
The Rare Bird

Friends of Audubon Charter School PTO

www.audubonPTO.org www.auduboncharter.com

October 7, 2010

COMMUNITY MEETING; IMPORTANT DATES; ANNUAL FUND; CONSEIL d'ECOLE; OPP; FALL FETE;
GRANTS; FOOTBALL; VOLLEYBALL; GREEN TEAM; 8th GRADE; 5th GRADE; MENU; BOOK;



Students from Carrollton campus enjoying a great field trip to Skate City, organized by their PE coach

COMMUNITY MEETING: BROADWAY RENOVATION

The next community meeting will be held on Monday, October 18 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Broadway Cafeteria, to present the upcoming plans concerning the Broadway Campus renovations. Members of the ACS community should make every effort to attend this meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES

- *Friday October 8 - Wednesday, October 13:* NO SCHOOL: Fall Break
- *Friday, October 15:* Volley for the Cure
- *Saturday, October 16:* FAME meeting 10am Broadway Cafeteria
- *Tuesday, October 19:* PTO meeting 6pm
- *Thursday, October 21:* 7th grade parent meeting, Carrollton library 6-7pm
- *Monday, October 18:* Community meeting, 6:30pm Broadway cafeteria
- *Thursday, October 21:* 8th grade parent meeting Carrollton cafeteria 6-7pm
- *Thursday, October 28:* Half Day: Report Card Conferences
- *Saturday, November 6:* Fall Fete



Some photos of Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Mary Lou's classes' walking field trip to Audubon Park. Members of the NOFD discussed fire safety. They also allowed the kids to tour the fire truck and squirt water from the hose.

7th & 8th GRADE PARENT MEETINGS

On October 21, there will be an information meeting for parents of all 7th graders. It will be held at the Carrollton campus library from 6-7pm. Also on October 21, there will be an informational meeting for parents of all 8th graders, in the Carrollton Campus cafeteria from 6-7pm.

ANNUAL FUND 2010-11

You will receive a letter later this month requesting your support for Audubon Charter School's annual fund. Audubon relies on the generous support of our families to hire additional teachers and teaching assistants and to pay for other essential operating expenses so that we can exceed the minimum standards required by the State.

We hope that you will respond positively and as generously as you are able. You can also make your gift online today at www.auduboncharter.com. In advance of the letter, I would like to provide the following answers to a few commonly asked questions about annual giving and the importance of your gift to your child's education. We need your help and extend our deepest gratitude for your support.

~Janice Dupuy, Principal

Why does Audubon Charter School request annual fund gifts? This year, there is a gap of \$100,000, approximately \$190 per family, between what it costs to educate our students and the revenue that Audubon receives from the State. Therefore, we ask each family to make an annual fund gift to help bridge the "gap."

What will my annual fund gift be used for? \$.81 of every dollar raised for the annual fund goes toward salaries and benefits, including those of teachers and teaching assistants. The remainder supports other critical operating needs that are also essential to our advanced Montessori and French curricula, including instructional materials, classroom technology, libraries, facility maintenance, and support services.

How much should I donate? We ask families to donate as generously as possible, and we encourage gifts of \$190 (the "gap") or more. However, gifts of any amount are welcome, and every gift is meaningful. Our goal is 100% family participation.

How much have others given? Past gifts have ranged from \$5 to \$5000. Last year, the annual fund raised more than \$60,000 from parents, grandparents, FAME board members, and other donors.

Does the school ask foundations for support? Yes. However, before foundations give money to the school, they often want to know if we have the support of our own families.

When is my gift due? Although gifts can be made through May 31, 2011, we encourage donations by December 31, 2010.

How can I make a gift? The easiest way to make a gift is online at www.auduboncharter.com, and gifts can be made in monthly installments. A gift of \$190 can be made in eight payments of only \$23.75. Gifts are tax deductible, and can be paid by credit card or check or in cash.

