



## **Hours of Operation:**

Monday – Friday 8:15 AM – 3:00 PM  
Wednesdays 8:15 AM – 1:00 PM

## **Contact Us:**

Baltimore City Public School # 326  
4301 Raspe Ave Baltimore, MD 21206-1913  
School Office 410-325-CNCS (2627)  
School Fax 410-325-CITY (2489)  
General E-Mail [info@cityneighbors.org](mailto:info@cityneighbors.org)  
Website [www.cityneighbors.org](http://www.cityneighbors.org)

*Design and Layout of Newsletter by Dawn Healy*

## **New Name for our Newsletter**

Interview by Kevin & Dawn Healy



We had a few submissions to name our newsletter. The vote is in!! The new name is "NEIGHBOR'S NEWS" Submitted by our own second grader Nicholas Sean Healy. aka Nick.

**Q: What inspired the name Neighbor's News?**

**A:** I thought it was "catchy." I liked the letters N & N together. I wanted our newsletter to have a good name.

**Q: How does this school differ from your other one?**

**A:** We didn't have drama, or as much art

**Q: What school did you attend before?**

**A:** St. Michael the Archangel.

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

**A:** Baseball, video games, singing, reading & writing.  
I'd like to be like Mark Twain.

**Q: What would you like to be when you're all grown.**

**A:** Singer/Actor, Leader in a band.

**Q: What would you like to see in the newsletter?**

**A:** I would like to see more kid activities, like a volleyball team. And why is basketball only for the 3rd & 4th graders?  
I'd like more activities for younger children age groups.

## *Free Concert for Children & Families!*

Submitted by Susan Brightman

### **Hopkins Symphony Orchestra**

14th Annual Free Concert for  
Children and Families

Jed Gaylin, Conductor

Saturday, March 4, 2006 1 p.m.



Johns Hopkins University  
201 Shriver Hall  
3400 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
phone: 410-516-6542

e-mail: [hso@jhu.edu](mailto:hso@jhu.edu)

web: [www.jhu.edu/jhso](http://www.jhu.edu/jhso)

map: [http://www.jhu.edu/parking/map\\_detail/](http://www.jhu.edu/parking/map_detail/)

directions:

<http://www.jhu.edu/%7Eadmis/visit/gettocampus.html>

## **The CNCS Boy's Club**

By David Thompson

The CNCS Boys' Club was established in mid-October 2005 to provide male adult mentoring to many of the boys of the City Neighbors Charter School. One of the primary goals of the Boys' Club is to establish a true sense and meaning of the word "respect." The word "respect" is emphasized throughout all the meetings with the boys.

During the meetings, the boys talk about various ways of earning and showing respect to other classmates and teachers. In addition to placing emphasis on respect, the mentors and the CNCS boys discuss various issues that impact their learning environment. Some of these issues that have been discussed are "bullying" and "teasing." The boys are constantly counseled on how to address and resolve the problems with the "bully" and or the "teaser" so that it does not interfere with their learning environment. Other subjects of discussion that are re-emphasized are: listening skills, classroom manners, and individual responsibilities. During each session, the boys, as a group or individually, confide in the mentors on other academic or social matters that are important to them. The mentors listen to them and give advice or discuss ideas that may help the boys with their matters.

The male mentors, Mr. Dwayne Turner and Mr. David Thompson, are well respected in their professional and social communities. They have the enthusiasm, commitment, and desire to provide mentoring and make a better learning environment for the CNCS boys. The CNCS Boys Club usually meets on Tuesdays from 10 am to 11 am. The Boys' Club welcomes any adult males that want to provide mentoring to the CNCS boy club.



### **Staff:**

Principal  
Office Coordinator  
Kindergarten  
Kindergarten Assistant  
First and Second Grade

Third and Fourth Grade

Fifth Grade

Literacy Teacher  
Resource Team  
Atelerista  
Music  
Physical Education  
Crossing Guard  
Cafeteria Manager

Roberta Mantione  
April Crosby  
Carolyn Burlin  
Adam Goode  
Monica O'Gara  
Stephanie Stephan  
Paige Isaacson  
Amanda Shorter  
Shane Bennett  
Peter French  
Zelda Williams  
Alida Ryerson  
Susan Brightman  
Dr. Eric Rassmussen  
Bernadette Naquin  
Tonya Rivers  
Carol Tucker

Roberta@cityneighbors.org  
April@cityneighbors.org  
Carolyn@cityneighbors.org  
Adam@cityneighbors.org  
Monica@cityneighbors.org  
Stephanie@cityneighbors.org  
Paige@cityneighbors.org  
Amanda@cityneighbors.org  
Shane@cityneighbors.org  
Peter@cityneighbors.org  
  
