



Shinning Stars Town Crier

Friendship Academy of Fine Arts

Building leaders through arts education

Dec. 2009 – Jan. 2010

Volume 1, Issue 3

Fafa celebrated its 4th annual Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival

Important Events

- Holiday Razzle Dazzle**
Come and see you children perform
December 15, 2009
- Poetry & Art Explosion**
December 15, 2009
Students will be performing original poems.
- Winter Break**
December 21 to
January 1, 2010
- Dr. M. L. King Day**
Jan. 18, 2010
No school
- Staff Development**
No school
Jan. 22, 2010
- JA BizTown: Field Trip**
for 4th, 5th, & 6th
Grades: Jan. 21, 2010

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Ethel Lee Norwood
Principal

Friendship Academy celebrated its 4th annual Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival Around the World on November 24, 2009. This event is an opportunity for students to experience art, history, music clothing, food and much more from different countries around the world.

Some of the places represented were Belize, Israel, Liberia, Norway, U.S. and Mexico.

Read what some students said about their experience. Enjoy.

Shameka Davis Grade 6

The countries I remember most were Liberia and Belize. The color yellow stood out the most. There were pictures of people dressed like Indians with white feathers on their hats. I also remember a bucket with a stick used to pound yellowish/brown plantains. I learned that the children of Belize go to school. I would have liked to play some of the games the children play. I also tried some of the food which was chicken in a sauce which was good.



Serena Tupper Grade 4

This event was yummy! The new foods I tried were very good. I tried moon cakes from China. I learned about the Dragon Festival and that on Chinese New Year the children receive a red envelop with money inside to use for college.



I also tried chips and cheese from Mexico and chips from Norway. The food from Belize was very good especially the soup with chicken. My class displayed North America with crafts, I chose the Turkey sheet. I made a Pilgrim Hat, a Turkey Card and a U.S. Flag

which were displayed. Oh, I thought the money from Liberia was really cool.

Next year I would like to see and play games from the places and know the number of players on a team.

Naijia Russell Grade 2

I liked the food! I liked the chips and cheese. I liked the brownish food in the bowl. I kind of liked the moon cakes. I liked the white flat chip. I really liked the banana cake from 3rd grade. I liked the Thanksgiving coloring sheets that I could color and cut out. Next year I want more chips and cheese, cookies and cake.



Myzel Singleton Kindergarten

I tasted chips, chicken, tortillas, corn bread, but I really, really enjoyed Ms. Nelson's chips and cheese. I learned about Thanksgiving and my Thanksgiving was fun.



HOORAY! FRIENDSHIP ACADEMY!

Fafa has reached a milestone in its enrollment; one hundred twenty-five (125) students! The administration and staff were excited about this news. This has been one of Fafa's goal for the past four years. In the last month the 125th student was enrolled. "This has been a phenomenal year for us. We are grateful to the parents for entrusting their children's education to us," says Ms. Norwood, Fafa's principal.

Fafa staff sees this also as a testament to the awesome job they have been doing over the years.

Feature Class of the Month— Ms. Hokenson's 1st Grade Class

First grade has had a very exciting and busy month. All the students are working very hard and learning lots!

In reading, they are focusing on short vowel sounds. The students were very excited when they heard they were going to start having spelling tests, and they did an amazing job! They also focus on phonics skills in the Computer Lab with the SuperStar program and through PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Strategies). I am very impressed with the reading skills of this year's first graders. The children enjoy their independent reading time and are eager to read, read, read! They especially like it when I bring in extra books to enrich the curriculum, such as our Thanksgiving and holiday books. They also love Dr. Seuss books. For Thanksgiving, the children made miniature "doorknob" books of the poem "I Ate Too Much," by Jack Prelutsky which they illustrated themselves. Many of the children can read

and recite this poem all by themselves! Other art projects included learning about positive and negative space using fall leaf cutouts and drawing posters of things found in the woods.

They are excited to be working with our Givens artists in residence, Ms. Jones and Ms. Zulu. They are working on a poem and reader's theater piece to present at the Poetry and Art Explosion later this month. Children have been improving their speaking skills and are gaining confidence. First grade has also been very fortunate to have Mr. Graceman from Junior Achievement come in to teach them about families, wants and needs, mapping, jobs, and money! First graders have become great mathematicians! They have learned addition and subtraction to 10 and are now learning about number patterns to 100.

They have also learned how to read and make picture and bar graphs as well as how to interpret information on the graphs. The concept of "comparing" how much more or less is a very difficult concept for first graders to understand, but I've had more students than ever before grasp the concept this year.

First grade is ready to take on the challenges that the new year will bring, and they will be focusing a lot more on writing in the months to come.



Mrs. Hokenson's 1st Grade Class

Zoomobile Visits Friendship Academy

Lions and Tigers and Bears!
Oh my! Well, not quite. However, FAFA was visited by five animals from the Minnesota Zoo on November 19. Naturalist, Ms. Alex, came with the Zoomobile to teach FAFA students about some very special creatures. They learned about animals that live close to home like the hawk and rabbit and animals from far away like a skink. The students were also fascinated to see an armadillo roll itself into a ball and learned that tarantulas are not as scary as they seem.

The visit was made possible at no cost to the school through a grant from the Medtronic Foundation. Students and staff alike were excited to have the opportunity to see these amazing animals up close.



Ms. Alex with the skink

Three members, Kaelynn Huges – Kindergarden, Timyia Rivers— 1st Grade, and Abba Essiomley— 5th Grade won the grand prize of ten dollars in their respective category.

The FAFA Honor Society was established to recognize those students with excellent academic and behavioral skills. This luncheon was the first in a series of activities planned for this

Honor Society Members Recognized

FAFA principal Ms. Ethel Lee Norwood on Friday, December 11, 2009, hosted a special luncheon for members of FAFA Honor Society. Society members shared a special time with their teachers during the luncheon. They were each presented a special prize basket and treated to ice cream for dessert.



Some members of the Honor Society

"I am very impressed with the reading skills of this year's first graders."

POETRY CORNER

My Baby Days

By: Doninique Abrams

I remember when I was little My grandma took care of me

I would cry and crawl on the floor

My grandma would take me anywhere she went

She would never leave me behind

I remember when my mom left me alone in the house

My grandma was there for me

She's the best grandma, I love her