

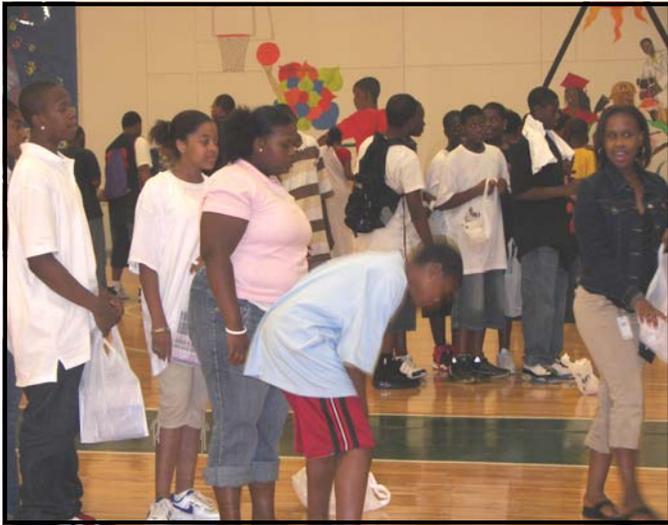
# P.A.R.K. PROGRESS

DONALD W. REYNOLDS FACILITY

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE IIII

FALL 2007

## WAL-MART/SAM'S SUMMER SLAM FOR KIDS BY MICHAEL WOODS, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT



The Check list: pick up the hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, plates, condiments; has the ice cream been delivered: Where are the chips? What else...oh, containers for the drinks, ice, bowl for the ice cream sundaes; call Pepsi and ...there is something I am forgetting...oh, yeah, fire up the grill. Whew?

Well, the Wal-Mart & Sam's Summer Slam was a huge success! The "Slam," as we have come to call it, was designed to show appreciation to the students for all the hard work over the summer, and hosted by the P.A.R.K. Jr. Board. The "Slam" is a culmination of earned points, positive atti-

tudes and individual and group effort toward a common goal.

The day started with the P.A.R.K. annual auction. Students participated in the auction by earning points via attendance, behavior and summer education lessons. Auction items consisted of iPods, a laptop computers, calculators and MP-3 players, among other items.

The students, staff, family members and friends were served up grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, chips and drinks donated by Little Rock Sam's Club, Frito Lay, Inc., Flowers Baking Company, Pepsi America, and not to leave out

the ice cream sundaes with ice cream donated by Coleman Dairy afterwards.

Everyone enjoyed the P.A.R.K. Summer revue and Video. The revue showcased student talent and the summer video reflected the summer activities, including: educational and community serve trips, group and tutor sessions, recreation and sometimes just pure silliness.

The finale was the biggest hit of the day. Students and their siblings had the opportunity to win educational back-to-school prizes through the many fun game stations set up around the P.A.R.K. gym. Little Rock Wal-Mart stores donated \$3,000.00 for the purchase of school supplies, 50 back packs and extras. Toward the end of "The Games," P.A.R.K. students took a chance on winning a back pack stuffed with school supplies. One student took home the Mega Back Pack which included all the supplies, plus a TI-83 calculator and Memory Stick.

Overall, the Little Rock Wal-Mart & Sam's Summer Slam really benefited P.A.R.K. in a

special way. Every student went home with a well rounded perspective of life's possibilities and school supplies for a blessed and prosperous school year.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in sending P.A.R.K.'s students back to class on a positive note.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPDATED LIBRARY	2
KEITH'S CORNER	3
ENDOWMENT MEETING	3
SUMMER UPDATE	4
SUMMER REPORT CARD	4
CLASS OF 2008	5
STUDENT PROFILE RODRICK MCCOLLUM	6

**P.A.R.K. Foundation Board**

Walter E. Hussman, Jr.,  
President  
Margie Duncan, Secretary  
Bob Althoff  
Gus Blass, III  
William (Bill) Cravens  
Merritt Dyke  
Dora Jane Flesher  
Jeff Fox  
Jim Harris  
Jay Heflin  
Carmie Henry  
Jeff Johnson  
Chris Ligon  
Russ McDonough, III  
Sonya Mendelsohn  
J.D. Simpson, III  
Bud Whetstone  
Alonzo Williams, M.D.  
Andrew Turner, Emeritus

