



HORIZONS
at The Salisbury School ©

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Awakening students to their potential

Winter Newsletter 2008

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Greetings From the Board

Dear Friends,

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It is a great privilege to present to you our first Horizons at the Salisbury School Newsletter. Inside you will find lots of information about our program.

Horizons at the Salisbury School strives to expand the possibilities for children and families from economically disadvantaged circumstances. In addition to an intensive academic, cultural, social, and recreational summer program, we keep in contact with our children all year long through further social and academic activities. We offer incentives for students to do well in school and positive reinforcement for our students who need a little extra help. Our goal is to develop both the child personally and family overall. We have just completed our 5th summer and are well on our way to graduating our first class in 2011.

We have a tremendous board and teaching staff led by the incomparable Donelle Van Holten. We are part of a prestigious national program, Horizons National (horizonsnational.org), that has rewarded one of our teachers, Trina Tilghman, with a 2007 Horizons National Teacher of The Year Award. This is the second time we have won this award; Donelle also received the honor in 2005.

Thanks to our partners: the Wicomico County Board of Education, The Salisbury School, and Camp Odyssey for helping us in so many ways to provide this incredible program for our children. Most importantly, we appreciate the kindness of you, our Horizons friends, whose constant support have made the program possible.

We are extremely proud of how much we have accomplished in the past five years and look forward to helping many more children in the future!

Best Regards for a Happy and Super Year in 2008,

Bill Middleton, Chairman
Harlan Eagle, Executive Director

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Donelle Van Holten
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Academic Connections Program

The Horizons at The Salisbury School Academic Connections Program is designed to close the gaps for children who are struggling to succeed in school with targeted support. Drawing from standardized test scores and from Yearly Progress Pro (YPP), Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), and Item Analysis from standardized tests and teacher input, Horizons has identified students' academic strengths and weaknesses and targeted areas for improvements.

The students meet two afternoons a week, in a small group setting with a pair of teachers, each of whom has been selected for the program based on her expertise in the needed academic areas and demonstrated ability to help economically and academically challenged students develop the skills they need to succeed. Teachers for the Academic Connections Program are Juanita Bridell and Stacey Bennett.

Thanks to the Education Committee of The Horizons Board led by Becky Gordon for putting this program together and Bruce Robson, Mark Engberg, Sarah Evans, and the Community Foundation of The Eastern Shore for providing the funding.

Like the Horizons program itself, the proposed project draws together professionals from Wicomico County Schools, The Salisbury School and Camp Odyssey @ The Salisbury School. The partnership not only brings together educational resources but also provides an economy of scale in shared part-time administrative and even fundraising support.



Thank You Horizons Donors! JULY 2006 - NOVEMBER 2007

These Horizons programs would not be possible without the constant aid and support of individuals and organizations in the community. We want to say thanks to our Horizons donors for impacting the lives of our Horizons children in a profoundly positive way.

HORIZONS DREAM MAKERS

To Infinity and Beyond: \$4,800 to \$13,999

Choptank Electric Trust
Colleen Hazel & Wayne Ellis
Morgan & Jeanette Hazel
The Palmer Foundation

The Sky's the Limit: \$1,600 to \$4,700

Alex & Wilma Azar
Arthur W. Perdue Foundation
Bruce W. Robson
Henry and Dara Hanna
Jim Thomas
M & T Charitable Foundation
Richard A. Henson Foundation
Sally D. Adkins and William Bostian
Wicomico County Board of Education Employees

HORIZONS FRIENDS

Sun Catcher: \$1,000 to \$1,599

Jeffrey and Gail Greenwood
Anne Collins
Azar-Filipov MD PA
Bank of America
Sarah M Evans
Terrace Greenwood
Anonymous Donors
The Optimist Club of Salisbury

Moon Lighter: \$500 to \$999

American Legion Post 64
Anonymous Donors
Bruce Robson
Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore
Elton Maddox
Mark E. Engberg
Salisbury Elks Lodge
Salisbury Rotary Club
Sylvan Learning Center
Thomas & Julie Fisher
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10159
Wicomico Rotary