Does Audubon accept matching gifts? Audubon Charter School gratefully accepts company matching gifts, which are an easy way to double or triple your gift to the school. Please ask your employer for details on their matching gift programs.

For further information, please contact campaign cochairs Mischelle Thiels at 343-7324 or mischellet@gmail.com and Patrick Jones at 231-6016 or pj@thirtyninety.com. You may also contact Sophia Griffies, Development Specialist 324-7100 Sophia_Griffies@auduboncharter.com.

ANNEE SCOLAIRE 2010-2011

Vous allez recevoir un courrier dans le courant du mois d'octobre faisant appel à votre générosité afin de soutenir l'école Audubon lors de sa campagne annuelle. Ces dons jouent un rôle essentiel dans recrutement d'enseignants et d'assistants supplémentaires, mais aussi pour maintenir la qualité des programmes au-delà du minimum requis par l'Etat de Louisiane.

Nous espérons que vous répondrez favorablement à notre appel, dans la mesure de vos moyens. Aussi, vous pourrez effectuer vos dons aujourd'hui en ligne à www.auduboncharter.com. En préambule à ce courrier, je voudrais répondre à quelques unes des questions les plus courantes à propos de cette campagne et vous expliquer quelle importance prennent vos dons dans l'éducation de votre enfant. Nous avons besoin de votre aide et vous sommes profondément reconnaissants.

~Janice Dupuy, Principale

Pourquoi une campagne annuelle de collecte de fonds? Cette année, il nous manque environ \$100 000 (soit environ \$190 par famille) pour combler la différence entre le montant que nous alloue l'Etat annuellement et le coût réel de l'éducation à Audubon. Ainsi, nous demandons à chaque famille de faire un don pour nous aider à recouvrir ce déficit.

Y-a-t-il une date limite pour faire un don? Vous pouvez faire un don jusqu'au 31 mai 2011. Toutefois, nous encourageons les familles à donner avant le 31 décembre 2010.

De quelle façon mon don va-t-il être utilisé? Pour chaque dollar donné, 81 cents seront dédiés aux salaires, notamment ceux des enseignants et des assistants. Le reste sera alloué aux frais de fonctionnement de l'école, répondant ainsi aux besoins essentiels des programmes Montessori et Français: achat du matériel pédagogique, de l'équipement informatique, du fond de lecture de la bibliothèque, entretien du bâtiment et autres frais annexes.

Combien dois-je donner? Nous demandons aux familles de donner dans la mesure de leurs moyens, et nous encourageons les dons de \$190 ou plus dans le but de combler le déficit attendu. Néanmoins, chaque don est le bienvenu, quel que soit son montant. Nous souhaitons que 100% des familles participent.

Combien les autres familles donnent-elles? Les dons varient entre \$5 et \$5000. Lors de notre dernière campagne, nous avons récolté plus de \$60000 de dons provenant des parents, des grands-parents, des membres du FAME board ou d'autres généreux donateurs.

Comment faire un don? Vous pouvez dorénavant effectuer vos dons en ligne sur le site www.auduboncharter.com. Vous pouvez choisir de payer mensuellement par versement automatique. Un don de \$190 équivaut à 8 versements de \$23.75. Tous les dons sont déductibles des impôts, et peuvent être réglés par carte de crédit, par chèque ou encore en liquide.

Ma société propose un programme de jumelage des dons. L'école est-elle intéressée par ce programme? Absolument. Ces programmes font appel aux fonds de l'entreprise pour accroître vos dons à des organismes à but non lucratif. Vous pouvez ainsi faire doubler ou tripler votre don à l'école. N'hésitez pas à demander à votre employeur des informations concernant ces programmes.

Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à contacter Mischelle Thiels mischellet@gmail.com (343-7324) Patrick Jones pj@thirtyninety.com (231-6016) ou Sophia Griffies, Directrice du Développement (324-7100) Sophia.Griffies@auduboncharter.com

CONSEIL D'ECOLE-FRENCH SCHOOL COUNCIL

Check out your child's communication folder, voting material and directions to elect parent representatives for the French School Council (*Conseil d'Ecole*) will be sent home on Thursday, October 7th!

