7th Grade Junior High and 8th Grade Academy
DSP Students Progress Towards a 3.5 GPA

It has been proven through numerous analytical studies that the junior high transition years have been among the most difficult for pre-teen and teen age students to go through. On top of the growing pains of adolescence there is the stepped up responsibility of a higher level of academic rigor.

At the midpoint of our school year it is refreshing to see members of our junior high Delany Scholars Program striving towards the goal of making themselves and their grade level peers academic standouts. Our 7th graders at Woodland Hills Junior High have achieved an over all GPA of 3.03 while the 8th graders at Woodland Hills Academy have earned a 3.33.

These young men have demonstrated the work ethic of scholars and the character of role models. We honor and recognize their growing academic achievement with the expectations of greater things to come.

The Delany Scholars Program, All Day/Everyday Academic Initiative has begun to take shape in a field trip to knowledge. On Saturday January 26, 2013, the DSP sixth grade students, along with parent chaperones, Alaina Lucas and Corey Williams Sr., were invited to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh main branch in Oakland. The weekend educational excursion was primarily held in the ‘Teen’ section of the library which houses an impressive collection of Japanese anime, manga and other graphic novels, a computer and media lab and a conference room. After the students perused this section the day moved onto a challenging variety of


Representing W.H. Academy 8th grade Delany Scholars, left to right: Kobie Kyles, Malek King, Amyre Collins, Antoine Hamilton and Kobe Sanders.
The DSP “Field Trip to Knowledge”, (cont. from page 1)

tasks in a math enrichment session. Next was the continued reading of the grade level novel short story collection *12 Brown Boys*.

In the afternoon our Scholars toured the main area of the library. The monthly displayed featured African American authors for Black History Month. They also visited the large print, periodicals and children’s section.

Afterwards they participated in an informational scavenger hunt in the Teen section of the library along with utilizing its computer lab. At this time the DSP staff also acquired information about multimedia courses and programs offered at the library. The day concluded with a pizza party and each student receiving an application for a library card.

**W.H. Jr. High Mathematics Teacher Steve Brown Collaborates with the DSP Tutoring Program**

*Fostering collaborations between the DSP staff and the Woodland Hills teachers staff is a treasured goal of the Delany Scholars Program.*

One of the chief participants in this partnership is Woodland Hills, Junior High Mathematics Teacher Steve Brown. Recently the DSP Newsletter asked Mr. Brown about the benefits of his relationship with the DSP After School Tutoring Program.

**DSP News:** Have you noticed any growth in the students that have been attending the DSP Tutoring and Study Hall Program?

**SB:** I have noticed significant growth in attitude, effort and behavior of the students who attend the after school program regularly.

**DSP News:** Has the program helped you address the needs of some struggling students?

**SB:** Mr. Morris and I have had frequent communications to discuss student needs. The collaboration has allowed us to present a united front to our students to address their classroom needs.

**DSP News:** How can the DSP Tutoring Program further aid your students?

**SB:** I’ve seen the success the committed DSP students have. If the DSP staff can convince more students to come they will succeed too.

To the left: Sixth grade DSP Scholars participating in a math enrichment activity while on the “Field Trip to Knowledge” on Saturday January 26th in the graphic novel centered ‘Teen’ section at the Carnegie Library in Oakland.

Woodland Hills Jr. High Mathematics Teacher Steve Brown assists 7th grade Delany Scholar DeVaga Byrd with a task in one of the school’s computer labs.
The inaugural DSP Newsletter highlighted the academic goal setting strategies of our sixth grade students via the competitive football simulation game, “Grid Iron Goal Setting”. At the end of the second quarter the competition is heated and our scholars are steadily closing in on the collective goal of a 3.5 team GPA by the end of the school year, or fourth quarter. The standings at the end of the second quarter are as follows:

- Wilkins Elem. 2.95
- Dickson Elem. 2.93
- Fairless Elem. 2.89
- Academy Elem. 2.82
- Shaffer Elem. 2.80
- Edgewood Elem. 2.68

DSP Staff Partake in Learning Styles! Seminar

It has been said that each person’s fingerprints are as unique as a snowflake. This notion can be applied to how we think and learn as individuals as well. Considering that, the Delany Scholars Staff found it beneficial to partake in the Neighborhood Alliance “Learning Styles!” Seminar. The prevailing thought was that our Scholars stand to gain a great deal of ownership of their academic endeavors if we can aid them in coming to understand their own individual learning styles.

A central part of the seminar was a webinar presentation by brain encoding expert and bestselling author Dr. Brian Walsh. Dr. Walsh discussed three primary learning styles: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. He gave examples of how learners of each style thinks and processes information. These characteristics reveal insightful knowledge that students can apply to their approach to their class work. Visual learners are observant, quiet by nature and tend to be meticulous. Auditory learners memorize sequentially, are outgoing and enjoy listening activities. Kinesthetic learners solve problems by physically working them out and are open to trying new things and enjoy activity based tasks.

Most often academically at-risk students tend to be male kinesthetic learners. A Learning Style Assessment is used to identify any particular student’s learning style. The assessment asks questions regarding each modality or style, visual, auditory or kinesthetic and presents the primary modality for the test taker.

The Learning Styles Assessment is a very perceptive tool and the DSP staff intends to use it in the near future to offer our Scholars and better understanding of just how they learn and what strategies they themselves can develop to push their academic accomplishments even further.

For more info see these links:

http://people.usd.edu/~bwjames/tut/learning-style/
http://www.literacyworks.org/miassessment/findyourstrengths.html

Above: After learning, along with others, that he is a kinesthetic learner DSP Program Director Reginald Hickman does a presentation about their learning style.

Below: Dr. Brian Walsh, expert in brain encoding and personal growth.
Here are the Second Quarter High Honor Roll Delany Scholars.  

**GPA of 3.5 or Better**

- **Woodland Hills HS**
  - Ninth Grade:  
    - *Micah Acrie*
    - Tyrique Coleman

- **Woodland Hills Jr. HS**
  - Eighth Grade:  
    - *Najee King*

- **Seventh Grade**
  - *Khalid King*
    - *Sheldon Johnson*
    - *Jamar Lee*

- **WH Academy**
  - Eighth Grade:  
    - Amyre Collins
    - *Kobie Kyles*
    - Kobe Sanders

- **Edgewood Elementary**
  - Sixth Grade:  
    - *Marquise Gibson*
    - *Bryant Johnson*
    - *Jeremiah Mitchell*

- **Fairless Elementary**
  - Sixth Grade:  
    - *Malachi Acrie*

- **Wilkins Elementary**
  - Sixth Grade:  
    - *Dajohn Cosby*

- **Shaffer Elementary**
  - Sixth Grade:  
    - Deon Dutrieuille
    - *Kristifer Jones*

**“Our elevation must be the result of self-efforts and work of our own hands.”**

**Martin R. Delany**
Abolitionist/Scholar/Civil War Officer

**Letter From the Director**

“What it means to be a Delany Scholar.”

The Delany Scholars program embodies prestige along with high standards of academic and personal responsibility. As a Delany Scholar each of our students must recognize their self-worth as a young African American man and as a scholar. They must commit to representing themselves, their families, our school district and the Delany Scholars Program properly no matter the location or situation. As is evident by the abundance of academically successful and inspirational stories in this volume of the DSP Newsletter, many of our young men are already doing that. Congratulations gentlemen.