



Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

WHERE ARTS & ACADEMICS MEET IN EXCELLENCE

July 2, 2010

Jackie Cornelius

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS
FOR DUVAL COUNTY AND
PRINCIPAL of DA

Lianna Knight

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER

Melanie Hammer

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Lashantah Holliday

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

National Model School of Excellence
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

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Tenth year

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Top 100 Public High Schools – 2009
U.S. NEWS and WORLD REPORTS

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2007-2009

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS
EDUCATION

Community Partnership Award 2007
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS
EDUCATION

Arts Innovation Award 2007
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS
EDUCATION

National Leader School
U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION



Mr. John Forrester
Bright Holidays

Dear Mr. Forrester:

I had the privilege of working with you for the past two years on the Bright Holidays project and just wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts and experiences.

Each year we asked our Art Directors to provide names of students they felt would benefit from this program. They know their students and their needs. We had no problem compiling a list of names of students that truly needed any assistance available.

Both years this project far exceeded any expectations any of us could have had. Our students were invited to the Administrative Office where their gifts were presented. First, the look of disbelief. They were not aware this was going to be done and had never heard of the program so total and complete disbelief is the only way to describe their reaction. Next came the excitement...I wish there were words that would adequately describe their excitement and with each gift they open, the excitement increases. Gifts were matched to fit needs so perfectly and that was evident in their reactions and comments. I will never forget hearing them say over and over "*how did they know this is just what I needed/wanted?*". It was emotional not only for the students but for those of us who had the privilege of giving the gifts to them. There were few dry eyes...tears of joy on the faces of our kids and tears of joy for those of us who did the easy part...handing them their presents and experiencing their joy.

This is, without a doubt, an outstanding project. For those that contribute in any way, a big **THANK YOU** is in order. I know that it must take months and months of planning and securing funds. For those generous donors, please somehow let them know that they are making a difference ~ a difference in a child's life that may have never had the experience of opening several gifts at one time. Many of them would have had no celebration at all without this wonderful endeavor. That became apparent when several asked if they could take their items home, unopened, to save for the actual holiday.

Again, please let me say that this is a project that all involved with should be proud of. You are making a difference ~ a difference that may well be remembered in the minds of these young people for the rest of their lives.

Though inadequate ~ Thank You.

Sincerely,

Judy Edwards

Judy Edwards
Secretary to Lianna Knight,
Assistance Principal



early steps
Children's Medical Services

Northeastern Early Steps Program
910 North Jefferson Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
Tel: (904) 360-7022 Fax: (904) 798-4544

June 24, 2010

Bright Holidays,

The staff at Northeastern Early Steps would like to offer our sincerest gratitude to you for the inclusion of our families in your 2009 program. It is because of your generosity and thoughtfulness that these children and their parents were able to enjoy the Christmas holiday last year. Due to your dedication, hard work and donations these families not only enjoyed a nice meal but also received clothes, blankets and toys; items that they would not have otherwise had and that many take for granted. Seeing the smiles on their faces was priceless!

Again, many thanks to Bright Holidays and the sponsors/volunteers that make the program possible; Early Steps is looking forward to sharing many more happy holidays with you.

With Gratitude,

April Smith,
Administrator

April Smith,
Administrator

Garden City Elementary School
2814 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32218
(904) 924-3130 / (904) 924-3178

Debbie L. Sapp
Principal

Kathy Tarkington
Assistant Principal

April 29, 2010

Mr. John Forrester, CEO
Bright Holidays Organization
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Mr. Forrester,

Please allow me the opportunity to thank you, Ms. Violetra Ward, and the Bright Holidays Organization for allowing a Garden City Elementary School family to celebrate the Christmas Holiday in a manner in which they never expected to be able to do so.

This family of eight, was truly blessed by your organization. I use the phrase "truly blessed" because the four children in this family that attend our school wish me a "blessed day" daily. The children greeted me upon returning to school after the Christmas break with that greeting and with a sincere, heartfelt thank you for their Christmas gifts. They were so appreciative, as was their mother. It made me feel very grateful that there are people and organizations in our community that care.

I thank you on behalf of the families whose lives you have blessed.

Sincerely,

Debbie L. Sapp

Debbie L. Sapp
Principal

Cc: Ms. Violetra Ward, Board of Directors
Bright Holidays Organization



GREENWOOD
SCHOOL

A different way of teaching. A better way of learning.

June 24, 2010

Mr. John Forrester
24532 Deer Trace Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Dear Mr. Forrester:

Thank you for allowing Greenwood School to participate in your Bright Holidays program. Greenwood School serves students with learning differences, dyslexia, and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD). The three families we nominated for Christmas 2009 attend Greenwood through financial need-based scholarships and were so appreciative of the gifts and gift card they received. Our parents often have to choose between paying tuition for specialized instruction or providing basic essentials for their children. The financial challenges of purchasing even one gift at the holidays can be overwhelming.

