

LINK TO YOU

VOLUME 9

Link Community School

SUMMER 2007

GRADUATION 2007

On the evening of June 8th, students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees gathered in Link's parking lot and prepared to walk together the few short blocks to Emmanuel Church of Christ, where they joined the throng of parents and family members waiting for them. There, a jubilant Link community assembled to share the excitement, joy and pride of our 2007 Graduation Ceremony and to honor the contributions each segment of the community has made to the success of our mission, our school and, most of all, our students.



On behalf of the Class of 2007, Vaughn Powell, '07 welcomes the entire Link community to the graduation ceremony.

possible. Students then left their seats, offering a small token of appreciation to their families for their love and encouragement.

Gail Sexius, '07, speaking as student spokesperson, expounded on the theme of the graduates writing the chapters of their lives. The chapter of their Link experience, ending today, forms the foundation for the chapters they will begin to write as they continue on with high school, college and their lives. This Link chapter, containing the pillars of the Core Values, provided the resources and understanding necessary to dream great dreams; dreams which may generate the next doctors, lawyers, designers, possibly even the next President of the United States.



Adrien Moncur, '93, our guest speaker, makes a point as he addresses the Class of 2007.

Adrien Moncur, J.D. '93, our guest speaker, is an example of the success achievable by Link students. After his Link graduation in 1993, he attended St. Benedict's Prep and then went on to Rutgers University, graduating in



The Class of 2007 heads for Emmanuel Church of Christ, site of their graduation from Link Community School. (Mikeala Semexant, '07, a Wight Foundation scholar, appears in the foreground).

Vaughn Powell, '07 welcomed the attendees. He noted the challenges and difficulties life at Link could present to a young person just entering this new and different school. However, the support found among his fellow students made

overcoming such challenges

possible. Students then left their seats, offering a small token of appreciation to their families for their love and encouragement.



The Class of 2007 stands and formally recognizes their families for their constant support, love and encouragement.

2001. Just several weeks ago, Mr. Moncur became a graduate of Rutgers Law School - Newark. In between, he spent 2 years as Link's Director of High School Placement. As one who has "been there", he encouraged the graduates to dream great dreams, to believe in their ability to accomplish their heart's desires, and to name their vision, for without a vision, people will perish. To translate these attributes into accomplishments, he urged the students to develop their confidence by facing and overcoming the adversities that will surely come their way. Mr. Moncur asked them to remember that the love and support of their peers and family would always be with them.

Also present were Sister Arlene Antczak, Prioress of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ and Link's Foundress, Sister Vivien Jennings. Their presence embodied the vision of the Sisters in promoting education as a pathway out of poverty for underserved youngsters in the Newark area. Sister Arlene conferred diplomas upon the graduates.

Accomplishment at Link was recognized in many ways. The teachers' contribution of endless time, patience and energy was reflected in the excellence achieved by students in each subject area. Three students



Tiffany Adams, '07 receives the Founder's Award from our Foundress, Sister Vivien Jennings. Far right, Devero McDougal, '83, member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Alumni Committee.

were specially recognized.

Devero McDougal, '83 announced Mikeala Semexant, '07 as the winner of the Alumni Award for her essay on how the Link experience influenced and prepared her for her future at Oldfields School in Maryland. Chimebere Nwaoduh, '07 received the Academic Excellence Award for the highest grade-point average in the class. Tiffany Adams, '07 was granted the Founder's Award for personifying the Core Values, Link's mission and the vision of the Sisters of St. Dominic for this school.



Tawanda Peebles, '07 receives the award for achievement in English for Team Haki from teacher Justin Bernstein.

(continued on page 2)

**Board of Trustees
2006 – 2007**

Christopher Garavente
Co-Chairperson

Edward E. Sheridan
Co-Chairperson

Andrew D. Lacey
Vice Chairperson

Robert H. Bertoni
Secretary

Joseph Aboyoun, Esq.
Sister Arlene Antczak, O.P.

Eugene Crocker

Lenore Davis

Alan De Rose

David Ferry

Wendy Lacey

Devero McDougal, CPA, '83

Marnie G. McKoy

Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, O.P.

