

# Robinson G. Jones

## News From The Launchpad



### Important Dates

**Dec 10** All-City Winter Concert, Severance Hall @ 7 p.m.

**Dec 21** **Bring A Grown Up Day**, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and last day of school until 2019

**Dec 24-Jan 7** **WINTER BREAK**  
Classes resume Tuesday, Jan 8. See you then!

### A Message from Principal Melissa Watts

During the holiday season, many families look for ways to help others in need. If your family’s time is limited, consider just one or two projects a year and make them a family tradition (for example, making and donating gift baskets to care facilities for the elderly around the holidays). Why should your family lend a helping hand? \*It feels good \*It strengthens your community \*It can strengthen your identity as a family

What can children learn from volunteering? \*A sense of responsibility—children learn about commitment, to be on time, do their best, and be proud of the results. \*One person, one family can make a difference—children learn that they and their family can have an impact on someone or something else. \*The benefit of sacrifice—children learn that there are important things besides themselves. \*Cooperation and unity—children learn that working together as a family can unite the family and that two heads are better than one. \*Job skills—children learn about fields that may help them decide on future careers. \*How to fill idle time wisely—children learn to use time to help others.



### The Leader in Me

Habit 4 — Think Win-Win - Everyone Can Win - I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others’ Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.



## November Recap: Reppin' Rockets and more!

Time flies when you're having fun and that was certainly true for the month of November! Our scholars were busy inside the classroom and out.

### Inside the Classroom:

For example, during the month of November, our Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade scholars spent time focusing on K-3 Literacy Block. The K-3 Literacy Block allows our scholars to have daily components of modeled instruction, guided reading, and independent work. Modeled instruction involves interactive reading and literature discussion while guided reading, includes teacher formed small reading groups that enable scholars to read efficiently and problem solve through reading. Independent work is the final focus for K-3 Literacy encourages independent or partner reading and word study.

Also in class, our middle grade students participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual "A Christmas Carol" Writing Contest through the Great Lakes Theater Festival. Out of 1,800 entries area-wide, only six Grand Prize winners were chosen. Sixth Grader, **Damir Brown** was chosen for his poem about the main character of "A Christmas Carol", Ebenezer Scrooge. As a result, Damir and his family were able to attend the opening night performance of "A Christmas Carol" and attend the opening night party afterwards!

### Outside the Classroom:

Outside the classroom, our scholars did their best to rep us well! America SCORES program participants took part in the 2018 Poetry SLAM! the evening of November 15 at the CMSD East Professional Building. Both Core and Middle School scholars performed. The RGJ Core (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) Girls team members **Marines Adames, Morgan Benton, Autumn Golphin, Kaelyn Justiniano, Izabella Sorokin, Maya Stark, Genesis Toledo,** and **Rah'Nala Williams** took bronze and 5<sup>th</sup> grade scholar **Rooj Adhikari** won first place in the Individual Boys poetry category for his poem "Truth & Lies". Way to go, Rocket Writers!

## Rocket Pride: November Students of the Month

Each month, our teachers have the opportunity to recognize scholars for exemplary behavior, academic progress and/or demonstrated effort in academics. In November, a total of 17 students were awarded "Student of the Month" status.

These students are: Marines Adames, Rooj Adhikari,

Alanyah Ansel, Amaya Billups, Brian Brownlee, Kaden Fletcher, Jaylen Flowers, Ciarra Harris, Michaela Harris, Kaitlyn Hatfield, Sofia Henderson, Iyana Maloy, Anthony Mikityuk, Carmen Morales, Zakkyre Rogers, Ismail Sorokin, Zekria Taj, Katherine Tidwell, Zyail Walker, Roselynn Williamson, and Antuan Winchester.





# The Coordinator's Corner

**Bring A Grown Up Day is coming!**

Join us Friday, December 21 from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. for classroom activities, a holiday concert, Leader In Me presentations, a community resource fair, food, raffles, and even a visit with Santa!

The next **Chat & Chew Open Parent Meeting** will be held Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at **8:30 a.m.** and will focus on health/wellness programs and initiatives. All are welcome to attend!