The *Conseil d'Ecole* plays a critical role in a French school and is mandated by the French Ministry of Education. The meetings are held three times a year and are composed of teachers, administrators, community guests and parent representatives. All stakeholders discuss important issues for the French school and give their input. Some important decisions affecting the school are voted and made during the *Conseil d'Ecole*, hence the importance of having representatives to get the parents' voice heard and taken into account.

One parent representative is elected for each instructional cycle at the school. Instructional cycles at the French school are organized as follows:

- Cycle 1: PreK and K
- Cycle 2: 1st and 2nd grades
- Cycle 3: 3rd, 4th and 5th grades
- Middle School: 6th, 7th and 8th grades

Each legal guardian of a child can vote for the parent representatives for the Conseil d'Ecole. Substitutes are also elected.

You can turn in your vote (one vote per legal guardian) until Friday, October 15th at 10:00 A.M, to the homeroom teacher or directly at the main office in the voting box.

Thank you for your parental support and involvement!

OUTREACH PROCESS PARTNERS

Audubon is most grateful to Outreach Process Partners (OPP) for its generous donation of \$2500 for LEAP tutoring. OPP is in business to help its clients communicate more effectively. OPP's mission is to provide expert outreach/public involvement services to government clients and private-sector contractors that result in measurable improvement in its client's achievement of program objectives. OPP seeks to establish long-term relationships with its clients and partners. For more information about OPP, please visit www.outreachprocesspartners.com.

FALL FETE VOLUNTEERS – 2010

We are up and running, and we need your assistance. Please see the committee descriptions, below, and please email Todd Taylor at audubonvolunteer@yahoo.com If you volunteered last year and either want to maintain your current committee volunteerism or switch, we welcome you, your ideas, and your enthusiasm. Fall Fete is what we make it, and we hope to make it fun for all. The planning meetings are scheduled for Thursday October 7, and Thursday, October 14. More meetings will follow. We hope to use the PTO website for updates to our community. Thanks.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

PTO Fundraising Co-Chairs: Dina Sonia, (504) 452-6024, dina.sonia16@yahoo.com Todd Taylor, (504) 232-0362, audubonvolunteer@yahoo.com

Activity Booths Will plan activities, help solicit volunteers to run Activity Booths, help set prices and on the day of the event help monitor activity booths. Will work with teachers and room parents and assign a booth to each class. Will coordinate volunteers through this effort and work directly with the Volunteer Services.

Artisan Services Will solicit artisans for 8-12 booths. Will determine fees to allow artist to sell their goods and on the day of the event we need help to monitor artisan booths. We would like to reach out to the Audubon Community 1st for selection of artists. We'll supply a table and chair, artist is welcome to bring their own tent.

Audubon Gear Will help develop/design, price and order Fall Fete shirts, secure delivery, and set up for sale along w/Audubon Gear. Will develop volunteer need and staff appropriately.

Deposits & Treasurer Will sell and collect tickets and will provide a total of how much was made at each booth and overall. Will assist in tracking expenses.

Entertainment Help procure and secure talent for the performances on stage, secure MC(s), coordinate Talent Showcase, class presentations and extra curricular presentations. Will set up and break down equipment, work w/volunteer services for volunteers, and the set up committee for decorations.

Ticket Services Coordinates the pre and event day sale of tickets, provides an accurate count of tickets sold, collects tickets from booths for audit and accuracy, and leads volunteers who will be selling tickets pre and event day.

Food & Drink Booths Plan and execute a menu, get costs estimates, solicit donations from restaurants, verify existing paper products, help set prices and on the day of the event help monitor food booths. We plan to work with teachers and room parents and assign a booth to each class. Leads volunteers through this effort and works directly with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Graphics Make booth signs (French/English translations) and help coordinate volunteers to put up signs the day of the event.

