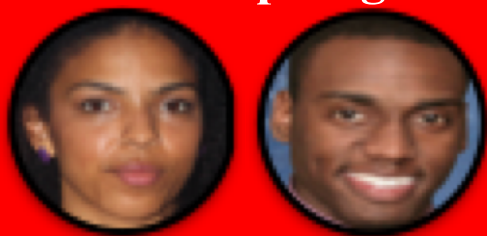


Educator Spotlights:



Congratulations to the November Educators of the Month: Ms. Maddox and Mr. McCoy! Keep up the great work!

Shout out to Ms. Benn, Mr. Bocian, Mr. Bonini, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Dixon, Mr. Draper, Ms. Ehrenfeld, Mr. Foehr, Mr. Hannah, Mr. Holman, Ms. Kleberg, Ms. Innis, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Jones, Ms. Lesane, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Maddox, Ms. Maiz, Ms. Sloane, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Tillery, Ms. Tutt, Mr. Yearwood, and Ms. Woods. These educators are the finalists in the educator attendance challenge. Thank you for your dedication to our scholars.

Upcoming Events

- 12/18-12/19- 11TH grade ELA presentations in Room 101
- 12/18- JV Basketball vs. Boys and Girls at 4:30
- 12/18-12/22- PTA Holiday Shop
- 12/19- Varsity Basketball @ Paul Robeson at 5PM
- 12/20- Big Brothers & Brooklyn DA trip (HS)
- 12/21- MS Pillar Band Awards
- 12/21- 8th grade trip to Aviator
- 12/21- Eagle Holiday Party at Amarachi Restaurant
- 12/22- Eagle Ugly Sweater Day
- 12/25-1/01- Winter Break

Hot Topics in Education

Excerpt from *Supporting Teens Facing Disrespect and Sexual Harassment*

In this article in *Usable Knowledge*, Richard Weissbourd and Alison Cashin (Harvard Graduate School of Education/Making Caring Common) say that disrespectful, sexualized interactions and sexual harassment are “stunningly common in young people’s lives. They’re happening among our children, and we are doing shockingly little about it.” Specifically, 72 percent of male students and 80 percent of female students told researchers they had never had a conversation with their parents about how to avoid sexually harassing others, and similar percentages had never had conversations about various forms of disrespect and harassment. Weissbourd and Cashin suggest six ways parents and educators can talk to teens about these issues:

- **Define the problem.** Many young people don’t have a clear picture of what harassment looks and sounds like. They need specifics to help them establish clear boundaries in their minds – to understand, for example, that comments on someone’s clothes or appearance can be unwanted, that catcalling (which many men think is a form of flattery) is frightening and infuriating to many women, and that even if words or behaviors are meant to be funny, they may scare and offend others.
- **Step in when you hear a sexist or degrading comment and stick with it.** Too many adults don’t say anything when young people use language that offends them. “Passivity not only condones these comments,” say Weissbourd and Cashin. “It can also diminish young people’s respect for us as adults and role models.” Work to build young people’s empathy for others.
- **Teach kids to be critical consumers of media and culture.** Many teens have never critically examined the online and entertainment waters in which they are immersed 24/7. Teachable moments occur when you’re with young people

and listen to song lyrics or hear news reports. In some cases, it’s effective for adults to share their own experiences with harassment or disrespect.

- **Talk about what kids should do if they’re a target.** Teens need strategies to deal with everything... Ask young people about their experiences and reactions so far, what worked and what didn’t, and how they might respond to hypothetical scenarios. They need to think through whether they should confront perpetrators, get support, tell a teacher or school counselor, or talk a parent or another respected adult. Role-playing can be very helpful.
- **Encourage and expect upstanding.** When teens witness harassment and disrespect, they have the advantage of understanding peer dynamics and being more credible than adults. But first they have to have the courage and wisdom to intervene. “Learning to be an ‘upstander’ is a vital part of becoming an ethical, courageous person,” say Weissbourd and Cashin. “Yet upstanding can be risky – perpetrators can turn on upstanders. That’s why it’s important to brainstorm strategies with young people that protect both them and the victim.”
- **Help kids build a broad base of recognition and self-worth.** The most vulnerable teens are those who are highly dependent on romantic and sexual attention, who crave peer approval, and who have lower social status or are part of a marginalized group. Kids need to build skills and a sense of efficacy in academics, the arts, sports, service, student government, and other activities.

“What Parents Can Do to Stop Sexual Harassment” by Richard Weissbourd and Alison Cashin in *Usable Knowledge*, October 18, 2017, <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/10/what-parents-can-do-stop-sexual-harassment>

Scholar Spotlights

Congratulations to the newest Green Belts of the Eagle Martial Arts Academy. These scholars under Sensei McCoy earned their green belts on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The Green belt symbolizes advancement!



On Saturday, December 14th, the scholars of the martial arts extended day program participated in a seminar with the legendary Jui Jitsu Master Jones.



The Varsity Basketball team represented Eagle Academy in the Umatilla Holiday Classic in Florida over the weekend. They went 2-0 in the tournament. Great job guys!



Happy Holidays and enjoy your well deserved vacation! See you next year!