Lynne Pagano

Antoinette Petrocelli

Edward Reitz

Janice S. Robinson, Esq.

Adam C. Rohdie

Michael J. Seergy

Robert F. Siebold

Arthur R. Stern

James P. Tamaro

Ronald S. Temple, CFA

Gerald L. Vernotica, Ed.D.

Michael Virzi

Marguerite M. Walter

Trustees Emeritus

Sister Ann Dominic, O.P.

Robert L. Podvey, Esq.

Administration

Marnie G. McKoy
Principal

Mary Ball Cappio
Director of Finance

Keisha Cleveland
Vice Principal

Maria Pilar Paradiso
*Vice Principal,
Director of Institutional
Advancement*



From the Desk of the Principal

This year I began a continuing dialogue with students about the

difference between spending money and investing money; the difference between spending time and investing time and the difference between spending talents and investing talents. The last two years at Link have been years that students, parents, teachers and Link donors have invested in the education of young people with such great potential. This time has been an investment not only in the academic and moral education of our student body, but an investment into the future of our local community, the state, the country and this world.

Those who have the privilege of working with our students each and every day clearly understand that they are a solid investment – an investment extending beyond a school day or a

school year. This investment will return great dividends impacting not only Link or Newark or New Jersey or the United States. The greatness of this investment is for the world to enjoy.

We know that our students will come to understand the true wealth of what has been invested in them and will be compelled to invest in others, taking the seeds sown into their lives and multiplying them through what they invest in others. It may manifest in money or a cure for a disease or a quality school or a first home for a young family. I do not know how it will revisit them, but I do know this – good investments yield great dividends. The students may never again see what they spend, but a good investment lasts a lifetime and never stops giving.

It has been my privilege to invest in these young lives and my privilege to share this great investment with the world. ■

GRADUATION 2007 (cont'd)



Principal Marnie G. McKoy.

In his closing remarks, Stanley Baxter, '07 exhorted his fellows to believe that they are the future and to believe in themselves.

Principal Marnie McKoy used a popular song, *Make It Rain*, to shape her remarks. She noted that in the corporate world, a "rainmaker" is a person of much power who knows how to bring people together and how to make things happen. Each graduate has the capacity to bring precious rain into their lives. She said, "You will not live the life you're meant to live unless you make it rain. Take what you've learned and make it rain for others."

When asked what inspired him most about the graduation ceremony, Kingsley Akunor, '07 said "...growing up and moving on to the next stage of our lives". Kingsley and his fellow graduates can leave Link knowing that their education has not only fostered their dreams and aspirations, but also their Link education has provided the firm foundation of uplifting Core Values, of demanding academic standards and of support and confidence to make their desires reality. ■



Associate Director of Development Ngozi Emenyeonu places the kente cloth around the neck of Kingsley Akunor, '07. It is traditional that students do not don the kente cloth on their own. It is presented by another, along with a blessing.

The Measure of Success

Each of our 2007 graduates has received at least one acceptance to a private high school or one of Newark's highly selective magnet schools, earning over \$1.5 million in scholarships in the process. Below are the schools they plan to attend. Please join us in congratulating Link's Class of 2007:



Sister Arlene Antczak, O.P. hands his diploma to Amir Muhammad, '07 as Foundress Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P. looks on.

Tiffany Adams¹, Christ the King Prep
Kingsley Akunor¹, Science Park High School
David Amoakoh, Christ the King Prep
Shameya Andrews², Solebury School*
Da'Vonne Artis, University High School
Kelvin Barnes, Seton Hall Prep
Najah Bateman, St. Vincent Academy
Stanley Baxter, Seton Hall Prep
Jade Broomfield, Collegiate High School
Rachel Brown, Science Park High School
Najiyyah Carter, Langley High School
Leonard Clark, St. Benedict's Prep
Makeda Cogman, American History HS
Sabrina Collins, Marist High School
Charles Crawley, Marist High School
Myles Crawley, Immaculate Conception HS
Isaiah Dismuke, Science Park High School
Naji Dwyer, Immaculate Conception HS
Dante Ebron, Marist High School
Olabisi Gbayisomore, Seton Hall Prep
Desmond Grant, Christ the King Prep
Angelique Hernandez, St. Vincent Academy
Jaquan Holley, Marist High School
Brianna Horne, Marist High School
Shakir Humphries, Marist High School
Ola Ijandipe, Marist High School