Logistics Design and implement a site plan for successful distribution of events. Arrange security with the school, arrange janitorial services (Denise), check on electrical needs (school purchased hard wire) and school's PA sound system, order tents, tables and chairs, order ice and arrange stage setup and take down.

Public Relations Put together public relations information, coordinate with media, and other schools to distribute for maximum attendance. Need to know when other festivals will occur, as well, to offer to give reciprocity. List to be procured through ACS Ops and Fund Raising staff.

Set Up and Decorations Coordinate with Logistics chair to set up tables and chairs as per site plan, decorate stage(s), booths and help coordinate the proper placement of games with the Fun Services chair. Place tablecloths on tables and help take down. Leads volunteers(6-8).

Space Walks & Fun Activities Contact and arrange delivery of space walks, and coordinate the procurement and sale of physical activity fun, like confetti eggs and poppers. We will look to having 4 space walks/fun jumps, one for toddlers, one for near teens and 2 for multi kid use. Will receive, set up, coordinate volunteers, and be responsible for pricing and the collection of tickets. For the confetti eggs and poppers, coordinator will procure pre-packaged items and/or request egg shells and stuff for sale. Responsible for pricing, sales, and ticket collection, as well as volunteers for staffing.

Volunteer Services Help coordinate with VPs, teachers and room parents to help solicit volunteers for event and class assigned booths.

FALL FETE TALENT SHOW

Do you have a talent? Want to show it off at Fall Fete? contact Michelle michelle@imdiversity.com. We are looking for family acts, solos, and groups of any kind. It's not a competition, so there's no pressure. If you've got talent we'd love to see It!

START COLLECTING FOR FALL FETE

Please save, donate and deliver the following for our Fall Fete - 2010:

- 1) Volunteers (details in article above)
- 2) Aluminum cans (rinsed and in good condition)
- 3) Gently used children's, teen, and adult level books (deliver to the Broadway campus library)
- 4) Egg shells (rinsed and in the cartons)
- 5) Nail polishes (red, white, blue, others), cotton balls, polish remover

Please drop your items on the Broadway campus in the mailroom, and, if possible, email audubonvolunteer@yahoo.com to let us know and we will secure them. If you'd like a donation letter for items 3 and 5, please put a note in your submission and we will work toward that end.

VOTE FOR GRANTS FOR AUDUBON

Please vote online for the following grants for Audubon, and share with your friends and family so they can vote too!

Funding requests for T.R.E.E., the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip, and the French 5th grade trip to France have been submitted by teachers, parents, and staff for the Clorox Power a Bright Future competition. Projects are eligible for a \$50,000 grand prize and \$20,000 first prizes. Vote for your favorite program at www.powerabrightfuture.com

You can vote daily through November 1.

Educate Now! will give three New Orleans public schools \$1000 each through its Share to Win when competition. To vote for voting, register at www.sharetowinnola.com (until October 22).

Go to <http://www.care2.com/schoolcontest/> to cast your vote for Audubon Charter School (school zip code is 70118). This contest will award \$20,000 to the school with the most votes. So...cast your vote!!

FOOT BALL...FOOTBALL...GO FOOTBALL!!

Flag football is well underway and ACS teams are ready to play. The fellas are learning the game and putting their all into doing their best. On Monday, the teams competed against Hynes. Our JV team competed hard and while it was a very close game they did not win this battle. The day ended on a high note when our varsity team came out on top and won their game. WAY TO GO RAREBIRDS!!! We see the hard work that JV and Varsity are putting in and we are excited about the games to come. Thanks go out to our ACS cheerleaders, for being there to support our team, cheering them on and keeping ACS spirit alive.

