

# NRCEC NEWS

North Richmond Community Empowerment Center Newsletter

September 2014

## SAT Bootcamp: We're Ready!

The SAT exams are just around the corner, and we want our students to excel! This fall, we are holding SAT Bootcamps. This 6 week series will help students learn test taking strategies, enhance math and verbal skills, and get hands-on experience with practice tests and score analysis. Our computer based learning, with the help of experienced professionals, will help the students gain the confidence and skills needed to produce better scores. The classes meet once a week for 2 hours, and the costs is \$150 per student.

Classes start soon. Call us today for more information or visit our website at [www.nrcec.org](http://www.nrcec.org) to register. (804)-329-0191.

## Saturday School Starts Back this Fall

Our Digital Learning Initiative kicked off last winter with the introduction of our new computer lab. Through the generous support in the form of a grant from the Memorial Foundation for Children, we purchased computers and software to start introductory computer training for young people between the ages of 2 1/2 and 8. It was a great success! The children had an awesome time.

New classes start Saturday, September 20, 2014. Visit our website to register your child at [www.nrcec.org](http://www.nrcec.org).

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*"We cannot always build  
the future for our youth,  
but we can build our  
youth for the future"*

*- Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

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Saturday School: Volunteers are needed!

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Community Reads launches in October

## Community Reads!

The goal and mission of NRCEC is to bring all in the community together. We are not just focusing on children but we want to be an empowerment center for all. The Community Reads is one of our offerings that target adults.

Once per month, we will meet to share a common reading experience. The books are chosen by our board currently but we invite authors or members of the community to recommend books for the meetings. Our first meeting is scheduled to take place in October with monthly meetings through May 2015.

We believe that parents who read inspire their children to read. Children emulate their parents so the Community Reads program is designed to produce a family of readers.

### Meet the Author

Our goal is to support local authors when possible. Therefore, many of our book selections will be penned by authors who will be invited to share at our meetings. These may include signings, readings, and inspiring discussions.

If you are an author, please email us at [nrccommunityempowermentcenter@gmail.com](mailto:nrccommunityempowermentcenter@gmail.com) with your name and book title. We will contact you to discuss including you on our schedule.

### Summer Reader's "Soar"

While our Community Reads breaks during the summer months, we will host a Summer Reader's program that we call "Soar". Summer of the Avid Reader will target elementary and middle school readers. Each student will be provided with a reading list with levels of awards for completing books. More information will be available by late winter.

## Help Us Build!

We are on the move...literally! One of our board members, David Mickens, has donated the use of his home at 2919 Griffin Avenue as our community empowerment center. We are excited to have started the renovation of the home but need your help.

Our needs are vast. We need volunteers, skilled labor such as plumbing, electrical, and architectural. We need building materials, supplies, and financial help. Please donate at our website or [www.gofundme.com/nrcec](http://www.gofundme.com/nrcec). Help us to make something beautiful.



Our Future Home: 2919 Griffin Ave

## Vroom, Vroom

The Tricycle Parade was something reserved for the graduating “seniors” of First African Nursery School. The children were able to bring their tricycles in to school, decorate them, and ride them outside of the school yard gates and around the block. This was the day that they had waited for! This was the day that made eating the daily oatmeal, being forced to finish your peas, and getting the paddle all worthwhile.

If you attended First African Nursery School or know of folks who did, please contact us on Facebook on the First African Nursery School Reunion Page. Or call at 804-329-0191. We'd love to hear from you.



Everyone's Favorite: The Tricycle Parade at First African Nursery School

## A Nursery School Reunion?

Who's ever heard of such? A reunion for a nursery school? Well you wouldn't think it was so crazy if you ever attended First African Nursery School.

First African Nursery School was a one-of-a-kind institution or so it seems. In 1951, a nursery school was opened at Virginia Union University and later became a part of First African Baptist Church. The first graduating class was in 1956 and the school operated for over 50 years.

The young people who graduated from the nursery school have enjoyed all levels of success. With the help of social media, many of the students have remained connected. They share a bond and common memories such as The Barracks, the love of Mrs. Norrell, and the excitement of the Annual Tricycle Parade.

The Reunion Gala will take place on October 31, 2014 at the Trinity Family Life Center. The event will include dinner, dancing, and a lot of fun. Gary Flowers is the featured speaker. Tickets can be purchased on our website at [www.nrrec.org](http://www.nrrec.org).

For additional information, please contact Nancy Jackson at 804-329-0191, Sponsorships available.

# Legos to Robots

We are starting a Lego Robotics Team. Join a team of energetic young people between the ages of 9-14 and enhance your STEM knowledge. Become a North Richmond All-Star.

We are looking for a team of up to 10 young people to build and compete with us. Using products from Lego, we will build robots! Through the First Lego League, the young people get excited about science and technology by building an autonomous robot. They learn valuable employment and life skills such as teamwork, friendly competition, and how to share their knowledge with others.

Our team will meet twice a week and attend at least one regional competition before the end of the season (May 2015).

## Are you an All-Star?

The only qualification to join our team is to be a dedicated team player. No special science or technology skills are required. Visit our website and complete the web form. Let's get it started.

**Educating and Empowering Communities for Greater Growth**

### **North Richmond Community Empowerment Center, Inc.**

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## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our programs and events.

### **NRCEC**

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Visit us on the web at  
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