

The Bulletin

The Kiwanis Club of Columbus



"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world - one child and one community at a time."

Impacting Lives - "Packing Parachutes" for People We May Never Know.

June 23, 2008

Dr. Gene T. Harris

Superintendent, Columbus Public Schools

Dr. Gene T. Harris, Ph.D. 19th superintendent of the Columbus City Schools (CCS), has provided strong leadership resulting in significant measurable gains in academic achievement. Upon becoming superintendent in 2001, Dr. Harris promised to move the district from the state's category of academic emergency to academic watch. Accomplishing this goal in spite of changing state requirements (2003), she attained continuous improvement in 2007. Her next major goal is a 90% graduation rate in 2012. The largest Ohio district, CCS serves 55,246 urban students.



Under Dr. Harris' leadership, the Higher Education Partnership was created, providing a single point of contact between CCS and eight Central Ohio colleges/universities to develop programs that boost student achievement and college readiness. Dr. Harris established the no-cost Saturday Winter Institutes to help students pass the Ohio Graduation Test. The Virtual High School program lets students earn credits online, and the Credit Recovery Program enables them to retake classes and earn credits by computer. Gains include a graduation rate in 2006 of 72.9%, up from 55% in 2001, and the Class of 2007 earning a record \$45.8 million in college scholarships/grants, up from \$33 million in 2005.

Dr. Harris is a native of Columbus with deep roots in the local community and direct experience with public schools as diverse as Ghana and China. A graduate of Linden-McKinley High School, Dr. Harris was admitted to Notre Dame as an upperclassman in the first year the school accepted women. After graduating, she returned to the district to teach English and drama, moving from the classroom to a supervisor of principals and then deputy superintendent. She implemented full-day kindergarten, aligning curriculum to new state standards, and helping to secure a \$15 million National Science Foundation grant. After developing new teacher education and licensure standards as assistant superintendent for the Ohio Department of Education, she returned to CCS, becoming deputy superintendent in 2000 and superintendent in 2000.

Dr. Harris earned her master's degree from The Ohio State University and her doctorate from Ohio University. The recipient of numerous honors, Dr. Harris has received the Champion of Children, Children's Hunger Alliance Educator of the Year, and Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs Stellar Performer awards, among many others. Described as articulate and approachable, Dr. Harris understands that strong public schools are essential to our nation's future. She asks staff, parents and community members to "reach higher" so that every student achieves to the level of his or her full potential. Dr. Harris is Rotarian! She and her husband have one son who resides in New Jersey.



Thank you
Jim Stein & Laura Donahue
for greeting us today.



Thank you
Jerry Durham
for today's
invocation

Calendar of Events

6/23 – Ronald McDonald House Dedication

6/30 - New Business Builders - MBA Program

Thru 8/1 – open enrollment – Regatta sponsors

Scheduled Committee Meetings

June 23

Youth Oppor./Citizenship
Attendance/Retention
Career Guidance
Public Relations

June 30

No Committee Meetings

*Recognition of Hixson
Fellows and 1916 Society
Members.*

*Today's Menu: **Fruit Cup, Cold Chicken Pesto Pasta Salad***

Congrats to Brad

New member **Brad Fisher**, of Fisher Wealth Management, has successfully completed the “Lose The Blues” challenge. Unique to our Club, the “Lose The Blues” program challenges new members to get involved by being a greeter, attending a Trustee meeting, joining a committee, going to an inter-club meeting and so forth. Each time one of the requirements is completed, the new member gets to remove one of six blue dots on his/her Kiwanis name badge. Please join us in congratulating Brad and by encouraging other new members to “Lose The Blues.”



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Call for New Members

The lifeblood of any organization is new members. Not only are they needed to perpetuate the organization, but they bring new ideas, new enthusiasm and new contacts, while adding to the pool of available people to help with projects, serve on committees, etc.

Recruiting new members is easy. We all have friends, neighbors, business associates and clients we see every day. It is easy to assume that they wouldn't be interested in Kiwanis, but most times these obvious prospects have never been asked, and they don't want to be seen as being too forward or uninformed by asking you.

So you need to take the first step. The easiest thing is to bring them to a luncheon meeting, or to a Kiwanis event. If you let a few key people know you are bringing a guest, they can help you make your guest feel at ease and welcome.

And now is a good time to join. Because our annual dues are prorated, a candidate approved at the July Trustee meeting will only have to pay the one-time \$125 initiation fee and \$115 in dues. They will then be billed the full annual dues of \$275 in August for the 2008/09 administrative year that begins October 1.

A little humor please ...

