



CMSA TRIBUNE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



December 2015

Teacher Spotlight : Sandhya Arora



Sandhya Arora received her teaching degree from National-Louis University and is a Chicago native who has lived here her entire life. This year she teaches RTI classes which enables students to get the extra support they need in the areas in which they are having difficulty. Sandhya loves being around the school environment and helping students achieve their goals. She feels great when a student finally understands something that they may have been struggling with, and seeing the light bulb go off in their heads! Sandhya likes to spend her free time hanging out and doing activities with her family and friends.

Student Spotlight: AV Club



The AV Club plays a major role at CMSA

Students Help Spread Joy for the Holidays



Members of the **Ambassador Club** volunteered their time at **Care for Real (CFR) Food Pantry** to help distribute groceries to those in need. Students engaged with the CFR clients and gained great satisfaction from being of service to others. The students are ready for another volunteer day in 2016!

CMSA Senior: Chicago Reader Top People 2015



by making sure that we are ready to go with all our audio visual needs at concerts, assemblies, etc. This club is new this year and has proven to be a significant addition to our clubs. **Immani Williams is the Manager of the team, and Yared Melesse and Bizo Odebi are Cadets. Kelvin Sherman, Hashim Hanif, Dominic Alvarez, Shane Olivera, Jay Somoye and Dayo Hunley** make up the rest of the team.

New 12th Grade Chair



Michael Bolthouse has accepted the position of 12th Grade Chair. He has served the CMSA community very well for the past four years in his role as social studies, specifically AP US History, AP World History, and Government/Economics teacher. We're looking forward to a great rest of the year as he takes the lead in for the 12th Grade.

Christmas Concert a Success



CMSA's Band performed their annual Christmas Concert to a sell out crowd at Rogers Park Presbyterian Church. As always, the students did a wonderful job. Well done, everyone!

Concept School's Parent Blog



CMSA senior, Iradukunda Jeane is featured as one of the **Chicago Reader's Chicagoans of 2015**. Ira has been doing great things both here at CMSA and in the Rogers Park community and has a powerful story. Ms. Jeanne was born in Tanzania. Her family left the east-African country when she was nine years old as part of a resettlement of Burundian refugees fleeing ethnic violence. She's been adapting to life in the U.S. with the help of **GirlForward**, a nonprofit connecting refugee girls with mentors, education opportunities, and adolescents with similar histories. Here is a link to her story. We are very proud of everything you've accomplished, Iradakunda. Here is the link to the article <http://people2015.chicagoreader.com/who/iradakunda-jeanne/profile/>. Photograph courtesy of the Chicago Reader.

CMSA Hosts FLL Robotics Tournament



We invite you to read the latest entry in the Concept Blog. The topic: Empathy and teaching children to have compassion for others. Great for this holiday season. <http://www.conceptschools.org/what-me-care-5-ways-to-raise-a-child-who-has-a-heart/>



Sixteen teams from Chicago participated in this First Lego League (FLL) **"Trash Trek Challenge"**. FLL introduces young people, ages 9 to 14* (grades 4-8), to the fun and excitement of science and technology. This season's TRASH TREKS Challenge involved teams need to think about the mysterious, but fascinating, world of trash as it pertains to collection, to sorting, to smart production, and its possible reuse. The teams must invent a solution to help our trash problem. They also had to create their own LEGO MINDSTORMS® robot to accomplish trash-themed "missions" on a playing field.

CMSA Ranks as Level 1+

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS RATES CMSA AS LEVEL 1+ SCHOOL
Students made significant gains in key areas:

- Reading growth on NWEA MAP (grades 5-8) → Better than **85%** of schools nationally
- Math growth on NWEA MAP (grades 5-8) → Better than **94%** of school nationally
- Growth of EPAS assessment series (grades 11) → Better than **96%** nationally
- College Persistence rate (class of 2013) = **84.6%** of graduates persisting in college
- My School, My Voice Survey → Well organized school
- Attendance Rate → **97.3%**

27% of District schools are Level 1+ and 17% of Charter schools are Level 1+

Chicago Math & Science Academy is ranked Level 1+ by Chicago Public Schools. According to their SQRP report, CMSA students made significant gains in key areas:

