

Imagine Discovery Students 'Stomp Out' Bullying

In October, Imagine Discovery Public Charter School launched a month-long campaign to "stomp out bullying" on campus. Students kicked things off on October 5th by participating in the nationwide program, "Wear a Blue Shirt to School Day." Students in Kindergarten through Grade 7 donned blue shirts, and the classes that had 100% participation were treated to a pizza party by Jennifer Brumbalow, the school's music teacher. Imagine Discovery's winning classes were Ms. Hayes' Kindergarten class and Mrs. Ward's Third grade class. Way to go!

Imagine Discovery also sponsored an anti-bullying poster-making campaign in October. Under the direction of Imagine Discovery's art teachers, Virginia Ellis and April Margin, and Mrs. Brumbalow, students in all grades were asked to create posters that depicted how to identify bullying and its effects, and to reflect on positive choices they can make to stop bullying in the school. More than



Jennifer Brumbalow, Imagine Discovery's music teacher, worked with students from several grades to create a musical based on the award-winning book, "One."

200 students participated in the poster contest, and 50 were selected to be displayed in the music hallway for all to see.

The month-long campaign concluded with two amazing school-wide activities. Using the "Teachers Choice Award"-winning book "One," by Kathryn Otoshi, Mrs. Brumbalow worked with students in Grade 3, along with students selected from other grades, to produce a musical titled "ONE." Students worked hard, creating and rehearsing over the entire month, to produce the original play, which presented the main theme of the book, "It only takes one person to take a stand against bullying."

To prepare all students for the performance, which was held November 2-3, Mrs. Brumbalow shared the book with and engaged all students in the school in related activities during her music classes. Jaclyn Schultz, Imagine Discovery's physical education teacher, also assisted in the production of the play.

continued on page 5

Imagine Foundations Lends a Helping Hand

As part of its community outreach efforts, Imagine Foundations held two events in November designed to make the holidays a little happier for those less fortunate. First, thanks to the help of Imagine Foundations students and families, the school's 4th Annual Canned Food Drive was a great success, collecting enough donations to provide 14 families with a box of non-perishable food items and a turkey for Thanksgiving.

Students in Stephen Sereda's Grade 5 homeroom class will receive a pizza party or an ice cream social for donating the most items — 124 cans of food! — and Mrs. Sereda's Grade 1 homeroom

class will receive an ice cream party for the best decorated box.

The success of such an event can be measured in more than just cans of food collected, say school officials.

"We are not only helping students to become excellent members of society, but we are also instilling the importance of helping the community," said Brian Cuvo, reading and history teacher in Grade 7.

Imagine Foundations also participated in The Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. Parents, students, and school staff assisted in collecting items from the wish lists of children from 8 families (17 children total), ranging

in ages from 1 – 11 years old. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the school's adopted "angels" received everything on their wish lists — including bikes, toys, sports equipment, musical instruments, books, electronic games, and clothes — along with an abundance of other items that are sure to bring smiles to their faces.

Additional outreach efforts in November included volunteering with The Salvation Army on the Angel Tree Community Day. For this event, participants sorted the donated gifts from all supporters, and decorated them for distribution. According to one volunteer, a sixth grader, "Every child deserves to have a good Christmas, and I am honored to be a part of helping with that."

In this issue:

- 2 Letters from the Directors
- 3 Campus Kiosk

- 4 Imagine Discovery Helps Set a Guinness World Record

- 5 Kudos & Commendations

Imagine the possibilities

Letters From the Directors

Take the Time to Reflect and Be Thankful

This is the time of year when all of us begin to feel tired and hope for a much-needed break; thank goodness one is right around the corner! So, how do we find the energy and passion that we need to sustain us, so that we can continue to do great things for the families and children we so honorably serve?



I rekindle my passion at this time of year by taking a step back and reflecting on all of the many things for which I can be truly thankful. Foremost, I am thankful for my own family and all of the moments each day (sometimes there are not enough) that I am fortunate to be with them.

In my “other life,” as the Maryland Regional Director, I am sincerely thankful for the many other “families” that I have the privilege to encounter each day as I move from school to school. For instance, I am so grateful to all of the

families and children whom we educate each day at our five campuses. As Imagine educators, we can never take our families for granted and we must appreciate each day that we spend with them, whether by teaching the children or communicating with their parents. It is an honor to have close to 2,000 students, from across the state of Maryland, filling our schools this year. I

hope that you take the time to let them know how much they are appreciated. Without our families, we couldn't exist.

