

BG BIG NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Meet the MAN!</i>	1
<i>BG Big News Staff</i>	2
<i>Parent's Night Out</i>	2
<i>Spring Break Camp</i>	2
<i>Spelling Bee</i>	3
<i>April Calendar</i>	4

Sponsored By :



Of Germantown



Meet the Crew: *Introductions of the "BG Big News" staff*

BY ETHAN WILLIAMS AND JAPONICA IRBY

Hi, we are the teens of the Germantown Boys & Girls Club. We have a group and we call it Keystone. As Keystoners we have many duties and responsibilities around the club. Our latest project is this club newsletter, that we call "BG Big News".

As the editor, of this month's newsletter, it is my job to make sure that the newsletter is being viewed and over-looked by Mr. Phil and that it is sent out on time. I also have to make certain that everyone is doing his or her job.

Dwayne Thom, who is a great individual and a great leader, is our layout person. Dwayne is also the Keystone president. Dwayne is also the sports reporter, which suits him well as he was a member of



the Northwest high school varsity football team.

Yaw Acheampong is the photographer of this month's newsletter . He takes the pictures and also tells the layout person where each picture should be placed.

In addition, he serves as the newsletter's interviewer, where his duty is to interview club members and staff. Yaw goes to Damascus High School

Continued on page 3

More than meets the eye...Exclusive interview with Mr. Phil

BY YAW ACHEAMPONG

You might see Mr. Phil at the front desk talking with parents or walking around with the club phone on his hip. You might also see him working with a group in the learning center, games room, or even the

arts & crafts room. Most people don't know much about him. All they know is that he's 15 feet tall and wears bifocals. **Here is a closer look at Mr. Phil.**

Mr. Phil was born in Orleans France in 1960.

Because his father was in the military he lived in places all around the world. Growing up Mr. Phil was a super star athlete.

continued on page 2

WHO IS MR. PHIL?

He played every sport from basketball to football to soccer.

As young teen, Mr. Phil liked high school where his favorite subject was Biology. He attended E.E. Smith Senior High School in North Carolina, and played for his high school basketball team. Mr. Phil



Mr. Phil at the front desk, one of 101 things he does around the club.

was an excellent basketball player and earned himself a scholarship to play for the South Western Oklahoma State University. After majoring in Recreation Administration and earning a minors degree in Psychology, Mr. Phil continued his basketball career playing in Europe.

Professional basketball was business to Mr. Phil. He was a fierce competitor who thought that it was all about winning. During his professional basketball career Mr. Phil was always in peak condition. In 1990 Mr. Phil's basketball career came to an end. It wasn't from a bum knee or not being able to compete anymore.

After working with children overseas he wanted to start doing it here in the United States. Mr. Phil began working with the Boys and Girls Club in the District of Columbia. After his second day of work Mr. Phil decided that this is what he wanted to do. He enjoys working with kids. Except when we beat him in video games. Working with young kids keeps him young and lets him know what's going on with us. Mr. Phil says he doesn't want to think about what he would be doing now if he weren't working with the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Phil might be old but he's still got game!

"Mr. Phil might be old, but he still got game."

FROM GERMANTOWN TO GEORGIA

BY FRANKIE WHITE

ATTENTION ATTENTION!

Keystone is going to Atlanta Georgia for our National keystone conference on April 24, 2003. We are planning daily and we need your help. You might wonder what is keystone? Basically keystone is the foundation of

many programs that run in the club. Keystoner's raise money for the club we also donate and we love doing thing's for the community. Keystoner's are planning several fundraisers to earn money. Please support us any way that you can. You can support the **RAT ATTACK** for more

info contact the front desk.

The teens will also be hosting a Parent's Night Out...stay tuned for more info. If you would like to make a donation of any kind please contact Mr. Phil or Ms. Mashona.

SPRING BREAK IS HERE...SO, ARE WE!!

Boys and Girls Club, Germantown Branch will be open the entire week of Spring Break, April 14-18, 2003. Hours of operation are 8:00 am-5:30 pm. Fun activities have been planned to keep members entertained ALL week, including a special field trip on Friday. Look for flyers detailing field trip specifics.

There is no need to pre-register for Spring Break camp, however it is not to early to register for **SUMMER CAMP**. Spaces are limited...first come first serve...

TODAY!!



