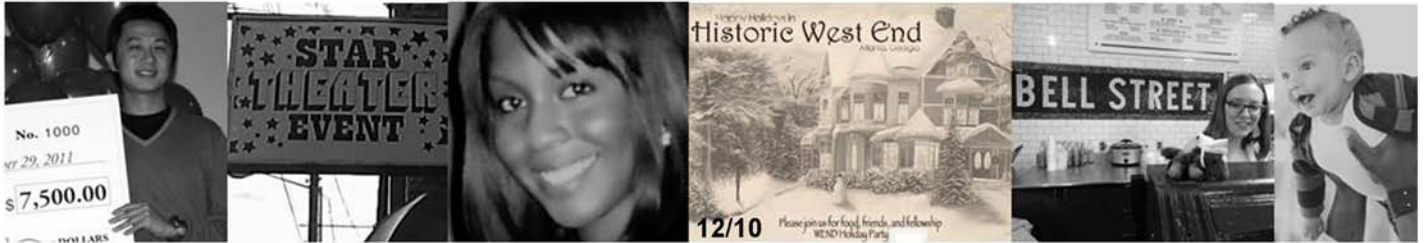


Our West End Newsletter

December 2011

"Creating a Vibrant Community"

Volume 8

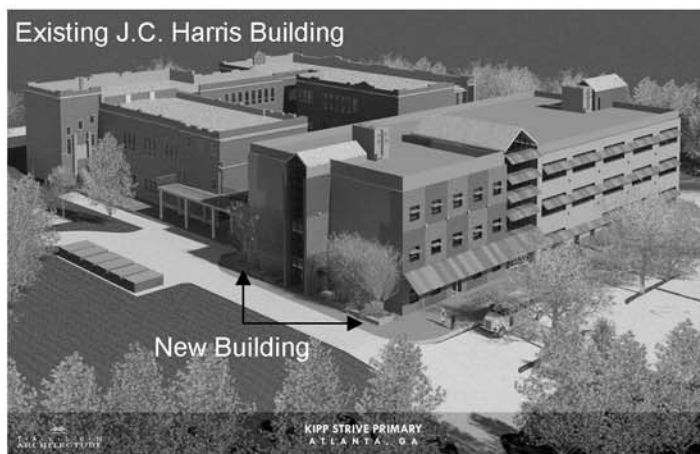


Introducing the principal of the first KIPP primary school in Atlanta ...

Primary Education Options Surge in West End

By Paulette Richards

Early on Mini'imah Shaheed demonstrated she would continuously "go the extra mile" to achieve academic excellence. An Oakland native, Shaheed was able to enroll in independent schools thanks to the "A Better Chance" program. Traveling two hours each day to attend the Branson School in Ross, California prepared her to succeed at the University of Pennsylvania, but it also engendered her belief that all students should have access to good education in their own neighborhood. Hearing a Teach for America representative speak during her senior year in college sparked further reflection on educational disparity and her own personal history. Shaheed was already passionate about helping students academically and had been working as a tutor while she was a student at Penn. She signed on with



School will occupy a new facility adjacent to the KIPP Strive Middle School on the grounds of the former J.C. Harris Elementary School building (July 2013).

Teach for America (TFA) as a second grade teacher, eager to further the program's admirable track record in closing the achievement gap.

After serving with TFA, Shaheed's work for a non-profit at Emory took her all around Georgia to schools in rural and urban communities. She helped first generation students navigate the path to college, foreshadowing her role as a KIPP principal dedicated to guiding students "to and through college."

Shaheed subsequently completed an M.A.T. in English Literature at Agnes Scott College and then taught at the high school level for one year. In her most recent position she served as an Assistant Principal at J.E. Richards Middle School in Gwinnett County. Thus she has experience at all levels of primary and secondary education. When she was approached to open the first KIPP elementary in the Atlanta area last year, she saw an opportunity to extend the same strong academic and character foundation to all students that *cont. page 7...*

KIPP Strive Primary will open July 2012

with 100 kindergarten students and will grow a grade per year until serving approximately 500 students in grades K-4. For information on how to enroll, contact Mini'imah Shaheed at mshaheed@kippmetroatlanta.org or 404-753-1530.