**P.A.R.K. Inc. Board**

Keith Jackson, President  
Estel Jeffery, Jr., Chair  
Stephanie Johnson, Secretary  
Junious Babbs  
Gus Blass, III  
Mark Fortune  
Andrew Harper  
Schawnee Hightower  
Colette Honorable  
Melanie Jackson  
Mark Leverett  
Evangeline Parker  
Dwayne Stuart  
Wes Sutton  
Andrew Turner, Emeritus

## AN EXPANDED ATMOSPHERE

### BY JACINDA JONES, STUDENT LIFE MANAGER



For the last few months, former librarian and P.A.R.K. volunteer Mrs. Tricia Rhodes along with Mrs. Peggy Pierce have been working feverishly in setting up and cataloging the P.A.R.K. library with over 800 new books along with state of the art book computerized check out system. These ladies have help in expanding our positive atmosphere.

Thanks to the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, the P.A.R.K. Library contains

books that can and will help students in various academic subjects ranging from local to international history, science, ACT prep, and art to name a few. Other book subjects include fiction novels; self help for teens, career, spiritual and a host of reference books. All the books were purchase with every kind of P.A.R.K. student in mind on various reading levels. There is even an adult interest section for staff and parents. The library still contains useful books from our past collection, which help add to the enormous wealth of knowledge and opportunity in P.A.R.K.'s atmosphere.



Tricia Rhodes



Peggy Pierce

Library continued pg. 5

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR READERS & VISITORS

Wow! I am overjoyed on so many levels. There's a whirlwind of memories and emotions, but the one that shines brightest is PRIDE. I am extremely proud of P.A.R.K. Though I've visited several times, today was my first visit when the students were present. I just stood there thanking God for the opportunities you are putting before them. I don't know that they can fully appreciate yet what a difference P.A.R.K. is making in their lives, but as a former Upward Bounder, I can assure you that you are impacting not only their lives but the lives of their children and their children's children. You are breaking generational curses and building

dynasties! All because one man dared to have a **vision**. Thank you, Mr. J.

In talking with Marquese and the other young lady who attends OBU (**Ashley Young**), I felt like a proud parent! They're exceptional. You have and continue to plant great seeds and now you are reaping a bountiful harvest. Cynthia has invited me to the graduation ceremony for years – I won't miss the next one, as either a volunteer or a visitor! And finally, P.A.R.K.'s P.A.R.K. is . . . Beautiful. Serene. Manicured. Lush. And inspirational. You **all** make P.A.R.K. a first-class act!

*Tammi Bradley*

I read through the report, but what keeps popping into my mind is the faces of the kids. You can see something that is missing in most people. They looked happy and confident. It is truly amazing. It's strange how one person can make everyone they're around better. Keith Jackson really is a special person.

*John Moreton*

These are just a couple of the comments we receive from our newsletter readers and P.A.R.K. visitors. The positive acclamations only assures us that P.A.R.K. is doing the right thing; investing in the future.

**Joshua 4:6 — “What mean ye by these stones?”**

“That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying what mean ye by these stones?”

Whether you called them stones or legacies, they leave an everlasting memorial. In a day when organizations, charities, and ministries are closing their doors for lack of funding, this vision called P.A.R.K. will be around for a long time. At the beginning of 2007 an endowment board was put together with the HOPE of raising ten million dollars. Hope is capitalized because when your hope is in God, it is already done. As my Pastor, Happy Caldwell would say, “The good news is we have all

the money we need. The bad news is it’s in your pockets.”

