



Eye News Quarterly

Love is an action, a way of life, an example set; love is reflected in a child's eyes and they are always watching

February 2015

Volume 2

Cameras for Kids Program



In February, Chemistry Multi-media (through 314photos.com) and Ebony Eyes launched a project to encourage student (grades 3-12) interest

in photography and to showcase images of St. Louis through the eyes of the youth. The program will include classroom activities as well as internet submissions. Students are encouraged to take photos of places, people and events that they deem reflect the spirit of St. Louis. Camera for Kids encourages students to observe St. Louis through a different lens, to think about their city and its impact as well as to give you a voice that will be captured and compiled into a photobook. The photobooks will be sold to fund future Ebony Eyes educational and photography programs. #eyesonstl

For more info: <http://www.ebonieyes.org/middle-school-career-fairs/>

Reading Program Update

On November 17th, Ebony Eyes went to Peabody Elementary School and conducted a series of activities with the 4th grade classrooms that centered on the 1963 Children's Crusade. The theme for the Ebony Eyes reading programs this year is - Civil Rights: Children Can Spark a Movement and the Birmingham Children's Crusade epitomizes that theme. The Children's Crusade was a three day march to end segregation that occurred May 2-5 in Birmingham, Alabama as a part of the Civil Rights Movement's Birmingham Campaign. Thousands of children, some as young as six years old, were trained to ensure that they understood the purpose of the march

and the significance of nonviolent protest. As the children marched peacefully holding signs and chanting slogans, law enforcement officials attacked them with police dogs, beat them with clubs and firemen sprayed them with high powered hoses. At the end of the three days, more than 2000 demonstrators had been arrested. The brutal actions by law enforcement were prominently displayed in the media which transmitted around the world ultimately forcing the desegregation of Birmingham.

The students at Peabody were fascinated to learn that children so young did something so significant. They also were moved by the images of the children being treated so harshly by the law enforcement just for marching. The classrooms were provided a copy of the book that was read as a part of that day's activities: Witnesses of Freedom: Children of the Civil Rights Movement. If you are not well informed about children's roles in the Civil Rights Movement, I encourage you to read this book!



Children must learn that they have a voice and they are important instruments to advocate for positive social change.

Imagining Success Speaker Series



Eboni Eyes Founder, Charleese Malone-Sampa spoke to several high school classrooms in Oct and Nov 2014: Cleveland NJROTC and Gateway STEM in St. Louis as well as HD Woodson in Washington DC - to encourage students to think about their future and envision what success looks like for them.

Eboni Eyes Scholar Update



John Bentley, a 2014 Eboni Eyes scholarship recipient is off to a great start at Philander Smith College in Arkansas. He earned a 3.5 GPA his first semester and was recently selected for the HBCU Up Undergrad Research Program for Molecular Modeling, the

only Freshman to do so. When asked how he managed to get off to such a great start, he remarked, success is a mindset and he is determined to be successful. John says there is nothing more important than having support and being in a positive environment, which he says God, his mother and Philander Smith College provides him. John plans to major in chemical engineering with the goal of working in the energy field and producing cleaner energy.

Founder's Corner



Parents are Teachers! Our children are precious gifts and their education is critical for both individual success and the social and economic health of our country. I encourage parents to realize that education is not the sole responsibility of schools and teachers. We have a responsibility to expose our kids to activities that

showcase the world around them, teach them to have a viewpoint and to analyze things critically. Encourage your children to watch the news and discuss it with them so that they know about current events. Bring your children to museums and other places and events that provide a cultural foundation and teaches them their history. Education is a partnership with schools and teachers and it must be reinforced and emphasized as a value at home. No successful person will attribute their success solely to the public school system ... Let's set out kids up for success!

Charleese Sampa is a Navy Commander and graduate of Gateway High School and St. Louis University

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Donations and Volunteers

Donations and volunteers are needed! Reading programs average \$500 per classroom. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are provided each year.

GoFundMe Campaign for reading programs:
<http://www.gofundme.com/jjw9ro>

Kickstarter Campaign for Camera for Kids Program:
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/134612139/help-publish-eyes-on-st-louis-photo-book>

Donations can be sent to the address below:

Eboni Eyes Educational Opportunity Foundation
PO Box 78117
St. Louis, MO 63178

For more information: www.ebonieyes.org or email: csampa@ebonieyes.org

You can make a difference!