

The Dreamer's Corner

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Ravenswood II

"I Have a Dream" Program

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Mission Statement:

The Ravenswood II "I Have a Dream" Program motivates and empowers youth from the Ravenswood Houses to realize their dreams by providing a long-term program of academic support, mentoring, and cultural enrichment, while guaranteeing the resources needed to achieve their educational and career goals.

Looking Forward...

- 2008 Summer Program
- Jones Beach Family Trip
- Camping at Kettletown

SCHOOL'S OUT!

Whew! Can you believe another school year is already over? We now wave a temporary "goodbye" to state exams, homework, and school lunch (at least until next year), and for our 5th graders, goodbye to elementary school! But the road ahead is paved with new adventures and experiences. We look toward the immediate future at our 2008 Summer Program, filled with trips to new places, new workshops, and family favorites like Jones Beach. And if we really stretch our necks we can see into the next school year, which brings with it the new experience of middle school, changes in our after-school program, and unknown challenges and opportunities for learning. Although we look back on the past with some sadness and, hopefully, lots of gladness, nothing beats the anticipation of what's to come. As a famous poet once wrote, "We see the brightness of a new page where everything yet can happen..."

- Karlisle Honore, Program Director



Our graduating fifth graders enjoy the day at Rye Playland

THOUGHTS FROM OUR SPONSOR...

My how time flies, we are coming to the end of another school year and it seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready for our first birthday dinners together. The last couple of months have been great. I have gotten to meet a lot of the parents and they are really excited about the future prospects for their children. I was also pleased to see the parents show interest in the health literacy program that Miss Honore put together. Listening to the kids try to figure out what exercises they needed to do to burn the calories they would consume from eating a cheeseburger was something quite amusing. They didn't realize how much exercise it would take to burn off those calories next time they will make better choices. The trip with the 5th graders to Rye Playland was great, the kids were so well behaved that they made me proud to be there with them. They actually got me to go on a couple of rides. I dominated with Kyle on the go-carts but Jennifer and I really got a little sick on that spinning ride. Next time I will just do the adult thing and wait for them to finish on the sidelines; no on second thought I think I will still go for it. Matt was my hero, he managed to go on almost every single ride and yes, even the roller coaster. I am looking forward to the overnight camping trip with the kids. I always wanted to camp out as a kid but never got the chance, so this will bring me back to my youth. I am really excited about the up coming year with all of the challenges that will come with it. The 6th graders will be the tip of the spear and I am sure that Matt and Karlisle will be there to help them. I will do my best to be a source of support and encouragement. I want to take this brief moment to personally thank Matt and Karlisle for the fantastic work that they have done with the children. I see and feel the passion that they have for their work. I could not have asked for a better team. - Warmly, Jose Rivero, Chairman, The Thomas & Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation

ON THE ROAD... TO BOSTON!

When we were in Boston we went to the **Five Wits Tomb**. The thing Deja and I like about the Five Wits was that it was the first place we went to when we got to Boston. It was fun and scary because we had to solve a lot of mysteries while we were inside of the tomb. We solved mysteries like finding little small circles and pushing them in. So after we found all the small circles we had to find four big circles and listen to the beat of the music. But every time we did it wrong we had to do it over. We messed up about 3 times. We were getting frustrated because we had to keep on starting over but we finally got it done. Then we got through everything and we were so happy. We went home to Matt's mother's and father's house to go to sleep. – [Karizma and Deja](#)

Boston, Massachusetts is a home to many of the world's tourist sites such as Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge and the Boston Common. But I'm not here to talk about either one of those places. Let me start you off... On May 31st I was still sleeping in the part of Boston called... ??? ... Oh! Matt's House. Nine Dreamers out of the entire program got to visit Boston. The next day we had an appointment on **Boston's Duck Tour!** All Aboard! Conductor Groovy led us on a tour of Boston and some of its famous sites such as the Boston Common. It was a common park in Boston, originally a cow pasture. We also saw the first State House in the country. The vehicle we were riding in was not called a car or a boat. The vehicle was used in World War II as a vehicle that could go on both land and water. Which comes to the point where I have to say that the best part was when we went into the water to get a better view of Boston. Some of the sites and buildings can't be seen on the tour on land but in the water you can see the tallest building in Boston called the "John Hancock Tower." We were on the Charles River. I've never been so near the middle of a river. Boston was awesome. – [Alan](#)

