



*Changing Detroit,
One Child at a Time.*



Lou DeMaris with his student partner,
Alex Hines.
Alex is a 4th grader at
Washington-Parks Academy

THE CORNERSTONE PILLAR



Dear Friends –

The new year has ushered in a new era for Cornerstone Schools Association. Cornerstone is pleased to announce the formation of the Leadership and Business High School which will open this August, 2011. The Cornerstone High School is designed to deliver an excellent, rigorous education that is technology centered, relationally paired with leaders and businesses, and measurable outcomes to assure tremendous career choices for its graduates. Cornerstone brings twenty years of valued experiences, a certified continuous improvement educational model, and the human capital of the numerous members of its broad and beloved community who have lent their considerable experiences and efforts to the creation of this new and innovative educational and operational leadership and business model.

More information on the high school can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. Thank you to all those who have stepped up to support us in this endeavor.

Enjoy this edition of the Cornerstone Pillar. As always, feel free to contact us with your feedback.

Happy New Year!

Warm Regards,

Ernestine L. Sanders
President and CEO

Cornerstone Schools and The Detroit Red Wings – A Great Team!

Cornerstone Schools and The Detroit Red Wings make a great team. Our Successful Be A Tiger for Kids event in August prompted the team at Olympia Entertainment to approach Cornerstone Schools and ask if they could help create a winter time event to support the students of Cornerstone. This led to the creation of Cornerstone Schools “A Night At The Joe!” on December 19, 2010.



The Detroit Red Wings along with our Partners and Friends helped raise much needed assistance for the 1,400 children who attend Cornerstone Independent Schools and Cornerstone Charter Schools. It was a great night.

We are very grateful to Olympia Entertainment, who coordinated this event, Red Wings player Brian Rafalski who helped promote the event in a Cornerstone PSA, and the many Partners who were in attendance.

Upcoming Events

Nevada Primary Black History Month Program (1:00 p.m.)	February 25
5th Annual Pistons Scholars Night	February 26
Washington – Parks Academy Partner Morning	March 8
Lincoln – King Academy Partner Morning	March 9
Cornerstone Schools Partner Morning	March 11

5th Annual Pistons Scholars Night
Saturday, February 26, 2011



For more information,
[click here](#)

1st Quarter, 2011

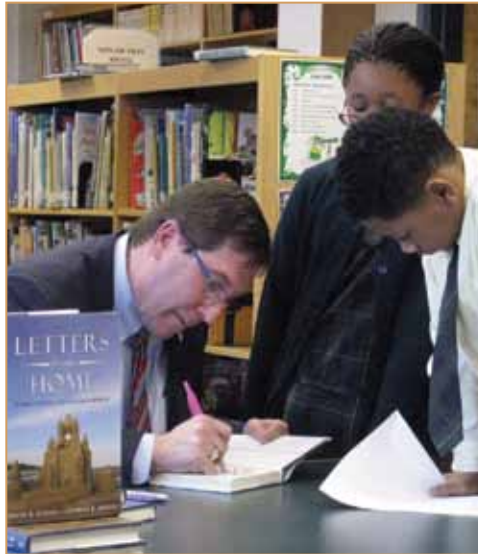
Author Shares His Work with Cornerstone Students

Jill Murphy, a parent of a 5th grade student at Cornerstone Primary, was driving and listening to her car radio when she heard author David Reiser begin speaking about his new book entitled, *Letters from Home: A Wake-Up Call for Success & Wealth*. Mr. Reiser explained that his book, written in the form of letters to his four sons, explores the fifteen virtues that built our country and that foster individual success. Mr. Reiser spoke about the need for schools to take more responsibility in preparing the youth of today to be successful leaders of tomorrow. He said that Detroit Schools were failing in this area.

Mrs. Murphy knew that Mr. Reiser's statement did not apply to Cornerstone Schools. She quickly phoned the radio station and spoke with Mr. Reiser. Mrs. Murphy explained to him Cornerstone's mission, vision and philosophy and the manner in which Cornerstone fosters individual, student success. Mr. Reiser was very intrigued by what he heard and asked to visit Cornerstone Schools.

