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STUDENTS

Chidinna Amakiri, 2010
Caurice Wynter, 2010
Olaide Ajomagberin, 2011
Anthia Diaz, 2011
Niya Wright, 2012
Angelica Cortez, 2013

NIYA WRIGHT ADVANCES TO STATE FINALS IN POETRY OUT-LOUD CONTEST

ABC Sophomore Niya Wright proved she had the right stuff as she recited her way to a top five finish at the State level in the National Poetry Out Loud Contest. At the finals in Hartford, Niya preformed three diverse poetry selections including poetry by Queen Elizabeth I, Gwendolyn Brooks and Andrew Hudgins. According to the contest's website, "Recitation and performance are major new trends in poetry. There has been a recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of hip-hop music. Poetry Out Loud builds on that momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class." Congratulations, Niya!



Niya Wright at the State Finals in Hartford



WELL DESERVED HONOR...

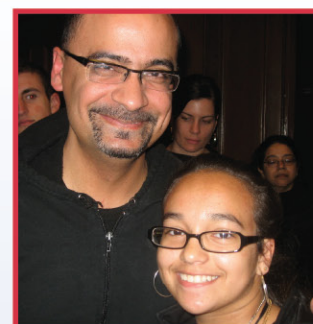
ABC Darien scholar Olaide Ajomagberin was one of 62 DHS students inducted into the National Honor Society for 2010. Here she accepted the flame from Michael O'Brien, Math Department Coordinator. Students are selected on the basis of scholarship, character, citizenship, leadership and service. Olaide was thrilled to learn that she had made the grade. "It was cool," she said in her understated manner. Then she admitted, "It was *really* cool! I screamed when I got the letter!"



Practice makes perfect... Akiko Silver beams with pride after a pre-concert lesson with her student Caurice Wynter.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON...

Not even the worst storm in 50 years could keep music-lovers and A Better Chance supporters from attending a benefit concert staged by the Julliard trained violinist Akiko Silver and her Nutmeg Chamber Players ensemble on Saturday, March 13th. In fact, 140 intrepid concert-goers, navigated the tree-strewn streets (many with flashlights in hand) to attend an enchanting evening of music at the First Congregational Church of Darien. The storm may have raged outside, but inside beautiful melodies floated through the meetinghouse as the concert went on as scheduled. A Better Chance's senior, Caurice Wynter, played a Shostakovich violin duet with her instructor Akiko Silver.



A NIGHT TO BE PRIZED...

Anthia Diaz recently had the opportunity to hear Pulitzer Prize winning author, Junot Diaz, read at Fordham University (he won in the 2008 Fiction Category for *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.) Mr. Diaz, who was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey, is an associate professor of writing at MIT and a favorite author of Anthia. You can see from her smile that she was thrilled to meet the author.



DARIEN

A BETTER CHANCE

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A NIGHT OF TREASURES

For 43 years, the first weekend in March has been cause to celebrate for local antiques aficionados as the First Congregational Church of Darien is transformed into an antiques marketplace with 30 exhibitors. This year the Darien Antiques Show did not fail to delight attendees. The Show also helped to support A Better Chance by donating a portion of the proceeds from the Friday night Preview Party to our program. Our thanks to the Church, the Show planning committee and to all those who attended the festive evening!



ABC IN DARIEN FACTS

MISSION: To provide scholarships to academically talented minority girls from under-served areas allowing them to realize their academic and social potential while living in Darien and attending DHS.

ENROLLMENT: Six girls currently from New York and New Jersey.

HISTORY: Twenty-eight years in Darien; 35 girls have graduated from the program.

WHERE DO THEY GO? Graduates have attended colleges such as Columbia, Cornell, UVA and Syracuse.

STAFF: Two resident directors, cook, tutors, and part-time Program Director as needed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Twenty-seven local residents.

HOST FAMILIES: Twelve families host the girls two weekends each month.

RESIDENCE: 11 Brookside Road—provided by the First Congregational Church, maintained by ABC in Darien.

THE BUDGET: \$117,000 per year, covering staff, food, utilities, house maintenance, enrichment expenses and supplies.

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to contribute to ABC in Darien, send donations to P.O. Box 3204, Darien, CT 06820 or Donate Online at www.abcdarien.com

THANKS TO...

The Darien Technology & Community Foundation

ABC in Darien was recently awarded a grant of up to \$10,000 to replace the current computer equipment used by the scholars in the House.

“ The Darien Technology and Community Foundation Board recognizes the stellar work of the ABC program and the opportunities it provides to the young women who come to Darien to study for 4 years at Darien High school. We are glad that we can help them achieve their goals and dreams by providing up-to-date computer equipment. ”



This March, Theatre 308 performed the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Set in the early 1900's in rural Russia during a time of devastating pogroms and revolution, the play revolves around a poor milkman and the marriages of his three eldest daughters. More than 70 DHS students participated in the musical as members of the cast, orchestra and back stage crew to make *Fiddler* a roaring success. Niya Wright landed a role as a mother and a member of the chorus. Here she is ready to take the stage for Friday night's performance.