Alida@cityneighbors.org  
Susan@cityneighbors.org  
Eric@cityneighbors.org  
Bernadette@cityneighbors.org

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### **Board Members:**

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Vice President of Finance  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary  
Director of Accountability  
Director of Facilities  
Director of Resource Development  
Director of Parent & Family Relations  
Director of Community Relations  
Principal  
Teacher Representative

Bobbi Macdonald  
Rob Macdonald  
Rob Noble  
LaTisha Bourelly  
Mark Schweikert  
Kim Poindexter  
Bernadette Naquin  
Aisha Isackson  
Kate Gehr  
Sue Fothergill  
Shellae Jones  
Roberta Mantione  
Alida Ryerson

Bobbi@cityneighbors.org  
Rob@cityneighbors.org  
Rnoble@cityneighbors.org  
Latisha@cityneighbors.org  
Mark@cityneighbors.org  
Kim@cityneighbors.org  
Bernadette@cityneighbors.org  
Aisha@cityneighbors.org  
Kate@cityneighbors.org  
Sue@cityneighbors.org  
Shellae@cityneighbors.org  
Roberta@cityneighbors.org  
Alida@cityneighbors.org

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### **Board Committee:**

Marketing Committee  
Governance Committee  
Accountability Committee  
Finance Committee  
Academic Program Committee  
  
Information Technology Committee

Rob Macdonald, Chair  
Bobbi Macdonald, Chair  
Bernadette Naquin, Chair  
Rob Noble, Chair  
Roberta Mantione &  
Alida Ryerson, Co-Chairs  
Mark Schweikert, Chair

Rob@cityneighbors.org  
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Bernadette@cityneighbors.org  
Robnoble@cityneighbors.org  
Roberta@cityneighbors.org  
Alida@cityneighbors.org  
Mark@cityneighbors.org

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### **School Committee:**

Building Committee  
Community Relations Committee  
Fundraising Committee  
Newsletter Committee  
Parent and Family Group

Aisha Isackson, Chair  
Shellae Jones, Chair  
Kate Gehr, Chair  
Ava Schweikert, Chair  
Sue Fothergill, Chair

Building@cityneighbors.org  
Community@cityneighbors.org  
Fundraising@cityneighbors.org  
Newsletter@cityneighbors.org  
Parentgroup@cityneighbors.org

The mission of City Neighbors Charter School is to provide an extraordinary public school education with high academic achievement for all students. Our ultimate goal is that through innovative curriculum, parental involvement and community outreach, the students leave enlivened, with deep awareness of themselves, their families and the outside community, and with the capacity to be good citizens.



## Interview with Mr. French - 5th Grade Teacher

Interview by Andrea Donato



**Q: What made you want to work at CNCS?**

**A:** At my ripe old age, I simply can't imagine spending six hours a day anywhere else but at a school that acknowledges and respects the professionalism of teachers, along with valuing the educational potential for kids in the adventures that are waiting outside the classroom. And the school is five minutes away.

**Q: I understand you have taught in the Baltimore City Public School System for many years. What do you think is the biggest challenge the city school system faces right now?**

**A:** The people with power, both elected and appointed, who can barely sustain any interest in the future of schools filled primarily with poor, black students.

**Q: In 2005 you received the MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education award for your work in building a stronger relationship between Midtown Academy, where you previously taught, and the community. I read a bit about this impressive award and your Words on Wheels program, where works of poetry and graphic design by your students have been displayed on city bus posters. Where do you get your inspiration for such projects?**

**A:** Like many of the ideas I've brought to my classroom, I stole it and then twisted it to my liking. This one came from New York City where they put the work of adult poets on the buses and subways.

**Q: What has been the biggest challenge so far this year for you? The biggest reward?**

**A:** My biggest challenge and reward have been the fifth graders I share with Miss Bennett.

**Q: Traveling and reading are two of your interests. What has been your favorite trip? Your favorite piece of reading?**

**A:** That's an extremely hard question. I can't get it down to one. With the woman who became my wife, I backpacked from Greece to Portugal to Ireland for two glorious months. Two summers ago, I crossed the country on my bike with a friend. That impacted me in ways I'm still discovering. Give me anything by Dickens. I just finished "The Pickwick Papers" and could start it again tomorrow.