I am also extremely thankful for the Imagine family — the teachers, administrators, and other staff members who give so much of themselves each day to educate these gifted children. Although it's filled with challenging moments, teaching is the most honorable and rewarding profession that exists. Without outstanding educators like the ones who serve our various campuses,

Imagine Schools would be nothing more than five ordinary schools. Because of our outstanding educators, we are far from ordinary — WE ARE IMAGINE!

We should all be thankful for Imagine Schools, too — and Dennis and Eileen Bakke, in particular — for giving us the opportunity to be great. Allowing us to work with Integrity, Justice and Fun is something to be extremely thankful for as we do our jobs each day. Trust me, this type of work culture is special and doesn't exist in many places.

I sincerely hope that each of you takes some time this holiday season to reflect on what you are thankful for each day. And please, get some rest and relax, you have certainly earned it.

Many thanks,

Pat Crain
Maryland Regional Director

Moving Beyond Intervention to Enhance Instruction

Greetings, Imagine!

I hope that this entry finds each of you having an outstanding holiday season and looking forward to spending much-needed time with your family and friends.

As many of you are aware, Response To Intervention (RTI) has been a major component of our instructional model. We have used this vital tool to help us ensure that we meet the needs of each of our students. In the second half of this school year, we will begin transitioning to Response To Instruction and Intervention, or RTI².

According to researchers, one of the keys to assisting all children in the acquisition of literacy and content is to, first, believe in their ability to learn and, then, to

explicitly guide their learning through systematic and intentional instruction and intervention (Fisher & Frey, 2009). RTI² is the cycle — from assessment to instruction — that enables teachers to observe students' responsiveness to the targeted intervention and to proceed with instruction that is supported by ever-evolving performance data. This RTI² system is designed to change learner performance as a function of targeted instruction.

After carefully reflecting upon our practice, coupled with our efforts to continuously improve our services to families and students, our evolution from RTI to RTI² is appropriate and instructionally thoughtful. Our school



leaders will kick off the New Year immersing themselves in this tool. Over time, we look forward to — and fully expect to — implement RTI² into each of our schools.

I hope that you enjoy this wonderful season and that you return from Winter Break rejuvenated and even

more resolved in your commitment to live our Shared Values and to deliver instructional and operational excellence to our students and families.

Sincerely,

William Hill
Executive Director,
PG County Imagine Schools



Campus Kiosk: Brief Notices from the Imagine Maryland Public Charter Schools

Academic Achievement



Imagine Foundations: On December 2, we celebrated the achievements of the 37 students in Grades 2-7 who earned Principal's List status (A's in every subject area) and the 57 students in Grades 2-7 who earned Honor Roll status (A's and B's in all subject areas). Congratulations to each student for such a success!

Character Development

Imagine Foundations: In December, we began rehearsals for our first official choir (students in Grades 5-7 only). Currently, we are focusing on breathing, music scales, training our voices and hearing the pitches. The first song we will sing is "Imagine" by John Lennon.



Imagine Andrews: In an effort to enrich the learning experience for our students, the Andrews Federal Credit Union contracted with author Sam Renick to provide financial literacy lessons to third and fourth graders. Renick and his trusty sidekick, "Sammy the Rabbit," conducted read-alouds and a rich discussion on the importance and power of saving for the future. This dynamic presentation was well received by the students, who were dressed for "College and Armed Services Shirt Friday." (Information about Sam Renick can be found at <http://www.itsahabit.com/>.)



Imagine Foundations II: On November 28, our students enjoyed a wonderful cultural experience when an African Dance & Drum Troupe from Senegal visited the school for a performance and discussion. Highlights included watching the students — and staff — display their skills dancing with the "stars."



Economic Sustainability

Imagine Foundations: As a way to help the school recover its \$50,000 renovation cost, the Imagine Foundations' Student Council decided to host a school talent show. More than 25 students auditioned, individually or as groups, and all were selected to perform. Jaia Gillette, Student Council President says, "As a student of Imagine Foundations I, I believe that the students should partner with parents to help raise money for the school. By having the talent show, the students are not only helping to raise money, but they're also having fun and showing their talents." The talent show, which will be

held on January 13, at 6:30 p.m., will include concession items for sale, a DJ, and an exciting performance by Imagine Foundations' parents. All Imagine schools and stakeholders are invited to attend what is sure to be an unforgettable evening. The student council also is hosting a bake sale this month, selling "spirit" T-shirts, and will be reopening the school store in January.