Your program made celebrations possible for the 2009 holiday season. One dad had tears in his eyes when I asked if we could nominate his son. He said that until then, they didn't know how they would be able to provide Christmas for him. Another mom was so thrilled to receive gifts for her three children and the gift card for groceries. She had only expected to receive gifts for the nominated student. The third student we nominated wrote the letter I have enclosed. The generosity of your contributors is such a blessing to these families in these difficult economic times. My co-workers and I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of your 2010 Christmas project.

Sincerely,

Jody Sealy
Admissions Coordinator

Enc: Thank you letter from student

GREENWOOD SCHOOL
9920 Regency Square Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32225

P 904.726.5000

F 904.726.5056

greenwoodjax.org

MATTIE V. RUTHERFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL



1514 Hubbard Street
Jacksonville, FL 32206
Main: (904) 630-6782
Fax: (904) 630-6789

Dr. Arvin Johnson
Principal

Mr. Phillip Mitchell
Assistant Principal

06/23/2010

To: Mr. John Forrester and Members of Bright Holidays
24532 Deer Trace Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, Fl 32082

The faculty, staff, and students at Mattie V. Rutherford Middle School want to thank you and your organization for the generous items that you provided for our underprivileged students and their families. Many of our students' have to endure the holiday season with very minimal resources. Thanks to you and your organization, many of these children experienced a more joyous holiday season.

Many students and their families benefited from your contributions. Your noble efforts certainly do not go unnoticed. This type of philanthropic effort improves the quality of life for many and provides and a valuable service to our community. Thank you.

Godspeed,

Dr. Arvin Johnson
Principal

Dr. Arvin Johnson
Principal

NORTH SHORE K-8 MICROSOCIETY SCHOOL

TARSHA N. MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL



JEAN AIKENS, HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR
LOWER DIVISION

YWANA ALLEN, HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR
LOWER DIVISION

BRIAN HOLLOWAY, HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR
UPPER DIVISION

June 25, 2010

Mr. John Forrester
Founder
Bright Holidays
24532 Deer Trace Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Dear Mr. Forrester:

On behalf of the students, parents, faculty and staff at North Shore K-8 School, thank you so much for your support during the 2009-2010 school-year. As you are well aware, educating children is about far more than simply academics. The clothing, food, school supplies and other necessities provided by Bright Holidays are equally as important, as they are vital in helping us to meet the mental, physical and social needs of our children.

As we move forward in preparation for the 2010-2011 school-year, we are grateful for your personal efforts, the Bright Holidays organization, and its dedicated donors. We look forward to our continued partnership as we work together in helping all children to succeed.

Sincerely,

Ywana M. Allen

Ms. Ywana M. Allen
Assistant Principal

5701 SILVER PLAZA • JACKSONVILLE, FL 32208
PHONE: 904.924.3081 • FAX: 904.924.3191

**COLLABORATIVELY BUILDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO NURTURE AND EMPOWER ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF TO BE LIFE -
LONG LEARNERS. WE WILL PREPARE ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO BE SUCCESSFUL MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL SOCIETY.**

Stonewall Jackson Elementary School

6127 Cedar Hills Blvd.
Jacksonville, Florida 32210
904-573-1020

Violetra C. Ward

March 3, 2010

Mr. John Forrester, CEO

Bright Holidays Organization

Mr. Forrester:

On behalf of the entire faculty, staff and student body at Stonewall Jackson Elementary, I would like to express our most sincere appreciation for the generosity and kindness that you've shown to our students.

This is the first year that families here at Stonewall Jackson were recipients of the gifts and donations provided by Bright Holidays. The sincere thanks that were given by each family were genuine and quite heartwarming.

As the nationwide economic hardship continues, we have found that the numerous individuals who express a lack for simply the basic necessities of food and clothing are growing. It is always a humbling experience for me to witness some of the unfortunate circumstances that I encounter among our families. We have found that some families are going without electricity, food (including lunch money) and warm clothing. Yet, I can attest to the fact that the gifts provided by Bright Holidays allowed our parents and students to see a glimmer of hope during the 2009 holidays.

I have enclosed several thank you cards and a letter from a few of our recipients who were just spellbound that we provided food for their families. As I am sure you will find in the sentiments of the small cards that you will receive, that merely saying "thank-you" is just not enough.

Again, I express my heartfelt appreciation for your generosity during the holidays and your support for our students here at Stonewall Jackson Elementary. I look forward to our continued partnership in the success of all students in Duval County Public Schools.

Best regards,

Violetra C. Ward, Principal

Violetra C. Ward, Principal

Stonewall Jackson Elementary

"Learning is our launch pad to the future"