

North Star Collaborative ~ A partnership between Laurel School and Warner Girls Leadership Academy

**FALL 2007**



Laurel School hires Me'lani Joseph, a specialist in youth development and outreach programs, to develop what becomes North Star. She researches best practices for positively influencing inner-city youth and meets with over 30 Greater Cleveland community leaders, educators, other experts to determine program scope and outcomes.

**SPRING 2008**

Me'lani is immersed in the Laurel community; holds focus groups of faculty and current Laurel students.

**SUMMER 2008**

Program design complete; Holly Fidler joins Laurel School Faculty as a Third Grade teacher.

**WINTER 2009**

Initial funding for program implementation secured from private foundations.

**SPRING 2009**

Team of Holly Fidler, Shannon Lukz (Laurel) & Stacie Crowell (Warner) plan the first NSC Summer Academy, "The North Star: A Guiding Light." Select and hold orientation of Laurel Upper School and recent alumnae "youth staff."

**SUMMER 2009**

The North Star Collaborative Summer Academy opens with 30 third graders from Warner Girls Leadership Academy (WGLA).

**FALL 2009**



Family Gatherings include "Sound Habits of Body and Mind," emphasizing sleep and study habits, with Drs. Lisa Damour & Erica White and NSC at Playhouse Square, with a presentation by Laurel Performing Arts faculty member Barb Lang on the Nutcracker.

Laurel Sophomores serve as reading buddies at Warner.

Laurel Sixth Grade Theater Workshop performs at Warner for the first time; this becomes an annual event.

**WINTER 2010**

Summer Academy Student Advisors reunite with North Stars for a tinkering session is featured on WKYC-TV 3's Romona's Kids.

NSC tutoring program begins.

**SPRING 2010**

Laurel and Warner Third and Fourth Grade faculty and students conduct joint Literature Groups at Laurel.

Laurel US girls volunteer at Warner over spring break.

Laurel and Warner Arts faculty and Primary students collaborate to present a "portal" into girls' hopes and dreams in Parade the Circle 2010 at University Circle.

## SUMMER 2010



The Summer Academy enrollment balloons to 72 then-Third and Fourth Graders; the theme is “Where are you from? Where are you going?” The program includes a mixed-media art exhibit, dramatic poetry and vocal music recitals and tours of Cleveland landmarks and ethnic grocery stores on Lolly the Trolley.

## FALL 2010

The North Stars, their families and Laurel community members come together for the first Eerie Evening Fall Family Open House; parents/guardians submit ideas for upcoming information sessions.

## WINTER 2011

The First Day of Celebration, Reflection and Service in Memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with keynote speaker Charlise Lyles is a huge success! Over 120 members of the Laurel, Warner and Greater Cleveland communities participate in small group discussions and eight service opportunities with organizations including City Year Cleveland, The City Mission, Western Reserve Hospice and MedWish.

NSC Tutoring continues for a second year.

## SPRING 2011



Family Gathering on Bullying gets rave reviews from parents/guardians, WGLA staff and students.

The First Flower Power Tea Party, honoring powerful women in the lives of the North Stars, is held at Laurel’s new Butler Center for Health and Wellness.

## SUMMER 2011

The third NSC Summer Academy—“Dream. Dare. Do.”—focuses on being a “Fit Girl,” with courses on nutrition, strength & conditioning, healthy relationships and “Fit Lit.” The summer culminates with fittings for necessary sports apparel to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a 5k run/walk at the Butler Campus. Families and faculty, staff and students turn out to support the North Stars.

The North Stars take the Basic Achievement Skills Inventory (BASI) as a baseline for their summer academic progress; most girls score in the average or above average range.

## FALL 2011



Four North Stars participate in the Rainbow Round the Zoo 5k benefitting the Children’s Miracle Network; potential for future race participation in the winter and adult walking club in the spring.

A committee of ten North Star parents and guardians begin corresponding via email regarding plans for a Winter 2012 NSC event.

The Second Annual Eerie Evening is a spooky success with over 70 North Stars, family members, Laurel students, and Laurel faculty members in attendance. Thirteen current Laurel Upper School students volunteered to run the event.

