

## Counselors Corner

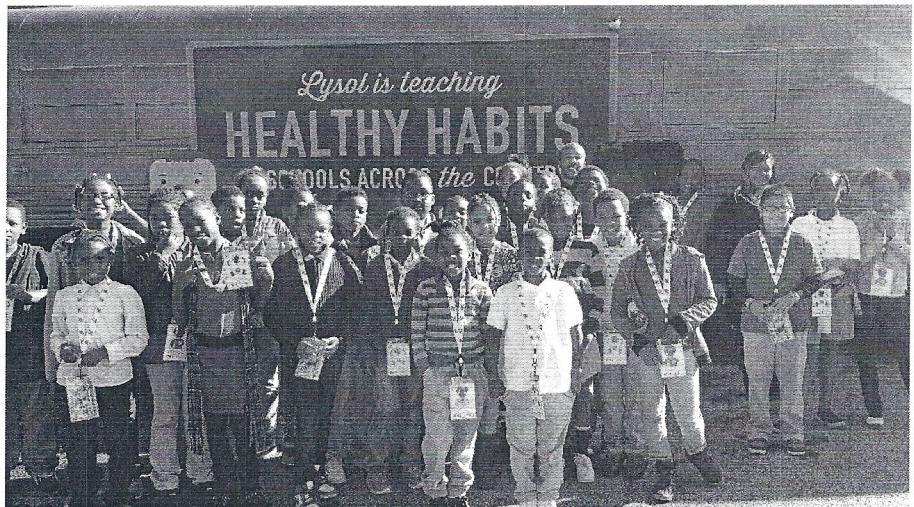
McNair Discovery Learning Academy has been in partnership with CDC (Centers for Disease Control) for the past 6 years. CDC has been very instrumental in supporting our students' academic and social emotional needs. As a part of our College & Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI), the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students must be introduced to Career Guidance that focuses on STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math). As a result, we partnered with CDC, Lysol and the National Education Association (NEA) and the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to launch the Healthy Habits Tour.

This unique public health initiative makes it fun and easy for students to learn how to reduce the spread of illness. The LYSOL® Healthy Habits Tour makes germ education fun with a bus that visits schools across the country. McNair Discovery Learning Academy was one of very few schools that were selected for the state of Georgia. Our students had an opportunity to visit a series of interactive stations, where they learned how thorough hand washing and other healthy habits can keep germs at bay. The students were also introduced to the following germ reducing methods:

- Students put their hands in the scanner and see them projected on a screen, with animated “germs” wriggling all over them. A video then teaches the proper way to wash hands and get rid of germs.

- **Anatomy of the Sneeze.**

An animated nose on a screen sneezes, accompanied by a burst of air so students feel like they have been “sneezed on.” Students then see themselves surrounded by animated “germs” to simulate how sneezes spread germs around a small area.



- **When to Wash.** This touchscreen game shows a class in progress. Students touch the kids who need to wash their hands (after sneezing, before unwrapping a snack, etc.). Correct answers get a reward; missed chances prompt videos that explain how germs spread around the class when hands aren't washed.

- **Defeat the Germs!** In this Kinect™-style augmented-reality game, students use wipses with the goal of preventing germs from getting past them.

After completing all four stations, students become Certified Healthy Habits Heroes. Each student had their photo taken with an avatar and a badge to take home. The Lysol Healthy Habits Tour was very well received by the students and teachers and administrators as well.

McNair Discovery Learning Academy was one of the state of Georgia **Red Ribbon Winners for the 2013-2014** school year. We were invited to participate in the Annual Red Ribbon Week Kick-off (which was held on Wednesday October 22, 2014), at the Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre. McNair DLA had several teachers, students and parents in attendance. Our students had an opportunity to be photographed with Miss Georgia.



As part of the **College & Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI)**, the Georgia Department of Education has developed seventeen (17) elementary career awareness activities for local school systems to use as a guide to assist with the implementation of the College and Career Readiness Performance Indicators. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to be exposed to 4 of the career strands and to complete a portfolio . We were very fortunate to partner with the Women Engineers of Georgia Tech during the month of October. The engineering students and Mr. Figueras, introduced our students to different forms of Engineering and Technology which will

equip them in developing a sense of career awareness and the relationship with academics and personal interests . The students from Georgia Tech have committed to partnering with McNair Discovery Learning Academy on future endeavors.