Children's Books  
& Coffee House

A unique children's bookstore cafe  
celebrating community with an  
enchanted blend of literature,  
good food & great neighbors

Local Art Exhibits  
Maryland Author Signing  
Music: Jazz, Classical, Blues  
Book Groups for Children & Adults  
Toddler & Family Sing-Along  
Scrabble Night  
Children's Concerts  
Poetry Readings  
Parade Workshops  
Knitting Club  
Newsletter Kids  
Field Trips  
School Partnership

4337 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214 ☎ 410.444.4440 🌐 [www.redcanoe.bz](http://www.redcanoe.bz)



# GoodSearch

Now you can raise money for CNCS just by searching the Internet at GoodSearch.com.

You use GoodSearch.com like any other search engine - the site is powered by Yahoo! - but each time you do, money is generated for us. Here's how it works:

1. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)
2. Type City Neighbors Charter School into the "I support" box and click on "verify"
3. Since GoodSearch shares its advertising revenue with charities and schools, every time you search the web at GoodSearch, you'll be earning money for us.

GoodSearch also has a toolbar you can download from the homepage so that you can search right from the top of your browser.

You can keep track of our estimated earnings by clicking on "amount raised" once you designate us as your organization of choice. The more people who use the site, the more money we'll earn, so please spread the word!!

**five** \$157.95 was raised from the Five Below fundraiser in December  
**BELOW** \$ 30.95 was raised from the sale of food at the Crossroads Coffee House in February  
 \$550.95 has been raised to date with CNCS Annual Giving Campaign

## Upcoming Fundraising Events!

**March 3**—Picture Day – Pictures returned the week of April 3. CNCS earns 20% of all sales.

**March 10 and April 7** – Crossroads Coffeehouse CNCS is selling food

Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser Kickoff is **March 3**

Orders Due by **March 24** Orders picked up on **March 28** 1-5:30 pm

**April 1** Cedmont Neighborhood – Association Flea Market CNCS is selling food

**May 20** Silent Auction & Spaghetti Dinner

### CNCS Sudoku Puzzle

The rules of Sudoku are simple. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces.

Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

*Look for the solution and new puzzle in next month's Newsletter*

		8		5			6	3
		3		4	9			7
7	2							9
6		5	1		4			7
1	8		5		6	2		4
	9							4
4			9	6		3		
3	5			7		6		

Puzzle by websudoku.com

January's Puzzle Solution

1	8	2	3	4	6	9	5	7
4	5	9	2	8	7	3	6	1
3	7	6	5	9	1	8	2	4
2	6	1	8	7	5	4	3	9
5	9	3	4	1	2	6	7	8
7	4	8	9	6	3	2	1	5
8	1	7	6	3	4	5	9	2
6	2	4	7	5	9	1	8	3
9	3	5	1	2	8	7	4	6

Puzzle by websudoku.com



## PET SITTING SERVICES

I am an experienced Pet Sitter. I offer in home pet care and dog walking services. I am bonded and have had many years of experience as a Veterinary Technician.

Contact Emily: 410-426-8489  
 egatewood726@comcast.net



Susan Brightman

We have just finished our school-wide project-based learning of Baltimore: Its History and Its Neighborhoods. What a creative time for everyone! From a life-size painting of a Baltimore Streetcar to block buildings of a city neighborhood to "flying" with bird wings to gain understanding of aerial perspective to hand-stitched sock dolls representing important Baltimoreans to...oh, you get the picture! Hopefully you saw the display, but if you didn't, please contact me. We've made a digital slide show of the preparation and the event that you might like to see.

For the past few weeks in the atelier we have been studying the concept of culture and how cultures from times past or from different parts of the world are similar and/or different from our own. The children have made a variety of projects to show their expanding understanding of our world.

The kindergarten children and their teachers have done a magnificent job with their study of our neighborhood from many perspectives. In the atelier we read a book "Between the Towers" about a man who walked a high-wire between the Twin Towers in New York City. We saw from the illustrations how small everything looked down below and how cars just looked like little rectangles and people looked like little circles.

The first and second graders have been investigating Native American Cultures. We discovered that there are many cultures from across America and that each culture uses the natural materials from their environment to make their homes and their art. Our art projects ranged from weavings to totems to sand paintings.

We realized that many of the art projects told of the Native Americans of long ago. We read a book called "Powwow Summer" that showed how Native American boys and girls now live very much like we do and that during the summer, they may travel from powwow to powwow dressing and dancing like their ancestors.

The third and fourth graders had a very difficult investigation. We wanted to know more about the whole Earth and how the positions of the continents and oceans were documented in history. We began to see maps as art as we looked at samples of the earliest maps. The children made 'salt-dough' maps to represent the seven continents and four oceans. They made legends to identify and label the areas of their maps.

