



High School Welcome Center Relocates to Linmoor

by Mariam Diallo

For the first time since the program opened its doors in 1999, The Welcome Center High School is housed in a building all by itself. The building formerly known as Linmoor Middle School is now, officially, the High School Welcome Center.

According to senior Veronica Corona her favorite thing about the school is the fact that we are not sharing it.

Our new building is very big. We

have a big cafeteria, a big auditorium,

a gym and also a bigger library.

She also said, "I like the lunch schedule because we don't have long lines anymore and, everybody has time to eat their lunch."

In this new school we have more elective classes such as music class journalism class and many others. Students

also have special classes to prepare student for the OGT tests.

The counselor, Ms. Turner, has more time for the students in our new school building. She can talk to students about what they need to graduate from high school, and which tests they need to take to go to college. She can also help them find colleges to attend after they graduate.

Our new building is very big. We have a big cafeteria, a big auditorium, a gym and also a bigger library.

According to Principal Woodard, Mifflin Middle School W.C will join us next year, adding approximately 200 students to the school.



Linmoor Middle Schools is now the High School Welcome Center.



Students have more room to walk the halls during classes in the bigger building.

More Elective Classes Offered at the High School Welcome Center

By Hawa Ba

Many new elective classes are being offered this year at the High School Welcome Center.

Some of the electives are drawing, Spanish 2, Introduction to Business, Microsoft Word, art, music and journalism.

Ms. Lance is the teacher for an elective class, “strategies for college success.” She is also a graduation coach.

She likes her class a lot because, she says, “...student are older and they are more responsible. They have a plan pretty much. They know where they are going and they are able to work independently by themselves. They are adults.”

According to Ms. Lance, the elective classes are important for the students in order to graduate and be well rounded.

By having an elective, students become well rounded. They learn how to adapt to other situations. They also learn how to be an adult” said Ms. Lance.

In America, some times, we “bite the bullet” said Ms. Lance. In other words, when taking those classes you will see the relevance as you get older.

According to Ms. Lance, the students should take elective classes because having technology, music, and art are important.

Students must have eight elective classes to graduate.



Ms. Lance told us that students need electives to graduate.

Students have Mixed Feelings About Elective Classes

by Adama Diallo

Students have different feelings about their elective classes. Most of the students like their electives classes. They said that their elective are helping them. Others dislike their elective classes.



Senior Musu koroma expressed frustration with one of her classes. She claims she took it before. She said that she asked to change but they refused.

Senior Hawa Ba said that she likes two of her electives because they are helping her. However she wasn't allowed to pick her elective and she is not happy about that.

Ms. Lance said that in the future students will see the importance of those elective classes. She also added that she and Ms. Turner will work on the schedules so that hopefully, next year, juniors and seniors might be able to choose their elective classes.

Student Population Very Diverse

by Mubarak Ashur

The students in the high school Welcome Center have many different cultures and languages.

The High school welcome center is culturally rich. There are many students from all around the world in this school. And they have very different cultures. Students in this school are interested in each other because of their various cultures, and they learn from each other.

In this school students also speak different languages. The total number of languages spoken is 17. But the main language they speak and understand is English.

There are approximately 372 students in the High School Welcome Center (as of this writing). And these students came from about 33 different countries. The names of the countries are listed in the chart below.

Brazil	Burkina faso	Burma	Burundi	China	Colombia	Congo
Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador	Ethiopia	Ghana	Guatemala
Guinea	Haiti	Honduras	Jordan	Laos	Liberia	Mauritania
Mexico	Palestine	Puerto Rico	Saudi Arabia	Senegal	Sierra leone	Somalia
Virgin island	Togo	Vietnam	Thailand	Morocco	Nicaragua	

Welcome Center Diversity Provides Opportunities for Cross Cultural Friendships

by Micheline Manirambona and Bisharo Ahmed

At the Welcome Center there are students from all different countries. We spoke to some of them to ask about how they feel going to school with people from such diverse backgrounds.

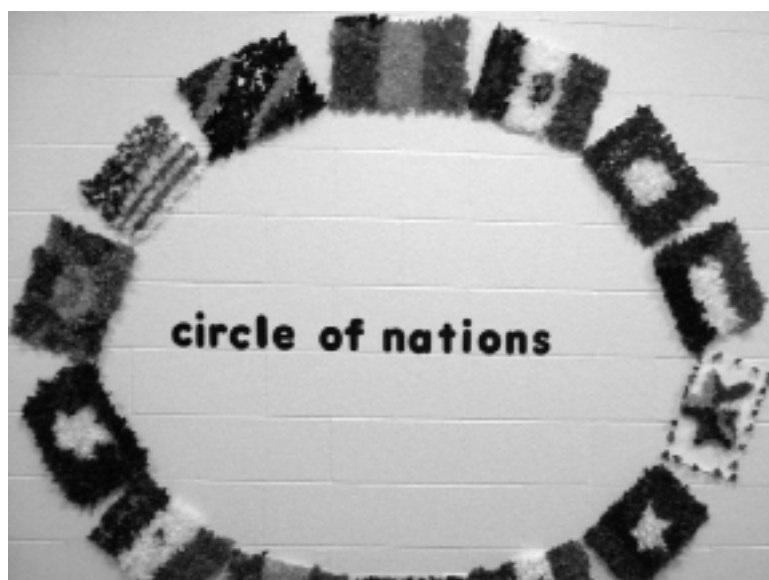
The first Student we talked to was Mariam Diallo she said, "I like going to school with different students from many countries because it helps to understand their culture and learn more about their religion." She is from Guinea.

