

Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III was the heart and soul of the Abyssinian Development Corporation for over three decades. While we are extremely saddened by his untimely passing, the services we support in education, affordable housing, and for seniors will forever endure.

“Our education teaches us not to judge people by the color of their skin but by the content of their character; not to judge people by where they come from but by what they contributed to the betterment of humanity.”

—Jolli Humanitarian Award Event, Riverdale Country School, 2022.



Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, 1949 –2022

EDUCATION MATTERS



Congratulations to Dr. Sean L. Davenport, newly-appointed Superintendent for Community School District 5 (D5). Dr. Davenport comes to his new role with a wealth of experience, including Principal of Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change (TMA), Leadership Development Coach for NYC’s Department of Education, and founding Principal of Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School (TMALS).

Dr. Davenport is working alongside the equally amazing Dr. Dawn Brooks DeCosta who will play a pivotal role as Deputy Superintendent, after serving as Principal of TMALS for 11 years.



The new leadership is great news for Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC), which is steadfast in its commitment to transform the educational landscape of District 5, including longstanding

program support at our partner schools: STEM and Extended Day Academic Tutoring at TMALS, and College and Career Prep at TMA.

Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School: After two years of virtual/hybrid learning during the pandemic, ADC is working closely with STEM teacher Pamela Patterson Moore, Science Club teacher Stephanie Farmer (Ms. Steph), and academic tutoring program staff to ensure the transition back to the classroom is smooth.

Ms. Steph is building out google classrooms with STEM-related links. Field trips will resume to such venues as the Liberty Science Museum, and



the D5 Science Fair is back, where students can once again showcase their STEM knowledge with exciting science projects.

Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change (TMA):

A new year is ushering in changes at TMA, beginning with the new Principal Cynthia Carmona-Davis, who is building a sense of community and focusing on Parent Engagement. New teachers are also on board who are bringing new energy.



All TMA staff received staff polo shirts which they proudly wear in a show of unity in the photo above.

Also pictured are Princess Palmer, COO/CFO of ADC who provides critical input and support to TMA, and Dr. Sandye Johnson, former TMA Principal whose commitment and dedication has never ceased and continues on as volunteer.

New activities are planned as well that give students vital college and career prep exposures. For the first time ever TMA will attend *I WILL GRADUATE* day at The Barclay Center, an educational rally encouraging students to stay focused on school. More than 13,000 students are expected to attend.



Students can also participate in The Cooper Union's Saturday Art Program which offers free studio art courses to NYC public high school students.

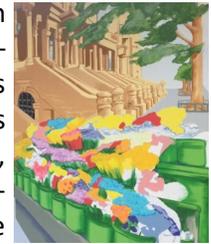


The program gives students the opportunity to explore a variety of art-related subjects including photography, drawing, graphic design and painting.

Other activities planned include a SUNY College Fair at the Javits Center, and the Black College Expo at CUNY Medgar Evers College.

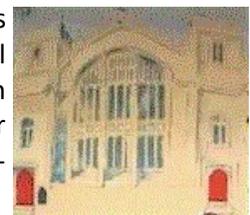
SENIOR SERVICES

The Community Room at Abyssinian Towers has undergone a makeover! Vibrant colors and images adorn the walls and lift your spirits as soon as you enter the room, thanks to a Community Improvement Project (CIP) grant from the New York Junior League (NYJL) to design and paint a full-wall mural to replace the existing mural and brighten the space.



ADC felt it was important to highlight the rich culture and history of Harlem in the new mural. To do that, the NYJL enlisted Harlem native and muralist Marthalia Matarrita to create the custom-designed mural. The mural showcases

Harlem through a beautiful landscape with the Abyssinian Baptist Church and familiar neighborhood sites and historical figures.



The CIP grant also provided updated technology, including a karaoke system, Smart TV, and air purifier, a timely upgrade as residents resume in-person activities, and there have been plenty to enjoy.

For Women's History Month women joined in a game of Trivia, learning about women's history and contributions to the world. Light refreshments were also served.



At the Mother's Day Fashion Show for residents and family members, the ladies brought their A-game on. There was a resident deejay, dancing on the runway, and two winners with sharp outfits: a white and black suit and hat, and a lovely floral dress. It was an

inspiring, festive affair with snacks and heart balloons. Our residents clearly have a sense of style!

