



BORN Newsletter

Issue Two

December 2010

After a great pilot season, Baltimore BORN is ready to continue their success with energetic staff, a new space, and additional students!

MEET THE STAFF

Baltimore BORN has a full-time Program Director! **Gabe Cohee** was selected after a long search, including over 100 applicants for the position. The Board of Directors and our hiring consultant unanimously agreed Gabe was the right person to take the helm of BORN and steer us on a path of continued success. Gabe comes to BORN with a Master's in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University as well as classroom and leadership experience in non-public and public schools in Maryland. Gabe is very interested in the role that school and the community have on the cognitive and social development of adolescents. Gabe is eager to use his knowledge and background to work with the BORN scholars to reach new levels of success in their academic and personal lives. BORN is lucky to have found Gabe.

We are thrilled that **Matt Thornton** has returned as the Lead Facilitator for Baltimore BORN. Matt's unmatched energy and ability to build strong bonds with the BORN students has been paramount to the success of our program. Matt teaches the boys every Tuesday and Thursday evening and participates in all BORN field trips. BORN would not be the same without him.



Matt gives positive feedback during a class discussion

Baltimore BORN was fortunate to be selected by Public Allies as a partner organization. Public Allies supports young leaders with a mission that targets strengthening communities, nonprofits, and civic participation. Public Allies prepares leaders through full-time nonprofit placement and continual training and support. In support of their mission, BORN was matched with **Nikita Soman** who will play an important role at BORN over the next ten months. Nikita grew up in Mumbai, India, moved to the United States in 2005 and is a recent graduate of UMBC. With a degree in Psychology and a minor in Political Science, Nikita is an AmeriCorp member working towards community development and social change. Nikita will be assisting Gabe with all aspects of Baltimore BORN.

A GREAT NEW SPACE

Baltimore BORN now calls 1406 North Bond Street home thanks to the generosity of David Borinsky and the **One Green Home at a Time Foundation**.

In support of the work that we do with our students, One Green Home at a Time has donated a beautiful rowhouse to Baltimore BORN. Conveniently located in the historic Oliver Community of East Baltimore, we are a full-time presence in the neighborhood where most of the BORN students live. Being situated directly within the community allows us to open daily for the BORN scholars to access computers, work with tutors, gain homework help, and, most importantly, gives the boys a beautiful space to call their own. Baltimore BORN is also grateful to Martin Richardson and Greg White, of the Verde Group, who have worked with David Borinsky to ensure that our students have a safe and inviting place in which to learn. For more information about the great work being done by the One Green Home at a Time Foundation, please visit their website at onegreenhomeatotime.com or contact David Borinsky at dborinsky@bridgeprivatelending.com.



Thanks Lauren!

Lauren Schlenger started with BORN in June of 2010 as a volunteer summer intern. Using her design skills, Lauren created the tri-fold brochure for BORN. During our search for a Program Director, Lauren was elevated to a paid position and worked tirelessly to keep Baltimore BORN running to a high standard over the summer months in preparation of our Fall launch. In her time with BORN, Lauren has shown great flexibility and her willingness to help in any way she was needed is greatly appreciated.



Student Spotlight: Devante

Devante is a kind, considerate, smart, funny, respectful young man, whose smile lights up the room. He knows that he can aspire to great things and won't let any hurdles get in his way. Devante wants to work on Wall Street one day and knows that, to get there, he'll have to go to "one of those schools in Boston, or an Ivy League." Devante likes to play sports and action-based video games. When asked to name his favorite thing about Baltimore BORN, Devante flashed that signature smile and responded, "the staff". It's fitting, because our favorite thing about Baltimore BORN is the students.



The New Cohort

Our student population is growing! A new, eager group of intelligent young men is joining our existing sixth graders. The fifth grade boys have embraced the program and show great motivation and an enjoyment of reading. We have a fantastic year planned for them with a rigorous weekly curriculum and enriching field trips. Here are some fall components of the fifth grade curriculum:

1.

Comprehend and analyze *Facing the Lion* in order to develop critical reading and thinking skills.

2.

Continuously increase reading stamina and interest through weekly reading logs and scheduled Independent Reading.

3.

Participate in written assignments and group discussions that explore personal challenges and conflict resolution.

Adventures in Journalism

The sixth grade cohort will begin this year with a meaningful exploration of Journalism. Examining and using a variety of literary devices, from tone and mood to active voice, the boys will approach media in a critical and analytical manner. After evaluating a variety of investigative, public interest, and consumerist articles, the sixth grade scholars will create their own Baltimore BORN newspaper. All of the students are showing great promise as future investigative journalists using descriptive details to convey their stories. Stay tuned for breaking news from BORN in the near future.



A New Addition to the Board

Baltimore BORN is fortunate to have a new member, Frank Bonsal III, join our Board of Directors. Frank is a General Partner at New Markets Venture, where he is focused on early and growth stage investments in education technology and service companies. For fifteen years leading up to his full-time venture capital path, Frank served as teacher, advisor, coach, and administrator to students in private and public middle and high schools throughout the eastern U.S., and with short stints in the United Kingdom and Japan. He has served on numerous panels and committees on the topic of education innovation, investment and productivity and is a former President of the Board of Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. Frank has a M.Ed. and M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University and a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire. BORN is grateful to have Frank's expertise and guidance.

Calling All Volunteers

Baltimore BORN continues to grow and discover new ways to support our students. To this end, we are launching our first volunteer search campaign. The volunteers will help with many key aspects of BORN, including one-on-one tutoring, securing and picking up donations, providing after-school homework help, and assisting around the office. BORN will also be working with local colleges and organizations to secure interns that can receive course credit for their volunteer hours. If you are interested in these opportunities for yourself, your company, or your students, please contact Gabe Cohee at Gabe@Baltimoreborn.org or by phone at 410.205.6381.



The boys enjoy a delicious meal donated by a generous area restaurant. For links to all of our donor restaurants see the "Thank You" section of our website.

Thank you for your interest in Baltimore BORN and the motivated young men that we serve. For more information about our program, the staff, and the community in which we work, please visit our website at www.baltimoreborn.org.