Today P.A.R.K. will become a permanent fixture in this community because of the generosity of people. God blesses his people so they can be a blessing. If it wasn’t for your willingness to give, P.A.R.K. wouldn’t be making a substantial impact in these students’ lives. Over 119 P.A.R.K. students have been sent to college since the year 2000. P.A.R.K. has several students in college scheduled to graduate in December, 2007 or in May. P.A.R.K. students understand that hard work, determination and education will be the key to a successful life. These students need to be able

to say, “I have such unalienable rights as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Speaking of the endowment, board member Jeff Fox said, “This secures the sustainability of a great life changing program.” People have already started to champion the cause. P.A.R.K. is proud to say we’ve raised several million dollars, but still have a ways to go. Together we can make a difference in these students’ lives “One Child At A Time.” They will bring their children back to see the building and program that made a difference in their lives. “What mean ye by these stones?”

**Keith's Corner**



*“This secures the sustainability of a great life changing program.”*  
**-Jeff Fox**

**JASON LANIER**

Student Life Manager



Student Life Manager Jason Lanier loves P.A.R.K.’s spirit. “I get a sense of accomplishment when I leave (P.A.R.K.) to go home. I love kids. I see so much of me in a lot of them, so it’s easy to communicate to them,” he commented. Lanier’s enthusiasm in working as a link between his assigned schools and P.A.R.K. students is a plus in building relationships with the students and their parents.

Asked about how he sees the future of P.A.R.K., Lanier

stated that he thinks it will continue to grow. He also pointed out that there are many other cities that need a program like P.A.R.K. This is a dream shared by many who have witnessed P.A.R.K.’s success first-hand.

One whose hobbies include sports, cards, and spending time with his family, Lanier was born in Pasadena, California, and raised in Little Rock. He has his hands full with his own website and with writing a book. In addition, his family keeps him busy, as he and his wife have two sons, Derrick and Jacob. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Arkansas Little Rock.

**The \$500,000 Meal**

by Jeff Fox  
 Foundation Board Member

As we all know, Keith loves to eat. On August 7<sup>th</sup> Keith was served lunch and dessert and then some when he spoke to several members of Alltel’s management team. Convincing the group in attendance of the success P.A.R.K. has already achieved was very easy. Former P.A.R.K. graduate Adrian Harris chimed in with Keith and stated, “I was hard headed and wanted things my way, but P.A.R.K. put me on the right track. Now, not only am I going to graduate with a Bachelor’s, but I’m taking my GRE for graduate school.” You might say those in attendance decided to put their money where their mouths were.

The vote of confidence and show of support raised about five hundred thousand dollars that one day toward the ten million dollar endowment that is currently under way to help secure the future of P.A.R.K. Investing in the students and the program was a way to validate all that has been accomplished and to continue to ensure long-term benefits for the children of P.A.R.K.

## P.A.R.K. ENJOYS A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER

*by Blenda Barnes, Curriculum Coordinator*

*The students were here and the staff was too,*

*We all worked hard, and the students learned  
all summer through.*

*Their brains are filled and their minds ready for  
school,*

*And hopefully next spring the students will leave  
with scholarships ready to rule!*

While most teens are frolicking in the sun and enjoying the carefree days of summer, P.A.R.K. students were buckling down and preparing for serious schoolwork. As a result, P.A.R.K. had another successful summer, and the students are ready to tackle the challenges that school will surely give them. And, as in previous summers, the students continued to show progress by increasing their pre and post-test scores in all academic areas.

These great strides could not have been accomplished without the dedicated staff here at P.A.R.K. who strive to “fill in potholes” by assessing each student, getting rid of their apprehension about a subject and to increase their overall ability to study and excel in areas that have been a challenge

for them.

This summer the students attended English, math, Spanish, Skills Tutor, science, and Study Skills. Each class was held for 55 minutes and focused on the following:

1. Math focused on everything from multiplying and dividing fractions to solving equations and recognizing equations in slope-intercept form to ACT prep.
2. We took a different approach in English this summer. In this class we focused on three novels that our students will be reading this school year. Eighth graders read *The Pigman*, ninth graders read *The Pearl* and the tenth graders read *Of Mice and Men*. Our daily class schedule consisted of a short review over selected literary terms, oral and silent reading time and a short discussion of daily reading. The students also learned grade level literary terms in order to help them to better comprehend the novels.
3. Spanish focused on the basics of Spanish, which include numbers, days of the week, and months of the year, seasons, and colors. By the end of the summer, the students were also able to name their clothing in

Spanish, describe the weather conditions, and name family members.