The **Boston Subway/Trolley System** (The T) goes under and above ground. There's the Blue Line, Green Line, Orange Line, and Red Line. When we went to the Science Museum we took the green line. One of the only differences from the New York subway was that the Green Line train was shorter. And when we took the Orange Line to the Freedom Trail I noticed that the Orange Line train was longer and it had more stops. – [Beau](#)

We went to Boston and we had a great time. My favorite thing was going to the **Science Museum**. There was so much to see. We watched a movie in a dome. Almost everyone fell asleep. But it was a nice movie about the Grand Canyon losing its water. – [Tamia W.](#) I went to the Science Museum. It was fun. We saw a nice racing car. Then we saw a big insect. It looked scary but I was not scared. Then we saw a lightning show. It was big. A man was inside a metal cage. The lightning was flashing but he did not get electrocuted. The man didn't get electrocuted because he was in the metal cage. It was safe. – [Bryan](#)

Fenway Park is the oldest stadium in the U.S. When we were in Boston I kept saying to Matt and Ms. Honore "The Green Monster!" Then we went inside Fenway Park. We learned that Manny Ramirez hit 499 home runs in his career. A long time ago somebody went to Fenway. He was a Yankees fan. Somebody on the Red Sox hit the longest home run. It was 510 feet. The homerun ball was hit that far then it hit the man through his hat and hit his head. Then the man started being a Boston Red Sox fan. – [Tyquan](#)

After going to Fenway Park Matt and Ms. H took me, Alan, Kariem, Bryan, Deja, Karizma, Tamia, Tyquan, and Beau back to Matt's house and we went to our rooms: boy's room, girl's room. Then everybody got their pillows, even the girls, and **we had a pillow fight**. Matt recorded it in a video camera. When Kariem just gives one blow to one of us we fall down. It felt like a bowling ball hit me and I fell on Alan. I hit Beau so hard that he bit his lip and it started to bleed. But he put ice on it and he was strong. The boys' room was big but a little slanted. It was a fun pillow fight. – [Willie](#)

We went to the **Boston Common**. The Boston Common is a park. Frederick Law Olmsted helped make it. We walked around and learned how the trees grew. I saw maple trees, pine trees, and weeping willows. The weeping willow tree was my favorite because it looked like it was dead but its not. – [Kariem](#)

Beyond The
Classroom

During the first two weeks of the Ravenswood II "I Have a Dream" Program way back in February, 2006, not only did we hold homework help sessions but we also did arts and crafts, played in the snow, went ice skating, took a tour of the neighborhood, and began to get to know the children who are now part of our "I Have a Dream" family.

Since then, we have continued to stress the importance of a stable balance between helping the kids with their school work while providing the opportunity for each Dreamer to be exposed to as many different activities and experiences as possible. To that end, we have continued with our visual and performing arts curriculum, incorporated hands-on and interactive science experiments and current events classes, hosted numerous guest artists, and continued to exert our daily influence to encourage the children to do their best in school.

One of our accomplishments that we are the most proud of, however, is the fact that with more than 40 trips over our two years in operation we had covered the five boroughs, gone to the beach in Long Island, seen sporting events in New Jersey, and camped out in Connecticut. We firmly believe that while the children may not learn their multiplication tables on these trips, accumulating a variety of experiences will help to prepare the Dreamers for the many different situations and challenges that they will face in the future.

On this page you can read the Dreamers' accounts of our recent trip to Boston on the weekend of May 31. Each Dreamer that came on this trip completed a two-part project about the environment or the history of Boston. It was well worth the work as we spent three days and two nights exploring the city. There's no better way to learn about one of the first public parks in the country than when you're standing right in the middle of it. We look forward to many more of these experiences in the future.