VOLLEYBALLERS ROCK

The JV and Varsity Volleyball teams have had a successful season, to date. Our junior varsity is starting to gel as a team, find their strength as individual players, and get an appreciation for the sport at a higher level. Their focus and dedication are paying off in better serves, and better distribution of playing time. And, occasionally a big smile comes across their faces when they see it all come together.

The Varsity team has tried some new playing styles this year. Many of the members attended volleyball camps after last season, and their skill level increases are very obvious (ask the competition). This year, they won the Blacktop Tournament at Holy Name, participated in Cabrini's annual middle school tournament, where they made it to the semi-finals game. And on Saturday, October 2nd, on a last minute invitation, attended and WON the Mount Carmel Academy Tournament. After the Kehoe France match, one parent reported meeting with a colleague at an event, and that colleague praised our varsity team's play, having never seen them, but, as coach Tina said, "...they are talking about us in the streets." Quite a feat...and something to be proud of. The varsity team will compete in the Chapelle High Monster Mash Tourney on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 9am.

The next matches are Thursday, October 7 @ Arden Cahill (Gretna); Saturday, October 9, 9 a.m. @ Chapelle High (Varsity only); Monday, October 18 @ Newman School (Varsity only); Tuesday, October 19 @ St. George's School, and October 22 - 23 the playoffs and championships @ Immaculate Conception in Marrero. Last year, the varsity finished second overall in that tournament.

Please come out to support our young ladies. They represent our school well. And, if you "ain't scrrrrrd", come play against them in the "Volley for the Cure" annual fundraising volleyball tourney on our Blacktop on Friday, October 15. Entry forms are available at the front desks of each campus. A - C - E...ACE!!!!

SCIENCE OPPORTUNITY FOR GIRLS

W.I.S.E. UP (Women in Science Education) Xavier Prep High School for grades 6-8

Once a Month (starting Saturday, October 2). It's not too LATE! 8:30 – 11:00am FREE!!!

Register by email: wiseup@xavierprep.co or call 899-6061 Ext. 310 Please provide name, phone number, and grade level.

LET'S VOLLEY FOR THE CURE & PAINT THE BLACKTOP PINK!!

Volley for a Cure will be held from 3pm – 5pm on the blacktop at the Carrollton Campus on Friday, October 15th. Half of all the proceeds received will be donated to the Breast Cancer Foundation. Come out and watch volleyball games featuring the volleyball team vs. the teachers and staff as they play for a purpose. That purpose being breast cancer awareness and finding a cure. We also call this event “Paint the Blacktop Pink” as we wear pink to show our support to the foundation. Help the Athletics Department to present a big check to the Breast Cancer Foundation by coming out and supporting this event. Bring your chair, your sunscreen, wear pink and sit back and enjoy the fun while supporting a great cause. Refreshments will be sold. See you there!

~The Athletics Department

CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS

We need your ink cartridges (large and small), cell phones, PDAs, scientific calculators and game consoles AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We are trying to reach a participation threshold to make a bonus level. Please try to drop them off by Thursday afternoon (for our online readers) or Friday morning. Thanks.

ONE MILLION CORKS AND TERRACYCLE

"Audubon Charter School community, you are so SO awesome, that we have more recyclables than we have boxes to put them in. If you have LARGE boxes (somebody is moving this month), can you drop a few at the Broadway campus for us, please? The larger the better...bigger than, say, ream of paper boxes. Thank you...and keep putting us to work, it all adds up."

~The \$Green Team

TERRACYCLE FOR ACS

We collect: Chip Bags (all sizes & brands), Corks (all types), Juice Pouches (Capri Sun, Kool Aid & Honest Kids), Yogurt Cups (traditional shape 8 & 32 oz), Ziploc Bags, Glue Sticks, Cell Phones
For more information go to: www.audubonpto.org
Collection bins located outside both campus offices.

FUNDRAISING, LABEL AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS: THE GREEN TEAM!

Ok, so this might be a good new name for our programs. For a list of items Please go to <http://www.audubonpto.org/content/green-team>
Your efforts are turning into real dollars for OUR Audubon Charter School!

