



President's Note

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There is a line in the Talmud that states, "Every blade of grass has its angel that bends over it and whispers, Grow! Grow!" It is a remarkable sentiment; and can anyone who has witnessed the sudden springs of Chicago doubt that such a thing is true?

This same remarkable sentiment lies at the heart of North Lawndale College Prep (NLCP). Our explicit self understanding is that on the shoulder of each and every student there bends a community of adults who whisper, "Grow! Grow!" (Being a high school, I must admit - it is really more of a shout than a whisper.)

They say the Eskimos have over 35 words for snow. At NLCP we have at least that many ways to shout GROW!

- 150 students spent a portion of their summer on college campuses in academic enrichment programs through Phoenix Rising. Next summer we will send 200. GROW!
- NLCP does not believe in metal detectors, choosing instead to teach the more effective skills of making peace. GROW!
- Over 50% of our juniors and seniors will take at least one AP course – GROW!
- From "Straighten your tie!" to "Five college applications by November!" NLCP staff and parents have a million repeated conversations with our students, but they all boil down to just one imperative – GROW!

The success of NLCP is so important. Graduation from high school and college is a matter of life and death for young people from under resourced communities. There are too many who fear that teenagers from poor neighborhoods cannot grow. It is said that there is too much violence, too much racism, too many broken families, too many gangs, drugs and guns.

NLCP categorically rejects this limiting fear. Poverty should never be a barrier to achievement. Young people need a community of teachers and parents who establish high academic expectations and a system of rigorous social supports, adults who will seize every opportunity to challenge their precious young people to GROW.

When this happens in a school, it is a beautiful thing. NLCP is just such a place. Thank you for trusting us with your son or daughter. We will never stop shouting, "GROW!"

Sincerely,

John Horan



Inside this issue:	
Honor Roll	Page 2
NLCP Admissions	Page 2
The Arts at NLCP	Page 3
College Fairs	Page 3
Reading Initiative	Page 4
Day of Testing	Page 4
Student and Parent Activities	Page 5
Technology	Page 5

Important Dates & Upcoming Events:
• Progress Report Pick Up September 24th
• No School (Professional Development) September 26th
• Testing & Senior Workshops October 1st
• No School (Columbus Day) October 13th
• ACT Testing (Seniors) October 25th
• NLCP College Fair (Juniors & Seniors) October 29th
• Trimester I Final Exams November 5th-6th
• No School (Professional Development) November 7th
• No School (Veterans Day) November 10th-11th
• Trimester 2 Begins November 12th

Spring Trimester Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students who achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the spring trimester!
 These students were recognized at an honors assembly on Monday September 8th.

Class of 2011	Joseph Hardnett	Ciara Portis	Adrian Jones
Gerrie Avant	Precious Henderson	Tashara Prince	Kayla Jones
Jessica Baker	Kenneth High	Khadyah Pullen	Darlisa Scott
Lanesha Baldwin	Ashley Holman	Annquinnette Rice	Cheri Steverson
Raven Beck	Bria Hyde	Tashay Slater	Amanda Thorpe
Michael Blair	Joshua Island	Tierra Smith	Dominique Verse
Janice Blizzard	Jemel Johnson	Jasmine Spearman	Candice Williams
Tianna Borner	Shaquia Johnson	Jennifer Spearman	
Cherrish Brown	Amber Jones	Latisha Steel	
Kenyatta Brown	Chantel Jones	Tyesha Taylor	
Rogherick Butler	Lateka Link	Brandon Thorpe	Class of 2009
Shakia Carter	Darshi Lockett	Takeyah Treadwell	Shalissa Abbey
Paradise Clark	Kierra Magett	Tiffany Ward	Crystal Adams
Paris Clark	Candice Mallett-Torry	Ta'Shai Washington	Shemika Cookbey
Daphne Coats	Briana Marshall	Tiara Wiggins	Louvina Davis
Breana Cooke	Brittany McGee	Sharis Williams	Christopher Frills
Dimitri Crittle	Taylor McGee	Kee'Ana Wolfe	Tiffany Holden
Tyshawnda Davis	Armani McKinnie		Jasmine Holman
Willie Dawson	Chritopher Mitchell	Class of 2010	Brandon Hummons
Paige Diggs	Malcolm Molette	April Birge	Tyesha McIntosh
Fushawanda Felder	Rashe Monroe	Angela Brown	Bianca Robinson
Jamie Finley	Aretha Morgan	Tanasia Burton	Alexis Sherrod
Montinique Garner	Michelle Myles	Destaney Davis	Nakeisha Shields
Dantrell Gibson	Briana Noble	Cadavian Dean	Robert Stuart
Geron Grace	Felicia Parker	Jessica Harris	Brittney Thomas
Jasmin Graham	Krishundra Parker	Keshona Jackson	John Wash
Erika Haggard	Jemice Petty		Brittany Wiggins

Open Houses for Eighth Graders and Families

Do you know an eighth grader who is interested in attending North Lawndale College Prep next year? NLCP students and parents are our best recruiters! Let your friends and family know it's already time to start planning for high school admission!

