



Peter Paul eNews - May 2018

We are incredibly grateful to our donors who make everything at Peter Paul possible! With so many incredible organizations in Richmond, we realize that choosing which cause will support is a big decision. We do not take that choice lightly and are ever so thankful to donors who choose Peter Paul. If you have not made a contribution and would like to support Peter Paul, would you please consider making a gift by June 30 to help finish out our fiscal year strong?



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Congrats to our College Grads!

Peter Paul is incredibly proud to join the parents, family members, and friends of Damon Hayes and Taylor Brown in celebration; both just graduated from college! Damon and Taylor are former Peter Paul students, who continued to spend time with us on their school breaks. You can read more about their post-secondary journeys below.



Damon Hayes, a graduate of the Peter Paul program, is now a graduate of James Madison University!

Damon's journey:

"I graduated [from James Madison University (JMU)] with a degree in health sciences and a minor in pre-pharmacy. During the fall, I will be applying to pharmacy school and working as a pharmacy technician. During my senior year, I was able to present research at a Health Sciences Symposium discussing the correlation between body positivity and relationship status among college students. I also served as the President of the JMU Branch of NAACP, Director of Educational Activities for the Xi Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and a member of Contemporary Gospel Choir."

Taylor's journey:

"My major was psychology and minor was social work. During my senior year I have conducted research on the different coping skills between freshman and seniors. I presented my research at a psychology conference in High Point, North Carolina this semester. I have also acquired many

Taylor Brown graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in social work from Ferrum College!



skills and certificates such as Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and Adult Mental Health First Aid. I have recently been selected to shadow a guidance counselor at Franklin County High School for an internship. The internship will take place from May 7 to May 25; it is a thirty-six hour internship. I am also a member of Ferrum College's Praise Band, the Social Work Club, and I am the Inter-Club Council Representative for the Psychology Club."

Job Support for Peter Paul Parents



Capital One associates speak with a Peter Paul parent about her career interests and how to job search for positions that will match her skills and passions.

Peter Paul has been working hard to support the parents of the students we serve. The Promise Family Network (PFN) was created to strengthen the family and connect parents with needed resources and with one another. PFN offers free training such as parenting workshops, family field trips, and access to workforce development opportunities.

A great example of PFN's mission at work is a collaboration with Capital One's Future Edge Initiative. The Future Edge Initiative aims to help "Americans thrive in the ever-changing digital economy" through various channels of support. One way that Capital One is directly impacting the

Richmond community and Peter Paul parents is by sharing critical employment resources. PFN has helped to bring parents and Capital One associates together over the last year for important resource opportunities, including a recent workshop on job search strategies. Associates met one-on-one with participating parents, providing guidance around how to look for a job and how to prepare resumes and cover letters. The group had deep and meaningful conversations; one parent was even matched with a Capital One associate she had worked with at a previous workshop, helping to strengthen their connection!

Thank you, Capital One for this incredible resource for the families we serve!

Career Day

The term "career" is a big word that many young children may not think much about or know how to define. That is why it is most important that we introduce the idea to them as early as possible!

To do that, Peter Paul has held many career fairs for our students over the years. In April, our team of educators organized yet another great event for all Peter Paul students. "The objective for career day was to showcase potential careers that would be available for our students here at



Peter Paul. The majority of the careers and businesses highlighted were located within the East End,” Peter Paul’s Director of Education Dr. Bassett said.

In total 13 professionals came out to give their time, sharing their career journeys and professional experiences with our students. Below is a list of those who joined us:

- Ms. Shola Walker, owner of Mahogany Sweets Bakery in Jackson Ward
- Sgt. Stacey Henry from Richmond Police Department, along with fellow officers Jasmine White, Latrice Ellerbe, Alexis Tyree-Williams, Brandon Ball, and K. Harris
- Delegate Lamont Bagby from Virginia House of Delegate’s 74th District
- Ms. Dionne Hearn, a local pharmacist
- Ms. Mary Jo Grieve with PBS and her colleagues, Tressie Cottom and Saraya Wintersmith
- Attorney Arrion Dennis (and Peter Paul mentor!)
- Ms. Lawson Wijesooriya, owner of Church Hill’s The Neighborhood Scoop ice cream truck
- Ms. Felecia Manns, owner of Happiness Dance Studio
- SSG Tywandia Coulter of the U.S. Army
- Ms. Shannon McConville, owner and artistic director of Stavna Ballet

We are most thankful for these incredible people who shared their career experience with our students, helping to expose our young people to the many job opportunities out there!

Building Shared Experiences at Kings Dominion!



the ride.