Silver Liner: \$100 to \$499

Camp Odyssey
Christy Watts
Comcast
Delmarva Power
Emily Bostian
Ernie & Lorie Lemp
Gee & Susan Dunsten
Hebron Savings Bank
Jennifer Rinnier
Marlene Rinnier
Pam Walter
Richard and Amy Meekins
Ruth & Ken Gaudreau
The Salisbury School
Victor H. & Jean S. Laws
Walmart Foundation
William Middleton

Rainbow Painter: up to \$99

Karen and Michael Payne
Wayne and Faye Rathel
Sarah & Michael Mishler
Beth Sheller
Chris Nunzio
Creston & Caroline Porter-Long
Don, Debra, & Laura Leigh Cooper
Dr. D. Marcus Forno
Maryland Tau of Alpha Delta Kappa
Michael Sofronski
Sonny Henry

In Kind

Alice Elzey, Bryant Elzey, Corey Allensworth
Beth Sheller
Bruce Robson
Camp Odyssey
Camp Odyssey Bookkeeper-Shirley Hastings
Camp Odyssey Registrar-Donna Haag
Nan Bird
Matthew Norman
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
Susan Rogers
Sylvan Learning Center
The Salisbury School
Wicomico County Board of Education

Academic Connections

Bruce Robson
Community Foundation
Mark Engberg
Sarah Evans

Annapolis Enrichment Trip

American Legion Post #145
Cooper Insurance
The Optimist Club
Tony Tank Tribe #149

Teacher of the Year: Trina Tilghman-Dix

Congratulations to Trina Tilghman-Dix, winner of the Horizons National Lyn McNaught Teaching Award. Each year, teachers are nominated for the award for serving as role models, teaching creatively, and providing an exciting and challenging curriculum in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Trina has worked in the Horizons at The Salisbury School program for the past four years. She has been the lead teacher for the same students for the entire time she has worked in the program. Trina is an outstanding role model for her students and colleagues. She provides guidance for newer teachers and leadership for the Horizons administrative team. She is extremely dedicated to helping her students develop into the best people they can be. She is calm, upbeat, positive, and full of great ideas.

This past summer Trina dazzled us with her tremendous array of lessons, engaging activities, and field trips. She taught the students about Native American culture and took them on a field trip to visit a Native American museum. Using clay, the students made bow and arrows, canoes, and maps of Africa. It was amazing how much the students had learned and could share with visitors when asked about their projects.

Another theme this past summer was performance. Trina and her colleagues worked with the students on preparing a step dancing performance. The Horizons students performed for the Friends of Horizons Breakfast and at the end of the summer student showcase. Because of Trina's hard work and creative ideas these students have now become the HORIZONS STEPPERS and will be performing throughout the school year.

Trina has a very kind heart and helps out all her students regardless of their challenges. Her ability to make all the students feel good about themselves and her efforts have helped students stay in the program. Trina has great management skills and has built strong relationships with all the parents, staff, and students. One student in particular has had many challenges but, with Trina's guidance, he has managed to get better each year. This past summer he was seen singing, stepping, and smiling. All her students love her because they know she truly cares and wants the best for them.



Congratulations Trina!

Love, The Horizons Family

Horizons Fall Events!

Throughout the year, Horizons at The Salisbury School has many events to raise awareness and funding for the programs which give economically disadvantaged children a chance to participate in events that will help them realize their full potential. These are just some of the most recent events:

HORIZONS FALL FESTIVAL

On October 27, The Salisbury School hosted the Horizons Fall Festival for a huge success! Although bad weather meant the Frightful Forest had to be canceled, kids still had a great time in The Salisbury School Upper School Gym with games, inflatables, concessions, and fun for everyone! Some special attractions included performances by Park's Martial Arts, the Salisbury University Gospel Choir, the Horizon's Steppers, and the Wi Hi cheerleaders.

We want to send our thanks out to Donelle Van Holten, Lori Lemp, the Chair of the Parents' Organization, Board Member Nan Bird, Terry Greenword, Sonny Henry, Alice Elzey (Facilities Director at The Salisbury School) and her son Bryant (Facilities at The Salisbury School) for donating their time and energy to lead the hayride (see photo on right), and the many kids and parents that gave both their time and money to make this a special event.

And get your calendars ready for next year when (rain or shine!) the Horizons Fall Festival will be better than ever!



