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2015

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Welcome to our 42nd academic year!

Greetings!

We are off to a wonderful start for this academic year! Our new scholars Kiki and Janairi are doing great, and learning what it truly means to be a part of our Fayetteville-Manlius ABC family. Tanaja, Jade, Hailey, and Naej all provide a welcoming presence, and all of the scholars are enjoying the summer renovations to the house.

The girls have gotten back in to the swing of things for this year. They are taking a rigorous course load this semester as well as finding new clubs and activities to join.

It has been a busy fall, filled with festivities such as the Fayetteville Festival, sports events, the ABC dance at the high school, a visit from Richard Martin, the Community Schools Program Manager for the national ABC program, and other events and activities.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with the Fayetteville-Manlius ABC program!

La Rae M. Martin-Coore,
Resident Director



Christelle (Kiki) Pompee, freshman. One of our newest scholars, Kiki has interests and skills in quite a few different areas: she enjoys reading, drawing, and listening to music, and can speak conversational Creole, French, and Spanish. Kiki's hometown is Brooklyn, and her parents were both born in Haiti. She hopes to continue to widen her experiences by traveling to Japan, China, and Korea to learn about Asian culture. Kiki discovered the ABC program through her sister, a past participant. Although Kiki misses walks through Manhattan, she is hopeful that the ABC program will help her learn new social skills.

Tanaja Stephenson, senior. Tanaja, from Brooklyn, dreams of traveling around the world and learning about different cultures and people; she is interested in how different locations change or affect people and their personalities.

She's currently applying to colleges and hopes to double major in Psychology and Marketing. She earned psychology credits at Notre Dame this summer during a two-week visit. She also toured colleges in the Midwest over the summer, and was an ABC Orientation Group Leader for incoming program scholars. When Tanaja isn't thinking about college, she's making new steps for the FM Step Team as the captain.



Jadesola (Jade) Olusoji, junior. Jade hails from Bronx, New York. She likes to read books, swim, and hang out with friends. Jade joined ABC to learn what it was like earning her education in a new place, and to learn how to be independent. As a junior, she is looking at colleges on the East Coast and is interested in pursuing studies in a science field, possibly forensic science. Jade is a member of Step Team, Math League, and the JV Softball Team.



Hailey Gomez, sophomore. Born and raised in Manhattan, Hailey is Dominican and really loves her Hispanic culture. She spent her summer in the Dominican Republic with her family. Among her favorite activities are reading and watching movies with the girls. At FMHS, she is a member of Step Team and Mathletes. She also loves languages and wants to learn at least three more, in addition to Spanish and French, which she is currently studying in school. Because of her interest in languages she hopes to major in International Business when entering college.



Naej Jones, sophomore. Naej (her father's name, Jean, spelled backwards) enjoys reading and hopes to become either a journalist or a lawyer. She loves to immerse herself in her English and Global classes at FM. Over the summer, she completed an internship through Knowledge is Power (KIP), which gave her the opportunity to visit an architecture firm and a law firm. Naej keeps busy at FM as a member of Step Team, Chemistry Club, and Spanish Club. Naej's hobbies include shopping, photography, and hanging out with her roommates and friends.



Janairi Rojas, freshman. Our other new ABC scholar, Janairi, enjoys basketball, softball, and reading – especially mysteries. Like many of her scholar peers, she is interested in international travel, and hopes to visit Italy and Fiji someday. Her parents were born in the Dominican Republic, and her grandmother is Italian and Dominican. While her parents and younger siblings recently moved to Orlando, Janairi still has family – grandparents and an aunt – in Lawrence, MA. Janairi is hopeful that the ABC program will help keep her focused and on track at school.



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REMINDER!

TopSpin 2015 in NYC on December 9! To buy tickets or learn about our biggest fundraiser please check out topspincharity.org or www.facebook.com/TopSpinCharity. If you'd like to donate, remember to select F-M ABC as your charity.



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Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to FMABC P.O. Box 355, Manlius, NY 13104 or contributed via our website, www.fmabetterchance.org.



2015

News and Events

Renovations at the ABC House

It was a busy summer at the ABC House. Two and a half bathrooms were gutted and redone. Also, new sinks were added in two of the scholars' bedrooms. Much of the interior of the house was painted and new furniture was purchased for the study room. The scholars were excited about the renovations when they returned in September. These updates helped to provide a more comfortable and helpful environment for our scholars!



Thanks to Barbara Brace, Darlene Endy, and Rosie Oaks-Lee for weeding at the ABC house this summer



Tanaja, climber extraordinaire, at the picnic



The scholars, staff, past and present board members, host families, and community folk had a wonderful presence at the Fayetteville Festival



The ABC house got "Pinked Out" for a FMHS football game, in honor of breast cancer awareness month



Halloween spirit!



Naej and Hailey enjoying Halloween



Hailey has fun at the Welcome Back picnic





Donna with her family



Donna with her international students



Annette Miles



Kiya Hope

Donna Graham Stewartson, Class of '84

I am a Development Director at a small nonprofit, The Bessie Tarrt Wilson Initiative for Children. My family and I are well. I have been hosting international students and I am enjoying been a host mom. My son is getting ready for college and we are busy with applications. My daughter is playing field hockey and scored her team's first goal.