On April 21st, thirteen mentees and their mentors went on a field trip to King’s Dominion Theme Park. This was the first time that many of our students had the chance to visit a theme park of any kind; they were overjoyed to have such a fun experience with their mentors!

Many mentees were especially enthusiastic about the park’s rollercoasters, which include some of the tallest and fastest rides in the world! Most were courageous enough to jump on the *Anaconda*, *Dominator*, and *Intimidator 305*, even if their mentors chose to sit them out. Even second grader Malachi was brave enough to ride *The Grizzly* coaster with his brother, Markale, and his mentor, Chris, joining him on

Other favorites included *Planet Snoopy*, filled with 14-acres of Peanuts themed rides, and the *Blue Ridge Tollway* ride, where mentees had the chance to drive their mentors around a track in real, gas-powered antique cars – no driver’s license required!

After a fun-packed morning, lunchtime was another highlight of the trip; mentees picked out any restaurant of their choosing to enjoy with their mentors. After working up a great appetite, everyone certainly enjoyed their pizza, funnel cakes, milkshakes, and any other treat.

The group spent more than six jam-packed hours at the park before heading back to Richmond – Many of the students were so worn out that they fell asleep on the bus ride home!

A Star's Trek to Success



Click on the image above to view a clip of Demare Cosby performing "Life" written Ms. Angelyn Poe. You can also view a video of students performing "Phenomal Woman" by Maya Angelou by [clicking here](#).

Peter Paul's Red Carpet Affair gets better and better every year! This year the theme of the annual student recognition and performance was "A Star's Trek to Success." The students put on an incredible show, all in celebration of one another, their accomplishments, and talents.

Kicking off with a speech, recited by Peter Paul 3rd grade student Damare Cosby, the audience made up of parents, volunteers, and staff listened to Demare recite the powerful words of the poem "Life," written by our very own Ms. Poe. His enthusiasm and confidence on stage was incredible!

Another wonderful moment was the performance of Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomal Woman," when a group of female Peter Paul students brought the poem to life. Their energy and spirit were contagious and the audience was in awe of their performance.

Later, students were recognized for several awards including Most Improved, Most Enthusiastic Learner, Students' Choice Award, Most Innovative, and Student of the Year!

The affair's finale was a brilliant performance by "Kings and Queens United Steppers." The group of Peter Paul students had spent weeks rehearsing a step routine entitled "A Star's Step to Success," choreographed and coached by Peter Paul teachers Ms. Stewart-Monroe and Ms. Johnson.

The students shined bright that evening and all because of their own accomplishments and their individual "treks" to success. Of course, we could not go without recognizing our incredible team of educators, who helped the students bring this wonderful evening to fruition. A special thanks to the Red Carpet Affair committee: Ms. Poe, Dr. Johnson, Ms. Davis, and Mrs. Burton.

SAVE THE DATE

Richmond Promise Neighborhood's Community Action Network Meeting

Join Peter Paul and Richmond Promise Neighborhood (RPN) for the Bi-monthly Community Action Network Meeting! This meeting will be a celebration of all that Richmond Promise Neighborhood and its incredible action teams have accomplished so far. This will be a wonderful opportunity to

Volunteer and In-kind Needs

Help us Build a Playground!

We need volunteers Thursday, June 7 to help us build a KaBOOM! playground in one day! If you are available to volunteer that day, please reach out to [Rosemary Jones](#) - or register online by [clicking here](#).

learn more about RPN and the impact it has had on Richmond's East End.

Date: Wednesday, May 30

Time: 8:30 - 10:00 am

Place: Peter Paul
1708 N. 22nd Street, 23223



KaBOOM! Playground Ceremonies

Build Day Opening Ceremony

Date: Thursday, June 7

Time: 8:30 am

Place: Peter Paul
1708 N. 22nd Street, 23223

Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Date: Thursday, June 7

Time: 2:30 pm

Place: Peter Paul
1708 N. 22nd Street, 23223

Children's Celebration!

Join us when our students will enjoy using their brand new playground for the very first time!

Date: Monday, June 11

Time: 4:35 pm

Place: Peter Paul
1708 N. 22nd Street, 23223



Volunteer this Summer!

Summer is just around the corner! We will have many wonderful opportunities for volunteers to spend time with us and our students during Summer Promise 2018. A full list of volunteer needs is available on our website; [please click here](#) to view them. Below is a sample of just a few!

- Reading Buddies
- Garden Volunteers
- Clare's Camp Counselors



Peter Paul Development Center | 1708 N. 22nd Street, Richmond, VA 23223 | 804.780.1195 | info@peterpauldevcenter.org | www.peterpauldevcenter.org

STAY CONNECTED



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