4. Skills Tutor is an on-line tutorial that acts as a personal tutor and designs an individual study plan for each student. This class focused on Reading Comprehension and Basic Math such as Understanding Numbers and Using Addition & Subtraction.

5. Science focused on the Scientific Method and completing a successful Science Fair project. P.A.R.K. held its very own Science Fair and awarded a first, second and third place winner with trophies and gift certificates to the mall and Best Buy!

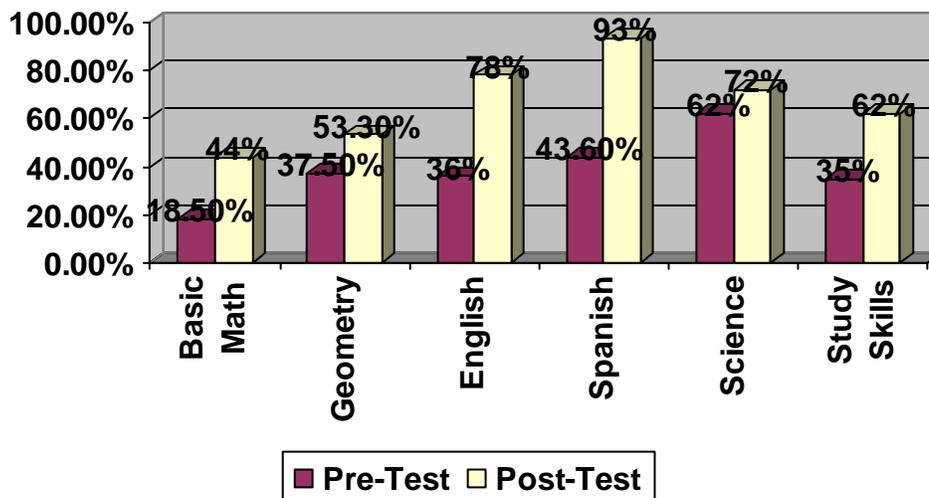
Study Skills focused on organizational skills, note taking skills and test taking skills to name a few.

The older students in the Accelerated Learning Center focused on ACT prep, writing essays for college applications and scholarships, as well as Career Orientation and Life Skills.

Our report card indicates that all potholes have been filled with a substance that will never create a void - EDUCATION! Our students left the summer program with

## SUMMER REPORT CARD SEES IMPROVEMENT

(Average increase from pre to post test)



Library continued from page 2

This library will help expand the minds and widen the focus and help break free limited thought patterns that can sometime hold our students back. The library will also help our students grow to imagine and believe in themselves through books that will expose them to new environments, different people and ideas, all to promote success.



### Look who's starting the year off great!

#### The class of 2008!

BY MONIQUE PALMER, EDUCATION OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The Accelerated Learning Center got off to a great start this fall with our incoming seniors. This year's class consists of 25 students from various high schools in Little Rock. Filled with excitement to finally see the culmination of twelve years of hard work, these young people are eagerly preparing for their futures.

Since the doors of P.A.R.K. have opened, students have participated in grade level assemblies to gain information on precisely what they should be doing this year. They have also participated in a workshop given by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. graduate chapters entitled "Go to High School, Go to College."

Each day the students also have access to tutors for homework assistance. Also, we are gearing up for our annual ACT prep classes as we get ready for the October exam.

So, the class of 2008 is off and running. If they stay the course, with the finish line approaching, the victory will be sweet.

