

MOVE NOURISH LEARN

Our ninth school year ended with a flourish last month and it is hard to believe we are heading into our **tenth year** in August. The last nine years have brought incredible milestones and we can hardly believe we will be celebrating a decade of leadership next school year. If you will be in town, please save May 2, 2014 for our Ten Year Anniversary gala celebration at the Chicago History Museum! We would love to see you there.

Friends of
namaste

Thank you for supporting our students and Namaste Charter School. We are very appreciative to have you as a *Friend of Namaste* supporter and hope you enjoy these updates from the 2012 - 2013 school year.

MOVE



Cole and his second grade "Orange Room" classmates practice their calming breathing at the end of Morning Movement.

The Physical Education program at Namaste is unique. Not only do all students participate in one hour of daily PE class, plus recess and classroom movement breaks but everyone also engages in our unique "Morning Movement". Morning Movement prepares students for learning through a series of stretches, poses and vigorous movements. Guided by their teachers, students quickly learn the simple yet stimulating exercises that "awaken" both their bodies and their minds.

NOURISH



Lack of access to affordable, healthy fruits and vegetables continues to be a concern for many inner-city families including those here at Namaste. Namaste's subsidized biannual farmers' markets give students, parents and community members direct access to fresh, affordable produce.

Students visit the market (held right here at the school!) during recess time and enjoy picking out favorite fruits and vegetables to bring home. In the upcoming school year, we hope to expand the number of markets to reach even more families and community members and build a healthier McKinley Park neighborhood!



Seventh and eighth grade students select fresh peaches during Namaste's second farmers' market of the year.

LEARN



Quinn, a member of our “founding” Kindergarten class in 2004 and now a Namaste alumnus, enjoys the sites in Washington, D.C.

If you ever had the chance to go on an 8th grade trip with your class, you will recall what a memorable experience it was. Namaste recognizes the important role trips like these play in students’ social-emotional and academic development. We are so pleased that for the second year in a row, our graduating 8th graders visited Washington, D.C. in June. What a time they had!

Some of the trip highlights included a stop at the Air & Space Museum, a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, and even being witness to history as our students heard the first U.S. Senate floor speech delivered in Spanish!

The importance of this kind of exposure to the world around us is invaluable. We are very proud that our community was able to make this opportunity a reality for our students. Thank you to everyone who donated time and resources to provide our students this incredible learning experience.

Thank you!

Your support this school year made a difference. Thank you for being in our community. Have a healthy, active summer!



Seventh and eighth grade math teacher Mr. Srikishan proudly poses with Ethan, a member of Namaste’s Class of 2013.

On June 28th, the Namaste community celebrated a very special milestone: the 8th grade graduation of our first class of Kindergarten students. When Namaste opened in 2004, we served 90 Kindergarten and first grade students. After nine years of growth and change throughout our entire community, it was incredible to see the Class of 2013 - whose families placed so much trust in us as a brand-new school - walk across the stage as bright, mature and independent graduates.

Our 40 graduates are attending 24 diverse public and private high schools throughout the metro Chicago area next year. We can’t wait to watch their successes in the years ahead and look forward to supporting our first class of Kindergarteners throughout high school, college and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our students and community over Namaste’s first nine years. **Special thanks to our Friends of Namaste supporters who help our students have what they need to be successful year-round.**