

Embracing “My Brother’s Keeper

This spring, CPS became one of just two school districts in the country to host a meaningful dialogue around creating new opportunities for young men of color. Part of President Obama’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative, this event was sponsored by the Discovery Channel and held at South Shore High School.

CPS officials joined with members of Chicago’s business and faith communities, as well as law enforcement and government agencies, to assess the efforts being made to serve these youth and discuss further action. Chicago has already succeeded in several milestones laid out by the President’s taskforce (increased access to early childhood education, a focus on early literacy, and mentoring programs like “Becoming a Man”), making our great city an ideal backdrop for this conversation.



Azuela Traveling Scholars Visit South America



For the second consecutive year, members of the Traveling Scholars group from Azuela Elementary journeyed to Santiago, Chile to investigate how culture impacts education. As part of their seven-day excursion, these 8th-graders from Chicago’s West Lawn community had the chance to meet students their age from Chile, hike through the Andes, and explore the diverse neighborhoods within Santiago.

The purpose of this program is to take students from a neighborhood school and broaden their world view – to expose them to other cultures while helping them develop practical, social and emotional skills that will build their confidence and help them to succeed in school and in life. The scholars prepared for this experience throughout the school year, studying Chilean currency and social norms, and even spending some time on

airport regulations and customs procedures. They even had the chance to meet with Mayor Rahm Emanuel before departing, as well as with the mayor of Santiago once they arrived.

Disney Unveils New Learning Lab

Ten years ago, Diane Disney-Miller, daughter of the legendary animator, visited Walt Disney Magnet School to unveil a new animation lab that would, in her words, “make education fun and entertaining”. Now, to honor her passing in 2013, Disney has rededicated the lab, adding updated technology that would make its namesake family proud.

In a ceremony to mark this occasion, students performed classic Disney music and showed off the skills they have learned as a result of their access to this outstanding technology resource. Their understanding of computer animation, advanced software programs and other technology tools will serve them well as they prepare for success in a global, 21st-Century economy.