### Calendar of Events

#### October

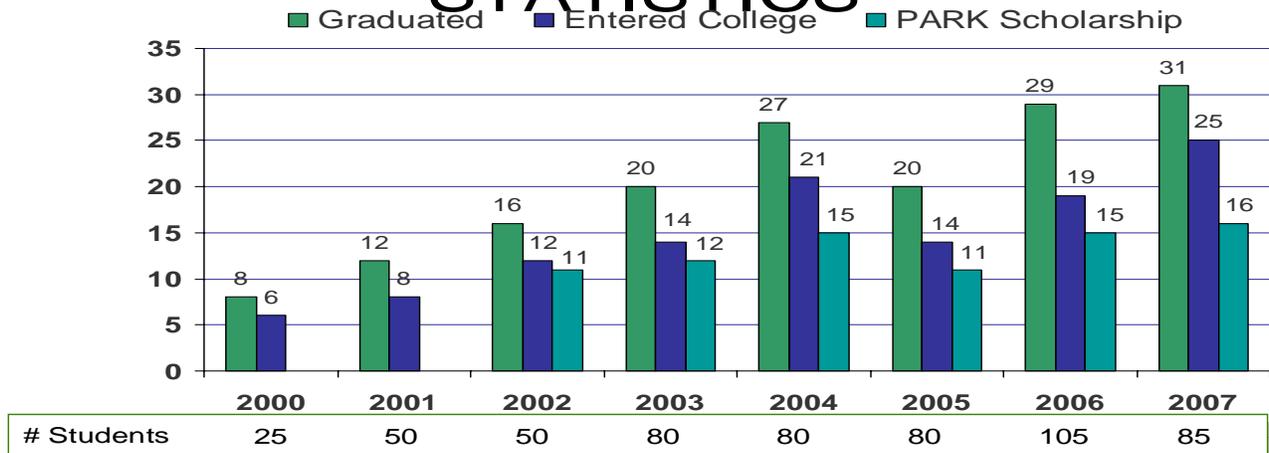
- \*20 Susan G. Komen , Race for the Cure
- \*22 Red Ribbon Week
- \*29 Jerry W. Davis Charity Classic
- \*31 Student Workshop—Goal Setting

#### November

- \*2-3 Project Get Fit (PGF) - Hot Springs Advance
- \*16 Accelerated Learning Center college tour



## 2007 P.A.R.K. GRADUATE STATISTICS



- > PARK total graduates to date – 163
- > Total students entered college – 119 (73%)
- > Total students with PARK scholarship assistance – 94 (79%)
- > Total students currently in college – 78 (66%)
- > College graduates – 4
- > Military – 11

# RODRICK McCOLLUM, JR.



Rodrick McCollum will tell anyone who asks that since arriving at P.A.R.K. five years ago he has gone from being anti-social to having lots of friends. And on top of that, his grades have improved dramatically.

“P.A.R.K. has completely changed my life,” stated the P.A.R.K. and Parkview High 12<sup>th</sup> grader. “Since I’ve been here, I’ve done a complete 180°.”

Monique Martin-Palmer, P.A.R.K.’s Education Outreach Coordinator, couldn’t agree more.

“Rodrick started the program a shy and quiet kid. He often tried to fade into the background. Over five years, we have seen him blossom here at P.A.R.K. He has improved his grades, stepped into leadership roles, and is very active in his community.”

Rodrick’s active life includes involvement at school and in church as well as in his community. At Parkview he is a member of FBLA, Gentlemen’s Club, FCLA, Alpha Omega and baseball. At his church he is in both the youth and adult choirs, sits on the usher board, serves as secretary of Sunday School, is involved in ministering hands, and is Youth President. In

Little Rock he has participated in Race For the Cure and nursing home visits.

Rodrick’s family includes his mother Diane, father Rodrick, Sr., sister Tasha, and brother Ryan. And while he loves his family, he says P.A.R.K. gives him someone else he can talk to instead of his relatives.

“The staff listens to my problems and helps me solve them,” he declared.

Everyone who works at P.A.R.K. would surely agree with Martin-Palmer’s assessment of Rodrick: “It has been great watching him blossom where he has been planted.”

The future definitely looks bright for Rodrick McCollum, Jr.



6915 Geyer Springs Road  
Little Rock, AR 72209

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Little Rock, AR  
Permit No. 1741

