



Peter Paul eNews - October 2018

What an INCREDIBLE month – we have our running shoes ON! Peter Paul has been rolling from one thing to the next in high gear. We couldn't be more proud of our students, parents, staff, volunteers, donors, and the entire community for coming together to make a lot of GOOD happen this month! We are so grateful for everyone who volunteers, donates, and advocates for Peter Paul - YOU make it possible for Peter Paul to **Educate the Child, Engage the Family, and Empower the Community!**



Rise & Shine 2018

Yesterday was a beautiful day in the East End for our annual Rise & Shine breakfast! Highlights included: Peter Paul graduate (and current employee) Isaiah speaking on “My Thoughts on the State of the East End Community;” Richmond Promise Neighborhood Advisory Board Chair Chanel Bea speaking on “What Change Feels Like to Me;” and a great panel discussion “Equity in Our Neighborhood” led by Peter Paul Executive Director Damon Jiggetts. Panelists included: Steve Markel, Vice Chairman of Markel Corporation; RPS Chief Engagement Officer Shadae Thomas Harris; Laura Lafayette, CEO of Richmond Assoc. of Realtors; and Chanel Bea, Community Engagement Assistant at VCU. The breakfast was also made special as one of our own graduates, Keonne, was in the kitchen helping Chef to prepare the meal. A big THANK YOU to our speakers, panelists, community members, volunteers, supporters and attendees who helped make Rise & Shine an amazing, inspiring event!



East End Community Field Day



6 T H A N N U A L !

The month started off right on Saturday, October 6, for the 6th Annual East End Community Field Day. A celebration of togetherness, fun, and learning, partners from across the city hosted booths for children, families, and neighbors to learn and participate in fun activities. Field Day maintains a focus on health and wellness, and entertainment and presenters supported this effort. A big thanks goes out to the American Heart Association, which provided a generous donation to ensure we had healthy food options. We also appreciate in-kind support from DJ East, WCVE/Community Idea Station, and Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. And, we are so grateful for the number of partners who set up fun and engaging activities for youth and adults to enjoy!

Mentor/Parent Meet Up

Last Wednesday, a total of 42 mentors, parents, and mentees met for Peter Paul's annual mentor/parent meet up. The vast majority of the parents and mentors had never met before, and everyone had a good time playing games and discovering all of their shared interests. Executive Director Damon Jiggetts was on hand to lead a discussion about the future of Peter Paul's programs and all of the attendees were able to share their own unique perspectives.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor? If so, please contact our volunteer and mentor coordinator, Michael Bledsoe, at mbledsoe@peterpauldevcenter.org.



The Origin Project



Co-founded by Adriana Trigiani and Nancy Bolmeier Fisher, *The Origin Project* seeks to inspire young people to find their inner voices through the craft of writing about their unique origins. Our Peter Paul students will journal all year as well as explore art forms to express their writing (visual art, theater, and spoken word performance) in preparation for the final book publication and culminating event. *The Origin Project* kicked off at Peter Paul with the First Lady of Virginia, students who participated in *The Origin Project* from Bristol and Manassas (Virginia) reading their works, co-founder Nancy Bolmeier Fisher, and staff member Linda Woodward. We are so excited for the learning, creativity, and self-expression that *The Origin Project* will inspire in our students this year!



Staff News - Joy Gilchrist and Sarah Young

Joy Gilchrist, VISTA Mentor Program Coordinator

Joy recently graduated from VCU with degrees in Psychology and Women's Studies, and is excited to join Peter Paul as the VISTA Mentor Program Coordinator. While at VCU, Joy learned about Peter Paul through her service learning program and was drawn to work at the Center after graduation because of a desire to stay in Richmond, while learning about a new part of the city. Joy's role includes coordinating mentorships, bringing mentors out to Peter Paul's satellite locations, and helping students and mentors navigate this process. Joy says, "I love the kids. They have such great energy and it's opened my eyes to the joys of working with students." Welcome, Joy!





Sarah Young, Assistant Director of Development

Sarah is thrilled to be joining the Peter Paul team as the Assistant Director of Development after relocating to Richmond from Boston, Massachusetts. Sarah's most recent role was as Associate Director of Development at Esperanza Academy, a tuition-free, independent middle school for girls in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Passionate about youth development and educational equity, she is excited for this new chapter at Peter Paul. "I look forward to getting to know the vibrant Peter Paul community, and fulfilling my personal mission of contributing to equitable educational opportunities for all young people."

Lights On After School

Lights On After School is a national event that is celebrated by the Afterschool Alliance and programs throughout the country. Peter Paul uses it as another opportunity to invite our parents to engage in fun academic and performing and visual art activities. All sites were at the Center on Thursday, October 25, for the event. The teachers, site coordinators, and specialists planned some amazing activities!



Volunteer this Fall

Join us this fall as the school-year volunteer opportunities are in full swing! We have many wonderful opportunities for volunteers to spend time with Peter Paul and our students. 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!

- Mentors
- Tutors
- Classroom Assistants
- Class Sponsors



STAY CONNECTED



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