On December 15, 2010, David Reiser came to Cornerstone. He experienced

first-hand the way that Cornerstone Schools successfully prepares today's students to be tomorrow's leaders. Mr. Reiser met with Cornerstone President



Mr. David Reiser at Cornerstone Schools Book Signing

and CEO, Ernestine Sanders, toured the campus and then spoke to both of our 5th grade classes. Mr. Reiser's message focused on education—the first virtue in his book, *Letters from Home: A*

Wake-Up Call for Success & Wealth. He encouraged students to be life-long learners and explained that academic success is one of the critical factors that will determine their future success. He extolled the benefits of living in the United States and the limitless opportunities this country offers, including the right to an education. All the proceeds for the sale of Mr. Reiser's book will go to charity. He graciously provided a copy of his book to everyone in attendance, and took the time to personalize and sign each one. In addition, he provided copies for the Cornerstone library.

Mr. Reiser concluded his talk to the 5th grade class by quoting Dr. Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

We are grateful to Mr. Reiser for visiting Detroit and speaking with our students. A special thank you to Mrs. Jill Murphy for initiating contact with Mr. Reiser and making his visit possible.

Annual Surveys – Ensuring Excellence in All We Do

Annual Surveys are an important element of our ISO Quality Management System. They show our commitment to continuous improvement and help us ensure "excellence in all we do". In December of 2010, a survey was distributed electronically to more than 5,000 members of our broad and beloved community. Following are some survey highlights.

- When respondents were asked about why they support Cornerstone, the most popular answer (62%) was that they want to help improve lives of children. They also answered that they want to encourage positive change in Detroit and that they want to support quality education.
- A large majority of respondents (90%) have recommended a family member, friend or employee to become involved in Cornerstone.
- From 2009 to 2010 the percentage of those surveyed who said that they would consider making a donation to Cornerstone as a gift to another has gone up dramatically. We appreciate our Partners and friends sharing their love for Cornerstone with others.

- When asked about their preferred methods for receiving information about Cornerstone, the most popular answer (92%) was e-mail. We are grateful for this response because we can use more of our resources to help more children.
- 95% of those who responded to this survey ranked their overall experience with Cornerstone "Above Average" to "Excellent." Congratulations to all those who work to provide the support systems that allow Cornerstone children to receive an excellent education. From our President and CEO to our principals, faculty and staff, we all take pride in that number and will work to continue to maintain those high standards.

Many of those who responded had some very good suggestions for improving what we do and how we do it. We are grateful to those who completed the survey and provided feedback.

We encourage you to contact your Partner Advisor if you have a suggestion or idea for improvement at Cornerstone at any time throughout the year.

Partner Mornings – A Time to Give Back

There was definitely a spirit of generosity and compassion at the December Partner Morning events. The theme was thoughtfully chosen by the children, “Giving Back to the Community”. Many brought canned food items to help the students collect for local food banks, each class competing against the other. Over 1,783 lbs. of food was collected for Gleaners Food Bank ~ all to help our neighbors in need.

In the classrooms, the students and their Partners spent time together working on handmade projects to help our community in a variety of ways: Some designed and decorated cards and ornaments for patients in nursing homes; Beaumont Children’s Hospital and Sinai Grace Hospital; and the outpatient oncology patients at Webber Cancer Center. Other classrooms wrote letters to our military troops overseas. Some made blankets and quilts for newborns and their mothers. And lastly, a number of Partners and their students spent time in a ‘special’ elective class learning more about art, computers, or Spanish and Economics; or participating in violin or vocal lessons.

We were delighted to welcome many new friends and mentors who have recently signed on to become involved. Thank you to DMC Sinai-Grace Hospital, ArvinMeritor, Inc. and First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham. We enjoyed your feedback!



Partner Misty Thompson with Cornerstone Primary Students

We would like to thank everyone who attended for being a mentor to a student and participating in Partner Mornings. On behalf of the students, staff and families, we are always excited to see you and enjoy having you in the classrooms. For more information on how to become involved in this volunteer program, please contact Roseann Whittenburg at partnermornings@cornerstoneschools.org.

We Want to Hear from You!



Join the Cornerstone group on Facebook and encourage others to do so, as well. Stay up to date on all of the wonderful things happening at Cornerstone Schools on our group page.

GO GREEN!



In an effort to decrease administrative costs and be better stewards of the environment at Cornerstone, we are attempting to communicate through e-mail and electronic communications as much as possible.

If you are not currently receiving e-mail communications from us, please contact us via e-mail:

E-mails@CornerstoneSchools.org or call Andrea Perry in the Institutional Advancement Office: 313-892-1860 ext. 297

Music and The Science of Sound Makes a Stop at Cornerstone



Music and the Science of Sound ask Cornerstone students to help illustrate physics

As part of Cornerstone's collaboration with the Cranbrook Community, the Cranbrook Institute of Science and Arts League of Michigan presented *Music and the Science of Sound* to Cornerstone Middle School students on December 6, 2010. James Kurleto, Cranbrook Institute of Science educator, and six local jazz musicians demonstrated physics concepts using live music, video feed, and fun props with audience interaction. They demonstrated how sound moves through space, hits the ear and is processed by the brain.