The fifth graders began a study of the continent of Africa. Their investigation led them to discover how many different countries and cultures there are on this continent. We read a book called "Ashanti to Zulu" which helped us see the many ways the African cultures are expressed and how the art forms were similar and different. The children made papier mache' masks. Their challenge was to make a mask they can wear (we'll be having a parade to show them off) and to be able to give an idea of how the mask could be used in one of the African cultures. Again, it was important for us to realize that many of the children in many of the countries in Africa live as we do. It was also important to learn that some countries in Africa are very poor and that living is hard. We learned of some of the unrest in Africa that made it difficult to find out the exact number of countries.

There was a wide variety in the answers to that research question.

For the next six weeks or so, we will be studying fabric arts. There are many wonderful fabrics in the atelier. We would like donations of needles, thread, batting for stuffing and socks to make sock puppets and dolls.

We will also be continuing our drawing lessons. Many students are progressing very well in their observational skills. Drawing ability comes from correct observation and practice. We will be covering contour drawings, proportion, perspective, gesture drawings, and shading. I'll be talking more about drawing in the next newsletter. For now, as parents, encourage your children to draw—not from photographs, but from real life. Be willing to pose for them so they can practice proportion of body parts and facial features. Set up times when everyone draws. Drawing practice is important for all of the children. It is especially important for children ages 10-14 whose world view is changing dramatically and whose drawing perspectives and abilities have trouble keeping up. Often these children become disappointed with their drawing ability and turn to drawing cartoons. While cartoons are appropriate and acceptable art forms, it is important to encourage other drawings as well.

#### **Atelier Wish List**

- ✿ Paper Towels
- ✿ Baby Wipes
- ✿ Needles and pins for sewing
- ✿ Fabric dye
- ✿ Batting for stuffing pillows and dolls
- ✿ Socks (all sizes, clean of course—new would be best)
- ✿ Clear wax (like for making candles)



## The Voice of Students at CNCS

By David Thompson

### Q: What would you do to make things better at school?

**Student #1A:** "I would make gym time longer"

"Teachers should discipline or punish the students like my mom does me"

"They (CNCS) should give us more projects like the Baltimore Project"

**Student #2 A:** "I want them (other students) to stop being bullies"

"The teachers need to be nicer"

**Student #3 A:** "I want art class every day of the week"

"Everybody needs to behave and act right"

**Student #4 A:** "They (other classmates) gotta stop talking a lot in class"

"I need to listen more. That's what my teacher said"

### Q: What does "RESPECT" mean to you?

**Student #1 A:** "Do not disrespect your elders"

**Student #2 A:** "Be good and be respectful to others"

**Student #3 A:** "Respect is about being better than bad children and helping your teacher"

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## Kindergarten Korner

By Cindy Grim

The kindergarten has been very busy his past month. They have been touring the neighborhood around the school and doing field sketches of the houses paying attention to the shapes that make them up. On the second floor you will see a display of the neighborhood sketches. They have also been taking pictures of some of the houses and the church. In the kindergarten room you can see the neighborhood in miniature put together by the class.

In January the class also took a trip to the Enoch Pratt Main Library. The librarian read to the class, they played with music sticks and danced. It was hard to tell what the kids liked more; the goldfish pond or the planetarium. They all seemed to enjoy themselves as was evident by the sleepy heads on the bus ride home.

## First and Second Grade Notes

By Mary Cullen

1&2A – Ms. Stephans students are continuing their study of the Baltimore project. The students are learning mapping skills. They will also be studying the goods and services. A city planner will visit the classroom. They will also be working on the "door of Baltimore" and will prepare a photo exhibit.

1&2B – Mrs. O'Garas students also are working on their mapping skills as they continue their Baltimore project. They have worked on maps of their own neighborhoods and homes. They have created elaborate maps of the classroom and have studied the blueprints for CNCS given to them by one of our schools architects, Aisha Isackson. The class will be taking a closer look at the neighborhood around City Neighbors by taking walks. The children have also been working on designing their own "dream bedroom". They are including pictures and descriptions of what they would want in their bedrooms if they could be the designers. Also, the class studied pumpkin seeds by scooping them out of pumpkins and planting them. They have studied and sketched the growth of the plants. The class has been busy with preparing art responses to their reading. They worked on a mural about Fantastic Mr. Fox, created books comparing two mice characters, and developed puppet shows from their reading group books. The children have also enjoyed creative writing by composing, illustrating, and publishing their own books which are kept in the class library.