The NYJL returned for Paint-n-Sip, an art-filled day when residents unleashed their creativity to paint Van Gogh-inspired sunflowers that they traced on canvas and painted in with colors, with the help of



an artist from the Painting Lounge art studio. There was a whole

lot of socializing, and seniors enjoyed doing something new and different.

The Senior Services team paid equally stellar attention to making sure the guys felt special with the pre-Father's Day Celebration, serving up a feast from Taste of

Seafood: collard greens, yams, mac 'n cheese, fried chicken, rice, peas and salad. There was a raffle and gifts that included t-shirts, socks and ties.



The summer closed with a barbecue that had a large turnout and perfect weather. Seniors enjoyed a feast of grilled and prepared foods, and one resident played Motown tunes that got seniors up and doing dance moves. There were a lot of smiling faces all day long!



**MESSAGE FROM:
HARLEM ECONOMIC LITERACY
PROGRAM
HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELOR**

The COVID-19 Pandemic has taken us all for a ride. It has re-arranged our lifestyles and uprooted us from our protections. The pandemic has caused many people to think about money differently.

Finding a new normal is not easy. Adapting to change can be a difficult and slow process. Whether you are thinking of owning a home or just moving to a better apartment, one thing you must do is understand your money as it relates to your household income. Your relationship with your money is critical to positive changes in your life. When we think about money, we should think about the scales of balance, so you can take the bad with the good and develop a plan to level things out to meet your purpose.



Pay close attention to how you spend your money. Make sure you separate your needs from your wants while you are trying to make changes to move in a positive direction. We know life is short, but if you want to achieve a goal, discipline is the key. Stay focused, keep your eyes on the prize, be it



a new home, new apartment or something else. The Abyssinian Development Corporation's Harlem Economic Literacy Program provides commu-

nity residents with the financial tools and resources they need in order to build wealth towards financial health and sustainability.

If you would like to attend the HELP Homeownership workshops, please visit www.adcorp.org to register. All workshops are virtual, and counseling is offered to those who complete the workshops. You may also sign up online for notification about upcoming workshops, email Andrea Britton at abritton@adcorp.org, or call 646-442-6545.

Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline

The Harlem Renaissance Education Pipeline (HREP) NEVER gives up, and finally their effort to close the racial equity gap in District 5 is bearing fruit! HREP and the D5 Community Collaborative Network have built out a healing-centered **CRASEL (Culturally Responsive & Affirming Social-Emotional Leadership)** framework to improve outcomes for underserved D5 students by training stakeholders (leaders, teachers, guidance counselors, principals, parents, students, administrators) to meet students' social, emotional and cultural needs through district-wide professional development and training that builds exposure and awareness of equity/inequity issues and a shared language to identify concrete steps and practices.

The CRASEL project began as a pilot in 6 schools with TMALS serving as the lab school, and is now being expanded to all 23 schools with a generous \$1M grant from Congressman Adriano Espaillat's Community Project Funding. The grant, a real gamechanger, was awarded to ADC as an anchor partner of HREP and member of the D5 Community Collaborative Network. The expansion requires more partners, and Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility is collaborating with D5's CRASEL project to bring their healing and restorative practices that rebuild trust, restore relationships and repair past and current harms.



The CRASEL framework aligns with District 5's reimagined D5 education framework. Under the dynamic new leadership team of Dr. Sean Davenport and Dr. Dawn DeCosta, a Back-To-School conference kicked off the school year that, for the first time in over twenty years, included Principals as well as Assistant Principals, Parent Coordinators, Community Education Council (CEC) representatives, and community partners. Everyone came together to discuss a reimagined educational landscape, such as centering healing as emotional support building, and bringing restorative practices to the schools. Everyone in attendance shared one common goal: *a brighter future for our children.*

Youth On The Move (YOTM): to kick off the school year YOTM offered an exciting new Extended Hours Leadership, Career and Sports Program at the Frederick Samuel Community Center. The program, which built on YOTM's Summer Teen Program, offered such programs and workshops as: STEM, Night Youth Basketball, Video Gaming & Tournaments, a YOTM Historian Program, and *Developing U4U* leadership training workshops that covered important soft skills topics related to communication, etiquette and financial literacy. The program operated during extended hours seven days per week. Are you ready to learn about future programs? Please contact YOTM Program Director Elijah Brooks at 347-392-0301, or Assistant Program Director Lucile Middleton at 646-875-0985. You can also visit www.yotminharlem.org to learn more. Hap-