AN OFFICIAL SIGNED AUTHENTIC **MIA HAMM** **TEAM JERSEY** **A BALL SIGNED BY TISHA VENTURINI**

On December 1st Horizons at The Salisbury School held a raffle to give away truly amazing items for the benefit of the Horizons program. The items up for raffle, donated by prolific soccer champion Trisha Venturini-Hoch, were a personally autographed soccer ball and a soccer jersey signed by her former teammate, women's soccer legend Mia Hamm!

We want to thank Dr. Alex Azar, the Azar Eye Institute, the Crown Sports Center, a.s.a.p.r. Public Relations and Marketing Firm, and of course Ms. Venturini-Hoch for giving the raffle so much support.



There was also the Salisbury School Gala, during which an auction was held for a trip to the spring mini camp for either the Washington Redskins or Baltimore Ravens. Salisbury University's head football coach Sherman Wood will take the lucky winner and some friends through whichever organization he or she chooses! They will tour the various facilities and meet the players, making memories that will last a lifetime.

We want to thank Coach Wood for generously giving his time for this event.

Thanks to community donations, students in the Horizons program got to travel Annapolis on November 10th and see the Salisbury University Football Seagulls play in the 9th Annual Regents Cup at the U.S. Naval Academy. Students got to visit the State House and Naval Academy in addition to supporting Coach Wood and his players as they beat Frostberg State University for the Cup! Big thanks to board member Beth Sheller for organizing this trip for our Horizons students!



Some of our fearless leaders at The Salisbury School Gala, themed to Revolutionary France!



SalisburyHorizons.org - New Website for 2008!

Keep an eye out for our brand new website, launching in February!



Summer 2007 Review

Summer learning is critical for a child's development. Horizons National (horizonsnational.org) reported that the latest research, summarized in a 2007 report commissioned by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, concludes that the annual growth in the academic achievement gap between low-income children and their more advantaged peers lies in the disparity of their summer experiences. The report goes on further to find that the type of summer intervention that has the most impact on achievement for low-income kids is a "hybrid" approach of experiential learning and enrichment. Horizons' successful approach to summer learning was also validated in a 2007 report by evaluation experts from Yale University.

Horizons at The Salisbury School provided many opportunities for learning and enrichment. For instance, a group of kids went to see the show *Grease* over the summer and had a great time. Students got to meet some of the performers and get their autographs. The ability to go in person and actually see a live show will be an experience that those kids will hopefully treasure for a long time.

Another event during the summer was the tour some of the younger Horizons students got to take to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility off of Wallops Island. Giving these kids the opportunity to see the incredible possibilities in the world gives them a different outlook on life. Hopefully after going to the NASA facility, the kids are looking at the stars a little bit differently.

There are so many different kinds of events that the students in the Horizons program got to experience over this past summer. Here are just some of the other programs and events that the kids participated in during the summer:



Look At What We Did!

Went Sailing

VISITED UMES

TOOK TAE KWON DO LESSONS

Visited Assateague

Took part in conflict resolution training

WENT TO DELMAR LIBRARY

WENT TO RED LOBSTER

Went to the Indian Museum in Milford

★ **PREPARED AND PRESENTED** ★
A STUDENT SHOWCASE

Took Swimming Lessons

**WENT TO THE NATIONAL
AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE**

**RAISED \$1000 AT
OUR CARWASH**

MADE PIZZA AT UNOS

Participated in the PAC 14 Spocer Bell Show

Good Things Delmarva

Learned about the sea, stars, and different countries



Get Ready for the Horizons

Dance Showcase

Be there at the Wicomico Senior High School Auditorium on **March 29 at 7:00 PM!!**

Silent Auction! Dance Display Booth!
Concession Stands! VIP Seating!

To order tickets or for more information about the event, call **410-742-4464, ex. 320**



What is Horizons at The Salisbury School?

Launched in 2003, Horizons is an extraordinary and truly unique non-profit organization that has achieved huge things for children in our own community. The program strives to teach students from economically disadvantaged families to thrive in spite of challenging circumstances. Our holistic, hands-on approach to learning equips students with a strong motivation to learn and the skills necessary to realize their full potential.

Events are held throughout the year in support of the program. For information on Horizons or to learn how to donate or volunteer, please contact us or visit our new website at SalisburyHorizons.org. With your added support we can make a real impact in children's lives.

HORIZONS NEWSLETTER CREDITS
BIG THANKS GO TO...

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