



YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY

Providing quality education and life skills to all students.



Volume 1, Issue 3

May, 2013

6750 Chime Street Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Phone: (269) 353-4193

Fax: (269) 353-4214

amberlong@ombudsman.com

YAA Staff

Mrs. Long, Director

Ms. Nichols-Hicks, Special Ed Teacher

Mr. Hamann, Teacher

Mr. Gorton, Teacher

Mrs. Esterline, Teacher

Mrs. Kreuze, Teacher

Ms. Bosnak, Transition Specialist

Ms. Williams, Paraprofessional

Governing Board

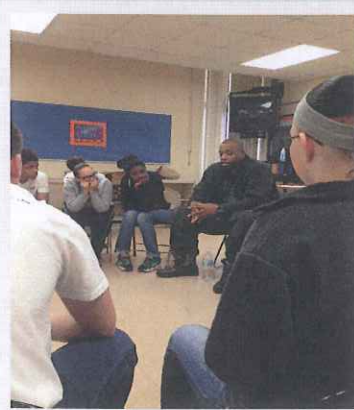
Dr. Dave Hutton, President

Dr. Bob Hamet, Vice-President

Ms. Stacy Randolph, Treasurer

Mr. Jim Ridders, Member

From Indictment to Enlightenment



Too Short and "B" came to visit YAA to share their unique story with the students and staff. After decades of gang activity, drug trafficking, and prison stints, these two men have put aside their differences and are making a positive impact on the youth of Kalamazoo county. Through their remarkable story, Too Short and "B" are able to relate to the students on a "real" level. The students were able to ask questions and take advice, allowing the sessions to be cathartic and time well-spent. The program is entitled *Peace During War*. Once a week Too Short and "B" will return to YAA to talk with our students, encourage personal and academic growth, while showing our students that it is possible to pick yourself up by your bootstraps and start fresh. They hope to motivate the students to make positive choices and recognize their unlimited potential. This is a do-not-miss seminar that the students have come to greatly appreciate!

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Important Dates

Memorial Day- May 27—No School

Picnic /Open-House- May 31

Graduation- June 7

Last day of school- June 26

Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Guest Speakers come to YAA
- ◆ Faculty Bio's
- ◆ Open House & Picnic- Rescheduled!
- ◆ Reading Plus Update
- ◆ Director's Corner
- ◆ Awards

Faculty Bio's

Mr. Gorton

Mr. Gorton is Youth Advancement Academy's **History, Math and Co-Lead Teacher**. This is Mr. Gorton's second year at YAA. Prior, he taught at Three River's Adult Education Center from 1996-2012. Mr. Gorton has a Bachelor's Degree in History, as well as a teaching certificate from Western Michigan University. He received his Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Western Michigan all while working full-time and raising his family! Mr. Gorton is married and has four kids. He is an avid racquet ball player, loves to snowboard, go to the lake and fish.

Ms. Nichols-Hicks

Ms. Nichols-Hicks is Youth Advancement Academy's **Special Education Teacher**. This is Ms. Nichols-Hicks third year with us at YAA! Prior to her time with us, Ms. Nichols-Hicks taught in Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren Counties. She has her Bachelor's Degree in Special Education, as well as a teaching certificate from Western Michigan University. She holds her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Spring Arbor University. She has also course work in Glasser's Multiple Intelligences and Cooperative Learning. Ms. Nichols-Hicks has one daughter and two sons. In her free time she enjoys reading, walking, traveling and yoga.

*****Rescheduled*****

Open House & Picnic

Date: May 31, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Location: Youth Advancement Academy

Please join us for a fun filled day to see the school,
have some food, and meet the staff!



Director's Corner

Happy Spring, parents! I would like to take this time to share with you what a wonderful school year we've had. We have been so lucky at YAA to bring three new staff members on board, allowing us to provide more one-on-one support for our students. We've implemented a great new behavior-incentive program, revamped our building, and have seen significant improvements overall. I am proud to share with you that we've awarded over 200 level-up certificates, granted countless credits, and saw a significant increase in our ACT scores! Way to go students!

At YAA we are so excited for the change in the weather; the sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and everyone is itching to get outside to enjoy the warmth. Please remember: even though we are quickly approaching the end of the school year, our rules are still in full effect. Make sure your student is arriving to school on time, wearing their uniform, and staying focused. We want to make sure everyone receives all possible credits.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you parents for your continued support over the course of this school year. Without your help, our students would not have been as successful as they've proven to be. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions. We hope to build on our relationships with you for continued success for years to come.

Please take the time to visit the school on May 31, 2013 from 10-2PM for our spring picnic. We'll be providing lunch and games. All our welcome! This will serve as a great opportunity to see the school, talk with teachers, and receive a first-hand account of the great work your children have been doing.

We hope to see you all soon!

Amber Long
Center Director

Student of the Month



DeMarkus Shannon

Citizenship Award



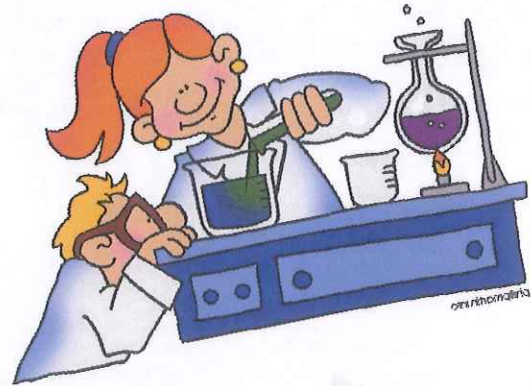
Daniel Nordmark



Reading Plus Level-Ups: 205 Awarded!!



SCIENCE LABS



Lung Capacity
&
Making Oobleck

