered.

20 Hour Book Challenge

Most of our students hate reading and have never had a positive experience with it. They simply avoid reading at all costs. In an attempt to reach these students and remedy these issues, we created a 20 hour book challenge. Each student who wanted to participate completed a goal setting session while learning how to pick out books and titles that would peak their interests. All they had left to do was read. Right out of the gates, the energy was high. It was amazing to watch these kids carrying books around, reading at home and in class. My greatest complaint was coming from the staff because kids were ditching their class work to read. What a great problem to have! Here are the standings in challenge: Marquise McCoy is leading the pack by a landslide. He has already accumulated 1655 minutes. Holding on to second place are Ruben Renteria, Angel Guy and Jose Sanchez with 600 minutes, who are followed by Tabitha Richards with 520 minutes, Marcus Roberts with 460 minutes, Regina Richards & Jordan Rodriguez with 440 minutes, Miguel Rosario with 420 minutes, Gerald Eutsey with 300 minutes. (other participates are not listed but are working to be contenders). Keep your goals in sight and good luck with the final stages of the challenge!



Vocational Spotlight



Mr. Manners has been working diligently to develop corporate partnerships and create employment opportunities for the students here at Believers Academy. Daily he is teaching students how to actively seek employment, complete applications, develop employment soft skills and prepare for interviews. Once a student secures a job, he/she is evaluated and instructed weekly at his/her job sites. The greatest challenge for Mr. Manners has been placing students who are ages 14 & 15 into jobs; however, he is actively cultivating internships to use as vocational training for these students. Believers Academy has placed the following students with the following companies: De'Andre Anderson (CiCi's Pizza), Brian Bennett (Don Carters), Calvin Brown (Family Dollar), Kelvin Brown (Sprint), Kilean Cesar (Ross), Nate Cole (Stephen Cole Handyman) Frank Douglas (Believers Academy), Cody Eaton (Eaton Services), Frank Frasca (European Paint and Body), Chris Guy (Cobb Theaters), Michael Jackson (Comp USA), Joshalynn O'Neal (Peter's Automotive), Ryan Olson (Winn Dixie), Ruben Renteria (Dunkin' Donuts), Regina Richards (Park Avenue Hardware), Marcus Roberts (Believers Academy), Zannon Roberts (Dunkin' Donuts), Jordan Rodriguez (Hanley Center), Zachary Shelton (UPS), Cassandra Steele (Palm Beach Community College), Patris Wilfork

(Publix), Maverick Banaszewski (Comp USA), Unique Chastine (Renova Care), McArthur Daniels (Ross), Peter Davis (K-Mart), Miguel Desravines (Sweet Tomatoes), John Hoffman (UPS), Patrick Jenkins (Publix), Daniel Proctor (Sears), Julio Rivera (The Cennacle), Jose Sanchez (Publix), Brittany Eggen (Palm West Hospital) and Angel Guy (Renaissance Charter School) Other corporate partners that have are waiting for student placements or that have worked with us in the past are: Shell Northlake, Jiffy Lube, Sears, Panera Bread, Allstate Insurance, Transcontinental Lending Group, Slaton Insurance, McDonald's, Wendy's, Jimmy John's, CVS, Motor City Car Wash, V.A. Medical Center, Papa John's, Subway, Silver Spur, Outback Steakhouse, Jersey Mike's Subs, Food Town, Russo's Subs, Little Cesars and Bello's Tire.

Career Candidates



Kilean Cesar

Ross



John Hoffman

UPS

WELCOME **RON FARQUHARSON** TO THE BELIEVERS ACADEMY STAFF



Ronald Farquharson is a native of Miami, Florida and graduated with a A.A. in Mass Communication from Broward Community College; a B.S. in Public Relations with a minor in Adult Business Education from Florida International University; and a Master of Public Administration Degree from Nova Southeastern University. Farquharson has also been the recipient of several graduate fellowships, including a Ph.D. in Political Science from Howard University. He has been working in education since 1994 where he has taught classes in Business Education, GED, Reading, and ESOL. Today his focus is on education reform and public policy. He has sat on boards of several organizations, to include: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, District XI; Florida City/County Management Association; and National Black Child Development

Institute; and is the former founder and publisher of My Child Magazine, a local community parenting magazine. He holds Florida Professional Teaching Certificates in Exceptional Student Education K-12, and Business Education 6-12. Farquharson will begin his Doctoral Program in Exceptional Student Education at Nova Southeastern University, January 2008. His goal as a Career Education Teacher at Believers Academy is to create a program where students will acquire the academic and personal skills to be successful in the workplace, future career education, or post-secondary educational program.