Mariah Jukes, Essex Vocational School
Triana Keith, St. Patrick High School
BreAnn Laurel, St. Vincent Academy
Monique Long, St. Vincent Academy
Mahogany Ludivier, St. Vincent Academy
Amir Muhammad, Seton Hall Prep
Pacianna Muhammad, St. Vincent Academy
Chimebere Nwaoduh¹, Miss Porter's School*
Ndidiamaka Obikulu, St. Vincent Academy
Kamari Okeke, Lacordaire Academy
Bryshawna Otto, Christ the King Prep
Dehjaun Owens, Arts High School
Tawanda Peebles, Benedictine Academy
Danasia Pickett, St. Vincent Academy
Vaughn Powell², Westtown School*
Nashir Reeves, St. Benedict's Prep
Shatanya Schenck, St. Vincent Academy
Mikeala Semexant², Oldfields School*
Gail Sexius, Marist High School
Ashanti Sharp, Benedictine Academy
Brian Smith, Newark Tech
Ahmod Sullivan, Immaculate Conception HS
Cusaj Thomas², Perkiomen School*
Tayzia Treadwell-Swann, Arts High School
Dominique Williams-Bey, Christ the King Prep

¹ NJ SEEDS Scholar

² Wight Foundation Scholar

* Boarding School

Our School Song

Chorus: All hail LCS

It's the purple and gold for me
 Our days filled with doing our best and happy
 memories

Even though we're moving on
 Striving hard to be the best
 We'll never forget we were a part of Link Community

Chorus

Rap: The lesson we have learned at
 LCS - To all who were concerned -
 Honesty, Caring, Responsibility, Doing one's best - at
 Link Community

Chorus

*Lyrics by representatives from the Class of 2005;
 Music arranged by Olabisi Gbayisomore,
 '07, Vaughn Powell, '07, Kayla Evans, '06
 and Darryl T. Powell, '95, a member of
 Link's faculty*



The graduates sing the school song, All Hail LCS!



Community School

120 Livingston Street
Newark, NJ 07103
www.linkschool.org
Main Office: 973.642.0529
Office of Institutional
Advancement: 973.642.5343
Fax: 973.642.1978
Email: development@linkschool.org

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newark, NJ
Permit No. 415

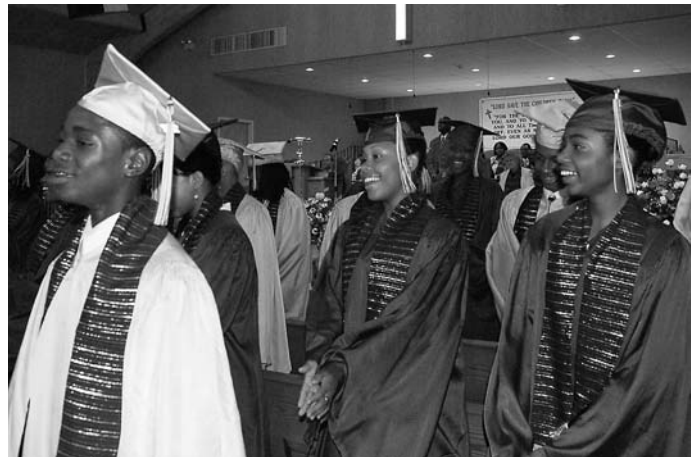
Newark is our home.

Education is our work.

The world is our future.

Mission Statement:

Link Community School seeks to provide an outstanding independent middle school education for Newark adolescents of all academic abilities from economically disadvantaged families. Link endeavors to create a powerful learning community built on a collective commitment to excellence and enduring core values. By building a strong academic foundation and instilling life long values, Link aims to develop students who will be successful in higher education and responsible and resourceful citizens who give back to others.



Link Community School was founded in 1969 by Sisters of St. Dominic, Caldwell, NJ
Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
Member NJAIS and NAIS