



## Book Fair & Parent Awareness Night

If you weren't at this event on Wednesday, March 26, you missed out on some awesome community leaders offering various services.

This was our first Book Fair & Parent Awareness Night. This event featured various community leaders from the neighborhood offering services for students and parents.

Some of the vendors that participated that evening were, The Matrix, Grace Community Church, PAL, and some of our vendors that are working as teachers for our Enrichment Program.

Students and parents had the opportunity to also visit the book fair and purchase books. Our students loved the book fair! We also gave out free books to anyone interested.

As parents walked around to talk with vendors, students played on the bouncy and had their faces painted. To end the evening, parents and students sat together in our cafeteria to eat hotdogs with chilli, chips, and juice.

## Staff Profile: Erika Spears



You have to work hard to get smart. That's the message educators and administrators preach to students of Starr Detroit Academy each day.

Kindergarten teacher Erika Spears has been with the Academy since it opened in 2012, and the school's devotion to that objective of hard work is what led her to be a part of a startup endeavor.

"I chose to work at Starr Detroit Academy because of the beliefs for all children," Spears said. "I love the mission of the school, preparing kids for academic mastery, college, work and life. The school and our teachers don't just stop at academic success. It really teaches children how to be successful in all areas of life.

Spears, who has a son of her own entering kindergarten next year, feels that showing students how hard work pays off is extremely important.

"I love coming to work each day because I love seeing my students so excited to learn," Spears said. "They know that they need to work hard to get smart, and that nothing in life or school is easy, but they never give up and always know that they can do it."

Spears grew up in Michigan and has lived in the Great Lakes State for her entire life. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wayne State University after receiving her associate's degree from Macomb Community College. She hopes to begin her master's program in educational leadership from Wayne State in the fall.

Working at a startup school can be challenging at times, Spears said, but she loves having the chance to help make Starr Detroit Academy unique.

"I love the process of trying to make the school the best it can be," Spears said. "The school, our staff and the students are constantly looking for new and improved ways of making this school different from the rest."

## Newsletter

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*Starr Detroit Academy is dedicated to the mission of preparing kids for academic mastery, college, work and life.*

## Upcoming Events

**April 9:** Career Day

**April 16:** Parent & Teacher Conferences - 2:30 - 7 p.m. (scheduled appt. only)

**April 17:** Parent & Teacher Conferences - 2:30 - 5 p.m. (open)

**April 18:** Good Friday (No school)

**April 21 - 25:** Spring Break (No school)



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Starr Detroit Academy  
19360 Harper Ave.  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
313.649.2200  
www.starracademy.org



## Kindergarten Spelling Bee

The SDA Kindergarten Team held a Spelling Bee on March 26. Students learned to spell words from a pre-made kindergarten word list, which contained CVC words (Consonant Vowel Consonant) and sight words.

Each kindergarten class held an individual Spelling Bee, and the two top spellers from each class were chosen to compete in the kindergarten-wide Spelling Bee. Five kindergarten classes joined in the gym in support of their peers who had learned over 100 words!

Ten students waited in line nervously but with big smiles for their turn to spell their given word; after zipping through the entire Kindergarten Spelling Word List, there were two students standing, Michael Ervin, Jr and Romeich Sandford, who began to spell words from the First Grade List.

After a month of practicing, the Kindergarten Team is proud to announce the winner: Romeich Sandford in Ms. Spear's class, whose winning word was "add."

## Boys Mentorship Ceremony

On Friday, March 28, The Starr Detroit Boys Mentorship Program hosted its first Awards Ceremony. The Program's goal is to improve student academic and behavioral performance through individual and group mentoring. This week, 20 honorees earned the highest level of achievement, the "Diamond" member. Fellow students, volunteers, staff members and over 50 family members attended the event. The program featured the presentation of their Scholar Vest to be worn to the mentorship meetings and special events. The ceremony also featured Mr. Sam Davis, a volunteer center, A.B.A Pro Basketball Star and C.E.O. of Thaylon Marketing Group. Following the Ceremony guests attended a "Meet and Greet" reception in the board room.

We are so proud of our students showing perseverance and commitment. The Mentoring program is held every Wednesday. This is great time for men to mentor boys. We look forward to seeing more of our students become "Diamonds."

## The Happiness Project

Starr Detroit Academy is proud to present future writers in our school! Ten of our fifth- and sixth-grade girls have been aspiring to write. On Wednesday, March 26, Ms. Andrea Daniels, a local Author/T.V.& Radio Producer, conducted a writing session for girls. As a result of the meeting, the students decided to create the Happiness Project. This project will feature a series of writings, anecdotes, poems and songs on how to sustain happiness as a way of life.