Parent Choice

Imagine Foundations: We are passing along this positive feedback from one of our parents, Kimberly Rains, who has children in Grades 6 and 7. Her comments affirm all the hard work we do and underscore why we believe parents are the best judge of a school that meets their children's educational needs: "We have chosen to enroll our children in Imagine Foundations I because of the curriculum, flexibility to make adjustments to the learning process, and the positive attitudes of the staff. We know that the staff genuinely cares about the children's educational and personal growth. They relate to the children well and serve as excellent role models. We are convinced that our children would not receive the positive experience they are receiving at Imagine at our neighborhood school."

Imagine Andrews: In an effort to increase communication between parents and the school, we recently launched a network of grade-level "blogs." Teachers will now be able to communicate homework assignments and other pertinent information to students and families via the Internet. We are confident that this additional means of communication will further ensure that parents and teachers are working together to fully support our students. You may access the blogs by visiting imagineandrews.org and clicking on the "Class Blogs" link under "Faculty" or by following the link listed with each teacher.

more Campus Kiosk on page 6

Imagine Discovery Helps Set a Guinness World Record

How do the the students at Imagine Discovery stack up against their peers at other schools around the world? Well, in at least one way, they're in the record books.



On November 17th, 34 Imagine Discovery students participated in a Stack Up! event to help break the world record for the most people cup-stacking in one day. The event, called WSSA STACK UP!, takes place every year on Guinness World Records Day and is an opportunity for schools, libraries, and youth organizations on every continent to involve their entire communities in a day of sport-stacking, fitness, and fun. In addition, many schools also “stack up”

for a good cause, collecting donations to benefit local charities.

The previous Guinness World record was 316,736 participants, and this year the record was shattered by a total of 412,259 stackers, representing 28 countries from around the world. A select group of Imagine Discovery students in Grades 3-7 participated at various stations in the gymnasium, stacking cups for 30 minutes. The event was verified by Jackie Schultz, the physical education teacher, and Kasey Kennedy, a teacher in Grade 3.

The excitement did not stop there, however. In order to involve the entire school in the event, and to show support for the students selected to cup-stack, Imagine Discovery students were asked to bring in a canned food donation to their homerooms on the day of the event. The donations were included in a food drive to support the Maryland Food Bank. Leah Ward's and Rachel Kajfasz's homerooms each received extra Physical Education time because they brought in the most canned goods. Congratulations for a job well done, by everyone involved!

Interim Superintendent of Schools Visits Imagine Foundations II

It turns out that new and prospective families aren't the only folks who want to visit and learn about Imagine Foundations II Public Charter School. Late last month, Dr. Bernard J. Sadusky, the newly appointed Interim State Superintendent of Schools, stopped by to take a look around the recently renovated campus.



During the hour-long visit, Dr. Sadusky, who was accompanied by Bonita Coleman-Potter, Deputy Superintendent for Prince George's County Public Schools, along with other school system officials, met with Principal Hope McGuire and was treated to a student-led tour of the school, which included visiting classrooms and meeting with children.

According to Principal McGuire, the main purpose of Dr. Sadusky's visit was to learn about Imagine Foundations II's college-preparation curriculum and character education program.

“It was a wonderful experience to showcase the Imagine spirit and the structures that are in place to assist our students in being ready for higher education learning experiences,” she said.

Three student ambassadors — Andrew Haynes, a Kindergartener from Ms. Coley's class; D'Angelo Pracht, a First Grader from Mr. Edenfield's class; and Madison Hueston, a Second Grader from Mrs. Pinales' class — conducted the guided tour for Dr. Sadusky and guests. During their discussions, the children described the unique aspects of their school, including the literacy centers, math meeting, the school-wide behavior management system, the use of technology in the classrooms, and the Social Studies project-based learning.

Dr. Sadusky, the former Superintendent of the Queen Anne's County Public School System, took over the reins of the Maryland State Department of Education on July 1, following the retirement of former State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick.

Professional Development

Principals and staff members from the Imagine Maryland family of charter schools participated in “Understanding and Managing Challenging Student Behaviors,” a professional development seminar held on December 2 at Imagine Maryland's regional offices.

Topics for the half-day program, which featured speakers from the Kennedy Krieger Institute, included “Understanding Challenging Behaviors,” “Managing Challenging Behaviors,” and “Applying Strategies to Real-Life Scenarios.”



Imagine the possibilities

Kudos & Commendations

Thanks to the efforts of **Jessica Doughty**, Imagine Foundations has added another to its awesome list of clubs. Mrs. Doughty, a math and science teacher in Grade 3, has established the 2011-2012 Yearbook Club and will serve as the advisor. Already, club members have been tirelessly snapping pictures and gathering information to put in the yearbook. Way to go, Mrs. Doughty and club members! We are excited to see the finished product.