The famous Olympic skier Picabo Street (pronounced Pee-Ka-Boo) is not just an athlete...she is now a nurse currently working at an Intensive Care Unit of a large metropolitan hospital.

She is not permitted to answer the hospital telephones any longer. It caused too much confusion when she would answer the phone and say, “Picabo, I.C.U.”

Did You Know??

The Ohio District of Kiwanis International consists of 9,589 (as of 6/01/08) members serving in 262 clubs located in 28 divisions throughout the State of Ohio. The district was formed on September 26, 1918 and at that time consisted of ten clubs. Five of the first ten clubs in all of Kiwanis International are located in the Ohio District. Cleveland (#2) was formed on January 21, 1915, Columbus (#5) was formed on May 10, 1916, Dayton (#7) was formed on May 31, 1916, Toledo (#9) was formed on June 10, 1916, and Cincinnati (#10) was formed on June 15, 1916.

Our Club, the Kiwanis Club of Columbus, is the largest Club in the District. We are part of Division 10W, along with the Plain City, Washington Court House, London, Westland Area, Hilliard, Dublin, Greater Dublin, Franklinton, Grove City, Hilltop, Northwest Columbus, and University Clubs.

The Butler did it ...

Atlas Butler Heating & Cooling, owned by Kiwanian and Past President Mark Swepston, has purchased Groveport's Waibel Heating Company. Atlas Butler, which serves about 20,000 residences annually and has 105 employees said Waibel's 16-worker staff will become a new division specializing in residential construction and home remodeling. ~ Business First





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Ronald McDonald Says Welcome!

The Kiwanis Club of Columbus has been a supporter of Ronald McDonald House and all of the good work it does for those families needing a place to stay while their children are in the hospital. We have been invited to attend the VIP Reception for the new Ronald McDonald House on Monday, June 23, 2008 from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The house is located at 711 Livingston Avenue, directly across from Nationwide Children's Hospital.



There will be tours, a ribbon cutting and hors d'oeuvres. Brief comments will be made at 6 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Club Secretary Paul Bohlman (pbohlman@aol.com) who will submit an RSVP on behalf of our Club.

Thank you Kiwanis

Excerpts from thank you notes received

From Betty Kletnovets, President of the Tom Fennessy Back-to-School Project:

"Your contribution will make it possible for over 7,000 homeless and needy children start the first day of school on an equal basis with their peers and help improve their self-esteem."

"I was recently sent a quote by Mother Teresa that I think is very appropriate. `We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.'"

From Natalie Coles, Ohio Development Director, Starr Commonwealth Hannah Neil Center:

"You believe in change. You believe that a child in need is an opportunity to show compassion in action. You believe that people can do great things as long as they have passion behind it. You believe there is no such thing as a bad child."

"If it wasn't for the generosity of donors like you we could not impact the lives of children on a daily basis. We could not assure them safe shelter, food, opportunities beyond their imagination and last friendships. We could not change lives had you not made the choice to give."



Please don't forget that we have \$100 grocery cards for Giant Eagle and \$5 re-loadable grocery cards for Kroger! Help support our Club operations and keep our dues low by shopping with a Giant Eagle or Kroger grocery card. You can purchase a card at any Monday meeting.



Has your ship sailed? Or better yet, will it?

The 2008 White Castle Regatta on behalf of childhood literacy is taking shape. Business leaders from throughout central Ohio are setting their sites on Monday, August 18 for what is shaping up to be one of the largest events yet.

But there is still plenty of time to reserve your space and plenty of time to talk to other business associates. How about challenging one of your clients, vendors or neighbors to test their navigational skills? Remember, it's all in good Fun and the proceeds go for a really great cause ... fighting illiteracy. If you are reading this, you know the value of literacy!

So who has stepped up so far? Below is a list of Companies who have already tossed their names in the ring (*or perhaps the pool would be more accurate*) and who are already planning their strategy for taking home the grand prize:

White Castle Systems
Atlas Butler Htg. & Cooling
Abbington Communities
Clark, Schaeffer, Hackett & Co.
Thomas Fenner-Woods Agency
Johrendt, Cook & Eberhart
Long/Taylor Scholarship Co.
National Church Residences
Park National Bank
Past Presidents' Fraternity
Schoedinger Funeral Services
Schottenstein Zox & Dunn
BNY Mellon Wealth Management

UBS Financial
Wachovia
JPMorgan Chase
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Fifth Third Bank
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National City Bank
State Auto Insurance
Triad
Edward Jones



Sign up today! Contact Kathleen Roberts, Marty Jenkins or any Club Officer for more details.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



- 6/23 – John Brady
- 6/23 – Jean Evans
- 6/26 – Robert Reiber
- 6/29 – David Pritchard

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