



EXCEL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

3845 SOUTH CAPITOL STREET, SW WASHINGTON, DC 20032 • (202) 373-0097 • EXCELPCS.ORG • FALL 2008

Washington's First All-Girls' Public Charter School Opens 134 Scholars Strong

ON AUGUST 13TH, Excel Academy welcomed 134 young scholars to their first day of school. The mood was that of wonder and amusement, with some tears here and there. For the most part, the girls were eager to begin on their path to a life of learning. After two and a half months of laying a solid school culture foundation, all seven (7) classes are focused on the task of learning new skills and knowledge.

In kindergarten, scholars are building literacy by practicing pronunciation, tracing sight words, and learning high frequency words. They are also learning about animals and life cycles, and studying math patterns. The Pre-K 4 classes are mastering their letters, colors, and descriptions of objects. The Preschoolers (2-3),



Howard Pre-K 4 classmates enjoy a lovely Autumn day.

(Pre-K 4) went on a nature walk to collect leaves for their collages. **American** (Pre-K 4) is exploring neighborhoods. **GW** (PS- 3) is making family albums. **Maryland** (PS-3) has found its bearings and mastered the arts of listening and sharing.

still negotiating group dynamics, are working on name recognition, letters, sounds, and fundamental writing skills.

Named after teachers' alma maters, each classroom has found their unique blend of academics and camaraderie. Many of the classrooms have made their own mark at Excel. **Georgetown** (K) had Excel's first afternoon tea party to celebrate an excellent week. **Spelman** (K) created a scholar size community in the multi-purpose room complete with a grocery store, post office, bank, hotel, and school. **Howard**

Message from the Founder

The opening of Excel Academy is a realization of a dream fueled by four years of incredibly hard work coupled with the perseverance and fortitude of an amazing group of area residents, businessmen and education advocates. I have been blessed to be surrounded by like-minded individuals to develop, establish, and implement the mission of Excel Academy: using education as the passport to the future by preparing our young scholars for tomorrow. Excel Academy will change the lives of these young girls and their families. After being an active parent advocate during my own children's education, I wanted to do something to address the devastating educational disparities that plague our communities, our city, and our Nation. As the only all-girls' public school in Washington, Excel Academy offers an alternative to District parents who desire something new for their daughters. I know I am joined by parents, faculty, staff, and board members in my delight in seeing the scholars grow and learn more and more each day.

Thank you for your support of our beginning. We look forward to sharing with you news of our scholars' journey.

Sincerely,
Kaye E. Savage, Founder

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