In January, both classes visited the Central Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The children were entertained with stories about Anansi the spider along with songs and jokes. They had the opportunity to apply for a library card and check out a book.

## Lunch ideas



Recipes submitted by Barbara Stratton – All recipes from the book *Kinder-Krunchies: Healthy Snack Recipes for Children*  
By Karen S. Jenkins

### **Instant Banana Pudding**

Mash 1/2 ripe banana with 3 tablespoons applesauce and 1 teaspoon plain yogurt. Serves 1.

### **Raisin Energy Snack**

Mix: 2 t raisins, 1 t peanuts, 1 t sunflower seeds, 1 t grated coconut, 1 t carob or chocolate chips  
Serves 1

### **Peanut Butter Balls**

Mix: 1/2 C natural peanut butter,  
2 1/2 T non-fat dry milk, 2 T raisins,  
2 T honey, 1/4 C coconut.  
Form into balls. Roll in sesame seeds. Serves 8

### **Spinach Wrappers**

Pick or buy fresh, raw spinach. Wash.  
Mix 1 T cream cheese with 1 T chopped nuts.  
Spread on a spinach leaf. Roll and secure  
toothpick. Serves 1

## Calling all Softball Players!!!

Last summer CNCS had an adult co-ed softball team with a perfect record. We didn't win a game, but we had more fun than any team on the field.

A sign-up sheet is located on the parent bulletin board above the ramp outside of Hightman Hall for anyone interested in playing. We are also in need of a new coach. We need a coach who is not too serious, can work on the fundamentals and has absolutely no expectations.

*Asra Saleem, D.M.D.*  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

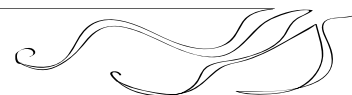
OFFICE 410 - 254 - 8891      5129 HARFORD ROAD  
HOME 410 - 783 - 0366      BALTIMORE, MD 21214

## A Glance into the Third and Fourth Grades

By Lyn Townes

Mrs. Shorter's class began a project to include the past, present and future of City Neighbors Charter School. The class interviewed Co-Founder Bobbi Macdonald, City Neighbors Secretary, April Crosby and God is Love Pastor, Pastor Hardy. With the information gleaned, they were able to create time lines of each time period. They created a model of the Powell Haybarn to represent the past. They created a model of City Neighbors as it looks today and they created a model of the basement to represent what it will look like finished in the future. Mrs. Shorter and her class learned a lot about our awesome school through this project. They were able to use their math skills as well as learn about how to research a topic. The children worked together and put all of their collected materials together to complete their project.

In Ms. Isaacson's class, the children are tracking the winter Olympics. They will be using math, geography and other pertinent skills required to complete the project. They will be graphing important information such as the amount of medals won by the Olympians and the countries that they are from. To make this into a community project, third/fourth grade will be working with other classes to ensure accurate and up to date information. To see the life sized graph, take a look in fifth grade. Third and fourth grade are involved in some very interesting projects and I look forward to seeing them at their completion. Stay tuned for a look into the Baltimore Project from these classes





## Neighbor's NEWS

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General E-Mail: [info@cityneighbors.org](mailto:info@cityneighbors.org) Website: [www.cityneighbors.org](http://www.cityneighbors.org)

webmaster: Ava Schweikert



### March 2

Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser  
Parent & Family Committee

### March 3

Picture Day!

### March 7

Building Committee Meeting

### March 8

Wednesday 1 PM Dismissal

### March 10

Crossroads Coffee House

### March 11 & 12

Building Committee Work Day

### March 15

CNCS Founders Day

Wednesday 1 PM Dismissal

### March 16

### March 22

Wednesday 1 PM Dismissal

### March 24

Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser Orders  
Due

### March 29

Wednesday 1 PM Dismissal

Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser Pick Up

### March 30

CNCS Board Meeting

### March 31

School Closed

## **APRIL**

### April 1

Cedmont Improvement Association  
Flea Market

### April 4

Building Committee Meeting

### April 5

Wednesday 1 PM Dismissal

### April 6

Parent & Family Committee

### April 7 - 21

Report Cards Issued

Crossroads Coffee House

### April 8

Building Committee Work Day

### April 9

Building Committee Work Day

### April 10 - 17

Spring Break

### April 13

Cedmont Improvement Association Mtg.

### April 14

Report Cards Issued

### April 19

Wednesday 1 PM Dismissal

### April 20

Fundraising Committee

Report Cards Issued

### April 26

Wednesday 1 PM Dismissal

### April 27

CNCS Board Meeting