

# ABC Seniors SHINE

**Read all about it** in the *Westport News*: A Better Chance's senior scholars are making their mark in the community.

In the Business section, Charles was featured in a story about Staples High School's Junior Achievement program. Recruited by Staples accounting teacher Leonard Klein, a group of students formed KLOX Co., a company that produced and marketed gift baskets from September through December.

As vice president of finance, Charles could report \$5,500 in sales and a net profit of \$1,025 after rent, wages and other expenses. The company also gave \$150 to Al's Angels, a local charity, and \$500 to Junior Achievement's scholarship fund. The remaining income was distributed to the company's investors. "I really enjoyed the first hand experience that the Junior Achievement program gave me. Working as a team with my fellow 'team members' to get the job done showed in the end; we finished the program in first place in the region as far as sales."

Turn to the Sports section to catch Jeff in

midair during basketball practice at Staples. The Wreckers went on to victory with a 69-47 win at Weston, with Jeff adding three points to the win. According to Jeff, "we are having a great season. Right now we have 6 wins and 0 losses and I am really having a great time."

As captain of the Math Team and a private tutor, Jonathan is well known around Staples as an academic heavyweight. But he's more recently famous as the founder of Staples' Breakdancing Club. Along with Staples gym teacher Michael Caetano, Jon has been doing instruction and leading the dance sessions. Chukwuma and Richard have been participating as well.

And, on Election Day, Jon was ABC's first scholar to cast his vote in Westport. "It was very special to be able to vote in this historical election."

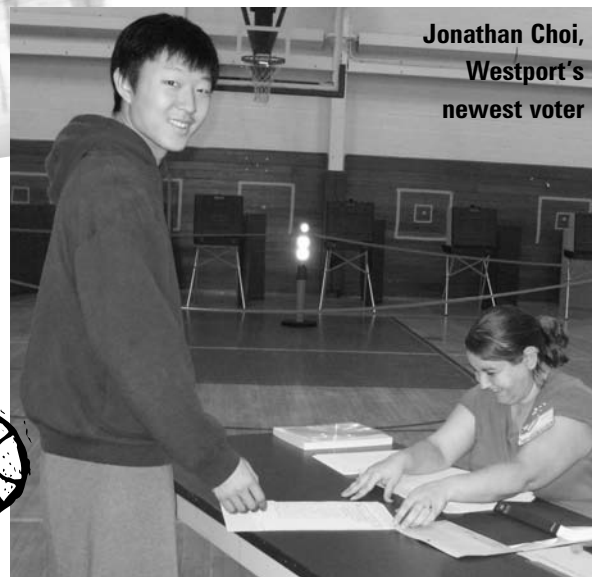


PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE NEIDERWESTPORT NEWS

**Senior Jeff Arias drives to the basket during a practice at Staples**



**Jon's breakdancing moves**



**Jonathan Choi, Westport's newest voter**



**Charles Winslow, Chris Kosinski and Hayden Meinero display KLOX Co. gift baskets**



## Happy New Year!

As 2009 gets under way, we want to thank those of you who have supported our scholars in 2008, a year full of challenges for almost everyone.

To those of you who donated to our town wide appeal ... many thanks. We know that more than ever, your mailbox was filled with

requests from many worthy groups and we so appreciate your willingness to help ABC and its scholars.

To those of you who volunteered your very valuable time this past year, know that we could not do it without your help. We find ourselves with a very active group of scholars this year. Part time jobs, athletic practices, SAT prep, swimming lessons ... all wonderful, but always requiring a "lift" here or there. As our boys will never get their "licenses" here in Westport, this

will continue to be a challenge! Please think about volunteering to drive. We parents know that some of the best time spent with teenagers is when they are in your back seat. Our scholars are no exception!

Thank you for being part of the "village" looking after our scholars. We hope to see you at our Dream Event, March 28th!

Gail Cohen and Lee Bollert  
*Co-Presidents, A Better Chance of Westport*

## Business Skills ... and Business Etiquette



*Richard and Jeff listening to the presentations*

**On Election Day** our scholars, along with those from Darien, New Canaan and Ridgefield, had the wonderful opportunity of a Job Shadow Day at Terex Corporation's headquarters located in Nyala Farms here in Westport. Terex, a diversified global manufacturer with 2007 net sales of more than \$9.1 billion, is a supporter of ABC and of Staples' Junior Achievement program. The day was designed to acquaint A Better

Chance scholars with the many facets of corporate life, an opportunity most high school students don't get to experience.

The students met with representatives from various departments and learned about a variety of opportunities available upon college graduation. There were forums with Legal, IT, HR and Tax, among others. There was also a presentation by Gordon Joseloff about the importance of Election Day and the need for all citizens to participate.

After lunch there were interview and resume writing clinics. All of the participants were very appreciative of the program, rating it as fun and informative. Some even sent notes indicating that they'd like to be considered for job opportunities. Thanks to Terex for its ongoing encouragement of our scholars.



*Chukwuma in the conference room*

**In December**, Monisha Gibson, the Resident Director of the ABC boys' house in Wilton, provided etiquette training for A Better Chance scholars in Connecticut.

