

# Global News

Global Concepts Charter School  
- February 2010 Newsletter -



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## February Dates

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Violin Superstars @ Kleinhans
- 9<sup>th</sup> - PTA Meeting @ 4:15pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> - 2nd /3rd grade field trip to T.O.Y.
- 10<sup>th</sup> - African American Read In – 10am  
**Celebrating Black History Month**
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Quarter 2 Awards Assembly
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Chess Tournament @GCCS
- 15<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> - President's Week Recess
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - School resumes
- 24<sup>th</sup> - GCCS Board Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Spring Picture Day

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## From the Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents, guardians, students and staff for all their support throughout semester one. We appreciate the work you have done in actively serving the school's co-curricular program, performing arts activities, clubs and the PTA. We encourage you to continue your involvement in our school community throughout the coming months.

This new semester it's a fresh start for students and we wish everyone success. We encourage students to work hard and do well in their courses. It is imperative that students seek extra help from their teachers when

encountering difficulties in their classes and not wait until the end of the semester to ask for assistance. Parents/Guardians please call your child's teachers if you have any questions about your child's progress in a course. Our goal is to work with all partners so that students can experience success in school.

Richard Fill  
Principal/CEO

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## Character Trait for February is Tolerance

*Tolerance is respecting the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.*

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## Student Success

**Tips for Parents: Starting the Semester Right** (Taken from the National Education Association [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org))

The beginning of a new semester can be the start of a journey toward success if parents, students and teachers work together. Here are some suggestions from NEA for parents who want to help their child start the new semester right.

### Getting to Know You

Make time to get to know your child's teacher. Let the teacher know that you appreciate feedback on your child's progress—both

positive and negative. Alert the teacher to anything out of the ordinary that's going on with your child or family. The better you know the school and how it operates, the more likely your child will be to have a productive and positive school experience.

### **A Place of One's Own**

Whether it's a bedroom desk or the kitchen table, every child needs a regular place to study and complete homework. This area should be well lighted and equipped with school supplies like paper, pencils and a dictionary. Siblings should respect the time set aside for studying and not distract the child who is doing homework.

### **Kids (and Parents) Love Routines:**

Set aside a specific time for studying every night. Discuss with your child what time of day would work best. Right after school? Just before dinner? Immediately following dinner? If homework has been already completed, have the child use study time for reading or reviewing problem areas.

### **Create High Expectations**

To learn, children must believe they can learn. As the parent, you are the most important adult in your child's life. The feedback you give your child—what you say and do about his or her abilities—will have a lasting impact on your child's self-confidence. Be encouraging and praise your child for the amount of effort that he puts into a project. Let her know that doing her best is what counts.

### **Reading Can Be Contagious**

Research shows that children who are read to in their early years do better in school. Make reading a habit in your home, for both you and your child. For older children, set 30 minutes aside each night for family reading time when everyone reads together silently. Keep plenty of reading materials available i.e. books, magazines and newspapers. Let your kids see you reading and they're more likely to pick up the habit.

### **Be Prepared For Your Next Parent-Teacher Conference**

Talk with your child beforehand about what she thinks are her best subjects or what he likes least. Find out if your child has anything that he or she would like you to ask. Write down your own list of questions. Feel free to ask about your child's progress or about anything you don't understand about the school program. Most importantly, talk to the teacher about ways you can work together to help your child.

### **Schools + Communities = Success**

To be effective, schools need the support of parents and the community. Find out key dates during the year there will be opportunities for you to participate in school events. Mark your family calendar and your personal date book now to hold those dates.

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# **Success for Global Concepts Charter School's Basketball Team On (and off) the court**

BY MARK MARINACCIO

Many people are surprised by the early success of the newly formed Global Concepts Charter School basketball team. As of Tuesday, January 26, the boys are 4-1 in their first five games in existence. The players themselves would tell you that winning games has been merely a by-product of a much broader plan for overall success.

Gators coach Jack Graham and Volunteer Assistant Coach Sean O'Brien have ensured that their team is made up of well-rounded young men by establishing a player contract that states the responsibilities for each player. A student must be passing all of their

courses to play, and there are also consequences for poor school behavior.

“We have put two players on academic probation. I make them get a planner signed by some of their teachers each day,” Graham said during a recent practice. “If they do not show effort in class or do not complete their homework, then they cannot get it signed and participate in that day’s practice or games. This has actually helped one particular seventh-grader dramatically improve his math grades and effort.”

Character, team-building, and relationships across curricula are constantly emphasized through the sport. Players are required to learn how to tie a tie, in order to wear it to school on game days. The team is instructed how to greet people, give firm handshakes, look others in the eye when speaking, and introduce themselves. A typical practice concludes with the team gathering to discuss upcoming quizzes and tests. The team was treated to a field trip to watch a University of Buffalo men’s basketball game.

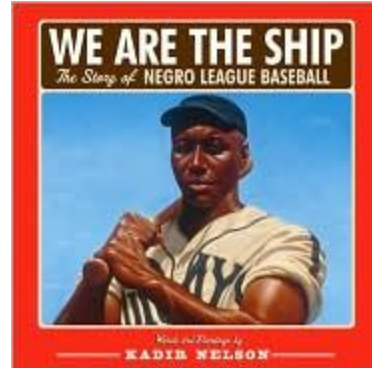
At Global Concepts, basketball is also being used as a instrument of charity. All the proceeds from an upcoming three-on-three tournament are going to the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research. The basketball team hopes its instant impact and success will serve as a model for future Global Concepts teams as the athletic program inevitably expands. Boys and Girls teams are on the horizon.

“The school seems to really be getting behind what we are doing and I hope that the athletic program continues to grow as the school matures,” added Graham. As evidenced by the actions of Coach Graham and his players, the maturation process appears to be picking up in a hurry.

## The Reading Corner



### Book of the Month:



We Are The Ship: The Story of the Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

Grade 3 & Up - A lost piece of American history comes to life in Kadir Nelson's elegant and eloquent history of the Negro Leagues and its gifted baseball players. The history of the Leagues echoes the social and political struggles of black America during the first half of the 20th century. There were scores of ballplayers who never became as famous as Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb and were almost lost in obscurity because of segregation—and Nelson recreates their history here.

The narrative is divided into nine innings, beginning with Rube Foster and his formation of the first Negro League in 1920 and closing with Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier into major league baseball in 1947. In between are fascinating snippets of the events and men who formed the Negro Leagues. Listeners glimpse the pain black Americans endured because of bigotry and segregation, but the true center of this story is the joy of baseball and the joy men felt at being able to play the game. Hall of Famer Hank Aaron, who began playing with the Negro Leagues, provides the foreword.



**SPRING PICTURE DAY**  
February 25<sup>th</sup>. Take a  
picture with a family member.