Sittin' Down for Some Hard Work



Saturday Tutor Teams!



Girls' Pajama Party!



Strategizing on the Playground



Working? Nope, Just Coloring.

GANGS

Gangs are no good for our community. People getting shot up and killed. There should be more cops around these streets. There should be something we could do to change the gang members' mind. We should reach out and help them before they get killed. Even though gangs don't listen to us we should make them. If gangs don't care or they get shot let them be, but help them anyway. If I were the mayor or president, I would get cops to go around and find gang members. We can't sit and let them die. We have to help them.

- William (Friend of IHAD – 6th Grade)

PROM

I wonder if the prom is going to be in the lunchroom again like last year. The prom is only for the 5th graders. I have a very nice dress. I'm going with my friends and maybe with other people. I wonder if someone might ask me? My dress looks like a short kind of shiny dress with some ruching and that's it. I've been waiting for prom for 1 year.



- Maegan

THE CRANE

We heard the sound of crying and the movement of death. On March, 16, 2008 the scream of the life of a human dying was heard around the state. The New York crane fell on a building and broke the building, which knocked down a building across the street. Then the building was spreading bricks that hit the cars and people. The next day the firefighters found three dead people and one person who was alive. So the ambulance took her to the hospital and gave her oxygen.

- Mohammed

DISASTERS

Disasters can take place anywhere, anytime, and any day and we won't be prepared. Just like China. I really felt bad because a bunch of innocent people died for no particular reason. It may seem like no reason but God has a lot of reasons why things happen. Now I learned a few things. Every family should have a disaster plan. Every family should have a first aid kit/supply kit. You should always be able to get to these things. And last but not least have disaster safety drills.

- Zekiyah

MY FINGER

One day I went to the mall to go shopping with my mom. Then we went to the elevator. I was holding the elevator door for my mom and then all of a sudden... the door closes on my finger! I was screaming saying "It hurts. It hurts." Then nobody came for 5 minutes. Then the ambulance came and took me to the hospital. My mom was screaming because she was scared. My finger is in a cast but its OK.

- Daniella G.

TYWLS

Hi, my name is Skye. "I Have a Dream" introduced me to an all girls school called The Young Women's Leadership School. At first I didn't want to go. But then I thought about giving it a chance. So I had to write an essay to get in. I'm not the only one who applied. My good friends Diamond, Nyzhe, and Zekiyah also are going to the school! I want to thank "I Have a Dream" for introducing me to the school. I am looking forward to going because this school can help me move on in life. I am scared because I only have 3 good friends that are attending. I'm really shy. But I'm excited!

- Skye

SAVING A LIFE...

The moment I went to save a life, I was scared. The person was laid out on the floor screaming for help. I went to help them but something flew across my face. So I ran back to where I was. There were a lot of things getting thrown at me and I had to keep dodging them. I was finally able to reach the person but the person was so heavy I had a hard time dragging them. I gave the person something he could throw at them and I said "Just don't get hit again cause you are heavy." When I hit the leader it felt like we won a war. Matt said, "This Dr. Spy Dodgeball game goes to Deja's team!"

- Deja



Our staff, Travis and Kayla, stick with the kids through all sorts of weather.

THE GIRLS' PAJAMA PARTY

One day when I went to the Pajama Party. I wore my pink pajamas. First we played on the computers. Then we switched. Some people played the Wii while others were on the computer. Then Ms. Honore ordered pizza. While eating pizza we watched a movie called The Goonies. The movie was great. After the movie the girls started playing a game. In the game people hit each other, threw, and grabbed. Eventually, almost everyone played. Even me! After everything got settled we tried out the Dance Revolution game. I couldn't even try to play that game.