All admissions information (including the application) will available soon on the NLCP website.

Any questions should be directed to the Christiana Campus main office at (773) 542-1490.

Open Houses

November 20, 2008 at 6pm at Christiana Campus

December 11, 2008 at 6pm at Collins Campus

January 15, 2009 at 6pm at Christiana Campus

Important Dates

Application deadline is January 22, 2009 at 4pm

Lottery will be held on February 18, 2009

Commitment reply deadline is March 6, 2009

Writing & Media Center

September 4th marked the grand opening of the brand new Writing & Media Center now located in Room 006 at the Christiana Campus— directly across from the cafeteria. The Center boasts 30 brand new computers, a printer, and several tables for group and individual studying. Students can take advantage of these resources every day before and after school and during lunch. Students can also schedule appointments to work with a Writing Coach on any paper for any class. Please encourage your kids to come to the new Writing & Media Center! The Writing & Media Center is staffed by Nora Gross, Mike McKenzie and LaShanda Holmes. Any questions can be directed to Nora Gross at ngross@nlcphs.org.

“Do Art” Department

The Do Art Department is born!

This year NLCP is proud to announce that Free Spirit Media, Performing Arts and Visual Arts have combined forces to create a new department. This new department is dedicated to making the Arts more visible in our NLCP community. We have a vibrant community and the Do Art Department only wishes to enhance it!

Arts Night!

The Do Art Department’s first initiative is the creation of NLCP’s first ever ARTS NIGHT! Tired of the same old same old when it comes to picking up your child’s progress report? From here on out, every Progress Report Pick-Up Night is a chance for you to come and experience the many artistic endeavors of your NLCP family. In fact if you just received this newsletter right here at NLCP during progress report pick-up.....Arts Night is going on right now! What are you waiting for? MAD Productions is proud to announce NLCP’s first Arts Night! Media, Art and Drama have joined forces to create the first of many interactive evenings dedicated to Art! Wednesday, September 24 during progress report pick up! Come to the auditorium to browse the art gallery, view NLCP student made films, watch live performances and enjoy refreshments!

Drama Club

The Drama Club has been formed. We welcome new members! It’s not too late to jump on board. The Drama Club meets every Monday directly after School at the Christiana Campus, Room 012.

News from Free Spirit Media

Free Spirit Media has had an exciting summer and is off to a great start this fall. Over 30 NLCP students participated in FSM summer programming. For the 5th year in a row, FSM's HoopsHIGH sports broadcasting program hosted the 8- week Douglas Park Classic Basketball Tournament, which provides an opportunity for community members to form basketball teams and compete and a tournament that celebrates peace and sportsmanship. FSM students also addressed critical community issues in partnership with Umoja Student Development Corporation with films that addressed police relations, teen and parent relationships, and taxes.

On August 26th two of FSM's video production students traveled to the Democratic National Convention in Denver to film a documentary that asks the question, "What are the grounds for hope in America?" Brandon Hummons and Chris Frills, ranked first and second in their class, are seniors at FSM's partner school, North Lawndale College Prep Charter High School. Both Brandon and Chris are talented film/TV producers and have taken several FSM classes. Accompanying Brandon and Chris was Joseph Berry, an NLCP alumni and graduate of Southern Illinois University, who now works as an instructor and technology coordinator for Free Spirit Media.

College Fairs

NLCP COLLEGE FAIR

FOR JUNIORS, SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH 5:30-7PM

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

**We haven't forgotten about the
freshmen and sophomores!**

**NLCP will host another college fair in the spring.
Stay tuned for more details.**

OTHER COLLEGE FAIRS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Silas Purnell College Expo

Saturday, September 27th 11am-2pm
at Tuley Park Field House (90th & King Drive)

NACAC Performing & Visual Arts College Fair

Saturday, October 11th 1-3pm
at Northwestern University Blomquist Recreation Center
(617 Foster Street in Evanston)

NACAC College Fair

Saturday, October 25th 10am-2pm at Navy Pier
Festival Hall A (600 E Grand)

Rise through Reading

Hello Parents!

Our names are Lovie Sanders and Jill Deets. Lovie Sanders works at the Christiana Campus and Jill Deets works at the Collins Campus; Together we make up a team of Reading Specialists at NLCP. Let us take this opportunity to thank you for your support and involvement in your child's education. This is an exciting year for our students' overall growth and development. This initial letter is to let you all know about the new things that are taking place at NLCP around reading and skills development. In an effort to build our students' reading skills and, as a result, their overall comprehension, NLCP has adopted a reading initiative ("Rise through Reading"). This reading initiative will focus on developing reading skills in every class. As informed educators, we already know that parent involvement in any school program is essential to the success of that project. The only way that you can be involved is to be informed.