The program was comprehensive, focusing on introductions, conversation and telephone techniques, body language, appropriate dress and correspondence—both for business and social situations. There was a simulation of a five-course dinner, during which topics included "navigating the place setting" and "silverware savvy," along with tips on how to be a good host and a good guest.

Ms. Gibson, who has been certified to teach etiquette by the Protocol School of Washington, earned an MA from Columbia University Teachers College and a BA from the University of Virginia, during which she studied French at the Université de Nantes in France. She is a graduate of A Better Chance, as is her husband.



*Jon with a Darien scholar practicing interview techniques*



*Richard, Jeff and Emerson, along with ABC scholars from Westport and other Connecticut towns, enjoyed a social afternoon of etiquette training in Norwalk*



## RETURN VISIT

*Visiting ABC during winter break, recent alum Khalif Rivers reflected on his first term at Western Virginia University.*

"I have my own schedule, including my own study schedule, and I'm able to do things on my own time. But ... it's necessary to have self-discipline in order to succeed at college.

I learned self-discipline in the ABC program and also at Staples, where I learned to seek help when I needed it and how to advocate for myself. Being on the Staples football team also taught me a lot about self-discipline and self-confidence.

ABC taught me how to live with many types of people, who may be different from me. I learned how to compromise since no situation is perfect all the time. It taught me how to get used to living away from home, so I'm not homesick at college like some people are.

I learned how to be more open around others. ABC opened my eyes to a different way of life. And it cuts both ways—I think I was able to teach other people something about me, and that they should look beyond the superficial to get to know someone."

# Dream Event 2009

## A BETTER CHANCE:

*Where Dreams Become Reality*

Saturday, March 28  
6:30 – 10:30 PM  
Unitarian Church in Westport



Please join us as we celebrate the scholars of A Better Chance of Westport. Guests will have the chance to bid on live and silent auction items. These donated opportunities run the gamut from fashion, sports and business to entertainment, travel and lifestyle.

**New This Year!** Bid on-line beginning Thursday, March 12. Go to [www.abetterchanceofwestport.org/auction](http://www.abetterchanceofwestport.org/auction) and then click the on-line bidding link. (*On-line bidding closes at 12 midnight on Friday, March 27.*)

For more information contact Laurie Gendell (255-4445) at [lgendell@mindspring.com](mailto:lgendell@mindspring.com) or Lori Sochol (256-5707) at [dlsman@aol.com](mailto:dlsman@aol.com).

### SOME DREAM EVENT OPPORTUNITIES ...

**Rocky Mountain High** A week in a spectacular Steamboat Springs vacation home: winter or summer escape—groomed cross-country and downhill trails, situated on golf course. Mountain views and serenity abound.

**Amelia Island** A one-week stay at the Amelia Island Plantation Resort. This tranquil barrier island resort is the ultimate place for an ideal vacation, with a 72-hole golfer's paradise, state-of-the-art health and fitness center, tennis, spa, kids' camp, swimming and shopping.

**Hunting Pheasant in Northern Connecticut with Chef Pietro Scotti** from the acclaimed restaurants DaPietro's and Zest. A gourmet lunch will follow prepared especially for you and your guest by Pietro.

**Breaking Away** A BMC Streetfire high performance bike can be yours for the right bid. Target Training has also included a month of classes.

### Corporate and Foundation Donors 2008 *Thank you for your support!*

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Westport Woman's Club

Westport Young Woman's League

Wicker Family Foundation

SAVE THE DATE

ABC of Westport

# Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Barnes & Noble  
1076 Post Road East, Westport

- Stock up on reading material for February break
- Buy something special for your Valentine
  - Gift wrapping available
- A percentage of the proceeds will go directly to ABC of Westport

*Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase.*

*A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your school/organization.\**

\*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks and magazine subscriptions are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.

To send an email to ABC,  
please use the following address:  
**info@abetterchanceofwestport.org**

**www.abetterchanceofwestport.org**

**DONATIONS to ABC of Westport**

may be sent to:

P.O. Box 2153, Westport, CT 06880



## Succeeding at Staples

Chairman of the Board  
Wally Womper (AKA  
Staples principal John

Dodig) and his loyal junior executive (ABC's own  
Jahari Dodd), sang and danced their way to the top  
in Staples Players' *How to Succeed in Business  
Without Really Trying*.



ABC would like to thank Staples student **Zach Levins** who introduced his award-winning game **repeat or you're obsolete**™ at a Barnes & Noble event, with proceeds donated to ABC of Westport.

## WE'D GET NOWHERE WITHOUT YOU!

**Thanks to our volunteer drivers:** Katie Augustyn, Barbara Bangser, Beth Bass, Gwen Campbell, Helene Crawford, Steve Daniels, Pat Ewing, Meg Freeman, Laurie Gendell, Dorit Heimer, Peggy Kamins, Jo Ann Miller, Monique Neblung, Joyce Orkand, Ann Pawlick, Cheryl Scott-Daniels, Eric Seidman, Leslie Singer, Brittany Steel, Shellie Tapfar, Diane Wildman, Janice Yost, Stephen Yost, and all of the host families.

## HELP!

**More drivers are always needed** to bring our scholars to their educational and community activities. Contact Gail Cohen at [wiw1998@aol.com](mailto:wiw1998@aol.com).

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