



*Volunteers from Deloitte, a global finance company, assist students during our revamped Saturday Academy program. Selected students receive three hours of math tutoring every Saturday morning.*

## Excel Academy Introduces New Academic Support Programs for Selected Students

Excel Academy Charter School is excited to announce two enhanced academic support programs for selected students. The first of these programs, Saturday Academy, is focused on math. Students are invited to four consecutive 9:00am-12:00pm Saturday sessions, during which they work on specific math skills in small tutoring groups. Corporate volunteers and Excel Academy alumni serve as the tutors. The program's coordinator and Excel's 5<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, Ms. Foulke, explains, "It is great that our students can receive one-on-one support every week that they'd be unable to get in their regular math classes." Saturday Academy began on October 20<sup>th</sup> and will run through mid-May. The second program, which begins on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, is focused on helping students become better readers. Every Monday-Thursday, selected students will receive an additional literacy class from 3:45-4:30pm. The program's objective is to ensure all Excel students are reading on grade level by the time they finish their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### Upcoming Schoolwide Events

- Wednesday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>: End of Quarter 1**
- Thursday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>: All-School Hike (1:30pm dismissal)**
- Friday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>: No School (Professional Development)**
- Monday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: No School (Veterans Day)**
- Thursday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>: School Picture Day**
- Monday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>: Report Card #1 Distributed**
- Tues., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>: Family Conferences (11:30am dismissal)**
- Wednesday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>: 11:30am Dismissal (Thanksgiving)**
- Thursday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>: No School**

## A Note from the Principal

Dear Excel Academy Families:

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the 30+ families who attended the recent Department of Education meeting at Excel Academy. By all accounts, the Department was thoroughly impressed with all aspects of our school's operations. They were particularly moved by the numerous stories shared by our families. So again, I genuinely appreciate the time many of you took to assist our school.

I would also like to thank the many families who attended our first annual Soccer Round Robin tournament at Noyes Park. Over eighty Excel students, alumni, teachers, and families enjoyed the day's festivities. Thank you for participating!

Recently, you should have received, via mail, information about our school's 2007 MCAS results and, if your child attended Excel last year, your own child's results. As mentioned in the letter, our students can legitimately say they attend one of the best public middle schools in Massachusetts. We take significant pride in the amazing achievements of our students.

Lastly, please enjoy the staff and student profiles included on Page 2 of this month's newsletter. These two extraordinary individuals represent just a small sample of our great community.

Scott Given, Principal



*Excel students cheer on the Boston Celtics at the TD Banknorth Garden. Students won the opportunity to go to the game because they have maintained a high PREP Report average.*

**Staff Profile: Ms. Dankleff**

Ms. Dankleff is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Excel Academy's Director of Development. She also serves as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Homeroom Teacher.

What does the Director of Development do? *It means that I am responsible for raising money to support special programs such as enrichment, tutoring, and field trips.*

Why do you like Excel? *I really believe in the school's mission, and I love working to support students I care a lot about.*

What's your hometown? *Elmwood, Nebraska*

Where did you attend college? *University of Nebraska*

Favorite Hobbies? *Hiking and Reading. I am also a registered tornado spotter (which comes in more handy in Nebraska).*

**Curriculum Update**

Here are some sample math problems we would expect our students to solve correctly:

Grade 6

The girls' basketball team is flying to Chicago for the national championships. The school bought the team 15 airline tickets. If each ticket cost \$265, what was the total amount, in dollars, that the school paid for the 15 airline tickets?

Grade 7

Compute the following difference:

$$\frac{24}{72} - \frac{15}{90}$$

Grade 8

Larry is on a car trip that is a total of 568 miles long. He has completed 1/8 of his trip. How many more miles does Larry have left on the trip?

Answers: \$3,975; 1/6; 497 miles

**Student Spotlight: Valeria Acuna**

Valeria Acuna is an energetic 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Excel Academy. Her homeroom is Montserrat 5. She lives in Chelsea and takes the Chelsea bus to and from school everyday.

What is your favorite part of Excel Academy? *My favorite part is that the teachers really want kids to learn and go to a great high school. They care about us so much, and they will do anything to help us when we don't understand. And they want us to change the world.*

What is your favorite subject? *I like all of them.*

Favorite hobbies? *Breakdancing and reading.*

What Enrichment are you in? *Dancing.*

Where do you want to go to college? *I want to go Yale University (shown at right) because it is a great school, and it will set me up for a good life. That's my dream..*



## Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, is School Picture Day.

Details will be mailed home in the near future.

**PREP Report Update**

Many parents have noted that it is difficult to read the small print on their children's PREP Reports.

While we can't enlarge the font size, given that there is so much information we're trying to give you each week, we've found another solution:

**Magnifying Glasses!**

(Please enjoy this complimentary gift enclosed in the envelope.)



*Please note: The 2006-2007 version of Excel Academy's Annual Report has been completed and is available for review upon request.*

**Upcoming HS Placement Events**

Saturday 11/3 (9:00am) – ISEE exam for admission to Boston Public Exam schools (held at various Boston schools)

Saturday 11/10 (8:30 am) – SSAT exam (held at Excel Academy for 8th grade students)

Saturday 11/17 (9:00am) – Catholic School Entrance Exam (held at BC High and other Catholic high schools); Financial Aid workshop at BC High for parents and guardians

Reminder: The majority of Catholic school applications are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. All 8th grade students who are applying to catholic schools should be working on their applications during the month of November.



8th grade students pose for a picture during their recent trip to Plymouth Plantation.