The second Student we talked to was Ayan Mohamed. She said, "The first day I came to school I was scared and I felt shy and I felt like

everybody was looking at me, but I saw many students from different countries. Everything was different for me." She is from Somali.

The third Student we talked to was Nachiron Ovedraoyo. He said, "I feel happy and excited to meet new students around the globe." Then he added, "it's a big opportunity to make friends and treat them like families." He is from Burkino Faso.

The fourth Student we talked to was Rebeca Khamisi. She said, "I feel great because I get to know many students from different countries. Then I get to learn their character and religious beliefs." She is from Sudan.



Feeling thirsty? It is Now Safe to Drink the Water

By Job Garcia



"Out of Order" signs were up for a few weeks, but it is now OK to drink the water.

It took a few weeks but now it is safe to drink the water again.

The water was off for a few weeks after tests administered by Columbus City Schools revealed levels of lead in the water.

High levels of lead are harmful for students and therefore all fountains were "out of order."

School leaders and the EPA worked together to solve the problem. They expected that it wouldn't take long to fix, and it didn't.

The problem was discovered this summer when the district tested their water.

Administrator Mr. Sain said, "We found the problem on the second day of school."

Mr. Sain explained that, "The problem (the lead level) probably (occurred) because the school is older. That is why the water had lead."

The school is old and the problem of the lead comes from the water pipes.

The EPA has tested the water and cleaned it so we can drink the water again.

After the water was cleaned, the EPA rechecked the water to be sure it was safe.

(The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is the governmental agency responsible for the administration of laws that control and/ or reduce pollution of air, water, and land systems.)

Cold Lunch Problem Resolved

By Asmaou Diallo

Students were very concerned about their lunch. Some were really not happy about it. They were claiming that the food was frozen. And they were having the same food every day since the school started.

Mrs. Gena from the food services at the school cafeteria mentioned, "We are a little slow in the kitchen since we are not able to cook warm food yet. Hopefully, next week the Health Department is supposed to inspect the kitchen, and by the middle of the week we will be up and running."

During the interview she also mentioned, "We will not be serving pork products at all because we have

a lot of concerns about that."

On Monday the 21 of September, the problem was solved. Students are now receiving hot lunches. Each day the food is getting better and better. The students are very grateful.



Gina and the cafeteria staff worked hard to get us hot lunches.

Staff Spotlights to Feature Information to Help Students Get To Know the Staff



We have a great staff here and our staff spotlights will help you get to know them. Above left and right: important people you need to know!



The Welcome News staff wants you to know that we have some excellent staff here at the HSWC. We will be featuring three or four staff members every issues so that the students can get to know them better. See our first three below and on page 6! To nominate what staff you'd like to see in this section contact Mr. Smith in room 13!

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Jones

by Foli Gabianou-Adjanoh

Q: What is your name and what do you teach?

A: Mrs. Jones – English 10 teacher.



Ms. Jones wants her students to, “read, read, read!”

Q: What is your favorite kind of music?

A: Indie, rock, folk music.

Q: What is your favorite TV show?

A: Burn Notice, CSI.

Q: Where are you from and where you grow up?

A: Cincinnati – moved to Columbus at 3 years old.

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: Green.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Tennis, hiking, camping.

Q: Do you have any “pet peeves”? If yes, what are they?

A: Bad drivers.

Q: Do you have a favorite movie? If so, what is it?

Q: What is your favorite book??

A: The Count of Monte Cristo.

Q: If the school have unlimited budget, what would you want then to buy for you?

A: A smart board, and a laptop.

Q: How do you spend your time in weekend?

A: Spending time with friends, hiking and camping, reading.

Q: What was your favorite subject in high school?

A: History and biology.

Q: Where did you graduate from high school?

A: Hilliard Davidson high school.

Q: What did you get your degree in at college?

A: English.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: Getting to know my students.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: 8 years.

Q: What do you think about our new building?

A: Its old, but I like it! I am so glad we are all together!

Q: What advice would you give to your students to help them succeed in school?

A: Read, read, read! Reading is the number one thing you can do to improve your school succeed.

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Itunina

by Marvin Mejia

Q: What is your name and what do you teach?

A: My name is Yelena Itunina. I teach ESL lab and Spanish 2.

Q: What did you get your degree in at college?

A: My degree is in Foreign Languages.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: I have been teaching for 25 years in the school.

Q: Where are you from, and where did you grow up?

A: I am from Russia. I grew up in Belarus.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: My favorite hobbies are walking and taking pictures.