**Calling all 8<sup>th</sup> grade Parents: High School Choice portal is now open!** Visit <http://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/ChooseCMSD> with your scholar to explore options and start a discussion about what school will be right for them! On Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> RGJ will host a meeting for 8<sup>th</sup> grade families regarding High School Choice. Save the date!

**New afterschool programs coming this spring!** Adding to our mix of afterschool programs, we will be hosting both Girls On The Run and Beat the Streets. GOTR combines self-esteem and character-building with running and will be for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls. BTS will combine mentoring with introductory wrestling and is open to 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Both programs will meet twice a week after school. Registration will begin in the new year so stay tuned for more information.

**The Glengar Neighborhood Association** meets the first Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Hungarian Reformed Church at 15300 Puritas Avenue. Connect with neighbors, discuss important issues. All are welcome! For more information, call BPDC @ 216-671-2710 x219

**The Hope Center** is located at 15135 Triskett Road and is a great resource for immigrant and refugee support. They offer ESL and citizenship classes, tutoring for refugee children, and legal help. For more information, please contact Eileen Wilson at 216-241-9400



**Thank You to our  
November Program  
Partners:**

Junior Achievement  
Huntington Bank  
Cleveland International  
Piano Competition  
Kids Love Musicals  
West Park Baptist  
Church

## Strategies for Success: Formative Assessments

At Robinson G. Jones we are committed to success. One way we ensure student success in the classroom is through administering formative assessments. A formative assessment is a test designed to give the teacher information about the student's level of mastery of a particular skill or multiple skills. The test can be as short as one question, or much longer. The teacher then reviews the assessment results to plan for what the student needs. A formative assessment is the best tool a teacher has to evaluate what the student needs. At R.G. Jones, teachers meet weekly to plan the best ways to reteach skills some students may not have mastered as well as to plan to continue to present new material. The goal is always for ALL students to succeed!



## Free college courses offered for parents

Parents and caregivers of CMSD students can take free college credit courses that Cuyahoga Community College will offer at three District schools.

All classes will run from 4 to 6:50 p.m. one day a week for 14 weeks.

The Tri-C Parent University Learning Series includes:

- Strategies for Success, which provides information and methods helpful to students, Tuesdays, starting Jan. 29, at Glenville High School, 650 E. 113<sup>th</sup> St.

- Creative Parenting Skills, Thursdays, starting Jan. 31 at Harvey Rice PreK-8 School, 2730 E. 116<sup>th</sup> St.
- Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication, Thursdays, starting Jan. 31, at Almira PreK-8 School, 3375 W. 99<sup>th</sup> St..

Classes are limited to 25 students each. Activities for children 5 and older, snacks and RTA bus tickets will be provided.

For more information or to register, call 216.838.3223 or go to <https://bit.ly/2wkEiHe>

## App lets parents monitor students' buses

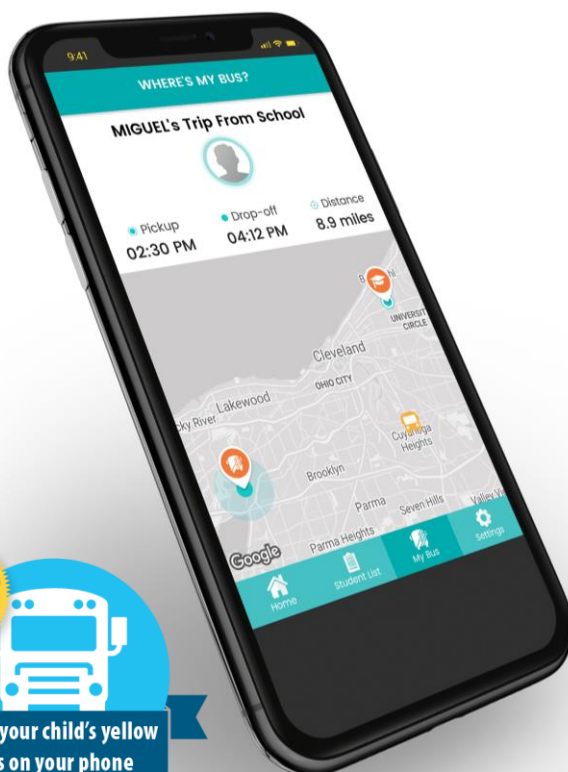
CMSD parents can download a free app that allows them to track the travels of their children's school buses.