Students and teachers alike enjoyed this unique presentation. Cornerstone science teacher, Cheryl Pevitt, said, "This type

of program lets students see how science is all around them, in everything they do. What a great experience, listening to some outstanding musicians giving their time and expertise."

Music and the Science of Sound has been presenting at schools all over the Detroit Metro area. Cornerstone, however, struck a particular cord with the group. John Douglas, trumpet player, said, "I knew this school was different the minute I walked in. This is the best school at which we have performed."



Jazz musicians share their talents in a fun lesson on the physics of sound

Investing In Detroit's Future – Alumni Spotlight



Meet Brandon Balogun, Class of 2000 Cornerstone Middle School graduate. Brandon credits Cornerstone with helping him

achieve his current success. He was especially impacted by the Christ-centered curriculum at Cornerstone. He says, "Religion/Christian studies were the most important to me. As a middle school student I might have slightly taken this element for granted, but as I have matured I realized that it was probably the most important aspect related to the successes I have achieved." The Christ-centered curriculum and high academic standards were the primary factors in Brandon's parents choosing Cornerstone.

After graduating from Cornerstone, Brandon attended Belleville High School. He then went on to Central Michigan University, earning both

his undergraduate degree and his MBA. Currently, Brandon is employed by Plante & Moran, LLC as a Certified Public Accountant.

Brandon's best memories at Cornerstone revolve around his time playing basketball for the Cornerstone Bulldogs. He is still a sports enthusiast, enjoying weightlifting and golf.

When asked about Cornerstone's Partner Program, Brandon related that his experiences were excellent. "The Partner program was a great experience. It allowed me to meet and learn from individuals that I might have never interacted with during that period of my life. It was nice to meet professionals and learn about possible career paths."

Brandon supports Cornerstone's vision of a "new city for all." He says, "Cornerstone is truly investing in Detroit's future. I believe Cornerstone and its Partners are changing the lives of our city's youth. Cornerstone has

greatly prepared me for the obstacles that I have overcome and for the challenges that lay ahead. I owe a lot of my successes to the leaders of this organization, the teachers, staff, partners, supporters, and classmates."



Our Goal: A Partner for EVERY Student



Dylon Ledbetter

Dylon Ledbetter is a 2nd grader at Nevada Primary School who likes to play sports, especially games of catch with his dad. Dylon's favorite subject is Math. He is starting to learn multiplication, and that is very exciting for him. Dylon's hero is God because, he says, "He gives me strength to do things that I think I cannot do." Dylon would like to have a Partner of his own because it is fun to do the classroom project with just one person. He would also like to have a Partner to be his friend. Dylon is a friendly young man who likes meeting new people.



Keyon Williams

Keyon Williams loves science because it fulfills his inquiring 6th grade mind. He likes to discover how things work, change and grow. He is a sports fan who enjoys playing football very much. Keyon says, "My hero is my granddad, because he tells me right from wrong." Keyon would like to have a Partner of his own at Washington-Parks Academy so that he can learn about what that Partner does for a living and what skills are involved in that career. He enjoys Partner Mornings, but he believes it would be even more fun with a Partner of his own.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the hero of Lincoln-King 5th grader Monique King. Dr. King inspires her and she admires his work in the civil rights struggle. Monique welcomes challenges in her school work, and for that reason, Math is her favorite subject. As a student without a Partner, Monique has another challenge: sharing different Partners on Partner Morning. Monique would like to engage in one-to-one interaction with an adult Partner because she would like to, "be able to talk to them and tell them a little about me." She believes every student should have a Partner, and that the student/Partner relationship is very important.



Monique King

There are nearly 200 students at Cornerstone's independent and charter schools without Partners. Our greatest need is at the Washington-Parks and Lincoln-King Academies.

If you already attend Partner Mornings, please consider bringing someone with you to be a friend to a child like Dylon, Keyon or Monique. If you do not attend, please consider joining us at the upcoming March Partner Mornings (See Upcoming Events for details).

Cornerstone Music Students Earn Honors

On Saturday, Jan. 15, nine Middle School string players and ten pianists from Cornerstone Middle School participated in the annual Solo/Ensemble Adjudications for the Detroit school district, including both Middle and High School levels.