Q: Where did you graduate from high school?

A: I graduated in Belarus, Russia.

Q: How do you spend time in your weekends?

A: I spend time with my family in the weekends.

Q: What was your favorite subject in high school?

A: My favorite subject in the high school was

the English language.

Q: If the school had an unlimited budget, what would you want them to buy for you?

A: I would like the school money to be spent on field trips, and also on paying the art people invited to perform at school.

Q: What advice would you give to your students to help them succeed in school?

A: Do your job! (Study).



Ms. Itunina would like money for field trips.

Staff Spotlight: Mr. Bahta

by Mustafa Ashur

Q: What is your name and what do you teach?

A: Taklai Bahta – computer class teacher.

Q: What is your favorite kind of music?

A: Jazz.

Q: What is your favorite TV show?

A: No time for TV.

Q: Where are you from and where you grow up?

A: I am from Eritrea, east Africa.

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: Blue.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Play music.

Q: Do you have any “pets peeves” if yes, what are they?

Q: Do you have favorite music? If yes, what’s it?

A: Mother India.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Gone with the Wind.

A: Computer software and new hardware.

Q: How do you spend your time in weekends?

A: Go to library with my children.

Q: What was your favorite subject in high school?

A: Science.

Q: Where do you graduate from high school?

A: Kassala, Sudan.

Q: What did you get your degree in at college?

A: Computer science.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: Seeing students understand the material of my teaching.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

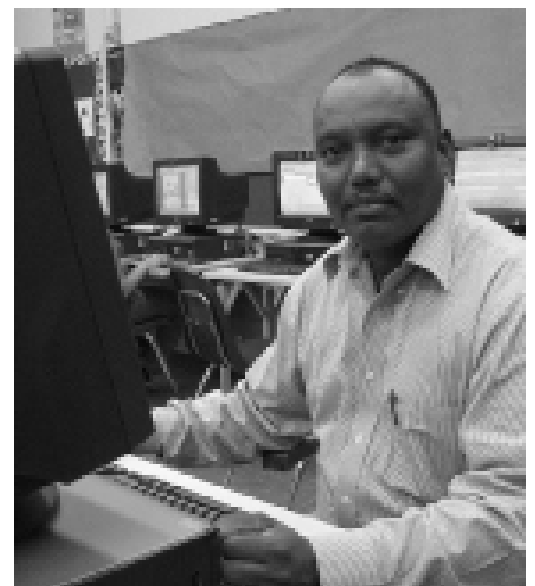
A: 8 years.

Q: What do you think about our new building?

A: It’s wonderful.

Q: What advice would you give to your students to help them succeed in school?

A: There is nothing impossible except if you do not try.



Mr. Bahta believes, “There is nothing impossible except if you do not try.”

Ms. Matan Organizes Students, Beautifies Courtyards

Ms. Matan and a group of her student volunteers have been working very hard since the beginning of the year to improve the courtyards. The courtyards were overgrown with weeds when the school year began and are looking great with Ms. Matan and her students' hard work! Thanks Ms. Matan and student volunteers!



Ms. Matan, above right, and student volunteers work hard to beautify the courtyard.

The Welcome News is a student produced publication of the High School Welcome Center. Our office is located in room 13.

Bisharo Ahmed
Mubarak Ashur
Mustafa Ashur
Hawa Ba
Adama Diallo
Asmaou Diallo
Mariam Diallo

Foli Gabianou-Adjanoh
Job Garcia
Micheline Manirambona
Marvin Mejia
Abdikani Mohamed
Yacouba Niane

Advisor: Mr. Smith

Arcadia Cup Tradition To Continue at High School Welcome Center

By Yacouba Niane

The Arcadia Cup is a soccer tournament which is in its fifth year at the Welcome Center. This tournament was started by Mr. Wilcoxon and Mr. Sain in 2004.



The event started as a way to give everybody a chance to get out and play soccer due to the fact that there are no sports here in school. The soccer tournament gave students something to participate in.

This year, the tournament will start right after spring break or a couple weeks before spring break.

There are going to be two fields, Field A and field B. This will give the advantage of playing two games at one time. Every Friday there will be four games played on the fields.

This should be a great season because we have more students since we have combined schols with Southeast and we have two fields.

There are about a hundred more students this year than in the previous year. As a team, we expect to have the best tournament since the beginning of the Arcadia Cup. This year, we are able to have up to twelve teams.

FC McGuffey is a two time defending champion for the 2007-2008 season. It is the only team to win the tournament twice.

We have only three player who won it twice, Yacouba Niane, Abdoulaye Sy and Mohamed who is currently attending West High School. Yacouba and Abdoulaye are still attending the Welcome Center and trying for the third time in three years. So far, no one has ever won it three times.

When we finally get the approval to become an actual high school there is a good chance that we will have our own high school team. It may happen for another few years but Mr. Woodard and Mr. Sain are working on that becoming a reality.



Above left, the trophy. Above, Mr. Wilcoxon, a founder of the tournament. Below, the future soccer field.