Spring is in the air!

April 7-11 is also Boys and Girls Club week! Special events are being

Make plans

BEECOMING A GOOD SPELLER...

BY YAW ACHEAMPONG

Since the month of March is Education month, the Boys and Girls Club of Germantown is holding a spelling bee. This spelling bee will include members from our club. Mr. Clayton, who is getting the members ready for the spelling bee, thinks it's a good idea to hold one.

Other Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington are having spelling bees too. The top four winners from our club will go on to compete with the other winners from the

other Boys and Girls Clubs in early April. Mr. Clayton said, "It feels good to be doing this".

Mr. Clayton has been teaching them and drilling them for the last two weeks. At the beginning some kids couldn't even spell words on their grade level and now the kids are doing well. Mr. Clayton has seen dramatic improvements and changes.

Mr. Clayton claims victory with the top four who will go on to compete in the Washington D.C.



Members wait anxiously for their turn to spell in the mock spelling bee.

spelling bee. Even if they don't win, Mr. Clayton said, "The key thing even if they lose they still learned how to spell".

MORE ABOUT THE "BG BIG NEWS" STAFF

Continued from page 1
and plays on the varsity football team. Yaw will wow you with his photography skills in the upcoming articles this year.

Japonica Irby is one of the finest and dedicated writers in our newsletter.

She is also the dance instructor at the Boys and Girls Club with the Germantown Steppers. When not at the club she attends Montgomery College as a freshman where she intends on majoring in medicine.

June Frederick is also one of our wonderful writers. She attends Neellsville Middle School. June is a member of the Ruff Ryder's and is excited to participate. June covers the upcoming events in this month's newsletter.

"It feels good to be doing this."

IN DA CLUB...

BY JUNE FREDERICKS

The PACK is BACK!

Coaches Dwayne "Max" Thom, Yaw Archeampong, and Frankie White of the teen Keystone Club have started a new flag football squad for all kids who

attend the Boys and Girls Club, grades 3-8. The football team, which is made up

of 4 teams, includes co-ed JV, co-ed Varsity, Super Varsity Girls and Boys. Practices are held every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. But, don't expect all their hard work to go to waste, games for the football teams begin April 27 and from then on every Sunday, so don't miss it!

GROOVIN'

Japonica Irby A.K.A "Pom-Pom" of the Keystone club has started a co-ed dance team called the Germantown Steppers for 4th and 5th grade club members. This dance team is a way to get young girls and boys to stay focused, never give up and work together.

Continued on page 4

Boys and Girls Club
Germantown

Boys and Girls Clubs of
Greater Washington
19910 Frederick RD
Germantown MD 20876
Tel: 301-353-9600
Fax: 391-515-2492
www.bgcgw.org

The Positive Place for
Kids!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

APRIL 2003: TECHNOLOGY MONTH

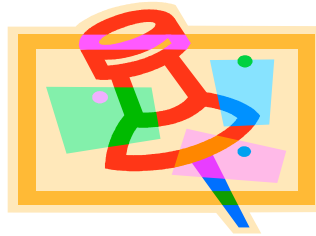
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Boys and Girls Club Week	7 FUND- RAISER \$\$ DUE	8	9 Unsung Hero Dinner	10	11 ICON 03	12 Parent's Night Out
13	14-18 SPRING BREAK: CLUB HOURS 8-5:30 PM					19
20	21	22	23	24-26 <i>Keystone goes to Atlanta</i>		
27 Flag Football	28	29-1 <i>Volunteer Training 7-8 pm</i>				

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE...

The kids will get to work with others on dance routines and be able to show off their own dancing abilities, in talent shows and club-wide performances. Sign-ups for the dance team are happening at the front table. If you are interested talk to "Pom-Pom for more information about the co-ed dance team, if you want to have fun!

ICON 03

Tired of just singing in the shower? Have you always dreamed of performing on stage? Well, this is your chance! A couple weeks back we



had a talent show for all members of the Boys and Girls Club, but on April 11, the Boys and Girls Club of Germantown will be having an all community talent show for ages 6-18. If you are interested in participating in ICON 03 or know someone who is please contact Mr. Phil.

SIGN UP Today and show Germantown your talent!

***** If you have an article or announcement that you would like to appear in next month's newsletter please contact a member of the BG Big News staff or see Mr. Phil .**