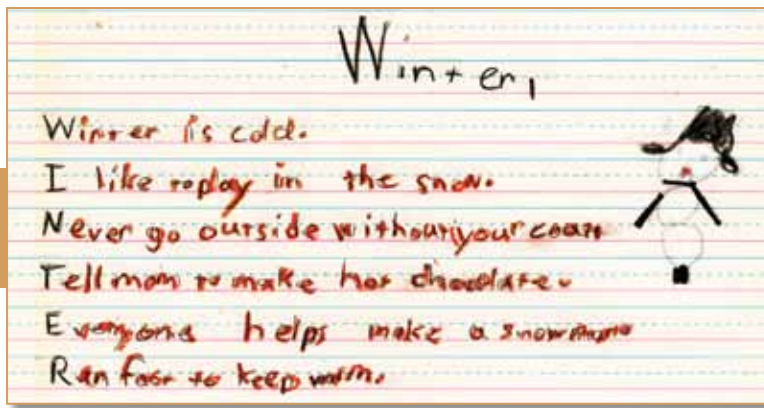
Our nine Chamber Strings members were awarded a total of 26 medals, 21 First Division and five Second Division. First Division is the highest honor a middle school student can achieve. We were told this was a record number, certainly at the middle school level.

We are very proud of our strings students and families, who rehearsed every day during Christmas break except Christmas Eve and New Year's Day and came in every morning at 7:00 a.m. to practice.



Six piano duet teams participated as well. They received four First Division, one Second Division, and one Third Division. To qualify for ratings, the pianists prepared three pieces per team. These students are representing Cornerstone at a very high competitive level in this new event for pianists. Much dedication, practice and preparation helped contribute to the success of the team. Congratulations to the students and teacher, Ms. Marina Ionescu.

We are grateful for the tremendous support from our Cornerstone families, friends, and Partners. Without each of you, this success would not be possible. Congratulations to all our musicians. We hope you are inspired to continue to play music for a lifetime.



Winter Acrostic, Mrs. Stamas's 1st Grade Class, Washington-Parks Academy

Cornerstone Schools Association to Open Leadership and Business High School – Fall 2011

The Cornerstone Leadership and Business High School Mission will establish a model of excellence in urban high school education that develops leaders rooted in the American Founding Principles and in the life, teachings, and spirit of Jesus. Its graduates will be prepared to seek truth and do what is good with disciplined, learned, and inquiring minds and wise, kind, and discerning hearts. Graduates will be responsible citizens, who communicate well and lead full and good lives as productive and contributing members to a free society in a global environment.

These are high standards to reach and to maintain. Thus, Cornerstone has designed a small 200 student high school that focuses on leadership and business. Why this focus? A defining difference for Cornerstone is its Partnership Program that is built on the powerful concepts of relationship and leadership. It is a model that we can take into our high school within the context of an Internship Program. Each student who has the opportunity to attend the CSA Leadership and Business High School will have direct experience within the workplace as an Intern and an opportunity to foster relationships with leaders who will not only model what is

important to succeed as a leader, but will also share lessons learned in their areas of expertise. Excellent workplace ethics, preparation for leadership, and strong academics will prepare Cornerstone High School students for the next level of advanced study and or continued workplace assignments. These two outcomes are not mutually exclusive.

The preparation, the discipline, the attributes of good character, the knowledge of subject matter, the skills needed to implement lessons learned, the value of commitment, the building of relationships and friendships, and the importance of giving back are all tenets within the Cornerstone high school teaching and learning environment so that each student can be prepared for a fulfilling life of servant leadership. Each student will partner with a Cornerstone younger student as a part of Partner Program. A major goal is to have the Cornerstone high school students model what it means to love God and others all within the context of their daily school experiences. What they learn academically and relationally will be passed on to the youngest students will continue beyond their high school years. This high school program will sustain the schools at its very core, its mission.