- Alexa

BOY'S GAME DAY

At Boys Game Day, we had a tennis tournament on the Wii. Wesley and Matt were the champions. Then we ate pizza and after we ate pizza we went outside. Travis played baseball with William and Travis lost. Then we played bowling and Kyle won. When I was trying to play Runscope on the computer Alan helped me to teleport and to chop down! I want Boy's Game Day to come around again because we get to play Wii and we get to go outside and we get to eat pizza. Next time instead of coming back at 4:00 we could come back at 5:00 so we get more time to play.

- Mo

ICE SKATING

When we went ice-skating I was so excited: my sister came with me! First we got on the train, and we stayed on the train for 4 or 5 stops. Then we were walking and walking and then we were there. So Matt and Ms. Honore gave the people the money and then we went inside. Then we got our skates and finally we got on the ice. At first I was scared but then I got the hang of it. Then I saw Kayla and I saw her slip and fall. So me and my sister went over there so we helped her. Then we had to go. That was the best day ever.

- Chelsea

PARTY TIME!

The end of the year party was on Tuesday, May 20th 2008. It was our 2nd annual end of the year party. We had a lot of fun. We were the best group ever. That day someone broke the table but we had the most fun ever. The fifth graders got their awards. When we got our awards we were in the auditorium and Matt called our names and Ms. Honore gave us the awards. The awards were for doing well in elementary school. Our picture was on it. The end of the year party was one of the best parties ever.

- Shamar

Activity Jumble

Puzzle time! Below you will find nine activities that you have participated in during the past school year. See if you can unscramble them. There is a prize waiting for if you are the first one to submit your answer sheet to Ms. Honoré (bring it to the office). Good Luck and see you soon!

YBSO EAGM AYD

ORTTU MSEAT

WOLBGNI

IRGL LKTA

STEM AGME

ERY DLANPYLA

THIRBYDA RNNDIE

IDFEL YDA

IDSK TGINAC TOU

Snow & Ice



WHEN MY AUNT HAD HER BABY

On December 12, 2007 my aunt had her baby. It was nighttime and I woke up and she was screaming like she was crazy. So they called 911 for an ambulance. She went to New York hospital. She said she is naming her baby Latasha. The doctor said that she weighed 5 pounds, 0 ounces. We got to hold her for like 20 minutes. When my aunt's son saw her pushing out the baby he almost passed out. He had to go for a walk. It took my aunt 3 hours to have her baby. My mommy was happy for her because she didn't even cry. Everybody was happy. When I saw the baby I was thinking how she was going to grow up. She's just right for me. She likes to play a lot. If you have food you have to give her some. She likes to kiss people and give people hugs. She likes to play with the T.V. and when it gets loud she runs from it. I love my baby cousin. She is the best.

- Fayshana

MY SISTER

My sister's name is Atiya Imani Daste. Her favorite color is pink. She looves princesses. Her favorite princess is Cinderella. She was jealous of me because I got a princess jacket, but she was still happy because she had sunglasses. Sometimes she can be bad or silly but I still love her in so many different ways and so does she. On her third birthday my parents asked Atiya what she wanted for her birthday. She said she wanted a princess dress. So my parents said Okay. They went to Toys 'R' Us and got it for her. She loved it. I finally got jealous of her because she had no school on her birthday. I still had fun though and so did she. We had a party. I love my sister and she loves me!

- Cee'Asia

MY LADY

People think my lady is scary. My lady is mixed with a German Shepherd and a Rotweiler. She is a dog.

My lady is a female with black and brown spots. And she is three years old and she is very friendly.

My lady barks but she still loves people. She especially likes kids. And she loves me.

People think my lady is scary because she is big. But she is very friendly.

- Daniela A.

MY TRIP TO PR

Last summer I went to Puerto Rico. I visited my grandmother. I go to Puerto Rico almost every summer. When I got there my mom and sister and my grandmother took me to a water park. I went to a beach where the water was very, very, very, very dirty and I got to go swimming. I was looking inside the ocean water and saw a black ball with spikes that was sharp. The ball got stuck in my hand and it gave me two warts! Then I started to cry and I had to swim to shore with one arm. My mom said my hand looked OK but I was bleeding a lot so she put a band aid on it.