We are asking for your help. We will include reading advice in the monthly parent newsletter to give you some ideas for assisting your child in building their reading skills at home. We will also launch our new "Rise through Reading" website on November 1st. You will be able to gain access to the website through a direct link from the NLCP website. This website will promote activities and overall information about ways to strengthen our students' reading skills. Studies show that if adults make an effort to support student learning from every angle such as teacher and parent involvement along with student involvement, great growth will be achieved.

In celebration of National Literacy month, NLCP has launched its S.O.A.R. (Students Organized Around Reading) book club. This book club is designed to give students the opportunity to read and discuss topics in a social environment. Most English teachers are also offering extra credit to students who participate in the book club. If your child is interested, please have them contact Jill Deets at the Collins Campus or Lovie Sanders at the Christiana Campus.

We look forward to partnering with you. Should you want to contact us, we can be reached via phone or email.

Lovie Sanders (773) 542-1490 lsanders@nlcphs.org

Jill Deets (773) 542-6766 jdeets@nlcphs.org

Sincerely,

Lovie Sanders and Jill Deets



This Month's Reading Tidbit

This month consider having magazines around the house that both you and your child might be interested in reading. Some magazine examples might be *Essence*, *Jet*, *Ebony*, *Vibe*, *Sister to Sister* or any magazine that your child might find interesting. Encourage your child to take time and read something enjoyable for twenty minutes each day. If you both have read a particular article, ask your child what did they thought of a particular article and talk about it with them. This is a great way to build family relationships and expand student reading in the process.

The Importance of Wednesday, October 1st!

Student attendance is important EVERYDAY. Attendance on Wednesday, October 1st will be especially critical for all NLCP students. The freshmen, sophomores and juniors will take standardized tests and the seniors will participate in workshops to help them prepare for college. All freshmen are required to take the EXPLORE test in the fall. All sophomores are required to take the PLAN test in the fall. NLCP provides a unique opportunity for juniors to take a practice ACT test.

The anticipation of a standardized test can cause students to be nervous and ask many questions. We hope an explanation can put students and parents at ease. **Standardized testing can actually benefit students and parents! How?** The results of a standardized test provide an opportunity for a student and his/her parents to gain a better understanding of academic strengths and weaknesses. The EXPLORE, PLAN and practice ACT help to predict success on the ACT which is critical for the college admissions process. The career interest inventory which is included in the standardized test gives a student an opportunity to explore career and educational interests. The results of the standardized test allow NLCP to assess student achievement and monitor academic progress to help all students achieve their goals. **How can students prepare for a standardized test?** The best preparation is to come to school every-day and stay on track. It is important to get plenty of rest leading up to a day of testing. A student should eat a healthy breakfast before the test. A student who is well-rested and well-fed can focus better on the test. A student should arrive to school early so he or she is not feeling rushed or nervous leading up to the test. A few deep breaths and a minute or two of meditation prior to the test can help a student feel relaxed. Questions about testing can be directed to your child's counselor. The ACT website is also a helpful resource: <http://www.act.org>.

All students must arrive to school by 8am on Wednesday, October 1st.

All students will be dismissed at 12pm (regular Wednesday dismissal time).

College Readiness Program for Freshmen and Sophomores

The Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) offer a College Readiness Program to NLCP students. The ACI College Readiness Program provides year-round academic enrichment and personal growth opportunities for students. The program prepares students for college through goal setting, ACT prep, college and scholarship research, and support for the college application process. All events happen one Saturday per month at local colleges and another weekday per month at NLCP. Parents are invited to select events too. Interested freshmen and sophomores are welcome to apply to the program. Space is limited to ten students! Contact Ms. Kuhn by October 3rd at lkuhn@nlcphs.org or (773) 542-1490 x173.

Congratulations to Jennifer Spearman, Jasmine Spearman and Shaquia Johnson! They have been selected as ITW/Watson Scholars and are eligible for scholarships exceeding \$1,000. As part of this scholarship program, they will participate in the ACI College Readiness Program.

Get Out the Vote!

The Civic Engagement Program is now directed by Ms. Tiffany Childress. Ms. Childress is currently working with students who are passionate about the upcoming election. NLCP students are registering voters and informing the community about the presidential candidates. If you are interested in getting involved and supporting the work of these students, please contact Ms. Childress at tchildress@nlcphs.org or (773) 542-1490.



Special Offerings to Students and Parents

Technology Offerings for Parents

Are you interested in learning more about computers and technology? Do you need to brush up on basic computer skills? Mr. Charlie Martin is available to meet with parents one on one to teach basic computer skills. He can be reached at cmartin@nlcphs.org or (773) 542-1490.

Free Vision Screenings & Eye Glasses for Students

Does your student need eye glasses? Free vision screenings are available to students on October 1st. Contact Mr. Brandon Lenore at blenore@nlcphs.org or (773) 542-1490 to obtain more information and required forms. First come, first served!



Adrian Jones and Jonathan Miller (class of 2010) spending an afternoon in the new media and writing center. Read more about it on page 3.

NORTH LAWDALE COLLEGE PREP

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