Tammy Rosado Gruenberg, Class of '84

Randy and I sent Zachary to Guilford College in Greensboro, NC and he seems to be adjusting well. He is pursuing a sustainability major (he thinks) and has already gotten an off-campus job at "La Rue," a modern cuisine restaurant in Greensboro. Seth is entering 8th grade and we are now looking into selecting a high school, which in NYC is much more cumbersome than applying to colleges. Randy continues to be an IT consultant and I am happy as the medical director of the Women's Health Pavilion at the Morris Heights Center.

Annette Miles, Class of '85

Life is great. Love the fall foliage. My teenagers are doing well. Good luck and God bless to all the current F-M ABC girls! "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future" --Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Alanna Forte-Bhoorasingh, Class of '98

I am graduating in December with my Master's in Nursing: Nurse Anesthesia. I'm going to apply next year for a doctorate in nursing practice. Stony Brook University Hospital has already offered me a job as a Nurse Anesthetist and I will be working there next year.

Kiya Hope, Class of '99

This year has come full circle for me. I started the beginning of the year intensely training for my first fitness competition in April. It was the biggest mental and physical challenge I have ever faced. Immediately following that I took a new job with a luxury retailer and continued my fitness training for another show in July. After my two competitions back to back, I decided to enjoy the rest of my summer and do some traveling. I recently just returned from Europe traveling to Amsterdam and Paris. I also love spending time with Jenelle's daughter, Sloane!

Maribelle Ruiz Hernandez, Class of '02

Life in Italy has been great. We've been traveling as much as possible and taking in all the Euro culture. I was selected for promotion again and look forward to the increased responsibility. We'll be in Italy until about May 2017 and haven't decided where we want to try to go next. Chris has been busy developing a travel phone application. Marquise is now in 6th grade and playing trumpet in the band. Cassidy has started kindergarten--time is flying by way too quickly. The Air Force has been such a blessing to us. Please continue to keep our military service members in your thoughts and prayers.

Aleatha Ealey Perkins, Class of '02

My husband (Mac) and I welcomed our second son, Micah Amir Perkins, on September 26th. We're trying to find our balance as a new family of four, but we're finding time to enjoy all the little moments along the way. Maki (who's now two and a half) has taken quite nicely to being a big brother. I definitely have my hands full, but Dad and big brother are always ready to lend a helping hand.





Maribelle's promotion selection dinner



Maribelle's mother and sister were able to visit her over the summer



Aleatha and her family

Amanda Chichester, Class of '03

I earned my MBA with a concentration in Media Management from the Metropolitan College of New York (my mother actually teaches undergrad there). Apparently, that wasn't enough school for me because I just enrolled in a web development course. My goal is to be an independent brand consultant. I'd like to do logos, web design, etc. but also create brand strategy, primarily for entrepreneurs ready to launch.



Aleatha's boys, Maki and Micah



Mildred with her former host family, the Soules

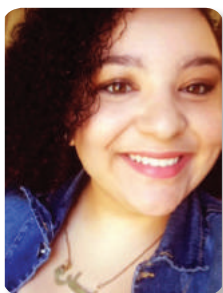
Mildred Flores, Class of '04

Jason and I are doing well. He's become more verbal in the last year and it's made him so independent. He's really growing into a cool kid. We moved back to the Bronx after 2 years in Brooklyn. The commute was getting overwhelming.

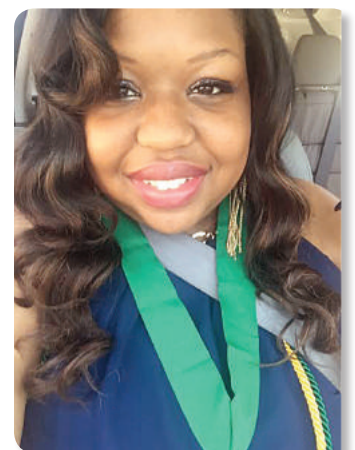
I really enjoyed myself at the reunion last year. It was great to see everyone. My favorite part was reconnecting with my host families, the Soules and Liz Ross. I also got to hang out with Barbara and Liz, and they're always fun! I look forward to representing FM-ABC at Top Spin this year again, it's such a cool NYC event and I really enjoy myself.

Sara Elzeini, Class of '14

I'm currently in my sophomore year at Boston College, studying Communications and hoping for a minor in Management and Leadership in the business school. This year I'm taking a special class called PULSE that combines philosophy and theology with a volunteer experience component. The class gives me an opportunity to step away from the BC community twice a week and tutor and mentor to high school students in the Boston public schools. Away from academics, I'm still involved in My Mother's Fleabag, BC's oldest comedy improv group on campus. This year I also serve on the executive board for Black Student Forum and Arab Students Association where I strive to enrich and inform my fellow BC students of social issues around tough and uncomfortable topics and provide a safe space for students of color.



Sara Elzeini



Amanda Chichester



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FM Step Team performs at Eagle Hill Middle School January 14 at 2:30. This event will kick off a school-wide fundraiser for FM-ABC!



Tanaja performing at Showboat 2015

Showboat 2016 at FMHS on April 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. Showboat is a variety show featuring the talents of over 100 high school students. Proceeds from Showboat benefit FM-ABC.



Guided by the principle that every child deserves access to a well-rounded, quality education, TopSpin seeks to provide necessary resources for underserved youth to succeed. By rallying professionals within the sports, entertainment and media industries, TopSpin raises awareness of the education crisis and provides financial support to a group of exceptional nonprofits.



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