BoxTops for Education	Balance
Total since 2008	\$842.20
Packaged to mail	\$305.00

Cartridges for Kids	Balance
2010 - 11	\$13.05
In transit	\$57.60

Community Cash for Schools	Balance
Total since 2008	\$580.64
Mailed to date	1420 points

Juice Boxes	Balance
2010 - 11 # of pouches	\$35.66
	1,783

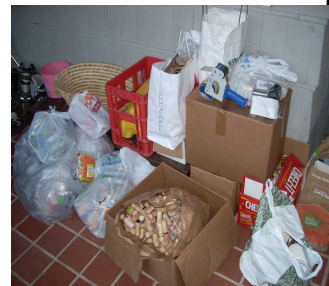
One Million Corks	Balance
2010 - 11 # of corks	\$192.98
In transit	9649
	2 boxes

Sunny D(elight)	Balance
2010 - 11 In transit	
	20

Chip Bags	Balance
2010 - 11 # of bags	\$5.48
	27
	4

Labels for Education	Balance
Total since 2001	9304
2010 - 11	1366

Yogurt Cups	Balance
2010 - 11 # of cups	\$1.02
	34



DO A GOOD DEED: EAT ICE CREAM!

Help support Audubon's 8th grade class by eating ice cream! On Oct 21, Baskin Robbins will be hosting a fundraiser on our behalf. Please stop by the Carrollton Ave store between 4-8 p.m. and buy an ice cream cone. The 8th grade class will receive a portion of their sales that evening.

RAFFLE FOR SAINTS VS. BROWNS TICKETS

The 8th grade class is raffling off two tickets to the Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints vs. Cleveland Browns. The tickets are on the plaza level, 2nd row from the field! The winner will feel like he is on the field with the Saints and will likely get on caught on film. This home game is Sunday, Oct 24 at noon. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets. They can be purchased from any 8th grade student or Ms. Jenny Jurjevich. For more information,

jennifer_anderson@auduboncharter.com

HUGE GARAGE SALE TO SUPPORT 5th GRADE TRIP TO FRANCE

Saturday, October 16th, 9am-12pm, at the Alcee Fortier park (Mid-City, on Esplanade across Cafe Degas).

Gently used items will be collected by 5th grade parents on Maple street gate at drop off, Thursday 7th. Items can also be dropped at 1313 Mystery in Mid-City, or by 302 Hilary street (near school).

Call Bob Mcguier 388-3362 with questions.

WATCH A CLASSIC, HELP 5th GRADE GO TO FRANCE

Saturday, October 23rd, 5:30pm, at Alcee Fortier park (Mid-City, on Esplanade, across Cafe Degas) Movie starts at dark.

Dress up if you feel 5fab'!! Prizes for best-dressed boy and girl. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, and come sing and dance to Grease!

Great food, popcorn, beverages for all and a Huge silent auction.

SOCK HOP CONTINUES:OCTOBER 16

InSeptember, the French fifth grade hosted its first Sock Hop fundraiser of the year. In addition to our schoolmates at Audubon. We had the chance to meet new friends from Holy Cross, Christian Brothers, St. Dominic's, St. Pius, Lusher and the International School. Congratulations to Mimi, Xian and Katya for taking first place in the dance contest. Congrats also go to Kevin and Gabe who had a very impressive second place. Please join us for the next Sock Hop which takes place on October 16th 6:30-10:30. The \$20 admission includes five food and drink tickets and four hours of dancing. So drop your 10-13 year olds off at the Lakeview Knights of Columbus Hall (6254 Vicksburg) and have a parents' night out!



The Lakeview Sock Hop

SATURDAY, OCT. 16, 2010 6:30-10:30

Open to Ages 10-13

\$20-Includes 5 tickets for food & drink

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall

6254 Vicksburg St.

(just off of Harrison Ave. by Creole Creamery)

Help us send Audubon's 5th Grade to France and have a great time dancing the night away!

