



# Virtual Schoolhouse

High Quality Alternative Educational Experience

## Board Members

Philip Piccus

Sherry Epstein

Lisa Muskal

Paul Burton

Chuck Whitehill

**February 19, 2010**

## **Great Happenings**

- High School student, **Sakina Lashley**, has enrolled in the Bryant & Stratton College's January Jumpstart program to begin her college career. (submitted by **David Gilbert**)
- The High School Student Council had a successful bake sale on Wednesday, they raised almost a \$100.00 that will go towards prom and graduation. Also Student Council through Paul Skyrn are selling Wizards Basket Ball t-shirts for \$12.00. All proceeds also go towards prom and graduation. (submitted by **Jenna Salupo**)
- Our busy month continued this week with not only our current curriculum but also learning about Black History Month, Winter Olympics, Mardi Gras and much more. We are excited to see what new things we will learn next week, our last week of our busy month of February. (submitted by **Mariana Irimies**)
- **Mrs. Bohannon**'s fifth grade class is putting lots of energy into literacy. Their room has a new library full of books for all interests and abilities. Mrs. Bohannon is especially proud of her enlarged print dictionary which helps her visually and perceptually challenged students. Students use a word wall to increase independence in reading and writing. Art is used as a motivator to encourage reluctant language arts students.
- Sixth graders in **Mrs. Oeder**'s class have been using websites and research to learn about The Iditarod Dog Race. This gives her class opportunities to integrate math, science, history, current events and literacy. Individual students are celebrating Black History by reading about African American sports legends. Creative projects based on these readings will be encouraged.
- Seventh and eighth graders in **Ms. Monske**'s literature classes read the novel, *Monster*. Students had the chance to experience literacy circles where jobs and responsibilities are rotated and shared.

Their closing literacy circle activity challenged the literacy circle teams to write down three things that they liked about the novel and three things that they did not like about the novel. The choices reflected a team collaboration. Ms. Monske's goals for the literacy experience were way beyond just reading. She wanted them to increase their social skills and learn how to work in teams by listening to each team member. She hopes literacy circles will help her students learn how to divide up the work for future projects. Miss Monske wants to give each student a voice.

- **Mrs. Heidi Brown** and Ms. Monske's focus was to have students do written research projects on little known black scientists and inventors. They created a list of obscure, but, extremely significant African American scientists and inventors to stretch the students' knowledge and perspectives. Students discovered that some of these famous African Americans became inventors, scientists and researchers as teenagers!! Students compared and contrasted their lives to their famous scientist or inventor.