

2007 CCA Christmas Show

"A Miracle on Bethlehem Street"



P.O. Box 5520
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Academic excellence and
spiritual maturity since 1988

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Building Renovation Update

Plans are progressing for major repairs and renovations to Cornerstone's two main buildings, the century old gray-stone Santana and CCA buildings. With preliminary engineering studies completed, significant structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and geotechnical deficiencies have been identified that require capital improvements to be made for the safety, security, and comfort of Cornerstone students, faculty, and staff. It is estimated that \$5 million will be needed to complete the capital projects, which include the construction of a new three-story addition that will link the two buildings. Now in the design development stage with CICADA Architecture Planning, Inc., project goals and timelines are being set.

To date, over \$800,000 has been pledged to the capital campaign, with approximately \$350,000 already contributed, much of which has been expended for architectural and engineering work that has occurred. Provided necessary funds are available, the enclosing of the porch on the Santana building and exterior repairs to the Santana and CCA buildings will occur during the summer of 2008.

The preliminary timeline anticipates that interior repairs and renovations to the Santana building will occur in the summer of 2009, followed by the construction of the link and renovation of the CCA Building completed by 2010.

CORNERSTONE CHALLENGE

Winter 2008

Dear Friends,

I am frequently asked what the key is to Cornerstone's educational success with children. It's love. Love makes all the difference. Although we have fewer educational resources than many schools, are located in a low-income high-crime urban neighborhood, and have facilities that are in dire need of renovation, we have a faculty, staff, and board that are overflowing with faith, hope, and love.

As urban schools in Philadelphia and around the country struggle to find ways to improve student performance, behavior, attendance, and attitude, we have found that showering our students with Christian love and understanding makes all the difference in the world.

Walk into any classroom at Cornerstone and you will find a teacher who loves teaching, loves children, and most importantly, loves the Lord Jesus. Out of love, our teachers have high expectations for their students. They expect quality work. They expect superior behavior. They expect daily attendance. And they expect not only a positive attitude but a Christian attitude, one that shows compassion for others.

It makes a difference having teachers who look at their students through the eyes of Jesus. Even the most difficult student is seen as a unique and precious child of God, full of promise and potential.

Don't misunderstand; Cornerstone is not a perfect school with perfect teachers and perfect students. We have our share of challenges, frustrations, and disappointments. Because many of the children we serve bring negative influences with them from their homes and neighborhoods, numerous issues have to be dealt with every day. And because we do not have a counselor or other specialists on staff, it is our teachers who have to deal with these issues, be they academic, disciplinary, social, spiritual, or personal.

Truthfully, many days I wonder how our teachers do it. Only someone well-grounded in faith, hope, and love would ever accept the challenge of serving as *teacher-counselor-social worker-pastor-and mentor* at a school like Cornerstone. It is inspiring to see the way our teachers serve, and how they love their students into goodness, even the most difficult ones, filling their hearts and minds with hope and faith for the future.

Thank you for all you are doing to support our teachers and students. Your prayers and generous financial gifts are encouraging to all of us at Cornerstone.

Gratefully,

Dick Ollinger
President/CEO





From the desk of

Deborah Lee

Principal and Reading Specialist



Happy New Year! Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have hit the ground running, and we are working diligently to meet our goals for this school year. Our enrollment is excellent, our students are motivated, and our teachers are determined to see our students succeed.

In November we hosted the annual ACSI Spelling Bee. Drayton Murray was awarded second place among the fifth grade spellers, and Tyikenyua Anthony took second place among the sixth grade students. After our first quarter report cards were distributed, we acknowledged the two students from each class who obtained the highest overall average of ninety-five percent or better. These students are now known as "Cornerstone Scholars". They were awarded with certificates, honor roll pins and a special pancake breakfast. All students who receive this honor all four quarters will be inducted into the Cornerstone Scholar Society.

Our eighth grade students are experiencing the fruit of their labor as they are now receiving acceptance letters from their high schools of choice. These are just some of the exciting things going on at Cornerstone to enhance our student's lives. Please pray for us as we ask for the Lord's guidance for our students and their families.

IN FOCUS: The Cornerstone story is diverse and unfolding before our eyes: students, parents, staff and friends making a difference together.



Thank you to **Christ Presbyterian Church** in Gibbstown, NJ for hosting a group of Cornerstone students and families for a bowling party. Pictured at left is a group of bowlers, including CCA 2nd grader **Autumn Richardson**. Pictured in the center are the CCA student council representatives for 2008. These students meet on a regular basis to discuss hopes and dreams for Cornerstone and how to create more unity amongst all classes. From left to right are: **Caraiah Stout-Vice President, Taiyler Hobbs- 7th Grade Representative, Kelsey Chambers-Secretary, Tyikenua Anthony-6th Grade Representative, Najjah Richardson-Chaplain, Brianna Munden-6th Grade Representative, Jasmine Epps-7th Grade Representative, Kaycia Bynum-President**. The Cornerstone faculty and staff celebrated together at Ruby Tuesday's for their annual Christmas party. Pictured at the right are **Rachel Kolb, Bobby Kolb, and Mission Year Volunteers Seth Caldwell and Matt Roark**.



Student Sightings



Above, students are recognized at the first annual **CCA Scholar's Breakfast** for their academic achievements. Below, fourth graders **Naje** and **Kareem** paint and decorate Christmas ornaments as part of a class project.



CONNECTING TO CORNERSTONE

Our vision is for you to be included in creating a quality educational environment. Here's how you can help during 2007-2008:

Volunteer Opportunities: There are numerous projects always in progress. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Erica Cheslock, 215.724.6858 x233, echeslock@cornerstonephiladelphia.com.

Financial Support: you can give immediately by enclosing your gift in the envelope provided.

- You can also give by:
- Stock: transfers in 48 hours
- Corporate Match: ask your employer about a dollar-for-dollar match of your gift.
- Educational Improvement Tax Credit: corporate donors may qualify for 90% in tax credits from the State of Pennsylvania.
- United Way of Tri-state: you are eligible if you work in New Jersey, New York or Connecticut.
- In-kind Gifts: see the wish list on our website for needed supplies.

Come visit us-Cornerstone 101: Come take a student-led tour of Cornerstone on the first Friday of the month at 9 a.m., or contact us to schedule a tour at any time. (Feb. 1, Mar. 7, April 4, 2008)

Staff Snapshots

Get to know those that serve our students!

Greta Jones



Mrs. Jones has been teaching at CCA since last spring, when she served as a long-term sub in kindergarten. Now a permanent kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Jones says, "God has placed me in a setting where I can talk about Him freely, pray for my students openly, and be encouraged to learn and grow by my peers." She has a BA in Psychology from John Hopkins University.

Lenore Ryder



Lenore is one of the newest additions to the Cornerstone team as the Associate for Donor Relations in the Development department. Lenore has a BS in Business Management from Pierce College and is currently pursuing her Masters in Non-Profit Management from Eastern University. "CCA offers a ray of hope for a brighter future for children."

Cornerstone 102: At a C102 we can visit your church for Sunday worship. *The Voices in Praise Choir* is available for the 2007-2008 academic year.

For donation or visit information, contact our Development Director:
Chris Petersen
215-724-6858 ext. 234
cpetersen@cornerstonephiladelphia.com

Save the Date! Outdoor Festival in celebration of the National Day of Prayer

**May 1, 2008
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Held at Cornerstone Christian Academy and
Myers Recreation Center**