Parents: take advantage of the 4 hours for a parent's night out! It's cheaper than a babysitter!

NOPD and 10 chaperones make it a safe night for all.

www.lakeviewsockhop.com

CARROLLTON CAMPUS ARRIVAL AND DISSMISAL PROCEDURES

Parents, please adhere to the following procedures:

Maple Street Gate

3rd, 4th, and 5th grade French students

4th, 5th, and 6th grade Montessori students

Arrival: Gates open at 7:50 and close at 8:00 am

Dismissal: Gates open at 3:15pm, close at 3:25 pm

Hampson Street

6th, 7th, and 8th grade French students

7th and 8th grade Montessori students

Arrival: Gates open at 7:50 and close at 8:00am

Dismissal: Gates open at 3:15 pm, close at 3:25 pm

Students are prohibited from using the Short Street gate to enter or exit the school.

ONLY late students may enter through the Carrollton Avenue gate and report to the office for a tardy pass.

Parents, due to safety concerns, please do not use the Carrollton Avenue bike lane to drop off or pick up students. Thanks for your cooperation!

~Ms. Dawn

LUNCH MENU OCTOBER 14-15

Thursday, October 14 : Chicken fajita wrap, California vegetable blend, pineapple, Chicken salad, pineapple

Friday, October 15: Whole-grain pepperoni pizza, broccoli, pears, tossed salad, Chef salad, grapes

All menu items are subject to change

Bon appetit!

RB DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

The Rare Bird is ahead of the 2009-10 pace to reduce the number of printed copies. The September 30 edition printed 470 copies, down from 850 on our initial newsletter, and nearly 100 less than the week before.

We still need your help. Please complete the form sent home with your child on September 23rd. If you do not have that form, email rarebirdnewsletter@yahoo.com giving us your child's name, homeroom teacher and your delivery preference (paper, email, you get it from the Yahoo group, or no delivery for one child/deliver with another child). YOUR DECLARATION saves us time and money, but we MUST hear from you. Thank you for your contribution to our cost cutting and GREENING our school and PTO.

~Rare Bird Editors/Rare Bird Distributors

HOUSING ACTION BOOK

Three years ago the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) had the idea to create a children's book. Since then, they've conducted fair housing workshops with students at 4 local schools to gain insight and inspiration for the story. Ms. Monique and Ms. Rowan's class at Audubon Charter was the first to participate in the project, and was integral to the design of the project. This class contributed their ideas, feedback, and writing to the project and book that will now be published. When the book is done, each student from this class will receive their own free copy. Since then GNOFHAC drafted the book and contracted with a talented local artist from the Young Aspirations Young Artists, Sharika Mahdi-Neville, to illustrate the book. They conducted focus groups with teachers (including 3 teachers from Audubon) and parents to get feedback on the text. Now the book is a few short months from the target publication date.

About the Book: Samaria and her friends like everything about their clubhouse except the haunted mansion across the street. But when Samaria and her mother need to find a place to live, they realize they are dealing with a much bigger problem than ghosts or monsters. Join the Fair Housing Five as they work together to take creative action against housing discrimination in their community.

From GNOFHAC: This is a book designed to initiate conversations between parents, caregivers, teachers and children about housing discrimination, systemic inequality, and the important role that we all have in ending both. Strategically, we also aimed to inform parents, caregivers, and educators about their fair housing rights when they read the book with children. Finally, we hope the book will empower youth to advocate for justice and create positive change in their communities. Why teach kids about fair housing? Because housing discrimination impacts kids. Where a child lives affects many quality of life factors including where she goes to school, how she gets there, what recreational opportunities and healthcare resources are available, the types of food she eats, how she is treated by law enforcement, and where her parents or guardians work.

In order to publish the book, GNOFHAC must raise \$5,000 by December 12th. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.

To learn more about the book visit www.fairhousingfive.org