

# The Inspire Spotlight

May 2015

Newsletter of Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative

## Inspire by the Numbers

94%

Percent of students who believe that coming to afterschool helps them to make friends with people from other countries

387

Volunteer Hours donated this semester  
--- Thank you !!! ---

100%

Percent of students who say they know they have access to academic support at afterschool



## Exploring Board Games

One of the main goals of Inspire is to expose our students to newness: new ideas, new hobbies, new career options, new interests, new areas of study. Every day, we have an academic hour when students choose either to work on homework with a tutor or to discover a new, exciting topic through our Exploration Lesson. In recent weeks, we have introduced students to poetry, maps, human anatomy, inventions, and the great wonders of the world.

In April, we explored a unit on BOARD GAMES. Many students had never played board games before, so we began the unit by playing a few classics together: **MONOPOLY**, **Clue**, **THE GAME OF LIFE**, and **SORRY!**. As students got the hang of each game, you could see little light bulbs going off in their minds as their creative sides began to consider what kind of board games they might like to create.

Students quickly discovered that creating your own board game is no easy task! Students were pushed to consider some important questions before starting to create their actual boards:

- What is the theme of your game?
- What are the players trying to do?
- What is the goal?
- How does someone win?
- What does each player do on his/her turn?
- How do players move? Do they roll dice? Do they turn over a card?
- What choices will the player make on his/her turn?
- Will the players interact with each other? How?

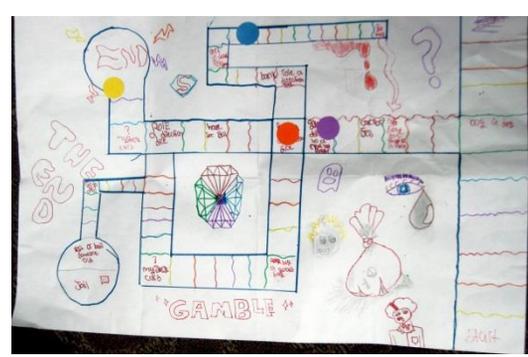


**INSPIRE**  
a shalom afterschool initiative

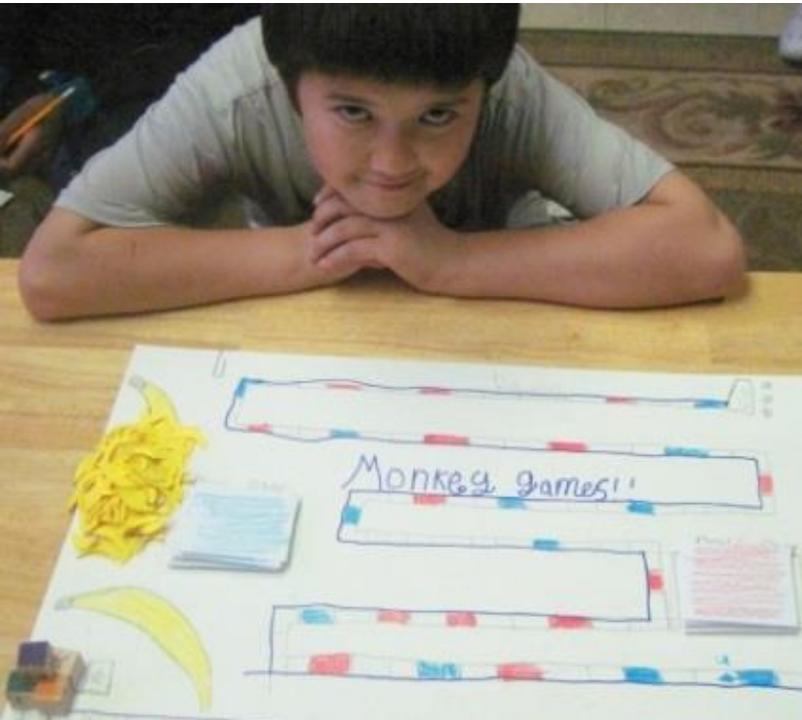
## Exploring Board Games continued...

Students came up with a variety of creative game ideas such as:

- **Gamble** – a game involving lots of risks
- **Boom** – a game in which each of four players has their own small board within the big board
- **Skip** – a game in which students are trying to skip class and don't want to get caught by the security cameras in the hallway or by the principal who leaves her office on every dice roll of 7



As students bounced ideas off of one another, teachers asked students probing questions to get them to consider all of the “what ifs” and “what happens when \_\_\_\_\_” in their games.