- Sam

THE GAME PLAN

My dad says we have a game plan. I have to finish school or some grades. Also my dad has to finish his school. Then we might buy a dog. I don't know what I'm going to name it. Last we will buy a house. My dad's going to put a slide on my window so if I don't want to go to school I could go in the pool. I might help build the slides and the diving board. Or maybe bring him good or great grades. I am looking forward to the house and dog.

- Mariah

Staff and Dreamer Study

- ALAN

MS. HONORE

Ms. Karlisle Honore, the Director of the "I Have a Dream" Program is very sophisticated and neat. Ms. Honore likes to be the Director of the program and its fun to her because of activities such as group work, Health Club, and Fun in the Sun. Also, because Ms. Honore is the director she has many field trips planned for the Dreamers including Field Day and Community Service. All Ms. Honore would want to do for St. Patrick's Day is eat and drink green foods and liquid. There she is, Ms. Karlisle Honore, Director of the "I Have a Dream" Program and more fine than could be.

TRAVIS

Travis is a staff working in the IHAD Program. He is a caring person and wants to help the future Dreamers in their work. Travis admires working in the IHAD programs. He said "It helps me gain experience with kids." Well, I wish him good luck in gaining experience cause like he said "kids" can be a pain in the "butt."

DREAMER SURVEY

Should there be more education or more fun in "I Have a Dream"?

Education – 2 Fun – 21 Not Sure – 2

Are the staff at "I Have a Dream" fair?

Yes – 19 No – 4 Not Sure – 2

Should there be more than 2 days of gym and outside free-time each week?

Yes – 22 No – 3

Nobody Somebody
I'm a nobody,
Nobody ever wants to play
Never anybody wants to help
My dying soul is rotting to decay
Sadness and lonesome
but someday will be

A somebody up there in the stars
Right under the heavens
That's my destiny
As long as I believe
All my dreams will come true
And my soul will finally come to bloom.

- Kyle

Winter
Winter in my neighborhood
Oh what a blast, its cold
And snow and now green grass
You shiver, and in frost
Nothing like indoors, but
You don't care, you just want to play
You just want to play all day, all day
And this is winter in my neighborhood.

- Andrew

Man, when the sun came
out the beauty shined and
burned my eyes.
For now I am blind.

- Mohammed

MATT

The Assistant Director, Matt, seems to enjoy being dDirector of the IHAD program and has some really exciting plans for the Dreamers. Matt has a very big sense of humor (just make sure he doesn't read this) but is serious about the order in the IHAD program. Matt always has plans for the Dreamers that can surprise or affect us in a certain way, like the time we went skating on ice. I nearly cracked my head open! Though he is not very tidy (I saw his desk and it was like an unemptied dumpster) you can expect wonders out of Matt Wright.

KAYLA

Kayla Dominguez is a teenage girl that works in the IHAD program and a very bright and very talented student in LIC High School. Working in the IHAD program is very special to her because she believes that students should be brought up in a good way in upcoming generations so that's why she wants to help the Dreamers. Kayla said that sometimes it was hard for her to "communicate with the kids" but she thinks that working in the IHAD program is very interesting.

Note: "A Closer Look"

Alan plans to continue his study by conducting in-depth interviews with other Dreamers.

Keep your eyes open for this and other special reports from our Dreamers on our brand new page: "A Closer Look"

Creativity Corner

Dreamer Service Day

On Martin Luther King Day, January 1st, 2008, we ourselves became the volunteers as a dozen dreamers created re-usable tote bags. They will be handed out at the local grocery store to promote environmental awareness.



The Newsletter

The Dreamer's Corner is a seasonal newsletter created and compiled by the Dreamers of the Ravenswood II "I Have a Dream" Program. It was created with the intention of providing an outlet for the Dreamers to express themselves and to display their writing and creativity. There is minimal editing by "I Have a Dream" staff. The newsletter covers topics such as current events, field trips, interviews, and much more. If you would like to view all of our newsletters please contact the Ravenswood II office.