Principal Shaheed (cont. cover page)

she wants for her own four-year-old son.

KIPP schools invest heavily in professional development for teachers and staff. The KIPP foundation provides a fellowship (Fisher Fellowship) that prepares outstanding educators to open new KIPP academies. Shaheed began her tenure as a Fisher Fellow at an orientation in May. Then she immersed herself in an intensive, five-week summer training program. This fall she has been teaching and observing at excellent KIPP schools across the nation during ten weeks of residencies. She is excited about her plans to implement an innovative, co-teacher model in kindergarten and first grade as a strategy for bringing students above grade level in reading by the end of the academic year.

KIPP Strive Primary will open in July 2012. Beginning in the following year, the school will occupy a new facility adjacent to the KIPP Strive Academy on the grounds of the former J.C. Harris Elementary School building. For information on how to enroll, contact Mini'imah Shaheed at mshaheed@kipmetroatlanta.org or 404-753-1530 .



First KIPP Primary School to Open in West End

KIPP STRIVE Primary will open July 2012 with 100 kindergarten students and will grow a grade per year until serving approximately 500 students in grades K-4. KIPP STRIVE Primary will be a tuition-free, public charter elementary school in Southwest Atlanta. KIPP STRIVE Primary is committed to building upon KIPP's track record of success in the Atlanta Public Schools by ensuring that our students are prepared with the foundational academic and character skills necessary to achieve in excellent middle schools, high schools, college and beyond. KIPP STRIVE Primary students will benefit from additional instructional time through a longer school day, week, and year. Students will attend KSP for approximately 9.5 hours per day, with three additional hours one Saturday each month and an additional two weeks of summer school. This schedule offers over 500 hours of instructional time to KSP students than what they would receive at their traditional district school. Although not all of this time will be spent in explicit skills instruction, KSP students will be immersed in a college-going culture that will build the character and academic skills, which will serve as the foundation for KSP's students' success throughout their educational path.

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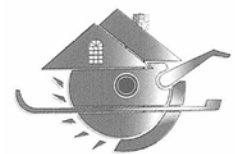
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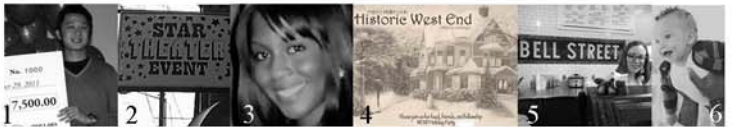
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On The Cover



- 1: On 11/29/2011, Ed Chang, KIPP Strive Academy principal and neighbor, received an Atlanta Families' Awards for Excellence in Education.
- 2: Star Theater is available for your special event needs.
- 3: Mini'imah Shaheed is your KIPP Strive Primary principal (see stories on pages 1 & 7).
- 4: This Saturday you are invited to the WEND holiday party. Family-oriented party will be held at a Oak St home from 4-6 pm. Adult cocktail party will be held at a Holderness home from 7pm—until.
- 5: Neighbor Molly Ellis is the new manager of newly opened Bell St Burritos restaurant on Howell Mill (formerly the Social House). You have to try their West Coast style burritos.
- 6: Families with children is our growing demographic. To promote educational opportunities for our children, consider joining WEND's education committee. Contact Carl Nes.

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About The Newsletter

- The newsletter is published monthly. 1000 copies were printed in December 2011. Copies are hand-delivered, free-of-charge, to all residents in the Historic West End neighborhood. Copies are also available at West End Library and West End Print Shop.
- Our volunteers: R. Marcus Alexander, Denise Blake, Brent Brewer, Beth McBee, Paulette Richards and our many neighborhood distributors.
- To advertise, submit stories or distribute, contact Brent Brewer at 404.447.0282 or bdbrewr@gmail.com.

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