

Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School celebrates Black History not only in the month of February, but year-round!!!



# Eagle Nation



## Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School

### A Note From The Principal

Happy February everyone! The weeks have surely flown by since our return from Winter Break (which hasn't felt too much like winter, at all), though our students have been very busy in their studies since that time. Hopefully, as you read through this issue of *Eagle Nation*, you will notice a theme of Parental Involvement. Over the past few months, we have been experiencing a relatively low parental turnout at a number of events at the school. Throughout this edition of the school newsletter, you should find many opportunities to maintain your involvement in the learning process of your child while they attend Pontiac Academy for Excellence Element-

ary School. We would like to begin the newsletter with a call to all parents to participate in a couple of upcoming events at the school. February is Black History Month, and parent volunteers are needed in each classroom to conduct Black History Month activities and projects. This is one of the greatest times to get involved in the learning process of your child. Please see your child's teacher for more information on how to become involved in activities that are centered around the outstanding African-American people and contributions made to society throughout the month of February. Also, Reading Month,

which is during the month of March, is quickly approaching. We are in need of parent volunteers to read to students in every classroom during this month. These are two great ways of getting involved in the education of your child and his/her classmates in the upcoming months. It is our hope that we see all of our parents getting involved in the learning process, as it truly does take a village to raise a child! For more information, feel free to contact your child's teacher or Mr. Sedick at ext. 1122. We look forward to seeing as many of our parents volunteering as possible in the upcoming weeks! Thanks and have a great month of February!

### CALLING ALL PARENTS—PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES COMING!!!

Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School will be conducting its annual winter session of Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, February 2 from 8:00 am to 12 pm and from 1:30 pm to 7:00 pm. In order to facilitate time

for parents to meet with teachers on Thursday, **there will be no school for students on Thursday, February 2.** All Elementary School teachers have a registration sheet hanging outside of their classrooms for parents to sign up for a

conference time that works best for them. During conferences, teachers will share important information about student progress on common assessments, Scantron Performance Series, the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), as

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### Upcoming Events

- 2/1—1st Grade Field Trip to Sloan Museum
- **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**—Parent/Teacher Conferences from 8am-12pm and 1:30pm-7pm
- 2/5—Count Week Begins!
- 2/8—COUNT DAY!!!
- 2/9—Math Night from 5-6:30pm
- 2/10—3rd Grade Field Trip to Detroit Historical Museum
- 2/15—Child Care Team Meetings
- 2/17—Dress-Down for \$1 Fund-raiser
- 2/20-2/22—No School for Students (Staff Development Days)
- 2/23-2/24—No School for Students or Instructional Staff
- 2/27—African Acrobatics Assembly
- 2/28—Parent Advisory Committee Meeting at 8:30 in the first floor cafeteria

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## CALLING ALL PARENTS—PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES COMING!!! (continued from page 1)

well as other class work, projects and assessments. The common assessments are tests that all K-5 students take at the end of the second, third and fourth marking periods. They are comprehensive tests in each major subject area (English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies). All students take a common assessment in each of these subject areas to show how much they have learned throughout the course of the most current marking period.

The Scantron Performance Series is a web-based assessment that our students in grades 2-5 take. The Scantron Per-

formance Series provides us with comparative data pertaining to the growth of our students in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. Students in these grades take the Scantron Performance Series tests in the fall, winter and spring. Teachers can create reports to share with parents that reflect the progress of their students as each test is taken.

Finally, the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) is our school's testing measure to determine what reading level each child is currently at. All students in grades K-5 participate in the

DRA during the winter session, so parents should be encouraged to ask your child's teacher about their most current DRA score to better assist them with their reading habits at home.

As always, the goal of Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School is to achieve 100% parent participation during Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you cannot make it to school to attend the upcoming conferences, please contact your child's teacher via phone or email to receive this important information about your student's progress!!!

## PAE Looking For More Parents To Get Involved in Improving the School

The Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School is seeking parents to become involved in the decision-making process through participating on the School Improvement Team, which meets monthly. The School Improvement Team (SIT) is comprised

of school administrators, teachers, support staff members and students, and we are currently in need of parental participation. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact either Mr. Sedick at 248-745-9420 ext. 1122.

**"There are two lasting bequests we can give our children. One is roots. The other is wings."**

**~Hodding Carter, Jr.**

## Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Has Been Moved for February

I'd like to thank all of our parents who attended last month's Parent Advisory Committee Meeting. At this meeting, we had a great discussion on several topics, including our new indoor dismissal process, as well as an introductory discussion on the changes to our school uniform that will take place beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. I asked all of our parents who attended last month's meeting to please return for this month's meeting, which will take place

**on *Tuesday, February 28 at 8:30 am in the first floor cafeteria.***

Normally our meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month, though this month, due to a scheduling conflict, we had to move it back one day so that we can continue our wonderful discussions regarding the direction of our school. At this month's meeting, we will revisit the school uniform discussion, and we will also take a look at our school's title-funded programs, staff members and materi-

als, as Mr. Sedick will be asking for the input of all parents in terms of your assessment of these programs. We are looking forward to seeing an even greater turnout at this month's meeting than at last month's meeting.