Doughty



Veal

Trendoyln Veal is using some of her “other” gifts — namely, her skills as a dancer — to get students excited about learning new talents.

Ms. Veal, a language arts, history, and geography teacher in Grade 2 at Imagine Foundations, recently has begun instructing students in the art of partner dancing and rhythm. When Ms. Veal is not occupying her classroom at Imagine Foundations, she is traveling the world teaching “hand-dancing,” a form of swing dancing.

Teacher Spotlight

Congratulations to **Erin Nauman!**

Last month, Nauman, a Kindergarten teacher at Imagine Andrews, was named a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT).

To achieve this highly esteemed credential status, candidates must endure a rigorous multi-year training and assessment process.

The extra effort pays off: according to statistics, students taught by NBCTs oftentimes have learning gains that outpace their peers. The students of Imagine Andrews are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated education professional on staff. Nicely done, Mrs. Nauman!



Nauman

Student Spotlights

Charles Law-Williams (right) is a stand-out student in Grade 3 at Imagine Foundations. Charles loves science and says he wants to be a scientist. He also plays basketball, sings, and he is a member of the school’s Cub Scout troop. Most important, Charles enjoys school and is currently an Honor Roll student who is determined to make the Principal’s List. He says that he is glad to be a student at Imagine Foundations, and he loves his teachers.



The Imagine Foundations II Students of the Month for November (“showing great Citizenship”) included **Amaya DeCastro, Jiselle Floyd, Richard “Ricky” Pina, Noelle Horne, Layla Brown-Callado, Josephat Kusansuka, Dylan Latimer, Myris Rochez, Mariah Watson, and Alexandria Horne**. These children, along with the recipients for September and October, will be recognized at the Student of the Month Principal Reception on the evening of December 19.

‘Stomp Out’ Bullying

from page 1

The staff at Imagine Discovery say that their efforts to “Stomp Out Bullying” won’t be restricted to a single month and pledge to continue their campaign for the rest of the school year.

The cast of “One” included the following Imagine Discovery student performers:

Mrs. Petito’s Class

Ean McChesney: The character Red
Jahmon Stewart: The character Blue
Kayla Wood: assisted as an instrument player
Winter Davis: assisted with props

Mrs. Ward’s Class

Summer Johnson: The character I
Devin McKelvin: The character Green
Paul Smith: assisted as an instrument player
Eric Barnes: assisted with props

Mrs. Kennedy’s Class

Aaliyah Diones: The character Yellow
Antonio Grandison: The character Orange
Sarai Marshall: assisted as an instrument player
Kemiya Stewart: assisted as an instrument player

Mrs. Becker’s Class

Michah Johnson: The character Purple
Trinity Joseph: assisted as an instrument player
Shamar Weston: assisted as an instrument player



Campus Kiosk from page 3

Academic Achievement

Imagine Lincoln: To enhance classroom instruction, we recently added the web-based programs Study Island for Grades 3-8, and Reading Eggs and Aha Math for Kindergarten through Grade 2. We also continue to encourage parents to listen to their children read aloud, write in journals, and practice math facts.

Character Development

Imagine Lincoln: Our basketball season for elementary and middle school boys and girls is off to a great start! The schedule for Lynx Basketball is posted on our December calendar located on our school's website. Please come out and support our teams. Go Lynx!

Parent Choice

Imagine Lincoln: The PTO-sponsored movie night, held on November 18, was a huge success! The school's multi-purpose room was transformed into a theater, and more than 60 families brought sleeping bags and lounge chairs to watch the feature, "Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer." PTO members also provided popcorn and drinks. The PTO is planning more such events in the future.



**4207 Norcross Street, Suite 100
Temple Hills, MD 20748**

ImagiNation, published monthly by the Imagine Maryland Regional Office, offers facts and features about our faculty and staff, and shares information about our schools and organization. Each edition is sent via email to all staff of Imagine Andrews, Imagine Discovery, Imagine Foundations and Imagine Foundations II, and Imagine Lincoln.

For more information contact:

Imagine Maryland Regional Office
4207 Norcross Street, Suite 100
Temple Hills, MD 20748
301-316-1802

Pat Crain
Maryland Regional Director

William Hill
*Executive Director,
PG County Imagine Schools*

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 13** Imagine Discovery Volunteer Training
- 21** Imagine Foundations Character Assembly
- 21** Aha!Math Professional Development
- 22** Winter Break Begins

JANUARY

- 2** Winter Break Ends
- 13** Imagine Foundations Talent Show
- 16** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 24 - FEB 7** MAPS Assessment Window

