

### Educator Spotlights:



A Belated Congratulations to Mr. Foehr and his Ujima. They had the highest averages in the first semester. They will be receiving a free trip!



Ms. McCoy's 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA scholars used information and insights gathered from a panel of Eagle educators to use in their argumentative essays, "Is racism still a problem in America?"



Mr. Benoit's 9th grade Honors scholars utilized the persuasive appeals (ethos, logos, pathos) to advertise for their own made-up products, including a pop tart napkin, a vibranium clothing line, and a special brush that quickly gives you waves.

### Upcoming Events

3/7- Dental Truck @ Eagle

3/8- HS B Schedule; Eagle PD

3/9- Freshman Trip to see Black Panther  
#WakandaForever

3/9- Middle School Dance

3/13- Inside Schools visit

3/15- Showcase Schools visit

3/21- Daily News Spelling Bee

3/21- Schoolwide SAT/PSAT

## Hot Topics in Education

### Excerpt from *Successfully Educating Boys: What Works*

In this article in *Educational Leadership*, Michael Reichert (University of Pennsylvania) ponders his international research on teachers' and coaches' work with challenging boys – those who are defiant, disruptive, reticent, shy, passive, depressed, or rally peers against the teacher's purpose. Back in Renaissance times, schools were specifically designed for boys, but today cultural beliefs about masculinity clash with what it takes to "do school" successfully. Those beliefs convey that "real" boys are tough and emotionally stoic, independent and autonomous, keen to compete, and eager to prove themselves in feats of risk taking and aggression," says Reichert. "In every school I have visited, social competition and hierarchy, bullying and maltreatment, peer policing, and the marginalization of less-preferred types of boys characterize cultures that even wonderfully committed faculty and staff cannot control."

Many schools have responded by bringing in "boy-friendly" subject matter, kinesthetic activities, technology, and more, but the results have been disappointing. Meanwhile girls are surging ahead, creating a widening gender gap. What is to be done?

The answer is right under our noses, says Reichert – in the practices of our successful teachers. These teachers report that, "contrary to the stereotypes of young men as diffident, disruptive, or dangerous, most boys care deeply about being successful and simply long for instructors... capable of connecting personally with them and believing in them, even when they may not believe in themselves and struggle with behavior, effort, or attention problems... Relationship is the very medium through which successful teaching and learning is performed with boys."

On the flip side, boys often refuse to learn from adults who don't connect with them. When boys have a problem with an adult – a personality clash, difficulty with work, not getting their needs met – they are much more likely than girls to misbehave or check out, and they seem unable to engage in repairing the relationship. One boy said of an unhelpful teacher, "I hate him. I'm not doing anything in that class. He can flunk me, they can kick me out – I'm not doing

anything."

Reichert's interviews and focus groups with teachers and students revealed seven strategies that build connections with boys. His conclusion: "It appears that every boy can be reached."

- *Demonstrate mastery of subject matter.* "Teachers must be seen as competent, as invested in their subjects and their pedagogy, and as reliable guides for the learning journey," says Reichert.
- *Maintain high standards.* This goes for content, quality of work, and behavior.
- *Respond to a student's personal interest or talent.* Does the teacher know the student?
- *Share a common interest.* This can be athletic, musical, mechanical.
- *Acknowledge a common characteristic.* Sharing background, ethnicity, a problem overcome "can be a reliable, if serendipitous, relationship builder," says Reichert.
- *Accommodate a measure of opposition.* Successful teachers don't take oppositional behavior personally but respond with civility.
- *Be willing to reveal vulnerability.* This could take the form of a teacher apologizing to boys with whom he or she had been harsh or made a mistake.

"When these relational gestures are offered and a learning relationship is struck, teachers can make a profound difference for boys," says Reichert. "When they develop new abilities, boys' self-concepts shift as they come to see possibilities they could not imagine previously. Even more basic, though, is the life-altering lesson that boys absorb from teachers who demonstrate a willingness to go an extra mile on their behalf. They discover that there is help."

"Rethinking Grading" by Catlin Tucker in *Educational Leadership*, February 2018 (Vol. 75, 35, p. 84-85), <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/feb18/vol75/num05/Rethinking-Grading.aspx>

## Scholar Spotlights



Shout out to Jeremiah Edwards, Jussiah Geradeau, Quadir Hollington, and Christopher Staten. These 10th graders are a part of the Reading Buddies partnership with PS 308. They have made a 6 week commitment to visit PS 308 every Monday for an hour to read with students in grades K-2.



Mr. Roger Ferguson, CEO of TIAA (Teacher's Insurance and Annuity Association of America) and former Vice Chairman of THE Federal Reserve, posted on his social media that a highlight of his trip to NYC was meeting the scholars that participated in the Moody's Mentoring Program Black History Month event.



Eagle Junior Varsity basketball team played South Shore Friday in their final regular season game. After starting off with an 8-0 run, South Shore came back and took a big lead. Coach McCollin and her coaching staff made adjustments to even things out at halftime. The boys fought throughout the 4th quarter to acquire a 4 point lead, which South Shore was unable to overcome. Eagle JV beat South Shore 56-52.



Freshman Justin Smith and Omar A. Moussa Jr. were accepted into the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) program. SEO Scholars is a free eight-year academic program that gets low-income public high school students to and through college—with a 90% college graduation rate. Please visit <http://www.seoscholars.org/> for more information.

The following young men were accepted into the program: Jordan Ponds, Jordan Lindsey, Mathias Nixon, Angel Serrano and Elson King. This makes the fifth year of 100% acceptances for Eagle Ocean Hill! Through a combination of mentoring, experiential opportunities, college advising, and support Summer Search students strengthen the skills they need to thrive in school and in life. Summer Search will give one to one support from 10th grade until college graduation.

Thanks to your nominations and their hard work, we have 12 scholars who have been selected to participate in Global Glimpse. Global Glimpse is a highly selective, structured leadership program that empowers students from a wide range of backgrounds into a fascinating, life-changing international experience. Our scholars will be traveling to Nicaragua, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic to explore history, culture, politics, poverty, education and business in a developing country.

Students are currently fundraising for their trip and we need your help. Donating is very easy. Scholars below have a donation code under their picture. Simply visit <https://globalglimpse.org/portal/donate>, enter the student's ID (code) and make a donation. You can make a donation to the group using the same page, just be sure to list Eagle as the honoree and Maddox.eagleacademy@gmail.com as the email when prompted. All donations come with a tax receipt! If you prefer cash, feel free to drop by 134 and provide your donation in person. Every little bit helps take the weight off our families and makes this opportunity possible.

We would like to thank Dr. Lynn Troyka for her very generous donation of \$1000. Dr. Troyka has not only donated to Global Glimpse, but also dedicates her time to help support our seniors develop their personal statements.