Ruhullah, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student from Afghanistan, worked intently to dream up his game entitled “Monkey Games.” The goal of “Monkey Games” is to complete the game with the greatest number of bananas in your possession. If you land on a red or blue game square, you have to pick up a corresponding card – and hold your breath as you read your fate! Cards include fates such as: ‘You found a good banana tree - go ahead 3 spaces and get 3 bananas’ or ‘You got in a monkey fight – go back two spaces and lose 2 bananas.’ Ruhullah enlisted help from several classmates to create his masterpiece – Abdullahi cut up hundreds of bananas out of yellow paper while Merry and Ngo Me helped write fates on the red and blue cards. The students had a blast playing this game when it was complete! “Monkey Games” is now in a box and stored at Inspire for any and all to come by and play.





*Mr. Stephen, Ms. Natalie, and Ms. Elena celebrate with Ibrahim and his parents.*



*Francois and Claude are beaming with joy at their graduation.*

## Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates!

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> a group of Inspire teachers and volunteers went to Freedom Middle School to watch our four 8<sup>th</sup> grade students graduate from middle school. Two of these students arrived in the country only last year and have done so well in school this first year that they are ready to move on to high school! We are immensely proud of each of our graduates. Read below to learn a little about each of them:

### **Merry** –

**Self-described as:** quiet, respectful, a good student

**Comes to afterschool:** for homework help and to meet new people

**Favorite afterschool activity this year:** "everything"

**Looks forward to high school:** to have four more years to study

### **Ibrahim** –

**Self-described as:** friendly, talkative, funny

**Comes to afterschool:** for homework help

**Favorite afterschool activity this year:** Zumba, studying food

**Looks forward to high school:** to join the swim team

### **Francois** –

**Self-described as:** a tall 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy who likes to play

**Comes to afterschool:** to learn new things

**Favorite afterschool activity this year:** Zumba, basketball, & music

**Looks forward to high school:** for more variety in his classes

### **Claude** –

**Self-described as:** not tall, happy all the time, and likes to help and work together with others

**Comes to afterschool:** for homework help and to meet new people -

"We're a family because we work together the whole week."

**Favorite afterschool activity this year:** exploring oceans and making bread

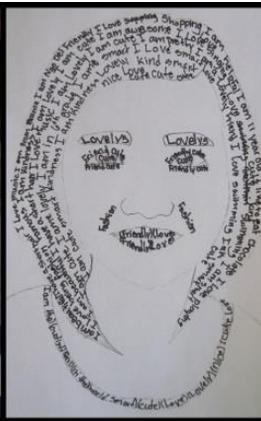
**Looks forward to high school:** to learn about how students work and act: their culture, their behavior



*Merry and Ngo Me are proud of their accomplishments.*

(clockwise from top left)

- Working on homework
- Micography Art Project (self-portrait with self-describing words)
- Exploring Maps
- Playing games as a group
- STEM Building Challenge: Build a Boat
- Music Class



To Volunteer, Email: [inspireshalom@gmail.com](mailto:inspireshalom@gmail.com)

To See Photos, Visit: [www.facebook.com/inspireafterschool](http://www.facebook.com/inspireafterschool)

5140 Memorial Dr.  
Stone Mountain, GA  
678-871-6065

### A Note from Ms. Natalie

Our first year is over already! This summer, 11 of our students will be participating in the IRC Youth Futures Summer Camp. We are excited for them and we look forward to another great year at Inspire starting up again this fall.

**Mark your calendars for October 11, 2015.** PLEASE JOIN US for a fundraising event. Share an ethnic meal, learn about Clarkston, and see what we are doing in the community.

All that we do and offer at Inspire – the tutoring, the meals, the crafts, the games, the home visits – is made possible by the commitment of volunteers and support from our partner churches and donors. **THANK YOU!**



Shalom,  
*Natalie J. Schucker*  
Natalie Schucker  
Program Coordinator

## How to Donate

**ONLINE:** [www.rally.org/shalominspire](http://www.rally.org/shalominspire)  
**CHECKS:** Make checks out to “New Church Development Commission” and write “Inspire” in the memo line.  
Mail checks to: New Church Development Commission  
1024 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE Atlanta, GA 30306