— CSA Leadership and Business High School Defining Differences —

Christ-centered	Concentration on America's Founding Principles	The Cornerstone Partner Program
Core fellowship groups	Focus on the Classics, literature, writing, rhetoric, logic, and debate	Strategic alliances with community colleges, universities, and other learning institutions
A business internship for every student	Advanced mathematics and science	High school and college level courses via e-learning and other technologies
A student covenant to develop habits of excellence	An appreciation of the arts	A senior project that demonstrates an understanding of business, finance, economics, and leadership
A parent covenant to work collaboratively with the school	Public speaking and knowledge of work place etiquette	Technology/e-learning and asynchronous learning
Eleven-month School year and twelve-month work program	A robust community service component	95 % high school graduation rate or higher
A culture that expects and supports excellence	ACT scores aligned to college and university acceptance requirements	95 % acceptance to college or higher

Partner Spotlight – ArvinMeritor is Committed to Cornerstone



ArvinMeritor's Julie Garrisi with her student partner, Jaylen Campbell

“With efforts large and small, ArvinMeritor pledges to support and strengthen the communities in which our employees live and work. Our employees join in the effort. By volunteering, they provide personal, local support for schools, neighborhood associations and a variety of organizations, making a clear difference in their own cities and towns.” This excerpt from the ArvinMeritor website defines the pledge to community service that makes this organization a natural fit with Cornerstone.

ArvinMeritor has been involved with Cornerstone for fifteen years. During that time, they have been a faithful Partner, supporting students through the Partner Program.

Last fall, Cornerstone Partner Advisor David Bologna and Alumni Coordinator Earl Hardy visited ArvinMeritor as part of Cornerstone’s “Lunch and Learn” program. Their objective was to ask ArvinMeritor employees to join our Partner family of mentors and friends at quarterly Partner Mornings. They gave a presentation about Cornerstone, discussed ArvinMeritor’s long-standing Partner history of providing scholarships and mentoring students, and the need for more Partners for the children.

Ten employees committed to attend Partner Mornings beginning in December, 2010. Julie Garrisi, Manager, Government & Community Relations for ArvinMeritor and a Cornerstone Partner says, “Community service is ingrained in ArvinMeritor’s culture. The opportunity to have our employees mentor and partner with the students at Cornerstone is invaluable and is one of many examples of our on-going commitment to building partnerships that offer confidence to youth and advance education.”

We are grateful to ArvinMeritor for their continued faithful service to Cornerstone students. To find out how your organization can be more involved at Cornerstone, or to schedule a Lunch and Learn meeting, contact your Partner Advisor.

Student Art Gallery

View more student artwork on our website: CornerstoneSchools.org



Sterling Blakely
2nd Grade
Lincoln-King Academy



Kyle Holt
3rd Grade
Washington-Parks Academy



Cenae MacLloyd
2nd Grade
Nevada Primary

Medical Career Night Inspires Students and Alumni



Appearing left to right:

- Traci Dantzer – Dentist
- Carlos Jones – Dentist
- Dr. Denise White-Perkins – Family Physician at Henry Ford Health Systems (Cornerstone Parent)
- Dr. Dan Farkus – Chiropractor
- Dr. Jessica Lupo – Chiropractor
- Steve Hardy – Medical Graduate Student at Michigan State University
- Earl Hardy – Cornerstone Alumni Coordinator
- Roslyn Jones – Health Home Care Worker
- Nicole McCauley – Registered Nurse at Beaumont Surgical ICU
- Dr. Adewunmi Adeyemo – General Surgeon at Beaumont ICU
- Dr. Crystal Lee – Internal Medicine at Detroit Medical Center

The Cornerstone Schools Alumni Association hosted Medical Career Night on October 28th, 2010. This event brought in ten local health professionals to participate in a panel discussion with current and former Cornerstone students. Over 50 students and parents listened as health professionals spoke about methods for success, college preparation and job placement. Career fields ranging from Medicine, Dentistry and Chiropractic Health were represented. Adding even more luster to the event was Cornerstone class of 1993 Alumnus Dr. Crystal Lee, with Detroit Medical Center, who was a member of the panel.

Medical Career Night is part of a recently launched Career Program Series. The program is meant to highlight particular fields that are of interest to Cornerstone Alumni and current students. The first of its kind, three more events are planned in the upcoming months to include Business Leadership, Digital Technology and Art.



THE CORNERSTONE PILLAR



The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

– Robert M. Hutchins

Our Mission

Our broad and beloved community of friends will make possible an excellent education for children so as to prepare them for life and leadership. On this journey we will seek to follow Jesus as a sure path to a fulfilling life and servant leadership

Comments and Questions are Welcome

Comments or questions about the newsletter?

Please contact: Janice Perzigian, Director of Marketing, Events & PR
313-892-1860 ext. 287

Janice.Perzigian@CornerstoneSchools.org

For all other questions,

please call our Institutional Advancement office at:
313-892-1860 ext. 212 or visit our website: CornerstoneSchools.org

We would like to thank Joellyn Jolly for donating her time to develop some of the stories contained in this newsletter.

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