- **Reading growth** on NWEA MAP* (grades 6-8) = is in the **top 15%** of schools nationally
- **Math growth** on NWEA MAP* (grades 6-8) = is in the **top 6%** of schools nationally
- **Growth of EPAS assessment series** (grades 11 PLAN to ACT) = is in the **top 4%** nationally
- **College Persistence Rate** (class of 2013) = **84.6%**
- **Attendance Rate** = **97.3%**

**NWEA = Northwest Evaluation Association & (MAP) = Measures of Academic Progress are nationally recognized norm-referenced assessments used as one metric in the school quality equation.
Comparison

CMSA Honored as One of the "Best High Schools"

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS
U.S. News & World Report
BRONZE 2015

Chicago Math & Science Academy was awarded a Bronze Medal in U.S. News & World Report's 2015 Best High Schools

Woodshop Club Celebrates



As the winter holiday break approaches **CMSA Woodshop Club** had its final work day of the fall semester on December 3rd. Throughout the semester students have been working on various projects including I-pad docks, coat hooks and a Jacob's ladder. **Junior Jocelyne Perez and Sophomore Alejandro Trejo** are the first students to complete multiple projects this year. Come January both students plan to continue developing their skills with even more advanced projects. Jocelyne plans to build an oak side table and Alejandro plans to build an oak stowaway bench. A big shout out to all the

ranking. Only 4 charter schools in Illinois and 9 in Indiana made the list. Considering there are around 30,000 public high schools in the United States, this is truly a great honor and testament to the hard work and dedication of the CMSA students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members. We are very proud of this recognition.

You Can Help CMSA!

Please consider making a difference in the education of Rogers Park youth with a tax-deductible donation. We will gladly accept a check, credit card or you can use PayPal through the CMSA website.

Your donation will directly help our students succeed by providing such things as STEM-related textbooks, incentives for academic achievement, equipment for science labs, robotics kits, etc.

Remember that every donation received by CMSA gives inner-city youths the opportunity to fulfill their educational dreams.

Join us as our philanthropic partner in continuing our excellence in education. You can click the Donate button below. Every dollar makes a difference! We thank you for your support and generosity.



students who participated in woodshop for the fall 2015 semester: **Rafael Perez, Martha Bernabe, Daniel Vilchis, Orlando Bautista, Kevin Arreola, Alejandro Trejo, Stephan Epan, Bizimungu Obedi, Jocelyn Perez, Yared Melesse**. The goal of CMSA woodshop is to help students develop useful and creatively rewarding lifetime skills. As students participate in the CMSA Woodshop Club they get to put their mathematics and engineering learning to use in a real life industrial setting.

Fifty-five Students Inducted into the National Honor Society



A new group of students took the **National Honor Society (NHS)** pledge at their induction ceremony recently. These students exemplify the four pillars of the NHS which include a high cumulative GPA, a commitment to service demonstrated leadership, and great character by demonstrating high standards of honesty, reliability, and respect for others. We congratulate them and look forward to many great things from this accomplished group:

Sabah Ibrahim, Roshan Siddiqui, Gabriel Ojeda, Lance Gabriel Velez, Gustavo Cruz, Abenazer Mekete, Gabriel Onofre Cruz, Shagufta Khatoun, Jennifer Dominguez, Samantha Garcia, Tobiloba Olasunkanmi, Kinglsey Chukwudi, Maryam Syeda, Lilly Mekonnen, Mariana Perez, Brenda Merchan, Aubrielle Delos Reyes, Mohammed Jawaid, Ashanti Simpkins, Gabriella Cabrera, Jennifer Castillo, Samir Al Ali.

Between Friends Teaches Students Healthy Relationships



Matt Walsh, Natalia Barrero, and Morgan Brown are a very familiar face at CMSA - they are facilitators from **Between Friends**, a nonprofit agency dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence and building a community free of abuse. They have been helping our students learn how to build and sustain healthy relationships through Between Friends' REACH program. Since 1995, The Relationship Education and Choice for (REACH) has addressed teen dating violence by providing prevention and education programming for over 70,000 middle and high school students, ages eleven through eighteen. In fact, Friends' REACH Program is one of the largest and most comprehensive teen dating violence prevention programs in Illinois. In line with best practices, Friends is focusing our work on schools where we can provide a continuum of programming to students between grade levels and programs. We are very grateful to have **Natalia, Matt and Morgant** here on a regular basis helping our students!

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