

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month, is an annual observance in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for the contributions African Americans have made to history.

Malaika's children, families and staff celebrated Black History Month with a special program called, "The Way Back Music Machine." The children and staff performed skits and sang songs. Included in their performances were impersonations and tributes to some of the many famous African Americans such as, President and Mrs. Obama, Rosa Parks, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, James Brown, Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston.

The program was followed by a potluck meal provided by the parents of Malaika children. An evening enjoyed by all!



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

It seems so far away when the kids performed for their parents a beautiful holiday show in December. There were songs and skits, followed by a raffle for a holiday turkey!



NEW AND IMPROVED MALAIKA WEBSITE

Please check out Malaika's new website at www.malaikaelc.org and let us know what you think.

There are many improvements. Donors can now give on-line and sign up for newsletters. Parents can check the school calendar for updates.

In an effort to reduce the number of newsletters we mail and ultimately cut our printing and postage expenses, please share your email addresses with us.



NEWS

MALAIKA FAMILIES SEE THE BUCKS

The Bradley Center generously donated 60 tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks game. More than 20 Malaika families enjoyed a Bucks game against the Miami Heat on February 7th. Malaika encourages parent-involvement activities and events to ensure maintaining healthy family relationships.



FIELD TRIP Shrine Circus



The children enjoyed their field trip to the U.S. Cellular Arena to view the Shrine Circus. The kids saw majestic tigers and lions, an aerial act with acrobats and aerialists. And what's a circus without elephants? The largest performing elephant on the planet, "Mighty Bo," entertained and wowed the crowd with his tricks. And, of course, we can't forget the clowns who brought so much joy to the Malaika children.



MALAIKA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE



Joyce Mallory notified the board of directors, staff and parents of her plans to retire at the end of the current school year on June 1, 2012. Ms. Mallory has served as Executive Director since October 1, 2007.

During her tenure, she significantly improved the quality of the early education and kindergarten programs; developed and retained topnotch staff, which included providing financial support enabling five teachers to enroll in associate degree program at MATC; established partnerships with Schlitz Nature Center and Alliance Francaise to provide additional educational opportunities for Malaika's students; and expanded kindergarten from two classes to four to serve more children.

Ms. Mallory said while she is sad to be leaving behind wonderful children and families, dedicated staff and committed board and volunteers, she is looking forward to the next phase of her life, which includes spending more time with her two grandchildren, traveling and increasing her baking skills. She also plans to stay connected to early education and care field by continuing to advocate for high quality early childhood education and support for those who work in the profession. We wish Ms. Mallory the best of luck with her future endeavors.

Board Search Committee - Malaika board of directors appointed a search committee in December, 2011 to conduct the search and select the next Executive Director. The search committee is in the final stages of the process and plans to recommend to the board a final candidate at the board's meeting on March 28th. The board is committed to finding a person with skills, knowledge, experience and business acumen to keep Malaika in the top tier of high-quality early education and care programs in City of Milwaukee. Dennis Mueller, Malaika's founder, is chair of the search committee.

EMAIL ADDRESS - Would you rather we email your newsletter? Please forward your email address to mtluna@wi.rr.com. Thanks!



THANKS TO FIRST WEBER AND PEGGY COFFEY

Thanks to the First Weber Realty Foundation for their \$900 contribution which enabled all the Malaika children to receive a new pair of pajamas. Also, a special thanks to Peggy Coffey, who has donated pajamas the past two years independently of the Foundation. Peggy works for First Weber Realty in Whitefish Bay.



Malaika Donors

December 1, 2011 - April, 1 2012

\$5,000 - \$25,000

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Malaika wishes to thank all the dedicated donors who have supported us during this period. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. However, if you have a question or wish to make a correction, please contact Tina Luna at 414.562.4997.

GUIDED READING

Starting in December, all K5 students at Malaika started guided reading as part of their literacy curriculum. During these daily fifteen-minute lessons, small groups of three or four students work on reading short books with intensive teacher support. As part of the lessons, students apply their knowledge of sight words and word families to broaden their vocabulary and build a strong foundation for them to become fluent readers when they move on to elementary school in the fall.

Andrea Bender, an education consultant, arranged for Mr. Morgan and Ms. Rachel to visit K-5 classrooms at an elementary school in Kenosha to learn about the program and its effectiveness in teaching K-5 students to read fluently.

By the end of the school year, all K5 students will be reading at a first-grade reading level or higher.





NEW CRIBS NEEDED

At this time, Malaika is in desperate need of ten *new* cribs due to the new standards that have been enacted by the US Consumer Products Safety Commission. ALL CRIBS in child care facilities must be compliant with two new mandatory standards by December 28, 2012. Malaika needs to raise \$4,000 to purchase and install new cribs and ultimately ensure the safety of our children.

Safer cribs means safer sleep for our babies. By the end of this year, all child care facilities, including family child care homes and infant Head Start centers, as well as hotels and motels, must use only cribs that comply with the new crib standards.



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