Using GPS technology, the Edulog Parent Portal app allows a parent to monitor progress of a bus in real time and can provide notice of the vehicle's distance from the stop or school. Android users can receive notification when a bus is within a customized radius of up to 2 miles.

The app will track only CMSD's yellow buses, not RTA buses or vans that transport students. It is similar to a web-based option that the District introduced last year.

To use the app, parents will need the student's first and last names, District ID number, school and birthdate. The District ID and the student's ID are the same.

The app can be downloaded through Google Play or the Apple Store. For further information go to [ClevelandMetroSchools.org/BustTracker](http://ClevelandMetroSchools.org/BustTracker) or call 216.838.4BUS (4287).



## Museum offers free admission to library patrons

Cleveland Public Library patrons can receive free admission to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for up to six people under the Family Pass Program.

The program is open to anyone who holds a valid Cleveland Public Library card.

The pass, which must be used within 30 days, includes one free planetarium show during the visit. Children 2 years old

or younger are admitted free and do not count in the total admitted.

Passes are available at any of the library's 28 branches. Patrons may call or email ahead to make sure a pass will be available immediately.

The pass may be used at any time, including Family Fun Days.

Future Fun Days and the themes include: Monday, Dec. 31, New Year's at Noon; Saturday, Feb. 2, Groundhog Fun Day; Saturday, Feb. 9, Women in Science Day; Saturday, April 13, Dinofest; and Saturday, May 11, Astronomy Day.



Cleveland Museum of  
NATURAL HISTORY



## CTAG adds girls to program for at-risk students

CMSD's Closing the Achievement Gap program is no longer just for male students.

Started more than 10 years ago for boys because they were considered to be at particularly high risk of failure in high school, CTAG has expanded to include girls at Glenville and East Tech.

Administrators hope to eventually serve girls at nine high schools, just like the boys program, Project Manager Samantha Holmes said.

Latia Taylor at East Tech and Tamara Barkley at Glenville assumed their roles as "linkage coordinators" in October. They work with girls individually and in small groups on building self-esteem, developing confidence, dealing with conflict and other concerns.

Barkley formerly worked as an academic advisor at Bryant & Stratton College and also founded GEMS (Girls Emotionally & Mentally Strong), which provides advocacy and programming for girls who are 11 to 17 years old.

She said her focus at Glenville includes motivating girls who cannot envision a life that is beyond their neighborhood or free from poverty.

"A lot of them see school as just something to do or somewhere to go," Barkley said.

Taylor previously served the District as an intervention specialist, working with small groups of special-education students. So far, she is assisting more than 20 girls at East Tech and says she has been well received.

"They seem excited, like they have been waiting for someone to come and hear them," she said.

CTAG benefits ninth-graders, and eighth-graders heading to high school, who are identified through risk factors that include attendance, suspensions, age older than typical for the grade level and failure in two or more core subjects. The boys program has

included a summer "bridge camp" for eighth-graders moving up to high school, a spring bus trip to colleges and other activities and field trips.

CMSD initially supported the program with state money, later used foundation and federal funds and now pays for the boys program with money from its general fund. Cuyahoga County awarded CMSD up to \$407,800 to fund the girls program through at least the end of 2019.

Glenville Principal Jackie Bell welcomed the decision to include girls in CTAG.

"They have just as many issues and just as much drama in their lives," she said. "They need someone to assist them."





## Grant to expand Play House program

With the support of a federal grant, the Cleveland Play House will expand a program that uses theater to help CMSD students feel safe at school, explore and manage their emotions and improve literacy skills.

The U.S. Department of Education has given the Play House \$2 million for the Compassionate Arts Remaking Education, or CARE, program. The money, to be distributed over four years, will immediately expand the program from four to 10 schools and allow the Play House to serve 4,100 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

CARE, which began in the 2015-16 school year, currently serves Bolton, Marion-Sterling, Alfred A. Benesch and Robert H. Jamison schools. The additional schools are to be determined.

The program was launched with an earlier grant from the Department of Education. Researchers verified the program's effectiveness.



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